

June 15, 2012

Our file: EA0809-004

Laura Duncan
Tlicho Executive Director
Box 412
Behchoko, NT X0E 0Y0

Re: NICO Project: Public hearings and information from traditional knowledge study

Dear Laura Duncan:

The Mackenzie Valley Review Board (Board) recognizes the Tlicho Government's efforts to include information from the ongoing traditional knowledge studies in the environmental assessment of the NICO Project. The Board wants to accommodate the Tlicho Government to the greatest extent possible with incorporating traditional knowledge into the upcoming hearings while maintaining a timely environmental assessment process.

You have indicated that traditional knowledge studies are being conducted by the Tlicho Government this summer, and that these will not be completed by the time of the scheduled hearings. To ensure that the study adds value to the environmental assessment, the Board requests that the Tlicho Government submit a *preliminary* report of the study findings available to date, particularly describing how they may relate to impact predictions.

Please submit this before July 6th, 2012. This will give parties fair opportunity to consider these preliminary results when preparing for the hearings, and will let the Board consider them in the hearing. The Board hopes that the final study report will be available from the Tlicho Government before the Board has reached its decisions this fall.

A hearing presentation on the preliminary results of the traditional knowledge studies would be a valuable addition to the predictions of the projects' potential impacts on the environment and people. The pre-hearing conference, scheduled for early July, would be a useful opportunity to discuss how you could best present your traditional knowledge studies at the hearings.



The Board wants to hear directly from residents of the Tlicho communities, including traditional knowledge holders, during the public hearings, and looks forward to receiving your preliminary traditional knowledge report.

Sincerely,

(original signed by)
Chuck Hubert
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Mackenzie Valley Review Board
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