



Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board

March 3, 2004

Chief Dennis Deneron
Sambaa K'e First Nation
General Delivery
Trout Lake, NT X0E 1Z0

Dear Chief Deneron:

Re: Referral of Imperial Oil Resources Ventures Ltd Geotechnical Field Investigations to Environmental Assessment

The Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (MVEIRB) received your letters dated February 18, 2004 and February 20th, 2004, in which you refer Imperial Oil Resources Ventures Ltd's Geotechnical Field Investigations (Land Use Permit/Water Licence Applications MV2003X0045/MV2003L8-0012) to Environmental Assessment.

Section 126(2)(c) of the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act (MVRMA) gives local governments the authority to refer a development to the MVEIRB for Environmental Assessment if the development is within the local government's boundaries, or if the local government is of the opinion that the proposed development might have a significant adverse effect within its boundaries. Section 2 of the MVRMA defines a local government as:

"... any local government established under the laws of the Northwest Territories, including a city, town, village, hamlet, charter community or settlement, whether incorporated or not, and includes the territorial government acting in the place of a local government pursuant to those laws."

The MVEIRB routinely verifies the status of the referring authority when a development is referred to it. Our research shows that the Sambaa K'e First Nation has not been established as a local government under either the Cities, Towns and Villages Act, the Charter Communities Act, the Hamlets Act or the Settlement Act of the Northwest Territories. However, our research further indicates that the Government of the Northwest Territories recognizes the Sambaa K'e

First Nation, which is established under federal not territorial law, as the local government in Trout Lake under a GNWT policy.

While the Smbaa K'e First Nation carries out the duties of a local government in the community of Trout Lake, it is not a local government established under the laws of the Northwest Territories. Consequently the Smbaa K'e First Nation is not a local government as defined by the MVRMA and does not have the authority to refer a development to the MVEIRB. Therefore the MVEIRB cannot undertake an Environmental Assessment of the proposed geotechnical field investigations based on your referral letter. Please see the attached *Reasons for Decision* document for details.

If you have any questions regarding these proceedings, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Alan Ehrlich at (867) 766-7056 or aehrlich@mveirb.nt.ca.

Sincerely



Vern Christensen
Executive Director

Attachment:

Reasons for Decision - Item # 12

Cc: Grand Chief Herb Norwegian, Deh Cho First Nation
Chris Reid, Legal Counsel DCFN
Pipeline Working Group (DCFN)
Bob Wooley, MVLWB
Minister of INAC



Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board

Box 938 , 5102-50th Avenue, Yellowknife, NT X1A 2N7
www.mveirb.nt.ca

From: Alan Ehrlich

Fax: (867) 766-7074

Phone: (867) 766-7056

Date: March 3, 2004

Pages: 26 including this page

To: Chief Dennis Deneron

Fax: (403) 206-2828

Sambaa K'e First Nation

CC: DCFN

MVLWB

INAC

Subject: Imperial Geotechnical

NOTES:

Dear Chief Deneron,

This letter is intended to replace the letter that was sent to you by the MVEIRB on Feb. 26, 2004.

Sincerely,

Alan Ehrlich.

Senior Environmental Assessment Officer