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YELLOWKNIFE NT X1A 2R3

June 11, 2012

Chuck Hubert
Senior Environmental Assessment Officer
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board
PO BOX 938
YELLOWKNIFE NT X1A 2N7

Dear Mr. Hubert:

The following is Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada's response to the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board's letter dated June 7, 2012 asking that Parties submit their views on the request by the Tlicho Government to reconsider the timing and venue of the Public Hearings for the NICO Project.

Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada is prepared to proceed as the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board sees fit. As the NICO Project is located in the Tlicho Settlement Area and the access road is on Tlicho lands, the Tlicho Government may have decision making responsibilities in accordance with the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act* once the Report of Environmental Assessment is released. The department is confident that the Review Board will consider the concerns expressed by the Tlicho Government before making its determination.

Sincerely,

Teresa Joudrie
Director
Renewable Resources and Environment