



5019 – 52nd Street
Yellowknife, NT X1A 1T5

Your file - Votre référence

Our file - Notre référence

August 2, 2013

VIA Fax#1-867-874-3229

Chief Roy Fabian
K'atlodeeche First Nation
P.O. Box 3060
Hay River, NT X0E 1G4

RE: Invitation to provide comments on the Report of Environmental Assessment of Avalon's Nechalacho Rare Earth Element Project (EA1011-001)

Dear Chief Fabian,

In its July 26, 2013 Report of Environmental Assessment and Reasons for Decision (Report of EA), the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (the Review Board) recommended to the federal Minister and the responsible ministers (RMs) that the proposed Nechalacho Rare Earth Element Project (the Project) be approved, subject to the implementation of measures and commitments set out in the Report of EA. The Report of EA may be accessed online in the Review Board's public registry at:

<http://www.reviewboard.ca/registry/>

The RMs with jurisdiction in relation to the Project rely on the Review Board's environmental assessment process to gather information on potential adverse impacts of the Project on asserted or established Aboriginal or Treaty rights.

As the Crown consultation coordinator for the Project and on behalf of the RMs as well as other supporting ministers, the Northern Projects Management Office (NPMO), by way of this letter, invites you to confirm that potential adverse impacts resulting from the Project on K'atlodeeche First Nation asserted and established Aboriginal and Treaty rights have been identified and addressed in the Report of EA.

It is important to note that, to date, no ministerial decision has been made regarding the Report of EA and this letter should not be taken to indicate that the RMs favour a particular direction.

Should you have comments, please provide them in writing to NPMO's Project Manager, David Alexander, at david.alexander@cannor.gc.ca, by August 23, 2013. If you have questions about the process outlined above, you may contact him at (867)766-8436.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Matthew Spence
Director General
Northern Projects Management Office

cc: Chief Dora Enzoe, Lutsel K'e Dene First Nation
Chief Edward Sangris, Yellowknives Dene First Nation
Chief Ernest Betsina, Yellowknives Dene First Nation
Grand Chief Eddie Erasmus, Tlicho Government
Bill Enge, President, North Slave Métis Alliance
Garry Bailey, President, Northwest Territory Métis Nation
Kara King, President, Fort Resolution Métis Council
Akaitcho Screening Board, Akaitcho Interim Measures Agreement Implementation Office
Ray Case, Assistant Deputy Minister, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Government of the Northwest Territories
Paula Isaak, Director General, Natural Resources and Environment Branch, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada
Kathryn Bruce, Regional Director General, NWT Region, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada
Catherine Higgins, Director General, Environmental Affairs - Programs, Transport Canada
Caroline Caza, A/Director General, Environmental Protection Operations, Environment Canada
Stuart Niven, Senior Fisheries Protection Biologist, Central and Arctic Region, Fisheries and Oceans, Canada
Vern Christensen, Executive Director, Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board
Don Bubar, President & CEO, Avalon Rare Minerals Inc.



5019 – 52nd Street
Yellowknife, NT X1A 1T5

Your file - Votre référence

Our file - Notre référence

August 2, 2013

VIA Fax#1-867-394-3322

Kara King, President
Fort Resolution Métis Council
P.O. Box 1921
Fort Resolution, NT X0E 0M0

RE: Invitation to provide comments on the Report of Environmental Assessment of Avalon's Nechalacho Rare Earth Element Project (EA1011-001)

Dear Ms. King,

In its July 26, 2013 Report of Environmental Assessment and Reasons for Decision (Report of EA), the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (the Review Board) recommended to the federal Minister and the responsible ministers (RMs) that the proposed Nechalacho Rare Earth Element Project (the Project) be approved, subject to the implementation of measures and commitments set out in the Report of EA. The Report of EA may be accessed online in the Review Board's public registry at:

<http://www.reviewboard.ca/registry/>

The RMs with jurisdiction in relation to the Project rely on the Review Board's environmental assessment process to gather information on potential adverse impacts of the Project Fort Resolution Métis Council on asserted or established Aboriginal or Treaty rights.

As the Crown consultation coordinator for the Project and on behalf of the RMs as well as other supporting ministers, the Northern Projects Management Office (NPMO), by way of this letter, invites you to confirm that potential adverse impacts resulting from the Project on Fort Resolution Métis Council asserted Aboriginal rights have been identified and addressed in the Report of EA.

It is important to note that, to date, no ministerial decision has been made regarding the Report of EA and this letter should not be taken to indicate that the RMs favour a particular direction.

Should you have comments, please provide them in writing to NPMO's Project Manager, David Alexander, at david.alexander@cannor.gc.ca, by August 23, 2013. If you have questions about the process outlined above, you may contact him at (867)766-8436.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Matthew Spence
Director General
Northern Projects Management Office

cc: Grand Chief Eddie Erasmus, Tlicho Government
Chief Dora Enzoe, Lutsel K'ue First Nation
Chief Louis Balsillie, Deninu K'ue First Nation
Chief Edward Sangris, Yellowknives Dene First Nation
Chief Ernest Betsina, Yellowknives Dene First Nation
Chief Roy Fabian, K'atlodeeche First Nation
Bill Enge, President, North Slave Métis Alliance
Garry Bailey, President, Northwest Territory Métis Nation
Akaitcho Screening Board, Akaitcho Interim Measures Agreement
Implementation Office
Ray Case, Assistant Deputy Minister, Department of Environment and Natural
Resources, Government of the Northwest Territories
Paula Isaak, Director General, Natural Resources and Environment Branch, Aboriginal Affairs and
Northern Development Canada
Kathryn Bruce, Regional Director General, NWT Region, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern
Development Canada
Catherine Higgs, Director General, Environmental Affairs - Programs, Transport Canada
Caroline Caza, A/Director General, Environmental Protection Operations, Environment Canada
Stuart Niven, Senior Fisheries Protection Biologist, Central and Arctic Region, Fisheries and
Oceans, Canada
Vern Christensen, Executive Director, Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board
Don Bubar, President & CEO, Avalon Rare Minerals Inc.



5019 – 52nd Street
Yellowknife, NT X1A 1T5

Your file - Votre référence

Our file - Notre référence

August 2, 2013

VIA Fax#1-867-392-6862

Grand Chief Eddie Erasmus
Tłı̄chọ Government
P.O. Box 412
Behchoko, NT X0E 0Y0

RE: Invitation to provide comments on the Report of Environmental Assessment of Avalon's Nechalacho Rare Earth Element Project (EA1011-001)

Dear Grand Chief Erasmus,

In its July 26, 2013 Report of Environmental Assessment and Reasons for Decision (Report of EA), the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (the Review Board) recommended to the federal Minister and the responsible ministers (RMs) that the proposed Nechalacho Rare Earth Element Project (the Project) be approved, subject to the implementation of measures and commitments set out in the Report of EA. The Report of EA may be accessed online in the Review Board's public registry at:

<http://www.reviewboard.ca/registry/>

The RMs with jurisdiction in relation to the Project rely on the Review Board's environmental assessment process to gather information on potential adverse impacts of the Project on asserted or established Aboriginal or Treaty rights.

As the Crown consultation coordinator for the Project and on behalf of the RMs as well as other supporting ministers, the Northern Projects Management Office (NPMO), by way of this letter, invites you to confirm that potential adverse impacts resulting from the Project on Tłı̄chọ rights have been identified and addressed in the Report of EA.

It is important to note that, to date, no ministerial decision has been made regarding the Report of EA and this letter should not be taken to indicate that the RMs favour a particular direction.

Should you have comments, please provide them in writing to NPMO's Project Manager, David Alexander, at david.alexander@cannor.gc.ca, by August 23, 2013. If you have questions about the process outlined above, you may contact him at (867)766-8436.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Matthew Spence
Director General
Northern Projects Management Office

cc: Chief Dora Enzoë, Lutsel K'ue First Nation
Chief Louis Balsillie, Deninu K'ue First Nation
Chief Edward Sangris, Yellowknives Dene First Nation
Chief Ernest Betsina, Yellowknives Dene First Nation
Chief Roy Fabian, K'atlodeeche First Nation
Bill Enge, President, North Slave Métis Alliance
Garry Bailey, President, Northwest Territory Métis Nation
Kara King, President, Fort Resolution Métis Council
Akaitcho Screening Board, Akaitcho Interim Measures Agreement Implementation Office
Ray Case, Assistant Deputy Minister, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Government of the Northwest Territories
Paula Isaak, Director General, Natural Resources and Environment Branch, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada
Kathryn Bruce, Regional Director General, NWT Region, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada
Catherine Higgins, Director General, Environmental Affairs - Programs, Transport Canada
Caroline Caza, A/Director General, Environmental Protection Operations, Environment Canada
Stuart Niven, Senior Fisheries Protection Biologist, Central and Arctic Region, Fisheries and Oceans, Canada
Vern Christensen, Executive Director, Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board
Don Bubar, President & CEO, Avalon Rare Minerals Inc.



5019 – 52nd Street
Yellowknife, NT X1A 1T5

Your file - Votre référence

Our file - Notre référence

August 2, 2013

VIA Fax#1-867-370-3010

Chief Dora Enzoe
Lutsel K'e Dene First Nation
P.O. Box 28
Lutsel K'e, NT X0E 1A0

RE: Invitation to provide comments on the Report of Environmental Assessment of Avalon's Nechalacho Rare Earth Element Project (EA1011-001)

Dear Chief Enzoe,

In its July 26, 2013 Report of Environmental Assessment and Reasons for Decision (Report of EA), the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (the Review Board) recommended to the federal Minister and the responsible ministers (RMs) that the proposed Nechalacho Rare Earth Element Project (the Project) be approved, subject to the implementation of measures and commitments set out in the Report of EA. The Report of EA may be accessed online in the Review Board's public registry at:

<http://www.reviewboard.ca/registry/>

The RMs with jurisdiction in relation to the Project rely on the Review Board's environmental assessment process to gather information on potential adverse impacts of the Project on asserted or established Aboriginal or Treaty rights.

As the Crown consultation coordinator for the Project and on behalf of the RMs, as well as other supporting ministers, the Northern Projects Management Office (NPMO), by way of this letter, invites you to confirm that potential adverse impacts resulting from the Project on Lutsel K'e Dene First Nation asserted and established Aboriginal and Treaty rights have been identified and addressed in the Report of EA.

It is important to note that, to date, no ministerial decision has been made regarding the Report of EA and this letter should not be taken to indicate that the RMs favour a particular direction.

Should you have comments, please provide them in writing to NPMO's Project Manager, David Alexander, at david.alexander@cannor.gc.ca, by August 23, 2013. If you have questions about the process outlined above, you may contact him at (867)766-8436.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Matthew Spence
Director General
Northern Projects Management Office

cc: Chief Edward Sangris, Yellowknives Dene First Nation
Chief Ernest Betsina, Yellowknives Dene First Nation
Chief Louis Balsillie, Deninu K'ue First Nation
Grand Chief Eddie Erasmus, Tlicho Government
Chief Roy Fabian, K'atlodeeche First Nation
Bill Enge, President, North Slave Métis Alliance
Garry Bailey, President, Northwest Territory Métis Nation
Kara King, President, Fort Resolution Métis Council
Akaitcho Screening Board, Akaitcho Interim Measures Agreement Implementation Office
Ray Case, Assistant Deputy Minister, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Government of the Northwest Territories
Paula Isaak, Director General, Natural Resources and Environment Branch, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada
Kathryn Bruce, Regional Director General, NWT Region, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada
Catherine Higgs, Director General, Environmental Affairs - Programs, Transport Canada
Caroline Caza, A/Director General, Environmental Protection Operations, Environment Canada
Stuart Niven, Senior Fisheries Protection Biologist, Central and Arctic Region, Fisheries and Oceans, Canada
Vern Christensen, Executive Director, Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board
Don Bubar, President & CEO, Avalon Rare Minerals Inc.



5019 – 52nd Street
Yellowknife, NT X1A 1T5

Your file - Votre référence

Our file - Notre référence

August 2, 2013

VIA Fax#1-888-714-3209

Akaiitcho Screening Board
Akaiitcho Interim Measures Agreement Implementation Office
P.O. Box 28
Lutsel K'e, NT X0E 1A0

RE: Invitation to provide comments on the Report of Environmental Assessment of Avalon's Nechalacho Rare Earth Element Project (EA1011-001)

Dear Board members,

In its July 26, 2013 Report of Environmental Assessment and Reasons for Decision (Report of EA), the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (the Review Board) recommended to the federal Minister and the responsible ministers (RMs) that the proposed Nechalacho Rare Earth Element Project (the Project) be approved, subject to the implementation of measures and commitments set out in the Report of EA. The Report of EA may be accessed online in the Review Board's public registry at:

<http://www.reviewboard.ca/registry/>

The RMs with jurisdiction in relation to the Project rely on the Review Board's environmental assessment process to gather information on potential adverse impacts of the Project on asserted or established Aboriginal or Treaty rights.

As the Crown consultation coordinator for the Project and on behalf of the RMs as well as other supporting ministers, the Northern Projects Management Office (NPMO), by way of this letter, invites you to confirm that potential adverse impacts resulting from the Project on Akaiitcho Territory Dene First Nations asserted and established Aboriginal and Treaty rights have been identified and addressed in the Report of EA.

It is important to note that, to date, no ministerial decision has been made regarding the Report of EA and this letter should not be taken to indicate that the RMs favour a particular direction.

Should you have comments, please provide them in writing to NPMO's Project Manager, David Alexander, at david.alexander@cannor.gc.ca, by August 23, 2013. If you have questions about the process outlined above, you may contact him at (867)766-8436.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Matthew Spence
Director General
Northern Projects Management Office

cc: Chief Dora Enzoe, Lutsel K'e Dene First Nation
Chief Louis Balsillie, Deninu K'ue First Nation
Chief Edward Sangris, Yellowknives Dene First Nation
Chief Ernest Betsina, Yellowknives Dene First Nation
Grand Chief Eddie Erasmus, Tlicho Government
Chief Roy Fabian, K'atlodeeche First Nation
Bill Enge, President, North Slave Métis Alliance
Garry Bailey, President, Northwest Territory Métis Nation
Kara King, President, Fort Resolution Métis Council
Ray Case, Assistant Deputy Minister, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Government of the Northwest Territories
Paula Isaak, Director General, Natural Resources and Environment Branch, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada
Kathryn Bruce, Regional Director General, NWT Region, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada
Catherine Higgins, Director General, Environmental Affairs - Programs, Transport Canada
Caroline Caza, A/Director General, Environmental Protection Operations, Environment Canada
Stuart Niven, Senior Fisheries Protection Biologist, Central and Arctic Region, Fisheries and Oceans, Canada
Vern Christensen, Executive Director, Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board
Don Bubar, President & CEO, Avalon Rare Minerals Inc.



5019 – 52nd Street
Yellowknife, NT X1A 1T5

Your file - Votre référence

Our file - Notre référence

August 2, 2013

VIA Fax#1-867-873-5969

Chief Edward Sangris
Chief Ernest Betsina
Yellowknives Dene First Nation
P.O. Box 2514
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2P8

RE: Invitation to provide comments on the Report of Environmental Assessment of Avalon's Nechalacho Rare Earth Element Project (EA1011-001)

Dear Chiefs,

In its July 26, 2013 Report of Environmental Assessment and Reasons for Decision (Report of EA), the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (the Review Board) recommended to the federal Minister and the responsible ministers (RMs) that the proposed Nechalacho Rare Earth Element Project (the Project) be approved, subject to the implementation of measures and commitments set out in the Report of EA. The Report of EA may be accessed online in the Review Board's public registry at:

<http://www.reviewboard.ca/registry/>

The RMs with jurisdiction in relation to the Project rely on the Review Board's environmental assessment process to gather information on potential adverse impacts of the Project on asserted or established Aboriginal or Treaty rights.

As the Crown consultation coordinator for the Project and on behalf of the RMs, as well as other supporting ministers, the Northern Projects Management Office (NPMO), by way of this letter, invites you to confirm that potential adverse impacts resulting from the Project on Yellowknives Dene First Nation asserted and established Aboriginal and Treaty rights have been identified and addressed in the Report of EA.

It is important to note that, to date, no ministerial decision has been made regarding the Report of EA and this letter should not be taken to indicate that the RMs favour a particular direction.

Should you have comments, please provide them in writing to NPMO's Project Manager, David Alexander, at david.alexander@cannor.gc.ca, by August 23, 2013. If you have questions about the process outlined above, you may contact him at (867)766-8436.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Matthew Spence
Director General
Northern Projects Management Office

cc: Chief Dora Enzoe, Lutsel K'e Dene First Nation
Chief Louis Balsillie, Deninu K'ue First Nation
Grand Chief Eddie Erasmus, Tlicho Government
Chief Roy Fabian, K'atlodeeche First Nation
Bill Enge, President, North Slave Métis Alliance
Garry Bailey, President, Northwest Territory Métis Nation
Kara King, President, Fort Resolution Métis Council
Akaitcho Screening Board, Akaitcho Interim Measures Agreement Implementation Office
Ray Case, Assistant Deputy Minister, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Government of the Northwest Territories
Paula Isaak, Director General, Natural Resources and Environment Branch, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada
Kathryn Bruce, Regional Director General, NWT Region, Aboriginal and Northern Development Canada
Catherine Higgins, Director General, Environmental Affairs - Programs, Transport Canada
Caroline Caza, A/Director General, Environmental Protection Operations, Environment Canada
Stuart Niven, Senior Fisheries Protection Biologist, Central and Arctic Region, Fisheries and Oceans, Canada
Vern Christensen, Executive Director, Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board
Don Bubar, President & CEO, Avalon Rare Minerals Inc.



5019 – 52nd Street
Yellowknife, NT X1A 1T5

Your file - Votre référence

Our file - Notre référence

August 2, 2013

VIA Fax#1-867-394-5122

Chief Louis Balsillie
Deninu K'ue First Nation
P.O. Box 1899
Fort Resolution, NT X0E 0M0

RE: Invitation to provide comments on the Report of Environmental Assessment of Avalon's Nechalacho Rare Earth Element Project (EA1011-001)

Dear Chief Balsillie,

In its July 26, 2013 Report of Environmental Assessment and Reasons for Decision (Report of EA), the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (the Review Board) recommended to the federal Minister and the responsible ministers (RMs) that the proposed Nechalacho Rare Earth Element Project (the Project) be approved, subject to the implementation of measures and commitments set out in the Report of EA. The Report of EA may be accessed online in the Review Board's public registry at:

<http://www.reviewboard.ca/registry/>

The RMs with jurisdiction in relation to the Project rely on the Review Board's environmental assessment process to gather information on potential adverse impacts of the Project on asserted or established Aboriginal or Treaty rights.

As the Crown consultation coordinator for the Project and on behalf of the RMs as well as other supporting ministers, the Northern Projects Management Office (NPMO), by way of this letter, invites you to confirm that potential adverse impacts resulting from the Project on Deninu K'ue First Nation asserted and established Aboriginal and Treaty rights have been identified and addressed in the Report of EA.

It is important to note that, to date, no ministerial decision has been made regarding the Report of EA and this letter should not be taken to indicate that the RMs favour a particular direction.

Should you have comments, please provide them in writing to NPMO's Project Manager, David Alexander, at david.alexander@cannor.gc.ca, by August 23, 2013. If you have questions about the process outlined above, you may contact him at (867)766-8436.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Matthew Spence
Director General
Northern Projects Management Office

cc: Chief Dora Enzoe, Lutsel K'e Dene First Nation
Chief Edward Sangris, Yellowknives Dene First Nation
Chief Ernest Betsina, Yellowknives Dene First Nation
Grand Chief Eddie Erasmus, Tlicho Government
Chief Roy Fabian, K'atlodeeche First Nation
Bill Enge, President, North Slave Métis Alliance
Garry Bailey, President, Northwest Territory Métis Nation
Kara King, President, Fort Resolution Métis Council
Akaitcho Screening Board, Akaitcho Interim Measures Agreement Implementation Office
Ray Case, Assistant Deputy Minister, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Government of the Northwest Territories
Paula Isaak, Director General, Natural Resources and Environment Branch, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada
Kathryn Bruce, Regional Director General, NWT Region, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada
Catherine Higgins, Director General, Environmental Affairs - Programs, Transport Canada
Caroline Caza, A/Director General, Environmental Protection Operations, Environment Canada
Stuart Niven, Senior Fisheries Protection Biologist, Central and Arctic Region, Fisheries and Oceans, Canada
Vern Christensen, Executive Director, Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board
Don Bubar, President & CEO, Avalon Rare Minerals Inc.



5019 – 52nd Street
Yellowknife, NT X1A 1T5

Your file - Votre référence

Our file - Notre référence

August 2, 2013

VIA Fax#1-867-872-2772

Garry Bailey, President
Northwest Territory Métis Nation
P.O. Box 720
Fort Smith, NT X0E 0P0

RE: Invitation to provide comments on the Report of Environmental Assessment of Avalon's Nechalacho Rare Earth Element Project (EA1011-001)

Dear Mr. Bailey,

In its July 26, 2013 Report of Environmental Assessment and Reasons for Decision (Report of EA), the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (the Review Board) recommended to the federal Minister and the responsible ministers (RMs) that the proposed Nechalacho Rare Earth Element Project (the Project) be approved, subject to the implementation of measures and commitments set out in the Report of EA. The Report of EA may be accessed online in the Review Board's public registry at:

<http://www.reviewboard.ca/registry/>

The RMs with jurisdiction in relation to the Project rely on the Review Board's environmental assessment process to gather information on potential adverse impacts of the Project on asserted or established Aboriginal or Treaty rights.

As the Crown consultation coordinator for the Project and on behalf of the RMs as well as other supporting ministers, the Northern Projects Management Office (NPMO), by way of this letter, invites you to confirm that potential adverse impacts resulting from the Project on Northwest Territory Métis Nation asserted Aboriginal rights have been identified and addressed in the Report of EA.

It is important to note that, to date, no ministerial decision has been made regarding the Report of EA and this letter should not be taken to indicate that the RMs favour a particular direction.

Should you have comments, please provide them in writing to NPMO's Project Manager, David Alexander, at david.alexander@cannor.gc.ca, by August 23, 2013. If you have questions about the process outlined above, you may contact him at (867)766-8436.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Matthew Spence
Director General
Northern Projects Management Office

cc: Chief Dora Enzoe, Lutsel K'e Dene First Nation
Chief Louis Balsillie, Deninu K'ue First Nation
Chief Edward Sangris, Yellowknives Dene First Nation
Chief Ernest Betsina, Yellowknives Dene First Nation
Grand Chief Eddie Erasmus, Tlicho Government
Chief Roy Fabian, K'atlodeeche First Nation
Akaitcho Screening Board, Akaitcho Interim Measures Agreement Implementation Office
Bill Enge, President, North Slave Métis Alliance
Kara King, President, Fort Resolution Métis Council
Ray Case, Assistant Deputy Minister, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Government of the Northwest Territories
Paula Isaak, Director General, Natural Resources and Environment Branch, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada
Kathryn Bruce, Regional Director General, NWT Region, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada
Catherine Higgs, Director General, Environmental Affairs - Programs, Transport Canada
Caroline Caza, A/Director General, Environmental Protection Operations, Environment Canada
Stuart Niven, Senior Fisheries Protection Biologist, Central and Arctic Region, Fisheries and Oceans, Canada
Vern Christensen, Executive Director, Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board
Don Bubar, President & CEO, Avalon Rare Minerals Inc.



5019 – 52nd Street
Yellowknife, NT X1A 1T5

Your file - Votre référence

Our file - Notre référence

August 2, 2013

VIA Fax#1-867-669-7442

Bill Enge, President
North Slave Métis Alliance
P.O. Box 2301
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2P7

RE: Invitation to provide comments on the Report of Environmental Assessment of Avalon's Nechalacho Rare Earth Element Project (EA1011-001)

Dear Mr. Enge,

In its July 26, 2013 Report of Environmental Assessment and Reasons for Decision (Report of EA), the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (the Review Board) recommended to the federal Minister and the responsible ministers (RMs) that the proposed Nechalacho Rare Earth Element Project (the Project) be approved, subject to the implementation of measures and commitments set out in the Report of EA. The Report of EA may be accessed online in the Review Board's public registry at:

<http://www.reviewboard.ca/registry/>

The RMs with jurisdiction in relation to the Project rely on the Review Board's environmental assessment process to gather information on potential adverse impacts of the Project on asserted or established Aboriginal or Treaty rights.

As the Crown consultation coordinator for the Project and on behalf of the RMs as well as other supporting ministers, the Northern Projects Management Office (NPMO), by way of this letter, invites you to confirm that potential adverse impacts resulting from the Project on North Slave Métis Alliance asserted Aboriginal rights have been identified and addressed in the Report of EA.

It is important to note that, to date, no ministerial decision has been made regarding the Report of EA and this letter should not be taken to indicate that the RMs favour a particular direction.

Should you have comments, please provide them in writing to NPMO's Project Manager, David Alexander, at david.alexander@cannor.gc.ca, by August 23, 2013. If you have questions about the process outlined above, you may contact him at (867)766-8436.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Matthew Spence
Director General
Northern Projects Management Office

cc: Chief Dora Enzoë, Lutsel K'e Dene First Nation
Chief Louis Balsillie, Deninu K'ue First Nation
Chief Edward Sangris, Yellowknives Dene First Nation
Chief Ernest Betsina, Yellowknives Dene First Nation
Grand Chief Eddie Erasmus, Tlicho Government
Chief Roy Fabian, K'atlodeeche First Nation
Akaitcho Screening Board, Akaitcho Interim Measures Agreement Implementation Office
Kara King, President, Fort Resolution Métis Council
Garry Bailey, President, Northwest Territories Métis Nation
Ray Case, Assistant Deputy Minister, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Government of the Northwest Territories
Paula Isaak, Director General, Natural Resources and Environment Branch, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada
Kathryn Bruce, Regional Director General, NWT Region, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada
Catherine Higgins, Director General, Environmental Affairs - Programs, Transport Canada
Caroline Caza, A/Director General, Environmental Protection Operations, Environment Canada
Stuart Niven, Senior Fisheries Protection Biologist, Central and Arctic Region, Fisheries and Oceans, Canada
Vern Christensen, Executive Director, Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board
Don Bubar, President & CEO, Avalon Rare Minerals Inc.