

Fisheries  
and OceansPêches  
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Page 1 of/de ~~43~~ (including cover)

DATE: September 17, 2003

RECEIVED

fp 4:00 pm

SEP 17 2003

MACKENZIE VALLEY  
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT  
REVIEW BOARD

## TO/A:

Name/ Nom	Sherry Sian
Organization/Company Organisation/Compagnie	EA Officer, MVEIRB
Telephone Number/ Numéro de téléphone	
Facsimile Number/ Numéro de téléphone	766-7074

## MESSAGE:

Sherry,

Enclosed are DFO comments on the Response to the Sept 2, 2003 Information Request for EA-03-002, and EA-03-004.

Sincerely,

Dave Balint

## FROM/DE:

Name Nom	Dave Balint, Fish Habitat Biologist
Telephone Number Numéro de téléphone	(867) 669-4926
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et OcéansFish Habitat Management  
Suite 101, 5204-50<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Yellowknife, Northwest  
Territories  
X1A 1E2Your file: *Votre référence*Our file: *Notre référence*SC02167  
SC03002

September 17, 2003

Sherry Sian  
Environmental Assessment Officer  
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board  
Box 938, 5102-50<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Yellowknife, NT  
X1A 2N7**RE: Submission of Depth Data and Information Request - Consolidated Goldwin Ventures Inc. EA-03-002; New Shoshoni Ventures Ltd. EA-03-004.**

Dear Ms. Sian,

The Department of Fisheries and Oceans – Fish Habitat Management (DFO) has reviewed the information submitted by letter dated September 8, 2003 from Laurence Stephenson in response to DFO comments on the Developers Assessment Reports (DAR) for these projects.

Our review has concluded that the information requested has not been provided and DFO is unable to conclude its review of the Environmental Assessment.

Consolidated Goldwin Ventures EA-03-002/SC 02167

- The developer's response to **our request for the water depth survey data** was that the data comprised a "test" to corroborate existing published data. It was also said to be "preliminary, proprietary and too scattered to be of any meaningful consequence."

The water depth data is necessary to substantiate the developer's claims that its drilling program will not impact lake trout spawning shoals or rearing areas. Given that the information used to determine water depth is too scattered to be of any meaningful consequence, the developer must provide meaningful data that can be placed on the public registry.

- In response to our request to **provide specific information pertaining to the source waterbody**, the developer stated that they would provide data when it is available if there is a chance of drawing down the pond, which they state is unlikely since there would be sufficient groundwater inflow during the winter months.

It is our view that groundwater inflow in this region may be insufficient during the winter to prevent a draw down situation. As such, bathymetric data (e.g. lake volume) will have to be provided to show that the company will maintain sufficient water under ice to ensure the survival of fish (see attached DFO Protocol for Water Withdrawal in the Northwest Territories).

In a March 17, 2003 letter, DFO advised the developer that water use for its drilling program could result in a harmful alteration, disruption, or destruction (HADD) of fish habitat which is prohibited by sub-section 35 (1) of the *Fisheries Act*.

New Shoshoni Ventures Inc. EA-03-004/SC03002

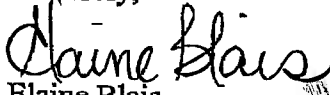
- **Drill sites and areas.** Map 2 in the DAR depicts three drill site areas and these are listed on page 7. These sites are different than that presented in the original land use application where approximately 10 drill site areas were distributed throughout Drybones Bay. No sites are shown to occur on-ice in Great Slave Lake, but the last paragraph of page 6 of the developer's DAR states that "Most of the drill site areas are located in Great Slave Lake and along the shoreline area of Drybones Bay. The other potential drill site areas are located on land in a low-lying area and to the north of Drybones Bay."

The discrepancy with the number and location of drill site areas has not been clarified in our opinion. The developer must clearly delineate the location of each drill site area on a map and clearly state the number of drill holes the company anticipates drilling in each area.

The Report mentions offshore drilling programs will occur in water depths exceeding 15 metres. The developer must provide its references for its data. The developer must show that there are no shoals in the vicinity of the proposed drill sites.

DFO requires this information in order to conclude its review of the Environmental Assessment. If you have any questions or require clarification, please call me at (867) 669-4912 or Dave Balint at (867) 669-4926.

Sincerely,



Elaine Blais

Area Habitat Biologist

Fish Habitat Management-Western Arctic Area

DB

Copy Julie Dahl, Habitat Chief, Western Arctic Area

Canada

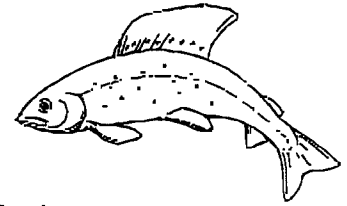
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## DFO Protocol for Water Withdrawal in the Northwest Territories



The following information must be provided to DFO for review and project approval prior to program commencement.

### Information Requirements

#### Water Source Identification

- 1) Primary and secondary access routes with water source locations are to be clearly identified on a map. Consistency in water-source identification is to ensure that your crews and other operators in the area using the same water-source will not be in conflict by using the same source independently.
- 2) Document how and whether there is watercourse connectivity (permanently flowing or seasonal) between the proposed water-source to any other water body.

#### Bathymetric Determination

- 3) For all water bodies: One 'e-line' transect, regardless of waterbody size, done in open water conditions using an echo sounder with continuous depth recording capabilities to the bottom sounded from shore to farthest opposing shore. Depth of lake requires the incorporation of the depth that the transducer is positioned below the water surface.
- 4) For lakes less than 1km in length: Two transects (dissecting the water body into thirds) perpendicular to the 'e-line' and regardless of size, done in open water conditions using an echo sounder with continuous depth recording capabilities to the bottom.
- 5) For lakes 1km or greater in length, at least one 'e-line' transect (shore to farthest opposing shore) should be run with an echo sounder and perpendicular transects (shore to shore) done at maximum intervals of 500m.
- 6) Regardless of lake size, additional transects be run as required to include irregularities in water body shape (e.g., fingers or bays) or irregular basin depths.

#### Volume Calculations

- 7) Document how surface area was calculated. If aerial photos were used, provide the date (month/year) that the photo was taken as surface area may change depending on the time of year. Provide the year of datum if maps were used. Detail how volume was determined, incorporating the field bathymetry.
- 8) Use 2.0m ice thickness in volume calculations (total volume minus 2.0m of ice cover) to account for water volume that will be unavailable. 2.0 m is the maximum expected ice thickness expected and will represent end of winter conditions.

### General Mitigation

#### Water Source Identification

- 1) Streams, excluding the Mackenzie River and channels, are to be avoided as a water-source unless site specific permission is given by DFO.
- 2) Any water bodies that are less than 1.5m in depth with no connectivity may be used since the potential for fish over-wintering habitat would be low.
- 3) No water should be removed from water bodies that are between 1.5 and 3.7 m in maximum depth.
- 4) Total seasonal water removal per waterbody is not to exceed 5% of the free water (under ice volume using 2.0m ice thickness) available in the water body, regardless of the number of operators utilizing the waterbody.

#### Water Withdrawal

- 5) Water removal is to take place in the deepest portion of the lake reasonably and safely accessible, avoiding removal of oxygenated water and minimizing the potential for fish entrainment.
- 6) 2.54 mm (1/10") screened mesh size on intake end of pipe is recommended. Other dimensions for intake screens may be determined following calculations outlined in DFO's *Freshwater Intake End-of-Pipe Fish Screen Guidelines* and ensuring that these calculations, complete with pump specifications, are maintained on-site at the pumping location.

Any deviations from the above must be submitted to DFO and will be dealt with on a site-specific basis (e.g. additional bathymetric data collected during the winter).

For more information contact DFO at (867) 777-7500, or (867) 669-4900.