



Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board
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FILE NUMBER: MV2003C0016

DATE:

May 22/03

TO:

Todd

EIRB

FAX NUMBER:

766-7074

FROM:

Pearl

Number of pages including cover

4

referral letter

+ reason for decision

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May 20, 2003

File: MV2003C0016

Mr. Max Braden
New Shoshoni Ventures Ltd.
604 - 475 Howe Street
VANCOUVER, BC V6C 2B3

Fax: (604) 682-1666

Dear Mr. Braden:

**Application MV2003C0016 Referred
Mineral Exploration, Drybones Bay**

FAXED
May 20/03

This Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board (MVLWB) met on May 15, 2003 to deal with the aforementioned application. The decision was made to refer the application to the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (MVEIRB) for an environmental assessment pursuant to Subsection 125(1) of the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act*. The reasons for decision and the preliminary screening report are attached for your information.

If you have any questions, contact Laurie Cordell, Regulatory Officer at (867) 669-0506 or email mvlwbpermit@mvlwb.com.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Melody J. McLeod".

Melody J. McLeod
Chair

Copy to: Vern Christensen, MVEIRB
Ed Hornby, South Mackenzie District, DIAND, Yellowknife
Laurie Cordell, MVLWB

Attachment

REASONS FOR DECISION

MACKENZIE VALLEY LAND AND WATER BOARD (MVLWB or the Board)

IN THE MATTER OF:

An Application by New Shoshoni Ventures Ltd. for a Type 'A' Land Use Permit for Mineral Exploration in the Drybones Bay Area;

and

A Preliminary Screening of the New Shoshoni Ventures Ltd. application for a Type 'A' Land Use Permit for Mineral Exploration in the Drybones Bay Area.

Background:

New Shoshoni Ventures Ltd. (the Applicant) applied to the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board (the MVLWB or the Board) on March 31, 2003 for Type 'A' Land Use Permit MV2003C0016 to conduct Mineral Exploration in the Drybones Bay Area. The proposed operation as applied for included drilling of 10 areas in the Drybones Bay. All support for this operation is to be based via ice road from Yellowknife N.T.

The MVLWB conducted a preliminary screening of the applications and received comments from government agencies, communities, and First Nations. Several First Nations organizations expressed concern over potential impacts from mineral exploration in the Drybones and Wool Bay Areas. These concerns related to impacts from mineral exploration to the cultural, social and traditional land use importance that the Drybones and Wool Bay Areas signify to first nations.

The Issue:

The MVLWB is aware and concerned that the Drybones and Wool Bay Areas will experience steady increases in mineral exploration in the near future. The MVLWB decided that this increased mineral exploration constitutes a concern of cumulative negative environmental effects for the Drybones and Wool Bay Areas.

Evidence of Public Concern

On April 15, 2003, the MVLWB received a copy of a letter from the Yellowknives Dene First Nation (YKDFN). This letter emphasized the cultural, social and traditional land use importance of the Drybones and Wool Bay Areas and expressed concern over cumulative impacts resulting from increased mineral exploration. The YKDFN also encouraged the MVLWB not to issue any more Land Use Permits until these issues have been addressed.

Reasons

The text outlined in Subsection 125 (1) required that the MVLWB determine whether the development might in its opinion:

- a) have a significant adverse impact on the environment or be a cause for public concern

The responses provided to the Land and Water Board by the YKDFN are a clear indication of public concern about development in the Drybones and Wool Bay Areas.

Given the evidence of the cultural, spiritual and environmental importance of the Drybones and Wool Bay Areas, the Board decided that the test in Section 125 (1) had not been met with regard to public concern.

Decision:

On May 15, 2003 the MVLWB held a meeting to consider the above noted application. During this meeting the Board determined that the proposed operation might be a cause for public concern. Therefore, pursuant to Section 125 (1) (b) of the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act* the application was referred to the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (MVEIRB) for an Environmental Assessment.

Signed on behalf of the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board:



Melody J. McLeod, Chair
May 20, 2003