



Environment
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Environmental Protection Operations
Prairie and Northern Region
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Your file / Votre référence
EA0708-007
Our file / Notre référence
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May 7, 2010

VIA EMAIL

Alan Ehrlich
Senior Environmental Assessment Officer
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board
5102 50th Avenue, Box 938
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2N7

Re: Environment Canada's Final Submission for the Additional Assessment of Kache/ Ft. Reliance Route Alternative

Dear Mr. Ehrlich:

Environment Canada (EC) has reviewed the supplemental submissions concerning the Reliance route alternative posted by Dezé Energy Corporation (the Proponent) to the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board's (the Board) public registry after January 26, 2010, including the recently submitted *Dezé Energy Response to April 14th Information Requests* dated April 26, 2010.

This submission applies only to the Reliance route alternative. EC provided technical conclusions and recommendations to the Board for the Taltson Hydroelectric Expansion Project in its Technical Report Submission dated December 11, 2009, and those conclusions and recommendations are not altered with this review of the route alternative. Please refer to EC's December 11th submission for details on our mandate, role and responsibilities with respect to this review.

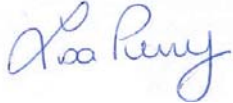
The following comments focus on issues related to environmental effects on migratory birds, and species at risk, which fall under the Department's mandated responsibilities arising from the *Migratory Birds Convention Act* and the *Species at Risk Act*.

EC agrees with the Proponent that relative to the originally-proposed alignment, the Reliance route adjustment is likely to have a greater impact on migratory birds because of its closer proximity to key open water areas where large numbers of waterfowl aggregate annually each spring. Due to the potential for significant impacts to migratory birds, EC does not recommend that the Reliance route adjustment be used. If the Reliance route alternative is pursued, further studies may be required to ensure any mitigation measures proposed (e.g. submarine cable, visibility markers), or new measures developed, will be adequate to avoid potentially significant adverse impacts to waterfowl populations, and to ensure an appropriate monitoring program is developed.

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Should you have any questions or wish clarification on any aspect of this letter please do not hesitate to contact Lisa Perry at (867) 669-4707 or Lisa.Perry@ec.gc.ca.

Best regards,



Lisa Perry
Senior Environmental Assessment Coordinator

cc: Myra Robertson – CWS
Carey Ogilvie – Head, Environmental Assessment-North