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Sent: January 14, 2010 10:46 PM  
To: Tawanis Testart  
Cc: Lutsel Ke WLE Director  
Subject: Lutsel K'e Dene First Nation's submission to the hearings on Deze Energy Corp's hydroelectric expansion project

Dr. Anne Kendrick  
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January 14, 2010

Tawanis Testart  
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\_re\_: Lutsel K'e Dene First Nation's submission to hearings on the Deze Energy Corp. Ltd. Talston Hydroelectric Expansion Project

My heart sunk in my chest when I learned that the transmission line for the proposed Talston Hydro Project is slated to be routed through the Desnethche and Tsankui Theda areas. I was fortunate to live and work in the community of Lutsel K'e from 2000-2003. Elders like Jonas Catholique, J.B. Rabesca and Maurice Lockhart opened my eyes to the tremendous cultural and spiritual importance of these areas not only to the Denesoline of Lutsel K'e, but to Dene from many other far-flung communities with deep historical roots in these areas. Individuals may not have the chance to visit Tsankui Theda on a regular basis, but anyone who has had the chance to walk on an overnight journey with people from Lutsel K'e to Tsankui Theda from the shores of Great Slave Lake, in a quest for spiritual and physical renewal, knows that it is not possible to underestimate the power and significance of these areas for the Dene.

I would strongly encourage the board to review Phillip Coutu and Lorraine Hoffman-Mercredi's publication /Inkonze: The Stones of Traditional Knowledge/ for their documentation of the importance of Tsankui Theda to the Dene as a people with a deep historical attachment to the area referred to plainly as "Parry Falls" on topographical maps.

It is also vital to understand the key importance the Desnethche and Tsankui Theda areas play for caribou. There are winters when animals from the Bathurst, Ahiak and Beverly caribou herds winter in and around this area. Minister Miltenberger addressed the Northwest Territories Legislative Assembly on Oct. 21st, 2009 with the following words:

/Mr. Speaker, the most dramatic declines in the last three years has been in the Bathurst and Beverly caribou herds. In 1994 survey results

indicated that the Beverly population was estimated at 276,000 animals. Systematic reconnaissance surveys on the Beverly calving ground in 2007, 2008, and 2009 indicate that the Beverly herd has all but disappeared. Limited collar information suggests that some of the last Beverly cows have shifted to the range of the much larger Ahiak herd. The Bathurst herd has dropped from a little over 100,000 animals in 2006 to 32,000 this summer. Because the Bathurst herd is so important to NWT communities tough management actions will be required to give the herd a chance to recover... Mr. Speaker, some people may believe the Ahiak herd is immune to this decline or even increased. Unfortunately, this is not the case. Ongoing reconnaissance surveys of the herd's calving grounds indicate a substantial but declining herd. Additional data on caribou condition and pregnancy rate indicate that this herd is not doing well./

It seems unfathomable that the very people who have a fundamental connection to caribou, a relationship that is thousands of years old, and are now facing "tough management actions" where caribou are concerned, are asked to fight a battle to prevent a major infrastructure project from being developed through the wintering grounds of a number of barren-ground caribou herds that appear to be experiencing severe declines. This was one battle I had really hoped Lutsel K'e would be spared and one that I am sure has galvanized every individual in Lutsel K'e in opposition. I strongly encourage the board leading this hearing to listen intently to Lutsel K'e's presentation and the deep cultural, ecological and spiritual issues that are at stake.

Sincerely yours,

Anne Kendrick