

Avalon Rare Earth Metals Nechalcho Project

Public Hearing (MVEIRB)

Fort Resolution, NT

February 22, 2013



Introduction

Akaiicho Dene of Deninu Kue First Nation is signatory to the Treaty 1900 that was signed on the shores of Deninu Kue, Akaiicho Territory (currently known as Fort Resolution, NWT).

Deninu Kue First Nation members rely on the areas in and around Thor Lake and Pine point, the proposed mine sites, for traditional use.

Deninu Kue First Nation members believe that development is ever increasing and demands for the non-renewable resources are also growing, creating pressure on the land base on their livelihood.

Deninu Kue First Nation members have utilized the renewable resources of this land for many years to sustain life and ensure the life of the land is there for generations to come. Denes have learned to adapt to the changes of the land, the water and the animals. As Dene people who have lived on this earth, they are also evolving.



Dene people have to sustain work and life through development such as mines, sawmills and other industries, but as Dene we have a responsibility to the land so when land development happens we always want to see monitoring of the water and land for changes, strange occurrences, and impacts so we can be sure to minimize them.

We as Dene are still obligated to the Earth and need to ensure protection of the land, water and wildlife. Deninu Kue First Nation want educate the youth to ready the data and analyse changes as the scientists do. **“It is a priority for the elders to get the youth trained in science so they can watch the changes and tell government that too much occurred”.**



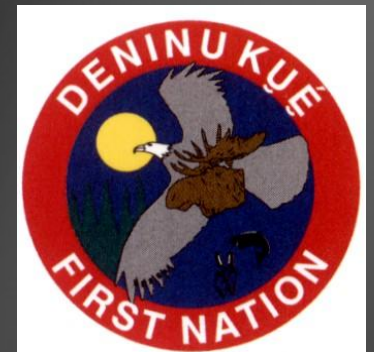
Social

The Nachalacho Project will have a significant social impact both in a positive and negative manner.

The pro's of this project are employment and business opportunities for the community and community members of Fort Resolution.

The con's of this project will be the increase of alcohol and drug abuse, this is a fact because we live it today with the three other diamond mines and many exploration camps.

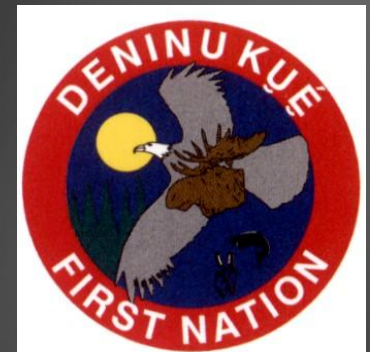
Deninu Kue First Nation see the need for increased child care and early childhood development funding if this project goes ahead.



Economical

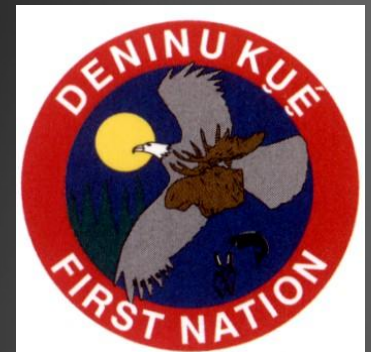
Deninu Kue First Nation has signed an Impact Benefit Agreement with Avalon Rare Metals Inc. to ensure business and benefits for the Deninu Kue First Nation and its members.

However, if the project will have negative environmental and health effects on our people, we do not want the project to proceed.



Spiritual

Deninu Kue First Nation has a very spiritual relationship with the water and land that surrounds it. Deninu Kue First Nation members sustain their livelihood using the water and the land. Our membership has hunted, fished, trapped and gathered since time immemorial in Akaitcho Territory.



Environmental

Deninu Kue First Nation has concerns about the potential effects of radiation exposure (and any other contaminants of concerns, including synergistic effects) resulting from mining and processing work (considering that DKFN members might be employed by the mining company) and from a major accident such as a barge spilling into the lake (e.g., impacts on water quality and safety of fish to eat). Because the mine is not a nuclear plant or a uranium mine, it is not regulated for nuclear concerns (e.g., by the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission). With the apparent lack of regulatory oversight, there is a heightened concern.

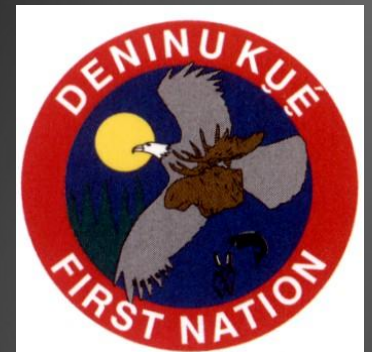
Deninu Kue First Nation recommends an independent review of the quality and accuracy of Avalon's environmental assessment and its conclusions regarding radioactive products and other contaminants of concern in the ore, in relation to environmental and human health, be conducted. This review should be conducted in the manner of a Human Health Risk Assessment and an ecological risk assessment and should involve a quantitative review of the data and information use to formulate results.



Conclusion

Deninu Kue First Nation feel that monitoring of the land and water is essential, without baseline data and/or best practices of the rare earth mining methods how will this Environmental Assessment process being carried out by the Mackenzie Valley Impact Review Board ensure the protection of the land, the water and the animals?

Linda Vanden Berg, DFKN Negotiator who has been involved in consultations with Avalon, will present on the findings of the DFKN Ethno-History report, and expand on the questions above regarding environmental concerns.



"As Long as the sun shines, grass grows and rivers flow"

