

NORTH SLAVE METIS ALLIANCE

PO Box 2301 Yellowknife, NT X1A 2P7



January 13th, 2012

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Re: NSMA Information Requests, EA1011-001, Avalon Rare Metals Inc. Thor Lake

Please accept the following information requests on behalf of the North Slave Métis Alliance.

IR Number: NSMA-001

Source: North Slave Métis Alliance (NSMA)

To: Avalon

Subject: Description of Existing Human Environment

Preamble: Page 5 of the TOR specifies that the geographic scope of the assessment will include the Métis cultural communities making traditional use of any part of the study area and defines the Métis cultural community as one of the potentially-affected communities. Page 14 of the TOR requires the description of the existing human environment to include the “current socio-economic conditions and relevant trends in the potentially-affected communities..... using appropriate indicators of well-being and quality of life”. In its September 27th, 2010 scoping submission, the NSMA identified the need for a properly done Aboriginal and Human Rights Impact Assessment, and listed a number of human/aboriginal rights that needed to be assessed, including economic and property rights in the context of non-renewable resource depletion and unsettled land claims, the right of self-determination, and issues of equity and distribution of impacts and benefits. A description of the current socio-political and economic environment would therefore be required, and indicators identified for community well-being.

Request: How were the appropriate indicators of well-being and quality of life for the North Slave Métis community identified? Where in the DAR can we find the description of the existing environment of the North Slave Métis community for each of those indicators?

Ph: (867) 873-6762

Fax: (867) 669-7442

Email: general@nsma.net

IR Number: NSMA-002

Source: North Slave Métis Alliance (NSMA)

To: Avalon

Subject: Description of Existing Human Environment

Preamble: Page 5 of the TOR specifies that the geographic scope of the assessment will include the Métis cultural communities making traditional use of any part of the study area and defines the Metis cultural community as one of the potentially-affected communities. Page 14 of the TOR requires the description of the existing human environment to include “a summary of historic and present land use in the study area, including identification of traditional land use groups, areas used and traditional travel routes and timings.” The NSMA acknowledges that it has not yet submitted its Traditional Land Use Report to Avalon. However, the NSMA has already submitted some information to the public registry regarding our territory, history and land use. The shoreline of Great Slave Lake, the islands, the traditional fisheries, and the traditional Métis transportation route (Beaulieu River system) in the area were identified as specific areas of concern, culturally, in our scoping submission of September 27th, 2010. There is also a lot of publicly available information that could and should be referenced.

Request: Please, at least, include the North Slave Métis in your description of historic land use of the area, and identify the North Slave Métis as traditional land use group.

IR Number: NSMA-003

Source: North Slave Métis Alliance (NSMA)

To: Avalon

Subject: Description of Existing Human Environment

Preamble: Page 5 of the TOR specifies that the geographic scope of the assessment will include the Métis cultural communities making traditional use of any part of the study area and defines the Metis cultural community as one of the potentially-affected communities. Page 14 of the TOR requires the description of the existing human environment to include “areas of high potential for undiscovered physical heritage resources and cultural values associated with the environmental assessment study area”. In its scoping submission of September 27th, 2010 the NSMA expressed the opinion that a Heritage Resource Impact Assessment needs to be much more than an archaeological site survey, and that each community must be recognised as the experts with regards to their own heritage values.

Request: How were the heritage resources of the North Slave Métis identified, and where in the DAR can a description of them be found?

IR Number: NSMA-004

Source: North Slave Métis Alliance (NSMA)

To: Avalon

Subject: Social Impact Assessment

Preamble: The TOR required the developer to describe potential impacts on community wellness, including community cohesiveness and pride in cultural identity when conducting its social impact assessment. The developer must explain how each identified potential impact may affect individual potentially-affected communities.

Request: How was a social impact assessment done for the North Slave Métis community, and where can it be found in the DAR? How will the pride in cultural identity and community cohesiveness of the North Slave Métis be affected by this project, as proposed?

IR Number: NSMA-005

Source: North Slave Métis Alliance (NSMA)

To: Avalon

Subject: Human Environment Monitoring and Management Plans.

Preamble: The TOR required the developer to describe any commitments, plans and strategies to engage with potentially-affected communities in monitoring impacts on the human environment and how the developer will involve the residents of potentially affected communities in heritage assessments and monitoring of impacts on culture, on wildlife harvesting and practice of traditional culture on the land. The Developer is also supposed to identify relevant existing initiatives monitoring community wellness and investigate how it will engage with, contribute to, and consider results from these programs in its ongoing monitoring and adaptive management programs

Request: Where in the DAR can we find commitments specifically aimed at engagement with the NSMA, and the monitoring of impacts specifically on the North Slave Métis community? Where is the discussion of DCAB (the Diavik Communities Advisory Board)?

Sincerely,

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