



Mr. Simon Toogood
Environmental Assessment Officer
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board
PO Box 938
YELLOWKNIFE NT X1A 2P1
VIA EMAIL

Dear Mr. Toogood:

**Husky Chedabucto Mineral Exploration Project Environmental Assessment –
GNWT Comments on Proposed Scoping Document (EA-1415-02)**

The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) has reviewed the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board's (MVEIRB) Proposed Scoping Document for the environmental assessment of the proposed Husky Chedabucto Mineral Exploration Project (the Project). The GNWT's comments on the MVEIRB's Proposed Scoping Document have been submitted via the Online Review System (ORS) for MVEIRB's consideration.

The GNWT wishes to take this opportunity to clarify the record with respect to the Dinàgà Wek'èhodì (formerly called Kwet'sootlaa) candidate protected area.

In the public review of Husky's Land Use Permit application, questions arose regarding the extent of the Dinàgà Wek'èhodì (formerly called Kwet'sootlaa) candidate protected area and that of the company's mineral claims. To clarify, candidate protected area boundaries are only communicated after careful consideration and endorsement by relevant Aboriginal governments, federal departments and the GNWT. Candidate protected areas are not defined by Orders-in-Council for interim land withdrawals. Orders-in-Council are in some instances a means to ensure the interim protection of values during the assessment and review phase of the conservation area planning process.

In the case of Dinàgà Wek'èhodì, the candidate protected area was formally delineated in April 2010, after Environment Canada agreed to act as a sponsoring agency at the request of the Tłı̄chq̄ Government. As a means to ensure temporary protection of the area while detailed economic, ecological and cultural assessments were completed, and in an attempt to avoid situations of conflict with third party interests, an interim land withdrawal application was submitted by Environment Canada to Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada in September 2011. The Order-in-Council that forms the interim protection of this area was granted in September 2013, after the Husky and Aurora Geoscience mineral claims were issued.



The current Order-in-Council includes a land description that encompasses the total 593 km² of the original Dinàgà Wek'èhodì candidate protected area, while recognizing pre-existing land and mineral tenure, including existing mineral claims owned by Husky. The Tlicho Government and relevant planning partners are engaged in a conservation planning process guided by the principles of the NWT Protected Areas Strategy, which recognizes the need to honor existing third party rights and ensure areas recommended for permanent protection avoid areas of high economic value.

Furthermore, the GNWT notes that MVEIRB's introductory public registry page for this EA (http://reviewboard.ca/registry/project.php?project_id=947) contains the following statement: "Husky's land use permit application, W2014Q0005, describes proposed exploration work on mineral claims and leases held by the company..." Husky holds only mineral claims in the development area. Husky holds no mineral leases and no surface leases.

The above information is provided for clarification only; in GNWT's view it does not affect the scoping of the development or of the EA.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Should MVEIRB or any of the parties to this EA have any questions, please contact Lorraine Seale, Manager, Project Assessment Branch, at lorraine_seale@gov.nt.ca or 867-765-6786, or Charlotte Henry, Project Assessment Analyst, at charlotte_henry@gov.nt.ca or 867-765-6785. The GNWT looks forward to participating in the Community Hearing in June.

Sincerely,



Terry Hall
Director, Land Use and Sustainability

Attachment:
Comments on Proposed Scoping Document in MVEIRB ORS format