

Yellowknives Dene First Nation

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MACMINTOSH VALLEY
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

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TO: V Christensen / L. Azzolini

FROM: Rachel Gapeau

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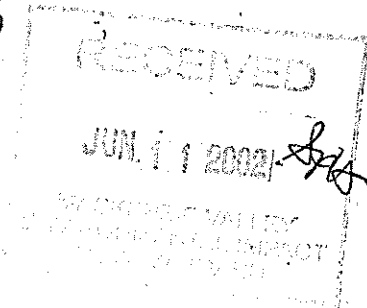
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June 6, 2002

Vern Christensen
Mackenzie Valley Environmental
Impact Review Board
Box 938, Yellowknife, NT
X1A 2N7



Dear Mr. Christensen,

RE: Environmental Agreement for future developments

The Land & Environment Committee of the Yellowknives Dene First Nation would like to take this opportunity to inform the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board of its strong support for continuing the recent practice of developing environmental agreements (Eas) provide a formal recognition of aboriginal interests and concerns in environmental impact assessments, mitigation and monitoring of future projects.

Aboriginal parties to an EA have a greater say than at any time in the history of the NWT in the development review and amendments to developers' environmental management plans. Environmental agreements also provide for additional monitoring over and above that required by regulatory instruments.

Independent Environmental Monitoring:

EA provisions for establishment of independent monitoring boards assures the voice of the affected aboriginal communities is heard on such important matters as company liability and security deposits, environmental monitoring and reclamation of impacted areas.

We also support the concept of an independent regional monitoring board. A monitoring board with a regional rather than a mine-specific mandate would promote better cumulative effects monitoring programs. In appointing directors to such a board, we feel that it would be very important to have both community representatives and technical expertise combined, so that independent scientists and affected aboriginal resource users can inform each other in reviewing mine management and effects on the land.

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Archaeological and Sacred Sites Protection:

Eas also guarantee aboriginal voices (not just archaeologists and anthropologists) are heard in the protection of sites of spiritual or cultural importance. Aboriginal priorities should have just as much weight in decision-making as those of museums and government regulators.

Sincerely yours,



Rachel Ann Crapeau
Chair: Land & Environment Committee

Cc Chief Rick Edjericon
Chief Peter Liske
David Livingstone, DIAND
Luciano Azzolini, MVIRB