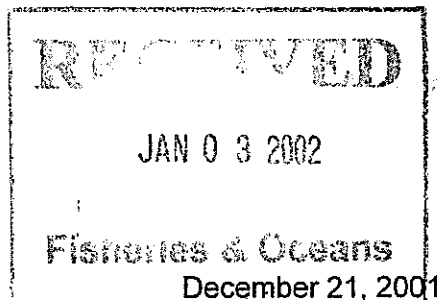


Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board



Julie Dahl
Area Chief,
Fish Habitat Management
Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Western Arctic
Suite 101, 5204 – 50th Avenue
Yellowknife, NT X1A 1E2

Re: Development of Environmental Assessment Terms of Reference

Thank you for a productive and informative meeting of December 17, 2001. We sincerely appreciate DFO's contributions to the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board's (Review Board) Environmental Assessment (EA). We also appreciate DFO's legislation and procedural issues raised in your letter of November 21, 2001, the regarding Sable, Pigeon and Bearbooth development.

As we discussed, the Review Board's determination and reasons for significance findings may vary from those applied by DFO in the course of exercising its legislated mandate. To avoid duplication and to streamline our respective interactions the Review Board will, in the future, require proponents to submit a No Net Loss Plan as part of an acceptable project description (PD), and a Fisheries and Fisheries Habitat Compensation Technical Document in the EA (documents).

The Review Board will use the documents for its EA purposes. DFO can incorporate the documents into its regulatory process, and ultimately approve them if they are in a form acceptable to DFO. If used effectively by developers the documents will contribute to DFO's Compensation Plan, and complement the regulatory integration that proponents and regulators are seeking.

We hope that through DFO's on-going contributions in EA's, and our on-going dialogue that we can continue to improve our EA service for DFO and prepare better Environmental Assessments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Vern Christensen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Vern Christensen
Executive Director