



## Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board

By email

June 19, 2006

To: Hugh Wilson,  
Vice President, Environment and Community Affairs,  
Tyhee NWT Corp

Re: Possibility of open pit operations for Yellowknife Gold Project

Dear Mr. Wilson,

The Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (Review Board) has become aware of possible significant changes to the mining method proposed for the Yellowknife Gold Project (YGP). Tyhee NWT Corp's news release of May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2006 notes that gold prices have influenced project economics "to a point where a bulk mineable open pit resource must be given serious consideration." A subsequent newspaper article in the June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2006 edition of the Yellowknifer cites an interview with Tyhee's president, David Webb, wherein an open pit mine for the Ormsby Zone portion of the YGP property is given some consideration.

The current Scope of Development that the Review Board has established in its *Terms of Reference* for the environmental assessment of the YGP is based on the *Project Description Report* that Tyhee submitted to the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board (MVLWB) as part of its application for mining. Specifically this is presented as "*mining by underground open stope methods using trackless equipment*".

The shift from an underground mining method to that of an open pit system would obviously alter the Scope of the Development in a number of ways. From an environmental assessment procedural perspective, changing from an underground operation to an open pit may require modifications to the YGP's Terms of Reference. If Tyhee's intends to pursue the open-pit option, it is in the company's best interest to inform the Review Board, as well as other interested parties and regulators, as soon as is practicably possible.

A revised Project Description of the mine components in question will be required in the event that open pit mining is proposed as the preferred option for development of the Ormsby Zone, or if it is to be considered a likely alternative method. The revised Project Description should be sufficiently detailed to permit the Review Board to review and adjust the current Terms of Reference, if required. It is expected that a more elaborate description of any proposed open pit mining activities will be included in the Developers Assessment Report. It is also important to note that a change from underground mining to open pit mining is likely, at minimum, to trigger an amendment to Tyhee's YGP applications. Tyhee is suggested to contact the MVLWB to determine how such changes would affect its current application.

Please contact me at your convenience regarding the foregoing matters.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Patrick Duxbury". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Patrick Duxbury  
Environmental Assessment Officer

Cc: Bob Wooley, MVLWB  
Peter Lennie-Misgeld, MVLWB

