



## Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board

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From:	Sherry Sian	Fax:	867-766-7074
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Date:	December 4, 2003	Pages:	3 including this page
To:	Snowfield Development Corporation	Fax:	
		CC:	MVLWB
Subject:	Review Board's Response to YKDFN's Request for Ruling on the Postponement of the SDC Pre-Hearing Conference and Public Hearing (EA-03-006)		

### NOTES:

118

Our Files: EA-03-006

December 3, 2003

Chief Peter Liske – Dettah  
Chief Darrell Beaulieu – Ndilo  
Yellowknives Dene First Nation  
Box 2514  
Yellowknife NT X1A 2P8

Dear Chiefs Liske and Beaulieu;

**Re: Request for Ruling to Postpone the Pre-Hearing Conference and Public Hearing for Snowfield Development Corporation's Environmental Assessment**

On December 3, 2003 the Review Board met to discuss the Yellowknives Dene First Nation's (YKDFN) Request for Ruling to postpone the pre-hearing conference and public hearing. The timing of the request did not allow the Review Board to make a decision before the pre-hearing conference. The pre-hearing conference proceeded as scheduled on November 28, 2003.

Since this time, the Review Board has consulted with the parties regarding the request to postpone the public hearing. Comments were received from the NWT Métis Nation, Lutsel K'e Dene First Nation, NWT/NU Chamber of Mines and Snowfield Development Corporation. In consideration of the request and all comments received, the Review Board has decided to approve the postponement of the Snowfield Development Corporation public hearing as requested by the Yellowknives Dene First Nation.

In recognition of other hearings scheduled in January, such as the Snap Lake project regulatory hearing, the Review Board will hold the public hearing for the Snowfield Development Corporation environmental assessment on January 13, 2003. The amended deadlines for submissions are as follows:

- December 31, 2004 for Snowfield Development Corporation's presentation;
- January 7, 2004 for presentations from the parties/interveners; and
- January 9, 2004 for responses from Snowfield Development Corporation.

The Review Board has made this decision in order to:

- Allow parties to consider Snowfield Development Corporation's responses to the second round of Information Requests (distributed December 3, 2003);
- Enable parties to prepare participants to provide evidence specific to the Snowfield Development Corporation's environmental assessment; and
- Avoid conflicts with the availability of Aboriginal organizations leading up to the Christmas season.

The postponement of this hearing should allow the parties the opportunity to discuss concerns and views with each other to resolve some outstanding issues prior to the hearing. We hope that the Yellowknives Dene First Nation will take advantage of this opportunity. Should you have any questions, please contact Sherry Sian, Environmental Assessment Officer for this environmental assessment.

Sincerely,



Vern Christensen  
Executive Director

Cc: Parties to Snowfield Development Corporation

