



Athabasca Denesuliné Negotiation Team

May 21, 2008

Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board
5102 – 50th Avenue, PO Box 938
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2N7
Attention: Alistair MacDonald

Fax: (867) 766-7074

RE: Uravan Minerals (EA 0708-003, EA 0708-002)

We are writing to ensure that our views on exploration in the Thelon area are clear and to question some of the interpretations in the April 8, 2008 letter from Larry Lahausen, CEO Uravan.

The Athabasca Denesuline has consistently stated our concerns about developments in the Thelon including:

1. potential effects on traditional land uses, wildlife and habitats (especially caribou), and important ecological and cultural places;
2. socio-economic benefits for our people;
3. development happening before special places are adequately protected through land use planning and conservation initiatives; and
4. settling our land claim before allowing any further development.

We support the Minister of INAC in his acceptance of the MBEIRB Ur Energy decision regarding the need for a plan for resource development and conservation in the Thelon. We see this plan as a prerequisite for further mineral development given the possible effects of many proposed activities in the region. Unfortunately, there have been delays in Government's implementation of this directive; however, the Athabasca Denesuline met with senior DIAND officials on May 9, 2008 in Yellowknife and we were assured that Minister Strahl's Thelon land use and resource management planning initiative will be underway before the end of June 2008.

The Athabasca Denesuline stands ready to participate in any such planning endeavour and have encouraged Government to proceed quickly in this matter. We urge the MVEIRB to respect and support this planning initiative and establish a moratorium on new development approvals until this critical planning work is complete.

Uravan's assessment argues that only 20% of the Upper Thelon River basin is "available for resources development in the NT" and that only a small amount of this is covered by

c/o Prince Albert Grand Council

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the Uravan LUP applications. What this analysis fails to recognise is that the current Uravan LUP applications and the majority of the remaining "available" areas are within Athabasca Denesuline Territory (see the attached Map 1).

The Athabasca Denesuline, as the primary aboriginal land user and interest holder in these "available" areas were neither consulted nor considered in the recent land withdrawals for the proposed East Arm National Park or for settlement of land claims. As such, the critical AD concerns cited above have not been addressed through these measures.

Land withdrawals for the Thelon game Sanctuary have been in place for many years and were previously reduced to accommodate mineral exploration and development.

Given the level of potential impact on Athabasca Denesuline interest it is disconcerting that Uravan has not clearly identified how the Athabasca Denesuline would be involved in any of their proposed mitigation, monitoring or benefits measures in any of its regulatory submissions nor has the company ever contacted the Athabasca Denesuline directly to discuss such matters.

We encourage the MVEIRB, and Uravan, to seriously consider our concerns.

Sincerely,



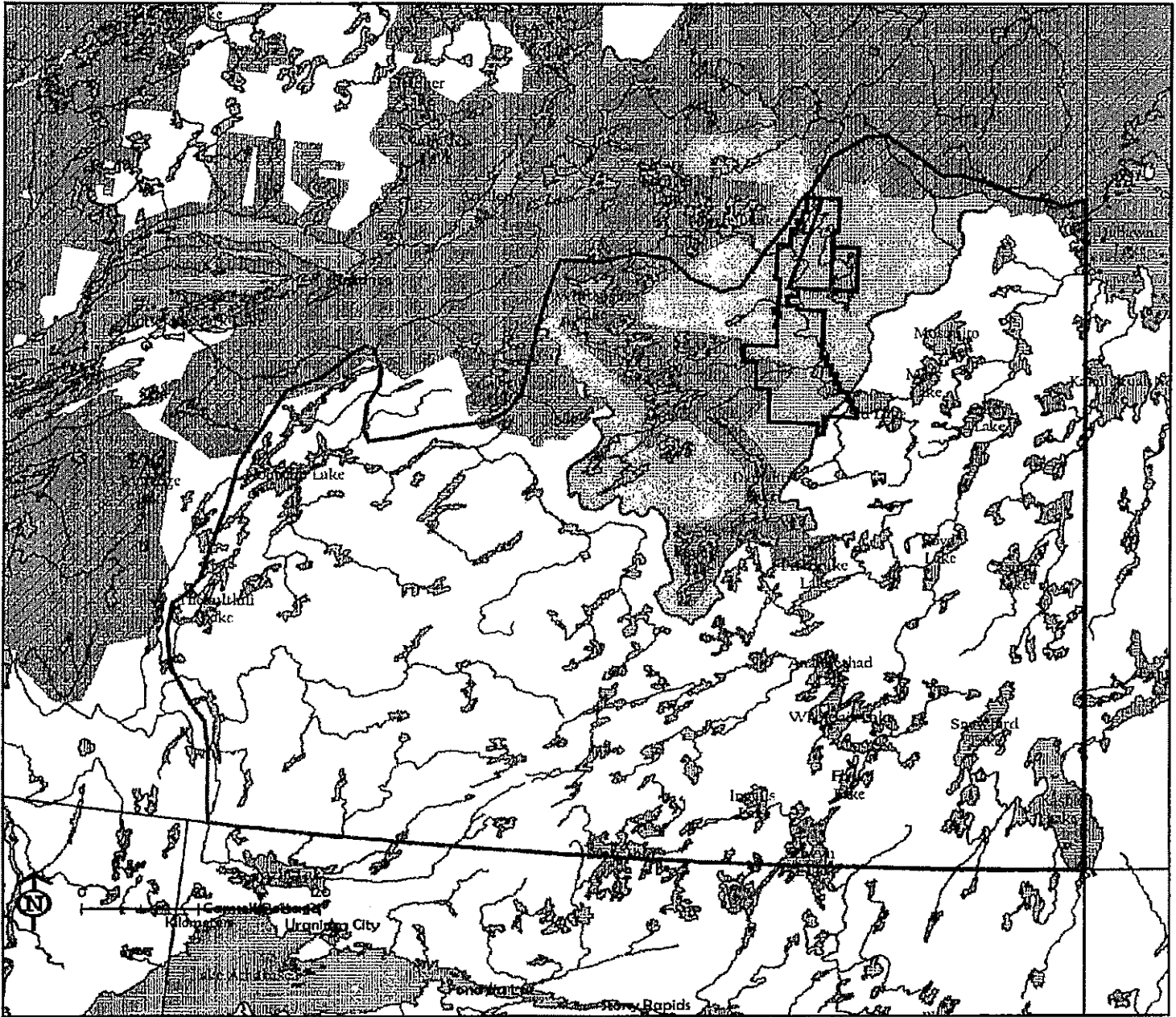
Ron Robillard, Chief Negotiator

cc: Athabasca Denesuline Chiefs
Hon. Chuck Stahl, Minister, DIAND
Athabasca Denesuline Negotiations Team








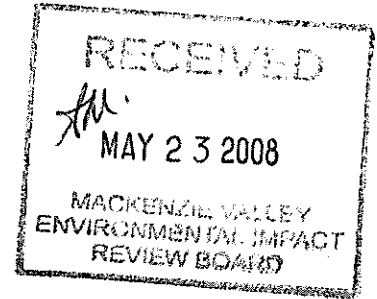
Map 1. Land Status Map (May 2008)

Map produced by GIC Maps Canada Inc. for the Prince Albert Grand Council Athabasca Denesuline Negotiation Team. Please see data sources for sources.



Legend

-  Boundary of Recorded Athabasca Denesuline Traditional Land Use Data (2008)
-  Urban Boomerang Property (Approximate)
-  Urban LUP (Area of EA) (Approximate)
-  Upper Thelon River Basin and Adjoining Lands Withdrawn from Resources Development (93,540 sq. km)
-  Upper Thelon River Basin Lands Available for Resource Development (18,910 sq. km)



Athabasca Denesuline Negotiation Team
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 C/o Prince Albert Grand Council

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Fax

To: MVEIRB	From: Rosanna Good
Fax:	Date: May 23, 2008,
Phone:	Pages: 3
Re: Uravan Minerals – EA 0708-002	CC:

Urgent **For Review** **Please Comment** **Please Reply** **Please Recycle**

•Comments:

Thank you,

Rosanna Good
 Executive Assistant

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 Thank You