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MACKENZIE VALLEY

REVIEW BOARD

## **Fax**

Andy Scott, Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada Joe Handley, Premier of the Northwest Territories ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT Kenneth Vollman, Chair of the National Energy Board Brendan Bell, Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment Geoff Regan, Minister of Fisheries and Oceans Canada Stephane Dion, Minister of Environment Canada Gabrielle Mackenzie-Scott, Chair of the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board

From: Grand Chief Herb Norwegian

**Date:** April 12, 2005

LETTER RE: MVEIRB & MVRMA **TOTAL PAGES: 3** 

Hello,

Please find attached a letter regarding Dehcho First Nations concerns with the MVEIRB reasons for decision on the Paramount Resources Ltd. Cameron Hills Extension.

Mahsi

John D. Holman

Executive Assistant



## **DEHCHO FIRST NATIONS**

BOX 89, FORT SIMPSON, N.W.T. X0E 0N0 TEL: (867) 695-2355/2610 FAX: (867) 695-2038 E-mail: dcfn@dehchofirstnations.com



April 12th 2005

TO:

Andy Scott, Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada
Joe Handley, Premier of the Northwest Territories
Kenneth Vollman, Chair of the National Energy Board
Brendan Bell, Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment
Geoff Regan, Minister of Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Stephane Dion, Minister of Environment Canada
Gabrielle Mackenzie-Scott, Chair of the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact
Review Board

RE: Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board's Reasons for Decision for the Paramount Resources Ltd. Cameron Hills Extension Environmental Assessment and Section 130 and 131 of the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act* 

Hello,

On July 7<sup>th</sup> 2004 I wrote a letter to each of you (or your predecessors) after the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (Review Board) released its decision on the latest Paramount Resources Ltd. environmental assessment (e.a.).

I made it clear that I expected any post-Report of E.A. consultations between government and the Review Board would be an open, fair and transparent process that would involve both the DFN and individual Dehcho communities.

I also requested that each of you provide a written response to me detailing how the post-Report of E.A. process under Sections 130 and 131 would occur and the role of DFN and the individual communities in that process.

With the exception of the Review Board, which provided a cursory response, none of you responded to my July 7<sup>th</sup> letter. Furthermore, DFN has recently

learned that the Review Board's recommendations that focused on protecting community interests have been significantly weakened, to the point that they are now practically useless, following a meeting between government and the Review Board. The Dehcho people were not invited to this meeting, or copied on the subsequent correspondence between your organizations related to the meeting.

Your actions in this case are extremely troubling to the Dehcho people. Each of you has completely failed in your obligation to consult with the Dehcho people when Dehcho aboriginal rights, title, culture and heritage are being infringed. DFN will be discussing this matter with the individual communities to decide what steps to take in response to this exclusion of the Dehcho people from the decision-making process.

Your actions have also given the Dehcho people yet another reason why the Dehcho will never sign on to the current environmental review process as governed by the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act*.

Mahsi,

Herb Norwegian

Grand/Chie/

cc. Rick Sanderson, Fort Providence Resource Management Board Berna Landry, Chief Deh Gah Got'ie First Nation Allan Landry, Ka'a'agee Tu First Nation Mandell Pinder, KTFN Legal Counsel Roy Fabian, Katlodeechee First Nation Karen Felker, West Point First Nation Albert Lafferty, Fort Providence Metis Council – Local 57