



August 4, 2011

VIA EMAIL

Vern Christensen  
Executive Director  
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board  
#200 Scotia Centre  
5102 – 50th Avenue  
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2N7

**Re: Information Request to Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre - EA1112-001  
Debogorski Diamond Exploration Project, Drybones Bay**

In response to Information Request (#2) issued by the Mackenzie Valley Review Board on July 18, 2011, please find attached the response prepared by the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre, Government of the Northwest Territories.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at (867) 920-6595 or [gavin\\_more@gov.nt.ca](mailto:gavin_more@gov.nt.ca).

Sincerely



Gavin More  
Manager  
Environmental Assessment and Monitoring  
Environment and Natural Resources

**IR Number: 02**

**Source:** Mackenzie Valley Review Board

**To:** Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre, Department of Education Culture and Employment, Government of the Northwest Territories

**Subject:** Archaeology report relevant to the proposed Debogorski Diamond Exploration Project

**Preamble**

On May 18, 2011 Alex Debogorski met with various government representatives and the Land and Water Board. The Review Board was provided with a summary of the meeting. One of the subjects discussed at the meeting was the status of an archaeology report that the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre (PWNHC) has on file that may be relevant to proposed Debogorski Development project. The meeting notes indicate that the PWNHC can either submit the report to the Review Board in confidence or provide a summary to the Board indicating the results of the report that are relevant to the developer's claim.

**Request**

Please provide to the Review Board, under confidential cover, any archaeology reports that the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre has on file that are relevant to the proposed Debogorski Diamond Exploration Project area i.e., that correspond to the geographic area of the Mineral Claim K03016 - Smitski #1 (map attached).

Please also provide a summary indicating any results that are relevant to the proposed project in a format that is appropriate for public distribution.

To ensure confidentiality:

- The Review Board will notify parties of receipt of the report under confidential cover;
- The Review Board will post the summary on the public registry;
- Parties may make a request to the Review Board to view the confidential portions provided there are legitimate reasons to view it;
- Should viewing of the confidential portions be granted by the Review Board, no reproductions in any form will be permitted and the viewing will take place at the Review Board's office only;
- Parties will have opportunity to provide comments about the evidence contained in the report to the Board;

- Confidential portions of the archaeology report would be available to the Review Board during Board proceedings and decision making; and
- The report will be returned to the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage centre at the end of the EA.

### **Response - Request for Archaeological Permit Reports**

The PWNHC will provide the Review Board with digital copies of two archaeological permit reports relevant to the Debogorski Diamond Exploration Project:

- NWT Permit 2003-927. Preliminary Archaeological Inventory and Assessment of Mineral Exploration and Aggregate Extraction in the Vicinity of Drybones Bay and Wool Bay, Great Slave Lake, Northwest Territories
- NWT Permit 2004-955. Archaeological Investigations, Great Slave Lake, Northwest Territories

The PWNHC will also provide a map showing the locations of recorded archaeological sites in the Smitski #1 Claim. This document must also be treated in a confidential manner.

### **Response - Summary of Archaeological Information for the Smitski #1 Claim Area**

Archaeological investigations of the land portions of Mineral Claim K03016 – Smitski # 1 were undertaken by Thomson Heritage Consultants in partnership with the Yellowknives First Nation in 2003 and in partnership with Snowfield Development Corporation and the Yellowknives Dene First Nation in 2004. In accordance with the terms and conditions of the NWT Archaeologists permits, final reports were submitted to the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre.

In July and August 2003, a preliminary archaeological field inventory and assessment was conducted over a total of two weeks under permit NWT 2003-927 issued to archaeologist Callum Thomson of Thomson Heritage Consultants in the Drybones Bay area and between Wool Bay and Matonabee Bay on the northwest coast of Great Slave Lake, Northwest Territories. The objective of the project was to examine the cumulative effects on local heritage resources of past, present, and proposed mineral exploration and gravel extraction around Drybones Bay and Wool Bay. Participants included archaeologists from Thomson Heritage Consultants and Elders and other members of the Yellowknives Dene First Nation.

In July and August, 2004, a preliminary archaeological field inventory and assessment was conducted over a total of sixteen survey days under permit NWT 2004-955, issued to Callum Thomson (Thomson Heritage Consultants) in four project areas on the north shore of Great Slave Lake, Northwest Territories. The objective of the project was to expand from the inventory of heritage resources begun in 2003 in the Drybones Bay area to a broader study area between Taltheilei Narrows and the North Arm, and to

assess the effects on local heritage resources of past, present and proposed mineral exploration by Snowfield Development Corp. around Drybones Bay. Participants included an archaeologist from Thomson Heritage Consultants, a representative from Snowfield Development Corp., and Elders and other members of the Yellowknives Dene First Nation Land and Environment Committee.

As a result of these surveys a total of five archaeological sites were registered within the boundary of Mineral Claim K03016 – Smitski # 1. The five sites have been designated as KaPf-30, KaPf-47, KaPf-48, KaPf-49, and KaPf-63. Four of the sites (KaPf-47, 48, 49, 63) have been identified as indigenous hunting camps or hide-processing areas. The report authors indicate that three of the sites (KaPf-47, 48, and 49) are of medium archaeological significance and the fourth (KaPf-63) is of low archaeological significance. The report indicated that all four were stable and that none were in threat of impact as long as they continue to be avoided by development activities.

The fifth site, KaPf-30, identified in 2003, was described in the consulting archaeologist's report as follows: "An exploration tent camp set up by Snowfield Development Corp. was found in a clearing above a gravel beach 3.6 km southeast of the mouth of Drybones Bay, 1 km southeast of Burnt Island. No evidence was found of any previous use of the area, with the exception of some old cut tree stumps.

The NWT Archaeological Sites Regulations (*NWT Act*) define an archaeological site as:

- "archaeological site" means a site where an archaeological artifact is found.
- "archaeological artifact" means any tangible evidence of human activity that is more than 50 years old, in respect of which an unbroken chain of possession cannot be demonstrated.

Therefore, since no archaeological remains were identified by the consulting archaeologists at this location, we have assumed that the site was designated in error and have taken steps to remove this site designation from the register of NWT Archaeological Sites.