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February 28, 2013

Chuck Hubert
Senior Environmental Assessment Officer
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board
200 Scotia Centre
Box 938, 5102-50th Ave
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2N7

Re: Thor Lake (Nechalacho Rare Earth Project)

Dear Chuck Hubert,

My name is Angus Charlo, a Yellowknives Dene First Nations (YKDFN) member, designated to bring forward concerns on behalf of the Charlo family about the proposed Thor Lake Project. I am the son of Judy Charlo and the late Joseph Charlo. I have six siblings that are still with us today and most are grandparents, along with my late brother Narcisse's daughter and grandkids, so we have a very large family. My mom Judy Charlo is 90 years old and she has five family generations. Traditionally and currently, the Charlo family uses the area of the proposed Nechalacho (Thor Lake) project, which is owned and operated by Avalon Rare Metals Inc. The historic use of the land, by the Charlo family, is documented heavily within the traditional knowledge in the YKDFN's lands and environment department.

In order to formalize the speech I gave at the public hearings on February 19, 2013, I am submitting this letter as a summary of my concerns. I would like to make you aware that the family is actively using the land from Wool Bay and along the north shore to Francois Bay area, and in-land to Buckham Lake, and north to the Barrenlands for hunting, fishing and trapping.

One story I remember clearly: Around the fall of 1961, we set-off from where we use to live in Wool Bay, by boat with my late father, Joseph Charlo, and Uncle Fred Betsina, from my mother's side of the family. We had gone hunting and trapping as my grandfather Jean Charlo did decades back. My dad set up camp at Francois Bay and my

mother took care of us three children, while my dad and uncle would go hunting and trapping for two to three weeks at a time. I was a handful from what my sisters mentioned because I would run off on the trap line trails for hours. My dad and uncle would go as far as the barren lands to trap the white fox for its fur, given that was the main source of income during those times and also hunt the caribou, moose and other wild game for food.

In addition, we still have a cabin that we use, as it was passed down from my father in Buckham Lake, which is just north of Blachford Lake, and only 24 kilometers away from the proposed Nechalacho project area. My late grandfathers Jean Charlo and William Betsina had used this area for trapping which was passed down to my late father Joseph Charlo and then to us. They lived in Goulet Bay, which it is now called, but it was identified in the past as Sehoke. My uncle George, my mom's older brother, is buried at Taltheilei Narrows where they have built an airstrip right on top of the grave yard. My Grandfather, older sister Elizabeth and other relatives are buried on Gros Cap Island (Ndi Chgò ndi).

In 2004, we flew in building materials to renovate the cabin at Buckham Lake. We still use the area, whenever we can fly-in or snowmobile in to hunt, trap, and fish. Whenever possible, we bring mom and the hold family there.

To this day, we still hunt in these areas, like we did this past fall. My two grandsons (Quintin and Connor), my brother Patrick, and his boys, my nephews: Brandon, Boniface, and Billy, and my brother-in-law all went hunting in the Francois Bay and Sehoke areas, just over forty kilometres from Nechalacho and shot three moose for the family.

My sister and brother-in-law built a cabin in-land from Moose Bay for the family to use, which we use a lot during the winter and summer. This past summer, I took my daughter and grandson hiking in-land to the cabin, and a lot of us went there. We use this as a stop-over to Buckham Lake and stay when we are hunting and trapping.

We were all raised and lived in Wool Bay where our house is currently standing, until the mid-1970s, when we had to move to Dettah for schooling and work. To this day, we are stilling using Wool Bay as a family gathering. These are just some of the stories to confirm that we are using all of these areas.

This project is close to home and in the heart of my family history and future, so I was hard pressed to come forward and present my concerns given the strong ties to the land, which is sadly being diminished for development. It is not that I am against development, but I am experienced in mining operations and know the dangers it entails. I have my commercial pilot's licence and in the past I was a heavy equipment operator, where I built winter roads, so I have seen the negative long-term impacts development can have on both the environment and its surroundings.

I wish to hear back from your organization for the next steps I should take on behalf of the Charlo Family, given the adverse effects a mining project of this magnitude can have so close to home. This project will have drastic long term traditional, ecological, and environmental affects on the Charlo family.

You can contact me at 867-765-8288 or respond with letter via the address provided.

Mahsi Cho

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Angus Charlo". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Angus Charlo

cc: Avalon Rare Metals Inc.