

September 28, 2009

To the distribution list:

The upcoming Technical Session planned for the environmental assessment of the Taltson Hydroelectric Expansion Project, proposed by Dezé Energy Corp., is scheduled for Oct 1, 2 and 5, 2009 in Yellowknife NT at the Tree of Peace Friendship Centre. The purpose of the session is primarily to identify any information requirements the parties to this assessment may still have. The format and nature of the Technical Session will differ from Review Board procedure in some ways and therefore I would like to briefly review the intent of the analytical phase of environmental assessment and the planned procedure for the technical session.

This environmental assessment is currently in its analytical phase. This phase includes Information Requests, Technical Review and Technical Sessions. This analysis of issues will form party's Final Submissions as they prepare for public hearings before the Review Board.

The Review Board often issues Information Requests during the environmental assessment process. Information Requests are written questions exchanged between parties and they can be issued at any point during the environmental assessment. The information gathered in this way is useful to the Review Board and parties as they conduct their technical review of the Developer's Assessment Report. This review looks at the contents of the Developer's Assessment Report to see if the issues analysis, potential impacts and mitigation measures set forward by the developer are accurate, appropriate and effective in the minds of the reviewer. Technical reviews help resolve or clarify issues and also help to gather information that will assist the Review Board to make its final decision.

Technical sessions may be held as a part of this review. These sessions are public meetings for the developer, parties and the public to discuss the evidence in the Developer's Assessment Report.

Evidence can be scientific or traditional knowledge and can be presented by experts, reviewers or people



who may be affected by the project. These sessions are open to the public and are facilitated by the Review Board staff.

The technical session planned for the Taltson Hydroelectric Expansion environmental assessment will focus on the information requirements of the parties. The Review Board recently decided not to issue Information Requests for this EA, and this session will replace that step in the process. Typically technical sessions are roundtable discussions facilitated by Review Board staff and follow an informal format. However, because the information requirements set out by the parties in this case may be used as part of the body of evidence used by the Review Board to make their final decision, this session will be conducted in a more formal and structured manner. The meeting will be transcribed and the transcription will be distributed when available and included in the public record for the EA.

Parties should be prepared on the day of the meeting to ask clearly formulated questions of the developer and any other party necessary. These questions should focus on the technical aspects of the proposed project and pertain to the issues set out in the Terms of Reference and the Developer's Assessment Report. By asking concise questions and requesting specific information, with clear rationale for the need for that information, this technical session will be both useful to all participants and conducted in an efficient and timely manner. As the developer has previously committed to creating a detailed monitoring plan for consideration by parties, questions related to these issues should be held until that plan is available to participants and not posed during this technical session.

The developer will answer the questions posed to them at the meeting, if possible, but should the developer require more time to research or compile the information requested, they will be allowed to consider the question and provide their response in writing by October 30, 2009. Should questions posed by the parties or any other participant lead to involved or lengthy discussions, Review Board staff may direct the parties and developer to have a sidebar meeting and report on the results or to provide the information requested in writing by October 30, 2009.



I would like to thank all participants for your continued participation in this EA and look forward to a productive technical session ahead.

Regards,

Tawanis Testart, EAO

# TECHNICAL SESSION – DAY 1

Thursday, October 1, 2009

9:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Tree of Peace Friendship Centre (Large Boardroom)

## Agenda

9:15-9:45 AM

### **Introduction by Review Board**

- Welcome and Opening Remarks
- Discussion of the objectives of the technical session
- Agenda & format review

9:45-10:30 AM

### **Key Line of Inquiry #1**

Impacts to the Taltson Watershed

- Questions from parties
- Response from developer

10:30-10:45 AM

*Break*

10:45-12:00 PM

### **Key Line of Inquiry #1**

Impacts to the Taltson Watershed

- Questions from parties
- Response from developer

12:00-1:15 PM

*Lunch*

1:15-3:00 PM

### **Key Line of Inquiry #1**

Impacts to the Taltson Watershed

- Questions from experts
- Response from developer

3:00-3:15 PM

*Break*

3:15-4:30 PM

### **Key Line of Inquiry #1**

Impacts to the Taltson Watershed

- Questions from experts
- Response from developer

4:30-4:45 PM

Wrap-up

# TECHNICAL SESSION – DAY 2

Friday, October 2, 2009

9:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Tree of Peace Friendship Centre (Large Boardroom)

## Agenda

9:15-9:45 AM

### **Introduction by Review Board**

- Welcome and Opening Remarks
- Discussion of the objectives of the technical session
- Agenda & format review

9:45-10:30 AM

### **Key Line of Inquiry #2**

Impacts to Trudel Creek

- Questions from parties
- Response from developer

*10:30-10:45 AM*

*Break*

10:45-12:00 PM

### **Key Line of Inquiry #2**

Impacts to Trudel Creek

- Questions from experts
- Response from developer

*12:00-1:15 PM*

*Lunch*

1:15-3:00 PM

### **Subjects of Note – Project design, Socio-Economic Impacts**

- Questions from parties
- Response from developer

*3:00-3:15 PM*

*Break*

3:15-4:30 PM

### **Subjects of Note – Project design, Socio-Economic Impacts**

- Questions from experts
- Response from developer

4:30-4:45 PM

Wrap-up

# TECHNICAL SESSION – DAY 3

Monday, October 5, 2009

9:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Tree of Peace Friendship Centre (Large Boardroom)

## Agenda

9:15-9:45 AM

### **Introduction by Review Board**

- Welcome and Opening Remarks
- Discussion of the objectives of the technical session
- Agenda & format review

9:45-10:30 AM

### **Key Line of Inquiry #3**

Barren ground caribou

- Questions from parties
- Response from developer

3:00-3:15 PM

*Break*

3:15-4:30 PM

### **Key Line of Inquiry #3**

Barren ground caribou

- Questions from experts
- Response from developer

12:00-1:15 PM

*Lunch*

1:15-3:00 PM

### **Subjects of Note – Wildlife, Traditional Harvesting**

- Questions from parties
- Response from developer

3:00-3:15 PM

*Break*

3:15-4:30 PM

### **Subjects of Note – Wildlife, Traditional Harvesting**

- Questions from experts
- Response from developer

4:30-4:45 PM

Wrap-up