

NORTH SLAVE MÉTIS ALLIANCE

PO Box 2301 Yellowknife, NT X1A 2P7



April 20th, 2012

Chuck Hubert
Senior Environmental Assessment Officer
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board
200 Scotia Centre, Box 938, 5102-50th Ave
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2N7
Ph: (867) 766-7052 Fx: (867) 766-7074
Email chubert@reviewboard.ca

Re: Fortune Nico Information Request Round II (EA 0809-004)

The North Slave Métis Alliance submits the following two second round information requests regarding the above noted environmental assessment.

IR Number: NSMA-2-1

Source: North Slave Métis Alliance (NSMA)

To: Fortune Minerals and GNWT

Subject: Caribou and Caribou Habitat (TOR 3.3.4)
Wildlife (3.3.7)
Cumulative effects (TOR 3.6)
Traditional Knowledge (TOR 3.1.2)
Commitments (Appendix 1-III)

Preamble: The DAR states at page 15-86 that the proposed project and proposed Tlich road route are not within the range of bison in the NWT. Annex D, the baseline wildlife report does not mention bison. The Cumulative Effects Assessment does not discuss, in any detail, the impacts of climate change on habitat or species composition. However, historic documents indicate the range of wood bison did extend as far north as Lac La Martre, while numerous sources indicate that the prehistoric distribution of bison extended to Great Bear Lake and even the Inuvik areas. The GNWT's Wood Bison Management Strategy states a goal of population recovery throughout the historic wood bison range. Climate change, in combination with the project and other reasonably foreseeable developments, such as roads, are likely to expedite the expansion of wood bison range towards, and perhaps past, Lac la Martre.

Request: How might the anticipated spread of wood bison in a north-westerly direction along linear corridors associated with the project and other reasonably foreseeable developments affect boreal and/or tundra caribou? What monitoring and mitigation is planned? How will North Slave Métis be involved and their traditional knowledge incorporated in monitoring plans, programs, and decision making?

Ph: (867) 873-NSMA (6762)

Fax: (867) 669-7442

Email: general@nsma.net

IR Number: NSMA-2-2

Source: North Slave Métis Alliance (NSMA)

To: Fortune Minerals

Subject: Caribou and Caribou Habitat (TOR 3.3.4)
Wildlife (3.3.7)
Cumulative effects (TOR 3.6)
Traditional Knowledge (TOR 3.1.2)
Commitments (Appendix 1-III)

Preamble: An increase in road access north of Lac La Martre will no doubt hasten the climate related north-westerly spread of species such as bison, coyotes, deer, birds, plants and insects. Some species might be considered "invasive" and unwanted, while others might be considered "locally extirpated" and welcomed back. Wood bison, boreal caribou, and tundra caribou are all considered to be species at risk, and might be differentially affected by invasive species; perhaps some favourably (bison and grasses), and some negatively (caribou and insects). The relationships are complex. Fortune admits there is little baseline information, and significant uncertainty in predictions. This means that traditional knowledge will be even more essential. It is possible that Fortune might have to choose management actions that favour one species over another, and there could be differences of opinion between Aboriginal Peoples. Fortune has made commitments to involve Tlicho by hiring Tlicho to do on-site monitoring wherever possible, by developing a monitoring program with the help of the Tlicho, and by consultation meetings in the Tlicho communities, by forming a Tlicho advisory board, and so on. No commitments are made regarding the involvement of North Slave Métis.

Request: In what way, exactly, will North Slave Métis be involved in monitoring wildlife and habitat and in making decisions about mitigation measures? How will decisions be made regarding monitoring programs, mitigation measures and closure requirements that may differentially affect one species relative to another, and how will Métis traditional knowledge, including cultural values, be incorporated in those decisions?

Sincerely,



Sheryl Grieve
Environment and Resource Manager
North Slave Metis Alliance
Box 2301, Yellowknife, X1A 2P7
E-mail: enviromgr@nsma.net

c.c. Risk Schryer, Fortune Minerals (rschryer@fortneminerals.com)