



## Athabasca Land Use Office

C/o Prince Albert Grand Council

P.O. Box 2350, Prince Albert, Sask. S6V 6Z1  
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# Fax

**To:** Alan Ehrlich

**From:** Tina Giroux

**Fax:**

**Date:** February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2010

**Phone:**

**Pages:** 3

**Re:** Taltson Hydro Expansion Project

**CC:**

☐ Urgent    ☐ For Review    ☐ Please Comment    ☐ Please Reply    ☐ Please Recycle

**•Comments:**

Please find attached a copy of the Athabasca Denesuline response to the proposed adjustments to the transmission line routes. Please confirm receipt of this fax by emailing me at: [tgiroux@pagc.sk.ca](mailto:tgiroux@pagc.sk.ca)

Thank you,

Tina Giroux

**Confidentiality Notice:** This message is intended for the confidential use of the addresses only and where directed to our client is subject to solicitor-client privilege. Any unauthorized review, retention, distribution or disclosure is prohibited. Please notify us immediately if you have received this message in error.  
Thank You



## Athabasca Denesuline Negotiation Team

February 18, 2010

Mr. Alan Ehrlich, Senior Environmental Assessment Officer  
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board  
Box 938, 5102-50<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2N7

**Re: Taltson Hydro Expansion Project – Adjustments to Transmission Line Route**

Dear Sir,

We have reviewed the proposed adjustments to the transmission line route, more specifically the Reliance Adjustment. First of all, we would like to commend you on respecting the wishes of the Lutsel K'e Dene First Nation and preserving the Desnedhe Che area. However, the alternative route still presents some significant issues as it has the potential to have major impacts to the Athabasca Denesuline traditional activities and culture.

The proposed transmission line intersects with wildlife species and habitats that are very important to the Athabasca Denesuline. Since the yearly migration of the Beverly-Qaminirjuaq caribou herd is integral to the Athabasca Denesuline economic, social and cultural identity, any potential disturbance to the caribou is potential risk to the Athabasca Denesuline identity. This is particularly important in light of the recent documented declines in the Bathurst, Ahlak and Beverly herds. The potential impact of transmission lines and structures to these herds is not understood by modern science.

Simply offering to monitor and document the effects is not an option. Now is not the time to take a chance and possibly sacrifice the health of these herds for research. Recently, numerous Athabasca Denesuline Elders were interviewed regarding their Traditional Ecological Knowledge on impacts to caribou. The majority of these Elders have identified the introduction of power lines in the Athabasca region as correlating closely with the caribou remaining further north. This is a powerful observation of impacts of power lines and should be considered.

Furthermore, communities that hunt caribou are being asked to assess options on recovery of the caribou herd, such as adjusting the number and sex of animals harvested. This will be a significant sacrifice to the communities that depend on caribou for sustenance. However, it is predicted that more access to roads associated with the proposed transmission line may slightly exceed current harvesting rates in these areas. The Athabasca Denesuline cannot support a development that will counter any efforts on barren ground caribou recovery.

In addition, the proposed Reliance adjustment would pass in very close proximity to known archeological sites. All construction activities need to be conducted so that there is little or no impact on traditional land uses and users, overnight sites, archeological sites, artifacts and important wildlife habitats. The company should be aware that they may encounter unknown or unrecorded Traditional

*c/o Prince Albert Grand Council*

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Land Uses/Users, archeological sites and aboriginal artifacts. Should the proponent encounter any unrecorded sites, they should stop work in that area and contact this office. This is in addition to any requirements under current legislation.

Sincerely,



for Ron Robillard  
ADNT Chief Negotiator,  
Prince Albert Grand Council  
cc: Athabasca Denesuline Leadership  
PAGC Athabasca Vice Chief, Don Deranger,  
Athabasca Denesuline Negotiation Team  
Athabasca Land Office  
Ross Thompson, Secretary, BQCMB