

Fisheries
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et OcéansFish Habitat Management
Suite 101, 5204-50th Avenue
Yellowknife, Northwest
Territories
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SC02159

16 February, 2004

Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board
Box 938
200 Scotia Centre, 5102-50th Ave
Yellowknife, NT
X1A 2N7Attention: Todd Burlingame**RE: Deh Cho Bridge Corporation, Bridge, Mackenzie River at Fort Providence, NT**

Dear Mr. Burlingame:

This is to advise you that the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Fish Habitat Management – Western Arctic Area (DFO), received a letter on 4 February, 2004, from the NWT & Nunavut Chamber of Mines (Chamber) expressing a wish to withdraw its letter of concern dated 16 September, 2003. DFO had noted the Chamber's concerns in the DFO Preliminary Screening Report submitted to the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Review Board (MVEIRB) on 6 January 2004. The Chamber has now effectively withdrawn those concerns and has indicated that it has "...no objection if the (sic) DFO wishes to amend its Preliminary Screening Report dated 6 January, 2004 and withdraw its decision to refer the application to the MVEIRB..."

DFO has discharged its responsibilities as a Preliminary Screener as required by the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act*. DFO will address any fish and fish habitat issues related to the Deh Cho Bridge in its authorization process. DFO will respect the decision of the MVEIRB, whether to continue with the Environmental Assessment of the project, given the position of the Chamber as set out above.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at (867) 669-4911 or Dave Tyson at (867) 669-4919, or by fax at (867) 669-4940.


Julie Dahl
Area ChiefFish Habitat Management
Department of Fisheries and Oceans - Western Arctic AreaCopy: R. Allen, Area Director, DFO-WAA
B. Wooley, Executive Director, MVLWB
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