



February 11, 2005

By Facsimile: (867) 669-2707

David Livingstone,
Director, Renewable Resources & Environment
DIAND, Box 1500
Yellowknife, NT. X1A 2R3

Re: Report of Environmental Assessment of the Deh Cho Bridge Project

Subsequent to the informal meeting held between the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board's (the Review Board) staff and INAC's staff on January 11, 2005, we would like to provide further written clarification to some of the questions you raised in the meeting.

In answer to your question: "Did the Review Board intend to recommend approval of the Project pursuant to Section 128(1) (a) of the MVRMA? Yes indeed, this was the intent of the Review Board. From our discussions it was evident that our covering letter should not have used the term "mitigation measures" as this term has since been misinterpreted by the responsible ministers. Our use of the term was in reference to the mitigation commitments made by the developer during the course of the environmental assessment, not to mitigation measures recommended by the Review Board.

You also asked: "What is the scope of the development that the Review Board recommended for approval?" The Review Board makes its determinations of impact significance on the basis of residual impacts. Throughout the environmental assessment, the developer often makes additional commitments to mitigate impacts identified by parties to the proceeding. It is the Review Board's opinion that these additional commitments made by the developer do indeed become part of the determination of scope of the development made by the Review Board under ss.117(1) of the MVRMA.

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139

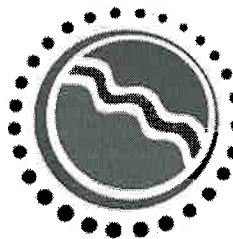
I hope that this helps to clarify the matters we discussed. If you wish to discuss this further please call Mary Tapsell at 766-7063. We will take steps to ensure that our use of this terminology is clearer in future environmental assessments.

Sincerely,



Vern Christensen,
Executive Director





Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board

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Date:	February 11, 2005	Pages:3	(including this page)
To:	David Livingstone, DIAND	Fax Number:	669-2707
Subject:	Report of EA-Deh Cho Bridge		
<p>To follow letter clarifying informal meeting of January 11, 2005.</p> <p>Mary Tapsell Manager, Environmental Assessment</p>			