EA 03-005



4700, 888 - 3 Street SW CALGARY AB T2P 5C5

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TO: Mr. Todd Burlingame, Chair	FROM: Shirley Manakant
COMPANY: HVEIRE	COMPANY: Paramount
PHONE: ()	PHONE: (405),290-3618
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June 23, 2004

Indian and Northern Affairs Canada 4914 - 50 Street Yellowknife, NT X1A 2R3

Via Fax: (867) 669-2701

Attention: Fraser Fairman, Environmental Scientist **Environment and Conservation**

Dear Mr. Fairman:

Re: Cameron Hills Project Regulatory Timing

Paramount Resources Ltd. ("Paramount") wishes to highlight our concerns and the need for regulatory urgency to facilitate winter 2004/05 operations at our Cameron Hills project site.

On August 14, 2004 it will be two years since Paramount filed the application with the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board ("MVLWB") to drill and tie-in the wells that are the subject of the current Report of Environmental Assessment ("REA"). Paramount has drilled all wells available under existing permits, and without timely resolution to the current REA, no new activity will be conducted during the winter 2004/05 season.

To fulfill Paramount's commitment to the Benefit Plan and to provide goods and services, training, and employment opportunities to northerners often requires significant lead time to ensure the northern companies have access to the equipment and personnel to fulfill our project requirements. Paramount cannot finalize our project requirements or award contracts and initiate training opportunities until we have certainty that permits with reasonable terms and conditions will be in place.

We respectfully request that as you assess the REA, consider the amendments Paramount has requested, and ultimately finalize the REA, you also consider that, subsequent to the acceptance of the REA by the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, Paramount still requires the following to facilitate 2004/05 winter activity

- Implementation of any new regulatory requirements as a result of the REA:
- Land use permits and water licences from the MVLWB (note that the current application at the MVLWB requires amendment and a new application may be required;
- Regulatory approvals from the National Energy Board;
- Contract commitments for specialty oilfield equipment that often requires several months lead time;
- Rig contracts that are often difficult to obtain late in the season;
- Benefit Plan on areas outside of the Development Plan area;
- · Lead time for northern contractors.

Paramount has already expressed our concern at having the Cameron Hills project referred to a third environmental assessment and the resulting uncertainty that brings to our current and future investments in the region. Thank you in advance for facilitating timely closure to the REA.

Yours truly,

Paramount Resources Ltd.

Shirley Maaskant

Regulatory and Community Affairs Coordinator

Cc: MVEIRB, Chair MVLWB, Chair NEB, Chair