



January 3, 2002

Ms. Louise Mandell, Q.C.
Mandell Pinder
Barristers and Solicitors
500 – 1080 Mainland Street,
Vancouver, B.C.
V6B 2T4

Attention: Louise Mandell, Q.C.

Dear Madam:

Re: Consultation Meeting on Paramount Resources Ltd. Cameron Hills Project

Thank you for your letter of January 2, 2002 outlining your position on the above captioned meeting, scheduled for January 4, 2002. As you are aware, this consultation meeting has been requested by the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (the federal Minister) and the National Energy Board (the Designated Regulatory Agency or "DRA") under section 130 of the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act* (MVRMA).

In such circumstances, the matters to be dealt with in the consultation are at the discretion of the federal Minister and the DRA. These authorities have identified the recommendations made by the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (Review Board) in its report of environmental assessment on the Paramount project for which consultation will take place. The Review Board has no authority to open the floor up to a discussion of any other issues during that meeting. It is our view that the discussion at the meeting should be restricted to Measures #13, 14, 15, 16, and 17 made in the report.

The Review Board has taken the position that the consultation process should, consistent with the rules of fairness, be open to parties in the environmental assessment process. The federal Minister's staff and the DRA, however, have a large role in determining the nature of the consultation through the nature of the issues and concerns that they raise. The Review Board will hear from any other participants in the consultation with respect to the matters raised by these authorities. We will arrange for participants that cannot be present to participate by teleconference.

The Review Board is not in a position to postpone the proposed consultation meeting. The federal Minister and his staff have advised the Review Board of the urgency of the need to resolve the matters arising from the Measures listed above. We encourage you and your client to take advantage of the opportunity to participate by way of teleconference. Please contact the Review Board's Executive Director, Mr. Vern Christensen at (867)776-7050 if you wish to participate in the meeting.

Yours truly,



Frank Pope
Alternate Chairperson
MVEIRB

cc. Lorne Tricoteux, INAC
Guy Delisle, NEB

