



Yellowknives Dene First Nation
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May 29, 2008

Alan Ehrlich
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board
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RE: Bayswater and Uravan Environmental Assessments (EA0708-002 through -005)

Attention Mr. Ehrlich:

In early June the Yellowknives Dene First Nation (YKDFN) Lands and Environment section of the conducted a cursory review of the aforementioned applications and the submissions on the registry up to this point in time. After reviewing the materials we wish to reiterate the LKFN position, focusing in particular on two tenets:

"It is essential [to] understand that the absence of ILWs...is not indicative of Akaitcho interest in the region"

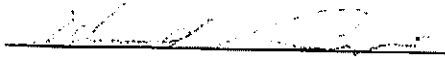
The evolution of the Interim Land Withdrawal (ILW) process and the context surrounding the lands selected is critical to understanding the true desires of the Akaitcho. There are two common misconceptions now that there is an ILW. Firstly, that only the lands that fall within the ILW were of importance to the local First Nation, ergo lands outside the ILW are 'open for development' with a minimum of obligation and restriction. Secondly, there is a perception the ILW as it exists now is in its final form. As third party interests lapse the lands within the ILW will undoubtedly change. Though the ILW has been final for less than six months, the Yellowknives Dene First Nation has encountered these perceptions many times in dealing with Canada and the NWT. The reality of land selection is that the constraints imposed by third party interests inhibit the true expression of critical lands from the First Nation viewpoint.

"It makes no conceivable sense to consider the Boomerang Lake project in the absence of the context deemed necessary for such review by the MVEIRB and the Minister in the UR-Energy decision"

The YKDFN applauded the outcomes of the UR-Energy environmental assessment. The clarity and opportunity associated with the development of a regional resource management plan would go a long way towards ensuring that any development is done with local concerns in the forefront. However, to accept the recommendations forwarded in that case, and then to consider four nearly identical proposals seems very much a logical break. From our viewpoint the situation we are currently in, namely the

concurrent review of the Bayswater and Uravan applications and the creation of a land and resource management plan, is not tenable. The YKDFN position is that the planning process *must* be allowed to run its course with all applications taking a backseat.

Yours truly,



Chief Edward Sangris

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