

Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board

Our File: EA-03-002

May 23, 2003

Mr. Laurence Stephenson
GEOFIN
1136 Martin St.
White Rock, BC V4B 3W1
Fax 604-687-7179

Dear Mr. Stephenson;

RE: Clarification of MVRMA and Environmental Assessment Process for Consolidated Goldwin Ventures Inc. Diamond Exploration

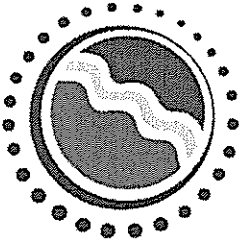
The Mackenzie Valley Resources Management Act (MVRMA) was enacted "*to enable residents of the Mackenzie Valley to participate in the management of its resources for the benefits of residents and other Canadians*" (MVRMA, s. 9.1).

The MVRMA defines the roles and responsibilities of Boards created under the legislation. The MVRMA gives the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board (MVLWB) the authority to issue permits and licenses while the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (Review Board) is responsible for Environmental Assessment (EA) and Environmental Impact Review (EIR). The Review Board does not issue licenses.

Further to correspondence on April 28 and May 7 and attempts to contact you via phone on May 9 and May 22 to clarify the EA process, I provide the following added clarification of the EA process. Once the MVLWB has determined that a development (defined in MVRMA, s. 111) is likely to cause a significant adverse impact on the environment or be a cause of public concern, the MVLWB shall refer the development to EA (MVRMA, ss. 125 (1)).

In the case of Consolidated Goldwin Ventures, the MVLWB's Reasons for Decision indicate that the development was referred due to public concern about "cumulative negative environmental effects for the Drybones Bay area". Clarification you seek on the Reasons for Decision should be directed to the MVLWB. Once the referral is made, the Review Board is obligated to conduct an EA (MVRMA, s. 126). If upon completion of the EA the Review Board has determined that there is no significant adverse impact on the environment or public concern that cannot be adequately mitigated, the development can then be returned to the MVLWB for permitting.

The Consolidated Goldwin Ventures application is in EA. The permitting process will not resume until the EA process has concluded.



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As promised in e-mail correspondence of May 22, the distribution list has been updated to reflect submissions from interested parties by May 16. These submissions contained only confirmation of requests to be placed on the distribution list for this EA. A more recent letter has been received from the Yellowknives Dene First Nation. This letter and the revised distribution list are appended for your information.

Further to correspondence dated May 7 and May 22, please note that the DRAFT Terms of Reference and Workplan will be issued subject to Board approval at their next scheduled meeting on May 27-28. You will have the opportunity to provide comments before the Terms of Reference and Workplan are finalized.

Again, please be advised that all correspondence is on the public record.

The Review Board is a public board and cannot meet privately with a developer during the course of an EA. The Review Board may hold public hearings that are open to the public and documented for the public record. If you would like to have a public hearing, please submit your request to the Review Board and clearly describe:

- why you would like to meet with the Review Board;
- what you would like to discuss; and
- how the public hearing would enhance or add value to the EA.

Should you have any questions or require clarification, please do not hesitate to contact me (867) 766-7063 or ssian@mveirb.nt.ca.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Sherry Sian".

Sherry Sian

Environmental Assessment Officer

cc: Mr. Vern Christensen, Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board
Mr. Bob Wooley, Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board
Mr. David Livingstone, INAC
Ms. Kate Hearn, INAC
Mr. Mike Vaydik, NWT/NU Chamber of Mines