



Environment and Conservation  
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January 23, 2001

Louie Azzolini  
Environmental Assessment Officer  
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board  
Box 938  
Yellowknife, NT, X1A 2N7

**RE: Patterson Sawmill Ltd. - Draft Terms of Reference and Draft Workplan:**

Please accept the attached document as the finalized DIAND response to the Draft Terms of Reference and Draft Workplan for the Patterson Sawmill project. (An e-mailed document was sent to the MVEIRB on January 22<sup>th</sup> to inform you we could not meet the deadline of January 22, 2001, due to lack of time to review the documents).

I want to note that while DIAND supports an expeditious turn around with comments on documents, we believe that three days is not adequate time to provide for reviewers to get meaningful comments into the Review Board. I respectfully suggest that if the MVEIRB is interested in obtaining full value for their consultation efforts, that consideration be given to adequate time provided for reviewers to comment on documents in future consultation exercises.

Please do not hesitate to contact Marie Adams for any assistance DIAND may be able to provide during this current assessment. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Mary Tapsell, Manager  
Environment & Conservation

**Patterson Sawmill Ltd. Project - Environmental Assessment**  
**DIAND Comments - Draft Terms of Reference and Draft Workplan**

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**General Comments:**

DIAND has some general comments to make on the Draft Terms of Reference (ToR) and the Workplan.

The ToR are rather detailed for a project that has already met the requirements of the Preliminary Screeners and it would seem practical and efficient for the MVEIRB to better define the Scope of the Assessment by focusing only on issues raised by the community and as required in the MVRMA. It would be simple enough to clarify that the scope of the assessment is limited to the referral. If additional information is needed to clarify the reasons and justification for the referral, the Board could consider following up with the Deninoo Community Council for more detailed information on the reasons they have referred the project. This in turn would assist the Board in defining the scope of the assessment so that the proponent will have an opportunity to demonstrate how they will mitigate any project effects.

The MVEIRB may want to reconsider a more simplified process of carrying out this scale of EA, and how to better define or clarify what adverse impacts have been raised by the local government to keep the scope of the EA focused. Given the nature of this type of referral, the MVEIRB may consider providing a letter of instruction to the proponent versus a detailed and lengthy EA format.