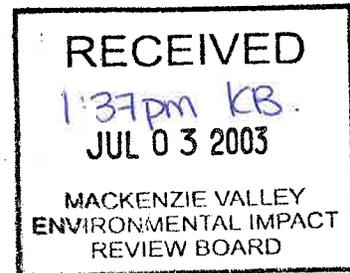




NORTHROCK RESOURCES LTD.
A WHOLLY OWNED SUBSIDIARY OF UNOCAL CORPORATION

July 3, 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, the information that has been provided in response to Information Request 1.2.1.

IR Number 1.2.1

Request:

Provide information relating to “best practices”, specific mitigation measures, or alternatives to access/drilling operations methods to minimize environmental impacts.

Response: Answers to the eight questions of IR 1.2.1 have been provided below in the same order as they appear in the information request.

1. Northrock intends to hold daily safety meetings with all contractors and personnel during the life of the project. These meetings will be held to discuss the planned activity for each day, to discuss safety and environmental issues associated with the activity and to ensure the conditions of the land use permit and water licence are met.
2. Access construction will utilize water to freeze-in the road bed and snow will be used as a road surface. The ice and snow will provide protection for organic and mineral soils and will reduce the potential for erosion. The road will be maintained throughout the program with additional applications of water and snow to ensure a firm road bed and has the secondary effect of preventing erosion through rutting and damage to the organic mat.
3. While Northrock has indicated that some widening will be required along existing access routes, every effort will be made to use the existing trail and cutline widths. Where widening is required, clearing with bulldozers has been selected as

- the method of choice. Under frozen ground conditions, most trees will snap off at ground level and the exposure of mineral soil and damage to the vegetative mat is not a serious issue. There are few areas along the access route where widening will result in the clearing of large diameter trees. Where this is the case, and if trees are being uprooted rather than snapping off, chain saws will be use to fell the trees. Similar cold weather operations conducted by Northrock have shown that clearing with bulldozers can be performed with minimal disturbance to the ground cover.
4. The access route follows existing cut lines and trails. There are no plans to widen the trails at any stream crossings. Streams will be crossed using ice bridging techniques and/or clean snowfills. Damage to riparian habitats is not anticipated.
 5. The use of drip pans and/or absorbent blankets to catch oil drips from heavy equipment is a standard operating procedure for Northrock.
 6. As discussed in Response #1., daily safety meetings will be held to discuss issues relating to the project activity and safety and environmental concerns. These meeting will include discussions and directives relating to wildlife awareness/avoidance and garbage control.
 7. Northrock has not considered performance-based incentives to promote "best practices" by contractors. Rather, Northrock intends to rely on experienced construction supervisors that are familiar with both the area and "best practices" to supervise the access construction.
 8. Northrock will retain the services of a qualified environmental monitor for the components of the project that may be deemed sensitive (eg. access widening and lease construction).

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 e-mail: LAW@northrock.ab.ca.

Sincerely,
NORTHROCK RESOURCES LTD.

for 
Matt Law
Project Consultant