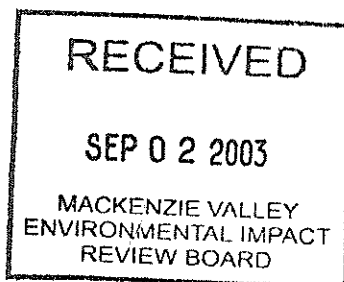




Northwest
Territories

Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development



September 2, 2003

Sherri Sian
Environmental Assessment Officer.
Mackenzie Environmental Impact Review Board.
PO BOX 2130
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2P6

VIA FACSIMILE

Dear Ms. Sian

EA-03-002, EA-03-003, EA-03-004

Comments on Drybones/Wool Bay Developer's Assessment Reports:

The Government of the Northwest Territories has reviewed the Developers Assessment Reports for the Drybones/Wool Bay diamond exploration projects and has the following comments or concerns.

Archaeological Sites

Although three archaeological sites have been recorded, there has never previously been a systematic archaeological survey conducted in the Drybones/Wool Bay area. However, due to the extensive record of traditional land use in the Drybones/Wool Bay area, we expect that the potential for locating additional archaeological sites in the area is extremely high, and any development in the area, unless conducted on ice exclusively, has the potential to disturb archaeological sites. From our meetings with the Yellowknives Dene First Nation (YKDFN) we also understand that there are numerous significant and sensitive cultural sites in the area. Callum Thomson, a professional archaeologist, was issued a permit this year to conduct, in collaboration with the YKDFN, an archaeological survey of the Drybones/Wool Bay area.

According to the legislated terms governing the issuance of permits in the NWT, Mr. Thomson is not required to submit a report until March 31, 2004. Given the circumstances GNWT staff will encourage him to submit a report earlier, but he will need time to analyze his findings from this summer's work. Consequently, GNWT staff wish to defer our final comments on the Developer's Assessment Reports until we have had an opportunity to review Mr. Thomson's report.

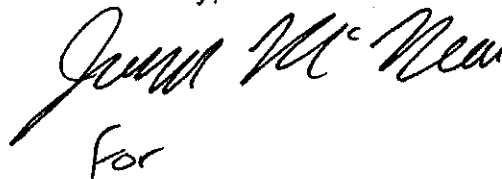


The Government of the Northwest Territories would like to remind the Mackenzie Environmental Impact Review Board that Mackenzie Valley Land Use Regulation pursuant to the MVRMA states that ;

6 (a). Unless expressly authorized by a permit or in writing by an inspector, no permittee shall conduct a land use operation within 30 m of a known monument or a known or **suspected** historical, archaeological site or burial ground;

Should you have any comments or concerns regarding the above, please contact Jason McNeill, Environmental Assessment Officer at 920-8071.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gavin More".

For
Gavin More
Manager, Environmental Assessment
Policy, Legislation Communication
RWED, GNWT.

C. Tom Andrews
Territorial Archaeologist, ECE