



Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board

July 6th, 2007

Mr. Larry Wallace, Chairperson
Sahtu Land and Water Board
P.O. Box 1
Fort Good Hope, NT
X0E 0H0

By FAX

Dear Mr. Wallace:

RE: SLWB Land Use Permit Issued to Hunter Bay Resources Ltd.

I am advised by my staff that on July 4, 2007 the Sahtu Land and Water Board (SLWB) issued a land use permit to Hunter Bay Resources. This is a disappointing end to the Review Board's efforts to collaborate with your staff and to address issues raised during the preliminary screening process by the public and communities in the Sahtu Region.

The preliminary screening package information was received on June 29th. A letter was sent later the same day from the Review Board asking the SLWB to hold off issuing the Hunter Resources land use permit until the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board could meet to consider a decision under section 126(3) of the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act* (MVRMA). The Review Board met yesterday and had questions, which Board members would like information on before making a section 126(3) decision.

Our letter constituted advance notification to the SLWB that the process under part 5 of the MVRMA was not yet complete. It is clear that the Review Board has the authority to conduct an Environmental Assessment (EA) notwithstanding the SLWB preliminary screening decision. Section 118 of the Act also makes it clear that your Board has no authority to issue a permit under the *Mackenzie Valley Land Use Regulations* when you are aware that the Review Board has not yet completed its deliberations under part 5 of the Act.

Consequently, the SLWB has placed both the Review Board and Hunter Bay Resources in a difficult position. Your Board has issued a permit in excess of its jurisdiction and we suggest the SLWB take immediate steps to inform Hunter Bay Resources of this problem.

In the meantime, the Review Board has reviewed the preliminary screening of the above application, and will be requesting additional information from the SLWB in its preliminary screening of the Hunter Bay Resources application before the Review Board decides whether or not to invoke MVRMA s.126(3). Mr. Christensen will be communicating that request directly to Mr. Govier.

We would ask for an early response so that the developer can be advised as soon as possible regarding the outcome of this process.

In closing I would also like to suggest that we schedule a meeting in the near future to discuss how we can better harmonize our processes while ensuring all requirements of the MVRMA are met.

Sincerely,



Gabrielle Mackenzie Scott
Chairperson

