



Indian and Northern  
Affairs Canada

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*Your file / Votre référence*

December 22, 2006

*Our file / Notre référence*

Martin Haefele  
Environmental Assessment Officer  
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board  
Box 938  
YELLOWKNIFE, NT X1A 2N7

Dear Mr. Haefele

**Re: Response to Ur- Energy Uranium Exploration Project Screech Lake  
INAC – IR0607-003-02 Industrial Developments (Cumulative Effects)**

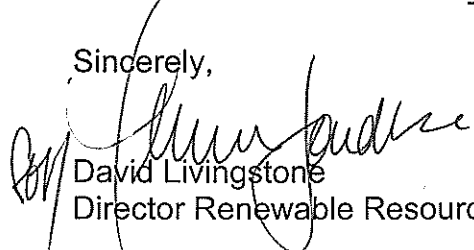
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) is pleased to submit the attached response to the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board IR0607-003-02, on the Ur- Energy Uranium Exploration Project.

The response to this Information Request on Industrial Development identifies the resource records and public registry documents available in the Northwest Territories in hard copy and in electronic digital formats.

INAC in response to request #1 is compiling a preliminary draft map, as described in the attached, which will be forwarded as soon as it is available.

If you have any question or concerns regarding this IR, please contact Lionel Marcinkoski at 669-2591 or [marcinkoski@inac.gc.ca](mailto:marcinkoski@inac.gc.ca).

Sincerely,



David Livingstone  
Director Renewable Resources and Environment

Encl.: IR0607-003-02

cc. INAC EA Working Group

**Canada** 

**IR Number:** IR0607-003-02

**Source:** MVEIRB, Treaty 8 Tribal Corporation

**To:** Indian and Northern Affairs Canada

**Issue:** Industrial Developments (Cumulative Effects)

### **Preamble**

*Cumulative effects are an important issue in this environmental assessment. To assess cumulative effects, knowledge of other past, present, or reasonably foreseeable future development is a basic requirement. It should be noted that the Review Board's definition of reasonably foreseeable development is not limited to proposed developments that have entered the regulatory process.*

*As the driver behind the Cumulative Effects Assessment and Management Framework and the Cumulative Impact Monitoring Program, as well as being the administrator of Crown lands, claims and leases, etc., INAC is in the best position of any party in this EA to provide relevant information on other developments and their anticipated combined impacts.*

### **Request**

To the extent possible, please provide the following:

1. *A map or a series of maps showing all known past and current mineral developments, including exploration programs, within the Thelon watershed. It should be possible for parties to distinguish between developments of different age and footprint.*

### **Response**

1. INAC maintains the publicly-available SID-Viewer which provides maps of active mineral claims, lapsed mineral claims, mineral leases, and prospecting permits, as well as some information relating to surface land uses and dispositions.  
SID-Viewer is available at [http://nwt-tno.inac-ainc.gc.ca/ism-sid/index\\_e.asp](http://nwt-tno.inac-ainc.gc.ca/ism-sid/index_e.asp). and is updated daily.

The Northwest Territories Geoscience Office also maintains the NORMIN database of mineral showings (see <http://www.nwtgeoscience.ca/normin/> ).

INAC does not have an electronic digitized version or series of maps capturing all historical exploration information in the Thelon watershed.

INAC's digital information systems include data since 1995. Data prior to 1995, including data relating to the uranium exploration rush between 1977 and 1984, is available in INAC's public registry in hard copy versions for registered mineral claims. The public registry is located on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor of the Bellanca Building in Yellowknife and can be viewed during normal business hours.

INAC is compiling a preliminary draft map displaying mineral claims data from 1995 to the present. INAC will send this map to MVEIRB as soon as it is available. Although this data includes historical data (e.g. expired mineral claims), some mineral claims may have been overwritten by more recent mineral claims in the same location

### **Request**

- 2. A projection, e.g. in form of a map or series of maps, where future development might occur for the same area. This projection should be based on the potential for resources to be available. Known proposed developments should be identified individually. As a minimum, the analysis should show areas of different likelihoods for further development.*

### **Response**

2. An analysis of the potential for future development is a questionable prediction at best because the locations of the uranium deposits are not known. One of the purposes of mineral exploration is to determine where resources might be available. Until such exploration is conducted, potential locations for future development cannot be identified.

A limited number of Geological maps are available for this area and some can be downloaded from the Northwest Territories Geoscience Office. It is very important for the Review Board and all parties to the environmental assessment to be aware that a geological map is NOT a map of potential development locations.

### **Request**

- 3. Any analysis of cumulative effects in the project area INAC can provide.*

## Response

3. INAC is not aware of any cumulative effects study in the Ur-Energy area or in the Thelon watershed basin and is not currently able to provide any such analysis.

Over the last several months, INAC has been working with Akaitcho NWT Treaty #8 Tribal Corporation and other parties to begin assembling information that could be used in such an analysis. In particular, the INAC NWT Mineral Development Division has been working with the Akaitcho NWT Treaty #8 Tribal Corporation since mid-2006 to develop terms of reference for a contract for an outside consultant to compile data on historical and current mineral exploration in the Thelon watershed area as well as a survey of traditional and current Aboriginal use in the area. The final terms of reference should be completed prior to December 31, 2006, with work commencing in 2007. INAC will provide a copy of the final product to the MVEIRB.

## Request

4. *All maps should be submitted in electronic format to allow analysis in the MVEIRB geographic information system. INAC is encouraged to consult with the GNWT-ENR to provide maps of comparable scale for this IR and IR0607-003-03.*

## Response

4. As noted, INAC is currently compiling a preliminary draft map for use as a visual aid, and will be forwarding an electronic copy as soon as possible.

Spatial data for mineral tenure may be downloaded directly from the SID-Viewer site at: [http://nwt-tno.inac-ainc.gc.ca/ism-sid/index\\_e.asp](http://nwt-tno.inac-ainc.gc.ca/ism-sid/index_e.asp). (click on the "Download" button under "Download Mineral Tenure Spatial Data.") Please note the disclaimers on the website.

For assistance with this process, please contact:

Information Management Group  
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada  
Northwest Territories Regional Office  
Yellowknife, Northwest Territories  
Email: [ism\\_sid@ainc-inac.gc.ca](mailto:ism_sid@ainc-inac.gc.ca)

Basic information about mineral showings may be downloaded from the NTGO site at <http://www.nwtgeoscience.ca/normin/>. Please note the disclaimers on the website.

For assistance with this process, please contact:

NTGO Library & Archives  
ntgo@gov.nt.ca  
phone 867 669 2636

INAC staff contacted GNWT-ENR staff, as requested, and were advised that the GNWT did not plan to include any maps in its response to IR0607-003-03.