



Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board

December 21, 2001

Mr. Lorne Tricoteux
Associate Regional Director General
Department of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada
P.O. Box 1500
Yellowknife, NT
X1A 2R3

Dear Mr. Tricoteux;

Re: Consultation Meetings Regarding the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board's (MVEIRB's) *Report of Environmental Assessment on the Paramount Resources Ltd. Cameron Hills Gathering System and Pipeline Development*

This letter is being provided to follow up on earlier communication between Review Board staff and your offices to cancel the consultation meeting planned for December 18th. Your staff had been advised that until formal notice (per s.130(b)(ii) of the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act*) had been provided to the Board that Minister Nault would be, or had, requested consultation on the recommended measures in the above-noted Report, the Review Board and its staff would not participate in consultation meetings.. This notice could have been in the form of an initial letter of advice from yourself or another appropriate senior official in the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, such as Mr. David Livingstone, with a confirming letter from Minister Nault to follow later.

For the EA process to be fair to all parties, from a quasi-judicial perspective, the Review Board considers it important that all parties be made aware of when the Minister requests that consultation occur between his Department and the MVEIRB as well as the concern(s) that led to the Minister making the consultation request. Formal notice is required to put the request for consultation on the Public Registry and to advise participants (expert advisors and interveners) in the EA process, as some participants may wish to provide further advice or comment on the content of consultation discussions.

This approach will ensure that the consultation process is transparent and seen to be fair and objective.

The Review Board is eager to initiate consultation and is prepared to meet with your staff as soon as notification is provided.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Frank Pope', written in a cursive style.

Frank Pope,
Alternate Chair

