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MACKENZIE VALLEY ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REVIEW BOARD

## **FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL**

To: Martin Haefele

Marum Maeren

MVEIRB

(867) 766-7074

From: Matt Law

**Northrock Resources Ltd** 

Date: June 12, 2003

Pages: ₹

Re: Northrock Response to Information Requests

Northrock Summit Creek Environmental Assessment

Martin,

Attached please find an addition to Northrock's response to the information requests previously submitted to the MVEIRB.

Regards,

Mul



June 12, 2003

Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board Box 938, 200 Scotia Centre, (5102-50th Avenue), Yellowknife, NT. X1A 2N7

Attention: Martin Haefele

Dear Sir,

## Re: Northrock Summit Creek Environmental Assessment - Information Requests

Please find below a supplement to the information that has been provided in response to Information Request 1.1.1. The following is a discussion of the two Little Bear route alternatives.

## IR Number 1.1.1

The Little Bear Route was previously used by Northrock and AEC for access to the Tertiary Creek 2001 Seismic Program and the AEC G-18 well respectively. Although not ideally located, it was an extension to access already prepared for Northrock's McKay I-77 well. The Little Bear Route has hills which require bulldozer to tow wheeled vehicles up, and marginal or inadequate sources for water to use in road construction. Although Northrock utilized this route for its Tertiary Creek 2001 Seismic Program, no road preparation or widening was required, as all of the equipment was towed by bulldozers. With no wheeled used in the seismic operation, tow hills were not an issue, and water for road preparation was not required. Since the Little Bear Route was last used for wheeled access by AEC in 1999/2000, the water sources available to developers have been restricted by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans as a result of its new protocol. Northrock is concerned that the water sources utilized by AEC would not be available to Northrock due to those DFO restrictions. A lack of water for road construction would prevent Northrock from utilizing the original Little Bear Route.

The Alternate Little Bear Route to the east of the original Little Bear Route, has no tow hills and significantly better access to water. It follows existing cut lines which would have to be re-opened and widened. It would join the original Little Bear Route close to Tate Lake. Repeated use of the original Little Bear Route has the potential to increase the levels of compaction that may already be present from previous use. The use of an alternative access will result in less cumulative impact to the Little Bear Route and will increase the potential for natural re-growth on that route. Neither Little Bear Route would be utilized in development of a successful oil or gas find at Summit Creek.



Regardless, Northrock's inability to undertake drilling the Summit Creek B-44 well with any confidence that it could complete the operation in a single winter season, precludes utilization of either Little Bear Route. The additional 80 km of access required to utilize either Little Bear Route increases the access construction time by such an extent that there is a substantial and unacceptable risk (to Northrock) that Northrock would be unable to reach its drilling objective and demobilize the rig prior to the end of the drilling season. A two year operation, aside from being unacceptable financially to Northrock, requires the same amount of construction the second year as would be required to initially access the drill site. This would increase the cumulative environmental impact on the area.

I trust you find the information provided to be sufficient for your continuing assessment of the Summit Creek Project. If you require additional information, or wish to discuss further, please contact the undersigned at (403) 213-7441 or by email: LAW@northrock.ab.ca.

Sincerely,

NORTHROCK RESOURCES LTD.

Matt Law

**Project Consultant**