



Yellowknives Dene First Nation

P.O. Box 2514, Yellowknife, NT X1A 2P8

July 6th, 2011

Darha Philpot
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board
Box 938
Yellowknife, NT X1A 1E2
Fax: (867) 766-7074

Re: Debogorski 'Community Information Session'

After reviewing the description of the 'Community Information Session' it's clear that the July 20th meeting is intended to provide an opportunity to give the developer access to provide information on their project:

"The community information session is the first opportunity for community members to learn more about the proposed development and the environmental assessment process"

Having been through a virtually identical process five times previous, the Yellowknives Dene First Nation are well aware of what can happen when development is permitted in essential parts of their traditional territory. There simply is no development in this area which is acceptable. This fact has been relayed to Mr. Debogorski already.

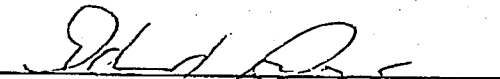
The developer has not submitted any information that suggests they have taken the previous Environmental Assessments, suggestions, and measures contained into account. The transcripts, submissions and EA reports form part of the evidentiary record for this EA, but there is no acknowledgement that this developer has modified their proposal to address any of the concerns previously raised, either in the application or in the one Information Request from the Board, despite the clear requirement in the EA guidelines and the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act*.

It is a waste of all the Parties time to once again start at zero for this EA. It is inconceivable that the Board is unaware of the basic concerns – to allow the EA to proceed as though the first five EAs in the Drybones Bay area don't exist is inefficient and wasteful. The Review Board's Measures and Recommendations from the previous five environmental assessments in the Drybones Bay area should serve as the starting point. That is the initial threshold for the developer. Addressing and accommodating those concerns that have already been voiced is the prudent first step.

With this in mind, YKDFN will not be participating in the July 20th session at anything more than a procedural level. Make no mistake – this is not reflective of the level of concern that exists. This reflects the fact that the Yellowknives Dene believe that these processes should be meaningful – to ask the membership to show up in the absence of the Board, skipping a

traditional spiritual retreat or after returning from the Akaitcho and Dene National assemblies, simply to repeat their concerns does not amount to meaningful engagement. How many times must the First Nation declare that this area is special before the Board, the Crown, and developers will hear them? The concerns of the Yellowknives Dene must be taken into account in this process – before we ask the community to sacrifice their time the Board and the developer should start with those already raised. YKDFN will wait either until the hearing or until the developer responds to the existing Review Board decisions before engaging on anything more than a procedural level.

Sincerely,



Chief Edward Sangris
Yellowknives Dene First Nation

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