

Ministre des Affaires indiennes et
du Nord canadien et interlocuteur fédéral
auprès des Métis et des Indiens non inscrits

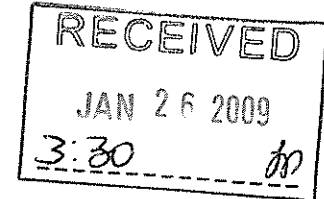


Minister of Indian Affairs and
Northern Development and Federal Interlocutor
for Métis and Non-Status Indians

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0H4

JAN 16 2009

Chief Steven Nittah
Lutsel K'e Dene First Nation
PO Box 28
LUTSEL K'E NT X0E 1A0



Dear Chief Nittah:

Thank you for your letter of November 17, 2008, concerning the *Report of Environmental Assessment – Uravan Minerals Inc.'s Boomerang South Project Proposal (EA 0708-02)* and the *Report of Environmental Assessment – Uravan Minerals Inc.'s Boomerang North Project Proposal (EA 0708-03)* issued by the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (Review Board).

The Responsible Ministers for the proposed development are currently reviewing these reports pursuant to section 130 of the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act*. Once we have completed our deliberations, I will, on behalf of the Responsible Ministers, provide the Review Board with our decisions on the reports' recommendations.

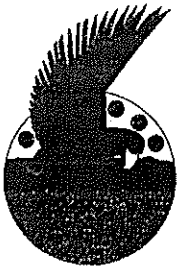
Again, thank you for sharing your views on this issue.

Sincerely,
ORIGINAL SIGNED BY
ORIGINAL SIGNÉ PAR

Chuck Strahl

c.c.: The Honourable Floyd Roland, MLA
Mr. Richard Edjericon

Canada



Lutsel K'e Dene First Nation

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November 17th, 2007
Via Electronic Mail

refer to # 28319

The Honourable Chuck Strahl P.C., M.P.
Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada
Terrasses de la Chaudière
10 Wellington, North Tower
Gatineau, Quebec
K1A 0H4

Minister Strahl,

Report of Environmental Assessment – Uravan Minerals Inc. Boomerang North and South Projects Proposals (EA 0708-02 and EA 0708-3)

I understand you have recently received correspondence from Uravan Minerals Inc.'s (UMI) Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Larry Lahusen regarding the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board's (MVEIRB) recent recommendations on the North and South Boomerang Lake Mineral Exploration Development Projects. UMI is discontent with MVEIRB's decision to reject the projects without an environmental impact review.

The Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act (MVRMA), assented to June 18th, 1998 through obligations set within the Gwich'in and Sahtu Dene and Métis Comprehensive Land Claim Agreements, created the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board, an Institution of Public Government, to examine and evaluate environmental impact of proposed developments in the Mackenzie Valley. This integrated co-management environmental assessment regime, implemented through the MVRMA, is not a derivative of an Akaitcho-Canada agreement but does allow the Lutsel K'e Dene First Nation (LKDFN) an opportunity to make its case publically and have its views considered. Quasi-judicial administrative tribunals, such as MVEIRB, owe a duty of fairness, through an open procedure, to all interested parties appearing before them in their proceedings. UMI and other interested parties, under the principles of natural justice, exercised their opportunity to be heard, make arguments and present evidence so MVEIRB may rule and render decisions to you and other responsible Ministers. We feel as if MVEIRB carried out a fair hearing where UMI, LKDFN and other parties were given the opportunity to present their case, defend their point of view and provide significant evidence to support their claim. The current decision before you by MVRIEB is a demonstration of this fair and open process.

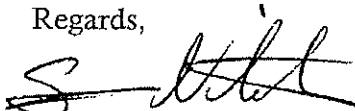
The Lutsel K'e Dene defines the entire Thelon area as **"The Place where God Began"**. It is a boreal forest oasis in the barren land, providing critical habitat for wolves, grizzlies, wolverines, moose, furbearers, birds, and other wildlife. The LKDFN opposes the UMI

proposed developments, and all other mineral resource development, in the Upper Thelon River Basin as the basin remains extremely important for subsistence, cultural, and spiritual purposes. These proposed developments would compromise the very place we value as intrinsic to our spiritual core. It is on the primary migration route (northward, southward, and possibly overwintering) of the Beverly and Ahiak caribou herds, which are an important subsistence resource for LKDFN harvesters and is viewed as a special place where Lutsel K'e Dene will and continue to connect with their cultural and traditional heritage and history. The passing down of traditions, to the next generation are required for the survival of our culture and way of life which must foremost include healthy caribou.

The LKDFN are of firm belief that environment and industry can co-exist in Lutsel K'e Denesuline Territory. We have demonstrated in the past that we are able to work with the major diamond mining developers. Lutsel K'e Dene are extremely careful and critical in allowing any resource development in Lutsel K'e Denesuline Territory that may affect the water, land and particularly caribou. The Upper Thelon River Basin is an area we wish to keep undisturbed and off limits to any type of resource development at any stage. Unfortunately we are hamstrung with outstanding land claim and treaty negotiations and the absence of a complete and formulated land use plan to prepare us all for potential developments to our lands, and in particular the Upper Thelon River Basin. Movement forward on these important fronts could provide greater certainty and increased confidence to governments industry and the LKDFN.

We expect you to dismiss UMI's notion to adopt a "multiple land use and sustainable mineral development policy." and adopt MVEIRB's recommendation to reject the UMI proposed developments without an environmental impact review. If the UMI proposed developments advance, along with the combined impacts of all other past, present Upper Thelon River Basin industrial developments, there will undoubtedly be significant adverse impacts to our Denesuline culture.

Regards,



Steven Nittah
Chief

cc. Hon. Jim Prentice (Minister Environment)
Hon. Michael Miltenberger (Minister Environment and Natural Resources, NWT)
Hon. Floyd Roland (Premier, NWT)
Mr. Richard Edjericon (Chair, MVEIRB)
Mr. Dennis Bevington (MP, Western Arctic)
Mr. Todd Russell (Liberal Party Critic for Indian Affairs)
Ms. Trish Merrithew-Mercredi (NWT Regional Director General)