

Comments on Proposed Routing and Re-Routing of Transmission Line around the East End of McLeod Bay, Great Slave Lake, and Crossing the Narrows Between Maufelly and Fairchild Points

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Attention: Alan Ehrlich
Senior Environmental Assessment Officer
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board

Dated: Feb. 17, 2010

First of all I would like to address a concern that I have with the MVRB's lack of consultation with residents of the Fort Reliance area. We were not advised of the two previous route proposals through the Lockhart River and Artillery Lake. Consultations were held on this matter in Lutsel K'e and Dettah and we, the people that live on the land, were not even advised of their existence. As both of those proposed routes travel across my trap line and would affect the wildlife in these areas. My question is simply this. Why was I not notified? Is this not the mandate of the review board?

I have lived on the tip of Fairchild Point in Fort Reliance for the past 37 years. I just recently, temporally moved to Yellowknife due to fact that my two children are attending the school here in Yellowknife. This would be my first winter away from Fort Reliance in the last 37 years and I plan to return to Fort Reliance in the near future.

I have made my living as a hunter and trapper in a wide area spanning from Fort Reliance to the Thelon River. Since 1984 I have made Fort Reliance my permanent home and have raised four children in this area, they were raised in this type of lifestyle, and have been taught to respect the land and wildlife.

After receiving a call from MVRB about Deze Energy's proposal to run a power line through Maufelly Point across to Fairchild Point and down the peninsula, then further on north to the diamond mines, I decided to meet with the Deze Energy representatives. Technical aspects of the proposed transmission lines were discussed, such as the routing, tower heights and the methods of crossing the narrows between the Maufelly and Fairchild Points. This crossing is of particular importance as it is a major caribou migration route.

I do not oppose this type of energy and I see hydro power as clean, sustainable energy. However, I feel that the route of this proposed line is not appropriate. The proposed route would cut through the heart of one of the most beautiful pristine wilderness areas in the north.

I will not discuss the severe impacts that this proposal would have on tourism and sport fishing in this area. Wallace Finlayson and Dave Olesen have already addressed this issue far more eloquently than I would ever be able to.

This area will someday be protected as a National Park and to have such an eye sore as the transmission line running through would be very difficult to accept. By running mostly east-west through these peninsulas it would cut across the migration path of many species of animals such as caribou, musk-ox, and wolves.

I have made and make my living mostly by hunting wolves in this area and feel that they would avoid an area of tall manmade structures and the whistling that would be created by the wind blowing through the power lines. I believe it could deter the animals from crossing underneath it.

The proposed transmission line would run virtually through my backyard. I would have to look at it for the rest of my life as would my children throughout the rest of their lives. This is an unspoiled wilderness area that we constantly travel, hunt, camp, and hike in.

There are no positive aspects that I can see. All the income collected in the years to come from this project will go to a group of people hundreds of miles away, most of whom will never even see this transmission line, let alone have to live under it.

FOR THESE REASONS I OPPOSE THE PROPOSAL TO RUN A TRANSMISSION LINE THROUGH MAUFELLY POINT TO FAIRCHILD POINT AND DOWN THE PENNINSULA.

Sincerely

Roger Catling & Family
Susan Catling & Family