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Ministre des Affaires indiennes et
du Nord canadien et interlocuteur fédéral
auprès des Métis et des Indiens non inscrits

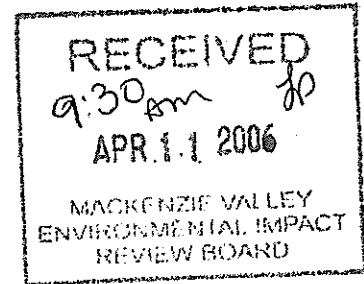


Minister of Indian Affairs and
Northern Development and Federal Interlocutor
for Métis and Non-Status Indians

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0H4

APR 10 2006

Ms. Gabrielle Mackenzie-Scott
Chair
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board
5102 - 50th Avenue
YELLOWKNIFE NT X1A 2N7



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Dear Ms. Mackenzie-Scott:

I am writing on behalf of the Responsible Ministers with jurisdiction relating to the Project (the Government of the Northwest Territories, as represented by Environment and Natural Resources, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, Fisheries and Oceans, and Environment Canada), to convey our decision on the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board's (the "Review Board") recommendation that the New Shoshoni Ventures Ltd.'s proposal for mineral exploration work, as specifically described in land use permit application MV2003C0016, be rejected without an environmental impact review (enclosed). This decision was taken after consideration of:

- (1) the above-noted Report of Environmental Assessment and Reasons for Decision on the New Shoshoni Ventures Ltd.'s Preliminary Diamond Exploration in Drybones Bay;
- (2) the Responsible Ministers' return of reconsideration letter to the Review Board (April 13, 2005), and the Review Board's response to the Responsible Ministers (June 23, 2005);
- (3) letters to Indian and Northern Affairs Canada from New Shoshoni Ventures Ltd. (August 2, 2005, August 24, 2005, and September 30, 2005), and from the Yellowknives Dene First Nation (August 10, 2005), and subsequent receipt of the full version of the summary archaeological report attached to the August 2, 2005 letter from New Shoshoni Ventures Ltd.; and

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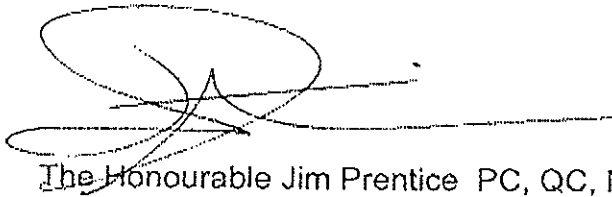
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- (4) a letter from the Yellowknives Dene First Nation to New Shoshoni Ventures Ltd. (July 19, 2005).

Pursuant to section 130(1)(b)(i) of the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act*, the Responsible Ministers have agreed to adopt the recommendation of the Review Board that the proposal be rejected without an environmental impact review. This decision does not affect the legal standing of the mineral leases and claims upon which the work was proposed to be undertaken.

I wish to thank the Review Board for discharging its duties under the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act* in this matter.

Sincerely,



The Honourable Jim Prentice PC, QC, MP

Encl.

c.c.: The Honourable Rona Ambrose, PC, MP
The Honourable Loyola Hearn, PC, MP
The Honourable Michael Miltenberger, MLA
Chief Fred Sangris
Chief Peter Liske
Chief Gabriel Robert Sayine
Acting Chief Albert Boucher
Mr. Ralf Hillebrand
Mr. Bill Enge
Ms. Ursula Vogt
Mr. Mike Vaydik
Mr. Greg Robertson