



April 8, 2010

Allan Ehrlich

Senior Environmental Assessment Officer

Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board

#200 Scotia Centre

5102 – 50th Avenue

Yellowknife, NT X1A 2N7

Via email: aehrlich@reviewboard.ca

Dear Mr. Ehrlich:

**Re: EA0708-007 Taltson Hydroelectric Expansion Project:
Dezé Project Clarification (March 26, 2010)**

Parks Canada is pleased to provide the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (the Board) with information requests in response to the submission from Dezé Energy Corporation to the Board on March 26, 2010 regarding the Taltson Hydroelectric Expansion Project.

We look forward to receiving Dezé's responses to the requests as part of the ongoing review of this project. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Wendy Botkin at (204) 984-1152.

Sincerely,

Katherine Cumming

A/ Resource Conservation Manager

Parks Canada

cc. Gordon Hamre, Sr. Advisor, Northern Parks, Parks Canada

EA0708-007 Taltson Hydroelectric Expansion Project

Parks Canada Agency Information Requests

IR Number: Parks _1
Source: Parks Canada Agency
To: Dezé Energy Corporation
Subject: Viewshed analysis of Proposed Route
(Inland crossing of Lockhart River)

References:

- **DAR s. 15.10.5** *Effects of Visual Aesthetics to Tourist Enjoyment of Wilderness*
- **Meeting Report** (Parks Canada – Dezé (November 30)
- **Final Position on Crossing the Lockhart River** (Dezé Letter: March 26, 2010)

Terms of Reference Section:

5.3.3 Impacts on Tourism Potential and wilderness character

(a) Identification of any potential impacts that the construction and operation of the Expansion Project could have on the aesthetic or wilderness quality as well as a discussion of mitigation options to deal with any predicted impacts.

(d) A discussion of any potential impacts from the development on the proposed national park,...

(e) A discussion of any ... locations of special interest that merit special attention in the potentially affected area and discuss any mitigation measures proposed to reduce potential impacts to them.

Preamble:

Dezé's preferred option for the transmission line was presented generally in the DAR as an inland crossing of the Lockhart River between Artillery Lake and Great Slave Lake. A viewshed analysis was conducted based on this route (DAR: Section 15.10), with reference to key tourist destinations in the East Arm area (Table 15.10.5).

In the subsequent technical session (October 5, 2009) and Meeting Report (November 26, 2009), Dezé made a commitment to prepare graphics from these key viewpoints, to illustrate the proposed transmission line route in the East Arm Park Area. This was to be completed by fall of 2010, after confirmation from Parks Canada about other potential key locations. Parks Canada has since identified additional viewpoints that are relevant to the viewshed analysis, as well as to any future graphics preparation.

In the *Final Position on Crossing the Lockhart River* (Dezé to MVEIRB: March 26, 2010) Dezé provided greater level of detail on the proposed location and rationale for the proposed routing, including information on the approximate distance from Tyrell Falls and Parry Falls (Ts'ankui Theda) (though noting that the exact point of the crossing of the Lockhart River may be moved).

The information on the crossing location and viewshed analysis for the full array of key viewpoints would be useful to ensure a more complete assessment of the potential impacts, as identified by Dezé. This would also assist in Parks Canada's review of this information.

Request:

- (1) That the Dezé Energy Corporation provide the specific locations (latitude/longitude with datum specified) of the tourist destinations used in the original viewshed analysis, and a GIS file (ESRI shapefile format) of the proposed transmission line route, including the crossing of the Lockhart River identified in the Dezé letter March 26, 2010.
- (2) That the Dezé Energy Corporation confirm that the viewshed analysis presented in the DAR is in reference to this specific transmission line routing.
- (3) That the Dezé Energy Corporation expand the viewshed analysis in the DAR (Table 15.10.5) adding an analysis from the following key viewpoints, as identified by Parks Canada:
 - Tyrell Falls
 - Pike's Portage near Burr Lake
 - Parry Falls (Old Lady of the Falls) 100 m upstream
 - Old Fort Reliance National Historic Site
- (4) That where Dezé Energy Corporation has access to existing photos from key viewpoints, that these be used to prepare an initial visual graphic to illustrate the proposed transmission line in the proposed East Arm Park area.

IR Number: Parks _2
Source: Parks Canada Agency
To: Dezé Energy Corporation
Subject: Viewshed analysis of the Reliance Adjustment
References:

- ***DAR s. 15.10.5 Effects of Visual Aesthetics to Tourist Enjoyment of Wilderness***
- ***Final Position on Crossing the Lockhart River*** (Dezé Letter: March 26, 2010)

Terms of Reference Section:

5.3.3 Impacts on Tourism Potential and wilderness character

(a) Identification of any potential impacts that the construction and operation of the Expansion Project could have on the aesthetic or wilderness quality as well as a discussion of mitigation options to deal with any predicted impacts.

(d) A discussion of any potential impacts from the development on the proposed national park,...

(e) A discussion of any ... locations of special interest that merit special attention in the potentially affected area and discuss any mitigation measures proposed to reduce potential impacts to them.

Preamble:

With the submission of the *Final Position on Crossing the Lockhart River*, Dezé noted that its preferred, and proposed, transmission line routing is the original East Arm route crossing the Lockhart River between Artillery Lake and Great Slave Lake. The Reliance Adjustment, though not the proposed option, was offered to the Board as a viable and feasible measure that could be implemented to prevent adverse cultural and spiritual impacts.

An analysis of the aesthetic effects of this Reliance Adjustment would be important to ensure a meaningful comparison between the two routing options that have been presented to the Board, as project impacts and proposed mitigation measures are considered.

Request:

- (1) That Dezé Energy Corporation conduct the viewshed analysis for the Reliance Adjustment (marine cable from Maufelly Point to Fairchild Point) using the same key viewpoints for the preferred route (inland Lockhart River Crossing).

IR Number: Parks _3
Source: Parks Canada Agency
To: Dezé Energy Corporation
Subject: Feasibility of Directional Drilling

References:

- *Parks Canada letter accompanying Request for Ruling* (Feb 18, 2010)
- *Final Position on Crossing the Lockhart River* (Dezé Letter: March 26, 2010)

Terms of Reference Section:

5.3.3 Impacts on Tourism Potential and wilderness character

(a) Identification of any potential impacts that the construction and operation of the Expansion Project could have on the aesthetic or wilderness quality as well as a discussion of mitigation options to deal with any predicted impacts.

Preamble:

Throughout the review process, the issue of construction methods as well as routing of the transmission line has been raised. As examples, Dezé has presented options related to clearing methods, and marine crossings of the transmission line. Parks Canada further raised the notion of directional drilling of the transmission line in its letter to the Board (February 18, 2010) as a way to reduce visual impacts related to the transmission line crossing of the Lockhart River.

In order to ensure that all technically and economically feasible mitigations are considered, it would be useful to have information on the feasibility of directional drilling at the point of crossing the Lockhart River.

Request:

- (1) That Dezé Energy Corporation provide an overview of the feasibility of using directional drilling, whereby the transmission line crosses under the Lockhart River. The analysis should refer to technical and economic feasibility, and should also refer to additional biophysical environmental effects from new construction and access requirements, if appropriate.