

December 7, 2010

Our file: EA1011-001

Bruce Hanna
Fish Habitat Biologist
Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Suite 301, 5204 50th Ave
Yellowknife, NT X1A 1E2

Via e-mail to: HannaB@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

RE: Notification pursuant to section 79 of the *Species at Risk Act* (SARA)

Dear Mr. Hanna:

Please be advised that the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (Review Board) is undertaking an environmental assessment of Avalon Rare Metals Inc.'s proposed Nechalacho Rare Earth Element Project. On June 11, 2010 the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board referred the above project to environmental assessment as per paragraph 125(1)(b) of the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act* "because the development proposal might have a significant adverse impact on the environment and be of public concern". The Review Board has created a registry for this file, where information will be publically available. The public registry is available online at www.reviewboard.ca - the file is EA1011-001 – *Avalon Rare Metals Inc.'s Nechalacho Rare Earth Element Project*.

The Review Board has determined that the proposed project may affect the following species:

- Shortjaw Cisco.

Based on information from scoping submissions, species distribution and project location, this proposed development may affect the above species. For this environmental assessment, please assist the Review Board in determining the likelihood of adverse effects of the proposed project on the above species and/or its critical habitat. Please also indicate if any other species merit special consideration in this environmental assessment.

This and other species have been identified as being at risk under either SARA or by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC). The Review Board is providing this information to discharge its duties under section 79 of SARA which requires the Board to notify the appropriate responsible minister when any project could have an impact on a species at risk. Further information regarding this environmental assessment is available on the Review Board's online public registry (www.reviewboard.ca/registry), by e-mail at pmercredi@reviewboard.ca, or by telephone at (867) 766-7063.



Sincerely,

Paul Mercredi
Environmental Assessment Officer
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board