

Alistair MacDonald

From: Larry Lahusen [llahusen@uravanminerals.com]
Sent: December 15, 2008 8:57 AM
To: 'mike vaydik'; cathie.bolstad@ca.debeersgroup.com; 'Gordon Clarke'; lou@aurorageosciences.com; 'Clifford Daniels'; lanedewar@lincsat.com; 'Danny Gaudet'; rgoad@fortuneminerals.com; tom.hoefer@diavik.com; chris.ggl@theedge.ca; 'Jon Jaque'; 'John Kearney'; richard.l.morland@bhpbilliton.com; 'Anna North'; silke@ssimicro.com; 'Trevor Teed'; 'Dave Webb'; hugh@tyhee.com; nwtmines@ssimicro.com; Stephen Ellis; Florence Catholique; 'Honourable Minister Strahl'; 'Ric Stryde'; Alistair MacDonald; Trish Merrithew-Mercredi
Cc: 'Bob Boaz'; dsbubar@avalonventures.com; charltonex@bellnet.ca; 'Gordon Clarke'; astar@telus.net; eric@dowgroup.ca; 'Gordon Davidson'; 'Rex Grant'; phawkins@shaw.ca; chris.ggl@theedge.ca; info@diamondsnorthresources.com; lockettda@telus.net; 'Stephan Lopatka'; 'Ron Matthews'; 'Rick Mazur'; 'Barry McCallum'; rmcclroy@trixminerals.com; 'Alan McNutt'; 'Phil Olson'; 'Paul Pitman'; 'Bob Pollock'; iceman-is@shaw.ca; 'Brian Reilly'; silke@ssimicro.com; vtanaka@pathfinderresources.com; 'Eira M. Thomas'; grenthomas@shaw.ca; ken.wheatley@cogema.ca; dsbubar@avalonventures.com
Subject: RE: Upper Thelon Management Plan

Mike Vaydik, Trish Merrithew-Mercredi, Honorable INAC Minister Chuck Strahl and Others,

Mike, per you email and dialog with Trish Merrithew-Mercredi, Uravan has never heard about or seen Trish Merrithew-Mercredi's letter dated December 7, 2007 before now (as attached to your email and attached here). I am not quite sure what your question is as perhaps some of your email dialog with Trish is missing. However, you may be referring to the two the attachments dated December 10, 2008 that were posted on the Review Board website.

This what I know, recently at the Geosciences Forum held in Yellowknife, I had a one-on-one meeting with Mike Byrne, INAC Mineral Development Advisor, in his office. At that time Mike Byrne showed me a map indicating what INAC was proposing with respect to the 'Upper Thelon Land and Resource Management Plan' study area. Mike Byrne volunteered this information and mentioned something about a recent INAC meeting. Was this a workshop? If it was, Uravan wasn't invited. Also, at the same time I was in Yellowknife, I queried Steve Ellis, AKFN Interim Measures Coordinator, regarding the resent INAC initiative for a resource and land use study area in the Thelon region. Steve said he had no knowledge of what was happening or area being proposed.

In my meeting with Mike Byrne, Mike showed me a map that, among other things, indicated the proposed study area for the 'Upper Thelon Land and Resource Management Plan'. The study area outline covered everything south of the Thelon Game Sanctuary within the Upper Thelon River Basin that isn't currently withdrawn for Development, to include all of Uravan's Boomerang property. At that time I told Mike Byrne that I thought Uravan was making progress to resolve 'public concern' issues with the AKFN on gaining access to its Boomerang mineral tenure in the Thelon geological basin so I asked him to 'quit drawing lines on maps and pushing for land use studies; before you know it these lines become fact'. I also queried Mike Byrne as to what the land status would be within the proposed area understudy; he said it would be withdrawn from Development. Convenient approach, with a Thelon study area in place the INAC Minister doesn't have to make a decision on the Review Boards rejection of Uravan's LUP. I told Mike Byrne this Thelon region study was unacceptable to Uravan unless exploration could proceed concurrently with approved LUPs. Furthermore, I said if the Review Board or INAC pushed this de facto land withdrawal, Uravan would be left with no choices and would be forced to demand recovery of its sunk cost and lost opportunity on its Boomerang mining claims from INAC. In my opinion, this resource and land management study will develop into another 'Mackenzie Valley pipeline debacle'. It will go on forever unless Development is allowed to proceed concurrently. This is called balance. Otherwise it puts a 'freeze' on any other land uses in perpetuity. Therefore, I believe this 'study' is nothing more than an environmental agenda, not a land use management proposal.

Uravan's position is that it is not in favor of a 'resource and land use management study' anywhere in the Upper Thelon River Basin unless it can be completed concurrently with mineral exploration. Uravan believes multiple land use would provide a more balance approach. If INAC wants a land use study, why don't they do it in Thelon

Game Sanctuary, a large land area already withdrawn from Development?

Uravan believes this new push for a Thelon region management study is being orchestrated by the Review Board and other individuals in INAC (i.e. David Livingstone, given his role in INAC- see attached) not by the AKFN as the Review Board Chair; Richard Edjericon would like everyone to believe (i.e. see attached letter by Review Board to Trish and Slave River article). Again, this approach would allow the Responsible Ministers off the hook with respect to Uravan's LUP and not work toward a 'responsible' resolve to these conflicting land use issues in a more balanced way. This new action by the Review Board is a self fulfilling agenda handed to them by the AKFN during the URE Hearing. Now it has become a convenient call-to-duty by the Review Board and the INAC bureaucracy to rescue the "Aboriginal spiritual cultural value" from Development. In my opinion the Review Board has become nothing more than an arm of the WWF and BQCMB. This approach is no different than what is now happening with NIRB in Nunavut. Uravan believes the constant push for resource and land management studies is simply an environmental land grab north and south of the existing Thelon Game Sanctuary. What resources are being managed here; certainly not minerals. Is it 'Aboriginal spiritual cultural values'? I don't think this is what the AKFN had in mind? Is it caribou? First I guess all the concerned parties regarding caribou should first find them, and then study them (see attached report: "2007 Barren-ground Caribou Calving Distribution Surveys, NWT & NU")

Single use land polices don't work, never have. Mineral and other resource development on the land is not a 'discretionary' activity. Can't reasonable people see this? How many times do societies have to learn these lessons?

Here is a story from the past. Over thirty years ago, the US Government passed the "*Organic Act*" with respect to the resource management of 'public lands', which covered most of the western US. Conceptually, the *Organic Act* was not so different than the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act* (June 1998) with respect to Canada's northern territories. The *Organic Act* basically gave the BLM (an INAC bureaucratic equivalent in the US) the authority to manage the public lands at the discretion of the 'Director', i.e. authority given to a bureaucracy to promulgate law without being legislated or having the vote of the people or elected representatives. From that point forward the US mining industry was meticulously destroyed due to excessive regulatory oversight (regulations) and a single use land policy. This was all accomplish with little public input or knowledge and strictly under the guidance of the land use regulators who were high jacked by their own unsupported environmental extremism. This was done in the 'spirit' of saving the public lands for future generations. Sound familiar? All this was accomplished with the complete disregard for established industry operational standards, best management practice by industry and responsible regulatory oversight to reduce cumulative impacts on the environment. Fundamentally, there was no real environmental threat to the land, only that contrived by the environmental establishment. The result of all of this was an environmental land grab unprecedented anywhere in the world. Just look at a land use map of the western US and all you will see outside of existing populated areas is one 'Park' after another. Consequently the US has no mining industry and is almost totally dependent on the import of most of their raw mineral demands. Is this happening in Canada now? A likely consequence if some land use balance is not pursued.

Uravan believes the exploration and mining industry today is one of the most environmentally conscious groups working in these remote barren-land areas of the Canadian sub-arctic and arctic. This awareness is not just a philosophy that has evolved through experience and out of 'consciousness over time, but because we want to be invited back.

A final question, do INAC, Environment Canada, AKFN, WWF and BQCMB and others really believe they can manage 'Aboriginal spiritual cultural values' with land withdrawals and land management studies? If so, where does this leave the AKFN with regard to their 'territorial lands' granted by the Constitution. Is this recent action another example of the Federal Governments failure in their 'duty to consult'? If the 'public concern' issue regarding Aboriginal cultural values and caribou is between the AKFN and Uravan, then let us work it out.

Larry Lahusen

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From: mike vaydik [mailto:mvaardik@ssimicro.com]

Sent: Friday, December 12, 2008 2:34 PM

To: cathie.bolstad@ca.debeersgroup.com; 'Gordon Clarke'; lou@aurorageosciences.com; 'Clifford Daniels'; lanedewar@lincsat.com; 'Danny Gaudet'; rgoad@fortuneminerals.com; tom.hoefer@diavik.com; chris.ggl@theedge.ca; 'Jon Jaque'; 'John Kearney'; richard.l.morland@bhpbilliton.com; 'Anna North'; silke@ssimicro.com; 'Trevor Teed'; 'Dave Webb'; hugh@tyhee.com; nwtmines@ssimicro.com

Cc: 'Bob Boaz'; dsbubar@avalonventures.com; charltonex@bellnet.ca; 'Gordon Clarke'; astar@telus.net; eric@dowgroup.ca; 'Gordon Davidson'; 'Rex Grant'; phawkins@shaw.ca; chris.ggl@theedge.ca; info@diamondsnorthresources.com; llahusen@uravanminerals.com; lockettda@telus.net; 'Stephan Lopatka'; 'Ron Matthews'; 'Rick Mazur'; 'Barry McCallum'; rmcelroy@trixminerals.com; 'Alan McNutt'; 'Phil Olson'; 'Paul Pitman'; 'Bob Pollock'; iceman-is@shaw.ca; 'Brian Reilly'; silke@ssimicro.com; vtanaka@pathfinderresources.com; 'Eira M. Thomas'; grenthomas@shaw.ca; ken.wheately@cogema.ca; dsbubar@avalonventures.com

Subject: Upper Thelon Management Plan

Chamber: NWT Directors plus explorers in the Thelon area:

Here is the text of an exchange of messages between Trish Merrithew Mercredi (DIAND RDG) and me this morning. Attached I've included the original letter from Trish sent soon after the Minister of DIAND made his decision to uphold the recommendation of the MVEIRB to deny a land use permit in the Upper Thelon for "spiritual" reasons. Also attached is a news clip from the Slave River Journal.

There has been no other communication from DIAND with this office on the Upper Thelon Plan. I hear that there may have been some discussion between DIAND officials and individuals representing companies with claims in the area and I would like to hear from them if this is the case.

I don't favour simply calling David Livingstone. With your concurrence, I will ask for written notes from the Dec 7 workshop and a briefing at our Directors meeting scheduled for Jan 9. I will ask Patrick O'Neill, the Director of Mineral Division in Ottawa, to attend also.

-----Original Message-----

From: Trish Merrithew-Mercredi [mailto:MerrithewMercrediT@inac-ainc.gc.ca]

Sent: December 12, 2008 1:09 PM

To: mike vaydik

Cc: David Livingstone; Lorraine Seale

Subject: Re: Upper Thelon Resource Management Plan

Hi Mike -

Yes there was a workshop on December 07. If you would like further information please call David Livingstone or Lorriane Seale.

Trish

>>> "mike vaydik" <mvaardik@ssimicro.com> 12/12/2008 9:48 AM >>>

I'm hearing rumours of a meeting held in Yellowknife on the Upper Thelon Land and Resource Management Plan. (Your letter of Dec 7, 2007)

Are the rumours true?

15/12/2008

Mike Vaydik

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