

April 28, 2009

To the Distribution List:

The Review Board met on April 24, 2009 to discuss EA0708-007, the environmental assessment of Dezé Energy's Taltson Hydroelectric Expansion Project. The Review Board met to discuss next steps and to revisit the work plan for this environmental assessment.

### Changes to the work plan

There was a work plan issued for this environmental assessment on March 28, 2008 that included an estimated schedule for events and milestones in this process. This schedule is now out of date due to previous delays. The Review Board has issued an updated and revised estimated schedule that better predicts upcoming milestones and events. These revisions include one major alteration to the process, namely the combining of the first and second round of information requests. During the technical review phase of the environmental assessment, it may become apparent that additional facts or advice is needed to correctly assess the impact of the development; the Review Board issues information requests to seek these facts and advice.

According to the last work plan, the next step for the Review Board would now be to issue a first round of information requests, generated through an internal review by Review Board staff and expert advisors. The second round of information requests are those submitted by parties to the environmental assessment and would occur later in the process. Instead, the Review Board will delay issuing its internal information requests until party-submitted information requests are received. In effect, this will reduce the number of planned rounds of information requests from two to one, with party-submitted information requests issued by the Review Board being supplemented by internally generated information requests should information gaps still exist. This work plan change will allow the Review Board, all potential parties to the environmental assessment and any expert advisors retained by them ample opportunity for a careful and complete review of the Taltson



project Developer's Assessment Report (DAR) and any other materials relevant to this environmental assessment without compromising the overall length of the environmental assessment. The submission deadline for information requests is **June 11, 2009**. Parties are encouraged to begin formulating their information request submissions as soon as possible.

The Review Board recognizes that the Taltson project is a large and technically complex project and the overall complexity of the DAR is reflective of this. There is a balance that must be struck between expediency in the process and precision of review; the Review Board is mindful of the capacity of environmental assessment participants and is continually seeking improvements in its process to provide parties with the necessary time to most effectively participate. The Review Board is confident that the timeline as set out in the work plan will be sufficiently accommodating to the needs of participants but if there are any outstanding concerns please contact Tawanis Testart (project lead) for advice.

### Technical sessions

The Review Board intends to hold a two-day technical session during the week of **May 25-29, 2009**. This technical session will be the first step in the technical review of the DAR. The aim of technical review phase in environmental assessment is to determine evidence and facts used to support conclusions related to potential impacts and their significance. The session is an opportunity for environmental assessment participants to come together and to discuss and share their ideas and questions on these topics, both with each other and with Dezé Energy and their expert advisors. This technical session, which is being held prior to the submission of information requests, will also serve to highlight any information gaps that may exist and will likely assist parties in writing their information request submissions. These sessions are facilitated by the Review Board staff and Review Board members will not be in attendance. A draft agenda will be circulated with the upcoming invitation to these technical sessions, which will include specific information on timing and location.



### Party Status Forms

At this time the Review Board is seeking party status submissions from participants in this environmental assessment. Dezé Energy, as the developer, is automatically a party to these proceedings, but other organizations and individuals will need to make an application to the Review Board. The relevant form is attached to this letter and can be submitted to Tawanis Testart by email ([ttestart@reviewboard.ca](mailto:ttestart@reviewboard.ca)) or by fax at (867) 766-7074. When applying, please identify your organization, a contact person and a statement outlining why you are seeking party status, for example, that you are a directly affected first nation or individual. Although all members of the public may participate in the Review Board's proceedings at any time, in order to submit information requests that the Review Board may consider issuing to the developer, participants must have party status.

Thank you for your continued participation in this environmental assessment. If anyone has any questions or comments, please contact me by telephone at (867) 766-7066 or by email.

Best regards,

Tawanis Testart  
EAO



## Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board

### FORM I

### Request for Party Status

Name of Organization:

Name of Proceeding:

Reasons for requesting Party Status in these proceedings.

#### **Participation:**

Please describe how you or your organization intends to participate in this proceeding, such as what information, witnesses, or presentations you plan to submit.

If you represent a Responsible Minister or Responsible Authority please state which one.

List the licences, permits or authorizations issued by your organization relevant to this proceeding.

#### **Contact Information:**

Please confirm the organization's contact information and the name of the primary contact person for Board correspondence purposes.

Dated at \_\_\_\_\_, Northwest Territories, on (MM/DD/YY) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of Party's Representative)