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Acquisition

**Exploration** 

Development

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MACKENZIE VALLEY ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REVIEW BOARD September 1, 2003

Ms. Sherry Sian/Mr. Alan Ehrlich
Environmental Assessment Officer,
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board

200 Scotia Centre, (5102-50th Avenue),

YELLOWKNIFE, NT. X1A 2N7

**BY EMAIL** 

## RE: MV2003C0023 Land Use Permit Application (TC \15")

Snowfield Development Corp.

Dear Ms. Sian,

Further to your letter of August 29<sup>th</sup> with respect to secondary deficiencies in its Developer's Assessment Report ("D.A.R.) Snowfield hereby submits the following information:

Item 1 – Map 2C "Trail Location" to complete Section C-2 and C-4 per your August 29<sup>th</sup> letter (as referenced in Mr. Laurence Stephenson's earlier e-mail response accompanying the revised Text Report).

It is submitted that these trails and potential water sources are based on the available data and the topographic map (which forms the base of the map) and are created as the "most likely" routes selected. We have basically assumed that the frozen water ways will in most instances provide the "smoothest" winter surfaces to move drills, equipment and crews. Initial preliminary exploration will add to the data base and the onsite Project Manager will make the accordingly final decision based on the onsite conditions. In that sense these "trail locations" should only be viewed as approximate.

Item 2 - Appendix II "Timeline" To complete Section C-2 per your August 29th letter.

This timeline is submitted with the qualifier that it is somewhat speculative, based on the current available data and may have to be amended as ongoing exploration results dictate altered operational procedures and timing. Amendments to the timeline may be required as a result of: changes in the priority of targets; additional preliminary exploration required, availability of equipment; availability of work crews including contractors; onsite field coordinator's recognition of local conditions; financial constraints, logistical constraints; assessment of data resulting in an increase or decrease in effort. Snowfield will endeavour to comply with this original timeline and advise the regulatory authorities of any significant proposed amendments.

With respect to Section L, Cumulative Effects, Snowfield is somewhat at a loss to respond at this time to the Boards comments with respect to the absence of the any analysis to draw the conclusion that there are no cumulative effects" in that neither Snowfield directly, nor its consultant, Mr. Laurence Stephenson, to the best of our knowledge, have received the

August 20<sup>th</sup> Cumulative Effects Report referenced in the Final Terms of Reference. Mr. Vern Christensen's, Executive Director, letter of August 26<sup>th</sup>, 2003, stated, in referencing Cumulative Effects, "The Review Board will therefore allow Snowfield Development Corporation (sic) to amend their submission on Cumulative Effects at the Public Hearing after the cumulative effects study is released."

As previously submitted, Snowfield had anticipated that upon receipt of the Cumulative Effects Study of the Drybones Bay area commissioned by the Review Board, Snowfield would address any project specific matters relative to its Ticho Project and have the "opportunity to give a presentation on its (their) developments's potential contribution to cumulative effects on traditional and subsistence land use, fish and wildlife resources as well as cultural and heritage resources."

It is Snowfield's position that the various phases of exploration on the mineral claims referenced in it Application will have nominal, if any, cumulative effects on the physical environment nor will it have any measurable effect upon the direct interests of any other users of the Ticho Project land area.

Mr. Rick Hoos of EBA Engineering Consultants Ltd., acting as a consultant to Snowfield with respect to environmental impact in the Ticho Project area, who contributed most significantly to that section of its D.A.R., advises, based on his many years of experience in the N.W.T., that his opinion remains concurrent with Snowfield's position expressed in the D.A.R. that "The temporary disturbance footprint associated with each of the drill sites will be limited to approximately 10 m². All unused consumables (fuel, drill rods, etc.) and wastes ((garbage, etc.) will be removed off site and returned to Yellowknife for recycling or disposal in an approved manner. Because of the short term, highly localized, relatively innocuous and reversible nature of this exploration drilling program, no significant environmental effects are expected to occur."

Snowfield has not been able to determine the location of any historical or cultural sites on, or in the immediate area of, the mineral claims making up its Ticho Project land area. Following the mailing of a letter advising all interested parties, as prescribed by the Mackenzie Land and Water Board, of its Land Use Permit Application, Snowfield did not receive any responses detailing any specific concerns for any historical or cultural sites on, or in the immediate area of, the mineral claims making up its Ticho Project land area Should any First Nation representative locate or advise Snowfield of any such historical or cultural sites, Snowfield will absolutely avoid any exploration in those areas that would cause any negative impact on such sites.

Snowfield would point out that the mineral claims making up its Ticho Project land area have been the subject of similar diamond exploration work by various companies and individuals for the past several years with no significant reported intermediate or long term adverse environmental, economic or cultural impact on other users of the lands. It is submitted that Snowfield's proposed exploration work on the Ticho Project land area will not differ significantly from earlier exploration work of those lands other than it will be Snowfield's undertaking to complete its exploration with a very high degree of environmental care and consideration for the concerns of other users of those lands.

It is further submitted that although Snowfield's various phases of proposed exploration will occur over a relatively long period of time, each individual phase of exploration is a facet unto itself with little, if any, intermediate or long term environmental impact, that viewed collectively should not have any cumulative impact. Future developmental impact would only be

speculative at this time, however, should Snowfield experience success in its exploration efforts, all future development would be the subject of further land use permitting and environmental assessment and impact studies.

Additionally, Snowfield takes this opportunity to confirm to the Review Board and all other parties to the Review that Snowfield fully acknowledges, and respects, the intent and importance of the environmental assessment and review process. It is Snowfield's corporate policy and intent to fully comply with any present or future land use environmental assessment or review processes in a co-operative and progressive manner. Snowfield will continue to consult with all interested parties, particularly first Nations, with respect and consideration towards their interests and concerns for the land areas encompassed by the Ticho Project. Every effort will be made to ameliorate any real or perceived impact upon the land or the community at large arising from Snowfield's proposed exploration programs on its Ticho Project.

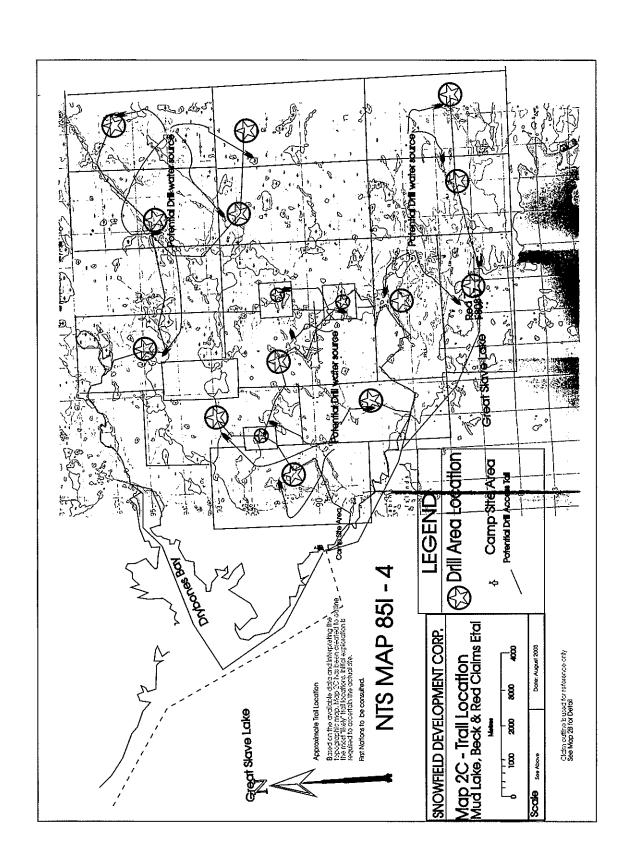
Yours very truly,

"Robert T. Paterson"

President & C.E.O. Snowfield Development Corp.

CC: Laurence Stephenson, GeoFin Consulting Services. Richard A. W. Hoos, EBA Engineering Consultants Ltd.,

Attachments to email: 2



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## Notes:

- 1. May is purposely excluded because it is most likely to correspond to break up. Programs in April would extend to the first part of May mainly due to conditions.
- conditions prevail and the exploration is terminated. September through December will not have much exploration due to September is repeated purposely since in most instances it will be party of the summer field program until weather the short days and conditions. તં
- onsite field co-ordinator's recognition of local conditions; financial constraints, logistical constraints; assessment of data additional preliminary exploration required, availability of equipment; availability of work crews including contractors; A few of the unknown factors that make this timeline completely speculative are change in priorization of targets; resulting in an increase or decrease in effort. ω.
- Mini Bulk sample timing will be dependent on amended Land use Permit and subject to change in timing. 4.