

PATTERSON SAWMILL LTD.
60 PATTERSON ROAD
HAY RIVER, N.W.T. XOE OR4

PHONE (867) 874-6814 FAX (867)874-6902

January 4, 2001

Roland Semjanovs,
Acting Executive Director
MVEIRB
Yellowknife, N.W.T.

Dear Sir:

Re: Letter of referral - Fort Resolution - environmental assessment - Land Use Permit
MV2000W0018 - RWED application FA001828

I suggest that this request for an environmental assessment has no merit and should be denied.

On June 20, 2000 our application for Licence # FA001828 was submitted to RWED. A meeting with Chief Don Basille also took place, in which we outlined benefits and compensation to the community. When we did not receive any objections from the community, extensive field work took place in Area 1 in late September, early October before snow was on the ground. This was approximately 90 days after the application.

Area one would provide timber for years one and two of a five year plan. Field work includes fly over by air and with RWED helicopter. As well 10 days or more of ground work, which includes discovery, layout work (marking blocks, roads and landing etc.). The cost of doing the necessary work to prepare to harvest Area 1 exceeds \$6000.00.

Access to Area 1 timber is by a 4 1/2 Km major outline. The timber is located on high well drained ground, no streams, bodies of water, or steep terrain was found in the area. The timber is over mature, harvesting now would be timely. It should also be noted that there is evidence of a severe infestation of insects including Spruce Bud Worm in area one, which is also a reason to harvest as soon as possible. The first year 60 to 70 Ha of timber land would be harvested, at best a minimal parcel.

Damage to the environment if at all is only temporary, since a new forest will reappear. Harvesting residue creates ground cover for rodents, and in turn provides food for fur bearing animals. New growth also attracts moose.

Fort Resolution Deninu K'ue Band, supports logging in area 2. Air photos and fly over confirm that timber exists in area 2. This area has extensive wet land and no ready made cut lines. The wet lands are a problem in building roads, as well more field work would be required to comply with harvesting regulations. Mapping a road and timber harvesting layout should be undertaken without snow cover. In our five year plan Area 2 was to be year 3,4,5, which would have allowed us time to complete the necessary ground work.

FAXED
09/05/01

Facsimile

Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board

To:

Daniel Patterson, Patterson Sawmill Ltd.	(867) 874-6902 ~
Mary Tapsell (as coordinator for DIAND)	669-2701 ~
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Iannick Lamirande, NRCan, Ottawa	(613) 995-5719 ~
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Don Balsillie, Deninu Ku'e First Nation	(867) 394-5122 ~
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Maurice Boucher, Deninu Ku'e Envir. Working Committee	(867) 394-5122 ~
Pat Martel, Hay River Dene Band	(867) 874-3229 ~
Allison Armstrong, Dene Nation	920-2254 ~
Lorne Napier, Metis Nation	873-3395 ~
Paul Harrington, Hay River Metis Government	(867) 874-4472 ~
Dana Cross, Hay River Metis Nation	(867) 874-6888 ~
Greg Yeoman, CPAWS, Yellowknife	873-9593 ~
Alexandra Borowiecka, Ecology North, Yellowknife	920-2986 ~

From Louie Azzolini, Environmental Assessment Officer

Pages: 4 including this cover

Date: Friday, January 05, 2001

File: EA00-005 Mr. Patterson Forestry Environmental Assessment

Subject:

*Referral to Environmental
Assessment*

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From.....

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A road approximately 24 Km long would have to be constructed. Carter Industries of Hay River, has indicated to build a road suitable for truck traffic costs up to \$3000.00 a Km for a cost of up to \$72,000.00 in road construction. In Area 1 the total cost of road construction would be \$10,000.00 to \$15,000.00. It should also be pointed out that no ground work has taken place in area 2. Area 2 is approximately 45 to 50 Km further distance from the sawmill, with approximately 20 Km more off highway road, with a total round trip haul of 90 to 100 Km farther than Area 1.

The application FA001828 has been cut from a five year licence to a one year permit. In view of the current depressed price of the lumber, it is not economically viable for our company to build a 24 Km haul road, and only use it for one season.

Our company has been in the sawmill business in the Northwest Territories for 38 years. We have experienced downsizing in recent years to comply with the annual allowable cuts in the area. Because of several years of limited annual allowable cut, our company does not have the financial reserve to cover the costs of going into Area 2 this season. We need 80 days to complete the logging operation, at present there are only 85 days left in the season. With road construction and the fact that there is no ground work done in area 2 i.e. block layout, roads and landings identified etc. We would probably lose three more weeks of the season. We would be unable to harvest the full 10,000 cubic meters in the time left, which would put our company in a position of not being able to meet our financial commitments. Our company can ill afford to forfeit the money already spent on extensive ground work done in Area 1. Nor can we afford the added costs involved in the extra trucking distance to Area 2. Area 2 should be left for another year when the price of lumber is more favorable.

Our application was filed June 20, 2000. Fort Resolution did not ask for an environmental assessment until December 19, 2000 the day before the Permit was to be issued. This is approximately six months after the application was filed. We feel this is a political attempt to stop our operation.

Our sawmill is the last operating sawmill in the Northwest Territories, if this environmental assessment goes ahead, we could be looking at the possible shut down of the operation.

Sincerely,



Daniel Patterson,
President

cc R. McLeod, Deputy Minister
R. Bailey, Assistant Deputy Minister

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FAX TRANSMITTAL

DATE: Jan , 2001

TO: Roland Semjanovs,
Acting Executive Director
MVEIRB
Yellowknife, N.T.

FROM: Daniel Patterson

3 pages including cover

