



Fisheries
and Oceans

Pêches
et Océans

Fish Habitat Management
Suite 101, 5204-50th Avenue
Yellowknife, Northwest
Territories
X1A 1E2

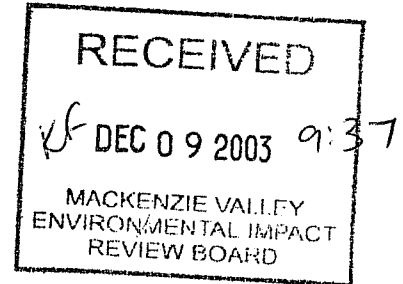
Your file *Votre référence*

Our file *Notre référence*

SC02081

December 8, 2003

MVEIRB
Box 938, 5102-50th Ave
Yellowknife, NT
X1A 2N7



Attention: Martin Haefele

**RE: Paramount Cameron Hills Extension Environmental Assessment – DFO
Information Requests**

Dear Mr. Haefele:

The Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Fish Habitat Management – Western Arctic Area (DFO) has reviewed the Developer's Assessment Report (DAR) submitted by Paramount Resources Ltd. for the Cameron Hills Extension Environmental Assessment. I am presenting the following information requests (IR) on behalf of DFO.

IR Number 1

Source: Fisheries and Oceans Canada
To: Paramount Resources Ltd.

DAR Section: 1.1.1, Introduction page 1.

Preamble

The Cameron Hills development is divided into three stages: baseline case, application case, and planned development case. Applicable project components are listed for each case.

Request

Seismic activity is not specifically noted in either the baseline case or planned development case although on page 55 of the DAR it states that 2D seismic "may precede the acquisition of the projected 510 km's of 3D seismic." This is in addition to seismic that has already taken place. Was this linear disturbance included in the calculations for surface area disturbance?

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IR Number 2

Source: Fisheries and Oceans Canada
To: Paramount Resources Ltd.

DAR Section 3.2.2.3, Water Crossings, page 62

Preamble

Paramount states that "if snow makers are used, it is preferable to use water from the creek being crossed, but water can be imported from a nearby water source lake to the snow maker/ crossing site if water is not available from the water being crossed."

Request

Four water source lakes have been identified for the Cameron Hills program area. No streams have been submitted to DFO as potential alternative water sources, and DFO recommends against the use of streams in general. Will Paramount commit to using only the 4 approved water source lakes?

IR Number 3

Source: Fisheries and Oceans Canada
To: Paramount Resources Ltd.

DAR Section 3.2.2.3, Water Crossings, page 63

Preamble

Paramount states that "depending on snow conditions, logs may be placed in the channel to facilitate ice bridge construction to ensure safe vehicle operation."

Request

Will Paramount commit to obtaining approval from a Fishery Officer prior to using logs or any materials other than ice or snow for ice bridge construction?

Please note: contacting DFO is a requirement as the use of materials other than ice or snow to construct a temporary crossing-over of any ice-covered stream is prohibited under Section 11 of the Northwest Territories Fishery Regulations, unless authorized by a Fishery Officer.

IR Number 4

Source: Fisheries and Oceans Canada
To: Paramount Resources Ltd.

DAR Section 3.2.4.2, Water Crossings, page 66

Preamble

In reference to open cut crossings Paramount states that excavated soil will be stored on the stream bank to minimize its entry into the stream at break up.

Request

How far from the stream bank will the excess excavated soil be placed to ensure it will not enter the water course? Is any other mitigation (ex-berms, silt fences) proposed?

IR Number 5

Source: Fisheries and Oceans Canada

To: Paramount Resources Ltd.

DAR Section 3.2.6, Access to and use of Water Source Lakes, page 75

Preamble

Paramount states at various points throughout the DAR that the *DFO Protocol for Water Withdrawal for Oil & Gas Activities in the NWT* will be followed. However, on page 75 it is stated that intake screens of 5 mm will be utilized. According to the protocol the mesh size must be 2.54 mm (1/10") to prevent the potential entrainment of fish.

Request

Will Paramount commit to ensuring that all intake screens for the Cameron Hills program are the proper mesh size (2.54 mm)?

IR Number 6

Source: Fisheries and Oceans Canada

To: Paramount Resources Ltd.

DAR Section 5.2, Future Components, page 107 - Table 5.2-1

Preamble

A table is provided indicating regulatory approvals required for the planned development case. For the drilling, completion, facilities and tie-in production it is anticipated that Section 35(2) *Fisheries Act* authorizations will be required.

Request

What activity is expected to create a harmful alteration, disruption, or destruction of fish habitat (HADD) that would require these authorizations?

IR Number 7

Source: Fisheries and Oceans Canada

To: Paramount Resources Ltd.

DAR Section 7.4.2.4, Water Source Lakes, page 186 - Table 7.4-5

Preamble

Water source information, based on bathymetric surveys is provided in a table format.

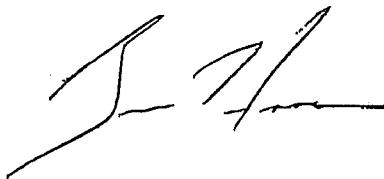
Request

Since the information is based on bathymetric surveys why is the maximum depth column labelled "Approximate Maximum Depth"? Please clarify.

Clarification

In addition to the preceding information requests I would like to add one clarification regarding water source information requirements. On page 186 of the DAR it is stated that based on discussions with myself, an ice thickness of 1 metre was determined to be applicable to lakes in the Cameron Hills. This was based on information provided to DFO by Golder Associates Ltd., and was subsequently verified by ice thickness measurements taken last winter at the request of DFO. However, on page 253 of the DAR Paramount states that "according to the 2002 DFO Protocol, it is acceptable to use water from lakes that are shallower than 1.5 metres with no connectivity, as the potential for fish over-wintering habitat should be low." The 1.5 metres was based on lakes in the Mackenzie Delta that would likely freeze to the bottom at that depth. However, as mentioned above the ice thickness criteria was changed to 1 metre in Cameron Hills to account for regional variation and therefore, a lake that is 1.5 metres deep could potentially provide overwintering habitat to fish and should be treated accordingly.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (867) 669-4931 or Pcte Cott at (867) 777-7520.



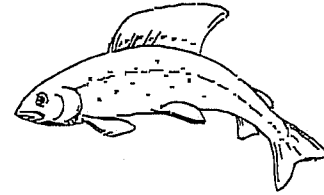
Bruce Hanna
Habitat Biologist
Fish Habitat Management
Department of Fisheries and Oceans - Western Arctic Area

Copy: Pcte Cott, DFO - Area Habitat Biologist



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MESSAGE

RE: Paramount Cameron Hills Extension Environmental Assessment – DFO Information Requests

FROM/DE:

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