



May 11, 2012

VIA EMAIL

Chuck Hubert  
Environmental Assessment Officer  
Mackenzie Valley Review Board  
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Dear Mr. Hubert,

**Re: EA0809-004, NICO Project, Fortune Minerals Limited – GNWT Response to YKDFN Round 2 Information Request**

Please find attached the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) response to the YKDFN Round 2 Information Request 2.5 regarding *Cumulative Effects Monitoring and Adaptive Management Linkages*.

Please feel free to contact me at [Loretta\\_ransom@gov.nt.ca](mailto:Loretta_ransom@gov.nt.ca) or (867) 920-6593 with any questions you may have regarding the attached response.

Sincerely,



Environmental Assessment Analyst  
Environmental Assessment and Monitoring  
Environment and Natural Resources, GNWT  
Phone #: 867-920-6593

cc Gavin More, GNWT  
Nicole McCutchen, GNWT  
Todd Slack, YKDFN

**IR Number:** 2.5  
**Source:** Yellowknives Dene First Nation  
**To:** GNWT and AANDC  
**Subject:** Cumulative Effects Monitoring and Adaptive Management Linkages

### **Preamble**

In section 8.10 the company does not propose any cumulative effects monitoring or links for adaptive management related to surrounding events. YKDFN have observed the other mines in the territory divesting themselves of cumulative effects assessment responsibility after permitting. Thus, it is important that the responsible authorities submit a clear plan indicating their intention and commitments when it comes to any monitoring beyond what could be described as project specific.

### **Request**

YKDFN request that the GNWT and AANDC complete a cumulative effects monitoring plan with appropriate linkages to adaptive management mitigations.

### **Response**

GNWT-ENR recognizes the need for a larger collaborative program on cumulative effects monitoring, modeling, management and mitigation in the NWT. Developing an approach for adequately addressing cumulative effects will require time and close collaboration with territorial, federal and aboriginal governments as well as the boards and industry. Elements of effective cumulative effects programming will need to include: a multi-species perspective, good input data, the development of applicable models, an adaptive approach to management, strong partnerships, solid links to land use and land use planning, and a regional monitoring perspective using standardized protocols. For all of these elements to come together, it is agreed that a collective shift in our vision of impact assessment must expand beyond a narrow project-specific scope and recognize that trade-offs are societal decisions.

While the full expression/vision of such a program will take some time to emerge, GNWT- ENR feels that it is taking some positive steps in the right direction. For example, the Wildlife Division at ENR is actively working with existing and proposed diamond mines to integrate their monitoring programs of wide-ranging species (i.e. grizzly bears, wolverine and caribou) on a regional scale that will allow population-level mine-related effects to be examined while also providing critical information to feed into cumulative effects models and management. Responding to the need identified by stakeholders in response to the 2011-2015 Caribou Management Strategy to study and limit cumulative effects on barren-ground caribou, ENR has moved forward on a demonstration project in 2009-2010 to model cumulative effects on barren-ground caribou. A workshop hosted by ENR in 2008 that involved governments, the boards and other stakeholders helped to inform the demonstrations project, while another workshop for the fall of 2013 is being planned to discuss and refine the outcomes of that project. It is hoped that this workshop will be a key step in the development of a broader approach to cumulative effects programming and engaging stakeholders in identifying a common strategy for moving forward. ENR continues to engage with potential partners in less formal ways through preliminary discussion with YKDFN and the Tlicho Government and AANDC about how to collaborate on

advancing cumulative effects monitoring, management, modeling and mitigation in the NWT. Finally, ENR expects to be hiring a cumulative effects biologist in this fiscal year, which will be an important step towards developing a plan for addressing cumulative effects and implementation of identified strategies and actions.