



Akaitcho Interim Measures Agreement Implementation Office  
*NWT Treaty #8 Tribal Corporation*

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**RE: Responses to Evidence Transfer and Scoping Questions for UraVan and Bayswater EAs**

Mr. MacDonald:

Please find herein the NWT Treaty #8 Tribal Corporations responses to the MVEIRB's evidence transfer and scoping questions pertaining to the UraVan and Bayswater EAs.

*Evidence Transfer Questions*

1. A) The following items on the public registry for EA0607-003 should be transferred:

**#31, #66, #95:** These are documents outlining the concerns of private citizens with respect to development in general in the upper Thelon basin. Their concerns are not unique to UR-Energy, but encompass all uranium exploration activity in the upper Thelon basin.

**#47:** The issues addressed in this letter still stand. No Crown entity is doing consultation and accommodation with regards to potential aboriginal and treaty right infringements in the upper Thelon basin. This issue will rear its head during the UraVan and Bayswater EAs.

**#48:** This document clearly outlines an area ("Thaidene Nene") that the Lutsel K'e Dene have formally indicated that they want to protect. Most of Bayswater and UraVan's proposed projects are within Thaidene Nene.

**#68, #69, #70, #72, #73, Great Canadian Ecoventures presentation, Athabasca Denesuline presentation:** All these hearing presentations contain information of pertinence to uranium exploration in the upper Thelon basin in general. It is likely that

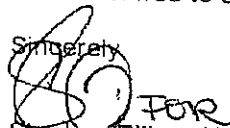
much of the information contained in these presentations will be indicative of the presenter's viewpoints on the Uravan and Bayswater proposals (not just UR-Energy).

- B) The Hearing Transcript and the Report of Reasons for Decision from EA0607-003 should be placed in their entirety on the public records of the Uravan and Bayswater EAs. Again, the positions and information contained in these documents are of relevance to uranium exploration in the upper Thelon basin in general.

#### Scoping Questions

2. A) Here are some specific issues with these proposed exploration programs:
- Cumulative impacts of uranium exploration activity (especially helicopter and drill noise) upon Beverly and Ahiak post-calving feeding and migration, particularly in the vicinity of the Thelon River valley.
  - Cumulative impacts of uranium exploration activity upon the ability of the Akaitcho Dene to practice their aboriginal and treaty rights in the upper Thelon watershed.
  - Impacts of uranium exploration activity upon the spiritual wellness of the Akaitcho Dene, keeping in mind that for the Akaitcho Dene the upper Thelon basin is "The Place Where God Began", similar in spiritual magnitude for the Akaitcho Dene to the Sistine Chapel for Catholics and Mecca for Muslims.
- B) Some other issues include:
- Cumulative impacts of uranium exploration activity on recreational, tourism, and outfitter use of the upper Thelon river valley.
  - Implications of uranium exploration activity in the upper Thelon basin with respect to the development, completion, and implementation of both the Thelon Game Sanctuary Management Plan and INAC's follow-through to the UR-Energy decision (e.g. regional plan of action in the upper Thelon basin).
3. Following from the UR-Energy decision, INAC has been mandated to develop a "plan of action" for the upper Thelon basin. Though nothing has been accomplished with this initiative to date, progress on this front will certainly inform a regional context for development/conservation in the area.
4. The Uravan projects and Bayswater's El Lake are in the same general location as UR-Energy, and the issues will likely be similar from an environmental, recreational, cultural, and spiritual standpoint. Bayswater's Crab Lake project, however, is actually within the Dubawnt watershed and is removed spatially from the Thelon river valley itself. This may have implications with regards to potential impacts, especially cultural ones.

I trust that these responses will help in the scoping and evidence transfer for the Uravan and Bayswater EAs. Feel free to call me at 867-370-3217 if you have any questions and need any clarification.

Sincerely,  


Stephen Ellis – Akaitcho IMA Implementation Coordinator  
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