



Northwest Territories
Protected Areas Strategy

May 21, 2004

Sarah Baines
Regulatory Officer
Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board
7th floor, 4910-50 Avenue
P.O. Box 2130
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2P6
Fax: (867)873-6610

Dear Ms. Baines,

**RE: Land Use Permit MV2004C0025 – Mineral Exploration, Horn River Area
Proponent – J. Lind**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the application for Mineral Exploration in the Horn River area.

Edézhíe, which consists of Mills Lake, the Horn River, the Horn Plateau and Willowlake River, is being advanced through the NWT Protected Areas Strategy (PAS) by the Deh Cho and Dogrib First Nations to protect the area for the long-term. Currently, the area is under a five year interim land withdrawal, managed by the Canadian Wildlife Service (Step 5 of the PAS). The attached map illustrates the boundary of Edézhíe and the interim land withdrawal.

The Edézhíe Working Group oversees and guides the detailed evaluation studies and consultations required under this step of the NWT-PAS planning process. The Terms of Reference for the Edézhíe Working Group is attached. Please note that the Edézhíe Working Group includes members from both Deh Cho and Dogrib communities, as Edézhíe is a central cultural and spiritual gathering place for both First Nations. Representatives from the territorial and federal governments and environmental organizations are also active participants on the Working Group. Representatives from industry organizations have been invited to participate in the Working Group and are copied on all correspondence.

The members of the Edézhíe Working Group are united by their desire to gain long-term protection for Edézhíe. The Deh Cho and Dogrib people want to protect this area to ensure that their traditional way of life continues. There is evidence of the extensive use of this area by both Deh Cho and Dogrib peoples for shared gathering places, and for hunting, fishing, trapping and other traditional uses. As early as the 1950's the Canadian Wildlife Service recognized the importance of the area for waterfowl migration. An extensive binder of information on Edézhíe was compiled as part of the land