



Northwest Territories Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development



January 23, 2001

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

Dear Mr. Azzolini:

Patterson Sawmill Environmental Assessment Terms of Reference

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input into the draft terms of reference and work plan for the environmental assessment of Patterson Sawmill's application for harvesting in the Pine Point area. The Department of Resources, Wildlife, and Economic Development (RWED) has reviewed the draft document and offers the following comments for the consideration of the Review Board.

The draft Terms of Reference adequately captures all issues of concern to RWED. However, the Department is concerned that the proponent will have difficulty in meeting the requirements set out in this document. The proponent may lack the financial resources required to prepare a standard environmental assessment report that conforms to these terms of reference. The Department urges the Review Board to investigate alternative means of satisfying the terms of reference that would minimize the effort and expense required of the proponent, while still satisfying the procedural requirements of the Review Board.

With respect to the work plan, the Department notes that the Review Board may decide to conduct public information sessions during the EA process. No schedule for such sessions is included in the milestones table. If public information sessions are planned, RWED would expect to participate, as the authority responsible for the administration of forest resources. The Department will require sufficient advance notification of the information session to prepare for such participation.

Finally, the milestone schedule allows only one week for the completion of a technical review following the receipt of the proponent's final information request responses. Such a tight schedule will make the proper distribution and review of



the proponent's submission, and synthesis of departmental comments, extremely difficult. An additional week at minimum is required for the Department to complete its technical review in a comprehensive and responsible manner.

I trust that these recommendations will be given full consideration in the preparation of the final terms of reference that will be issued to the proponent. I look forward to working with the Review Board on the subsequent technical analysis of the project.

Sincerely,


for: Kathryn Emmett
Director
Policy, Legislation and Communications

- c. Mr. William Mawdsley
Mr. Lloyd Jones