



Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board

February 8, 2008

Chief Alec Sunrise
Katlodeeche First Nation
PO Box 3060
Hay River Dene Reserve, NT X0E 1G4

Dear Chief Sunrise:

Re: Timing of Report of Environmental Assessment of Pine Point Pilot Project

In response to your letter of February 7, 2008 please let me assure you that the Review Board will issue its report of assessment as quickly as possible.

As you can probably imagine a report of environmental assessment is subject to intense scrutiny. Also, the Minister of INAC, in consultation with other responsible ministers, has to accept the report before any permits or licenses are issued. The minister may accept the report, refer it back to the Review Board for reconsideration, initiate a consult to modify process, or reject the report and order an environmental impact review. A review of past proceedings on our online public registry will show that a reconsideration or consult to modify process can be quite lengthy, sometimes longer than the environmental assessment itself.

Therefore, the Review Board is very careful in drafting its report of environmental assessment. The Review Board will take the time it needs to craft a report that minimizes the likelihood of any legal challenges or a consult to modify process. While we are aware of your concerns, we are also conscious of the fact that a legal challenge or a consult to modify would certainly take considerably longer than any delay in finalizing the report.

Sincerely

Martin Haefele
Manager Environmental Impact Assessment