

Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board

Box 938 , 5102-50th Avenue, Yellowknife, NT X1A 2N7
www.mveirb.nt.ca

From:	Sherry Sian	Fax:	867-766-7074
	EAO	Phone:	867-766-7063
Date:	January 7, 2004	Pages:	9 including this page
To:	Snowfield Development Corp.	Fax:	
	Distribution		
		CC:	MVLWB
Subject:	Results of SDC Consultation with NSMA (EA-03-006)		

NOTES:

Please note the following document containing the responses of Snowfield Development Corp. to concerns raised by NSMA during their meeting.

134

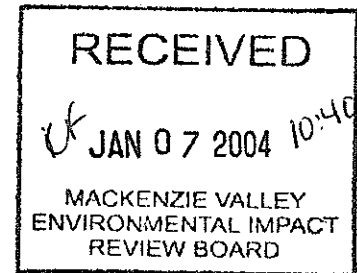
SNOWFIELD

TSX VENTURE: SNO

Snowfield Development Corp. 100 – 1009 Expo Boulevard, Vancouver, B.C. V6Z 2V9
Tel: 604-681-5720 • Fax: 604-681-6937 • Toll Free: 1-800-859-6463
communications@snowfield.com • www.snowfield.com

January 7, 2004

Kris Johnson
Land & Resource Coordinator
North Slave Metis Alliance
Box 340
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2N3



Dear Ms. Johnson

Thank you for a most productive consultation meeting. I have brought your concerns on archeological sites, environmental baseline studies, monitoring/consultation processes, ice road issues and mutual business opportunities to the attention of the company. I have been directed to respond to your five topics in the format of Information Requests via the Mackenzie Valley Environment Review Board.

The company certainly welcomes this opportunity to summarize its commitment to shoreline archeological surveying, environmental baseline data collection, ice road placement and additional reporting. The following pages should be of great interest and benefit to aboriginal groups, regulatory agencies and future land use planning.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mike Beauregard".

Mike Beauregard
Project Manager

NORTH SLAVE METIS ALLIANCE Information Request #1

Archeological Sites

There is very little published in the way of traditional land use, cultural sites and archeological sites along the north shore of Great Slave Lake. Prior to 2003 only three archeological sites within the NTS 84I/4 mapsheet were listed by the Prince of Wales Museum database. Documentation of oral history by aboriginal groups is underway. A significant preliminary archeological survey was performed by the YKDFN in the summer of 2003.

The confidential preliminary archeological survey and supporting documentation, presented by Thomson, Freeman and Crapeau (2003) to the MVEIRB, identified a number of cultural and archeological sites, never before documented. This preliminary survey gives unequivocal direction that many additional potential archeological sites exist along the shoreline of Great Slave Lake.

Prehistoric habitation along navigable waters of the Mackenzie River, its major tributaries and Great Slave Lake reach back thousands of years. Most such pre-contact sites await discovery and documentation.

Mineral claims are staked for access to and lease of sub-surface rights on Crown Land under the Mining Act of Canada. There is little to no policy in place to guide the exploration industry when and where staked mineral claims embrace inhabited, formerly inhabited and/or navigable portions of the Mackenzie River watershed and the Arctic Ocean coastline.

The shorelines along Great Slave Lake and the Mackenzie River are the busiest places, outside of communities and highways, in our North. In addition to prior aboriginal habitation and ongoing aboriginal traditional use, there is also prior and ongoing land use. In the case of the north shore of Great Slave Lake, notable land use activities include:

- extensive hand-logging during the 1940s (Arden, 2003),
- a commercial fish plant at Gros Cap that employed hundreds of individuals, that in turn, supported a extensive network of campsites along the shoreline during the first half of the past century (Arden, 2003), and
- mineral exploration conducted throughout the latter half of the past century to the present day (DIAND-NWT Mining Recorder, DIAND-NWT Geology Archives).

Conclusions and Recommendations

- Snowfield welcomes the opportunity to perform shoreline archeological surveys within its mineral claims in order for the company to responsibly direct its exploration activities.
- During the course of shoreline archeological surveys, we would seek to engage one or two elders so that no one will disturb known and potential gravesites, as well as to aid in the identification of cultural sites.
- Shoreline archeological survey documentation would be reported to aboriginal groups, appropriate government agencies and the MVLW Board. Such information would be kept confidential per archeological regulatory guidelines.
- A 10 km stretch of shoreline, from Cabin Island to the back of Matonabee Bay, lies within the mineral claims optioned by Snowfield. The bulk of the claim package under option to the company lies inland from Great Slave Lake.

NORTH SLAVE METIS ALLIANCE Information Request #2

Environmental Baseline Studies

There is little published baseline environmental data available for the north shore and inland from Great Slave Lake. This is typical for most of the North.

Of note to possible future baseline studies or taiga forest research is an exploration industry-supported report on biogeochemical spruce bark sampling performed inland for Cabin Islands (GSC Open File D3919). In the meantime, Snowfield has also compiled and submitted a Preliminary Fish Habitat Database to the MVEIRB listing more than 100 lakes and ponds within the claim package (SDC Response to DFO Information Requests; SDC Response to RWED Information Requests). The elder wildlife RWED workshop (2003) is the first traditional knowledge published for the region.

In the interests of future baseline environmental studies, the company will collect data in the form of dissolved oxygen, water depth and temperature from each water source utilized for drilling on a hole-by-hole basis. Should the diamond drilling program be fully realized, the company could be sampling up to 80 sites in a region lacking baseline environmental information.

SDC Mitigation Factors

- The residual environmental effects of Snowfield's entire diamond drilling program on the natural resources of each work locale, the claim blocks and the region are expected to be negligible.
- All water sources used for diamond drilling will be treated as potential fish habitat.
- The company is committed to minimizing the clearing of trees with drill sites situated on ice, open swamp or outcrop, wherever possible.
- Pre-existing winter trails would be used as much as possible as well as ground access via lakes and open swamps in the central Mud Lake area.
- Diamond drilling in all other areas would be helicopter-supported with no new winter trails to be established.
- Helicopter-supported diamond drilling would not be performed during moose calving season.
- Airborne geophysical surveys would not be performed during moose calving season or during the fall hunt (i.e. the time prior to freeze-up).

NORTH SLAVE METIS ALLIANCE Information Request #3

Monitoring / Consultation

The company has applied for a five year Land Use Permit. The majority of the work would be performed during the winter seasons.

Pre-season	Meeting with traditional users, preferably at one location.
Work Phase	Weekly progress reports faxed to regulatory agencies and traditional user groups. Weekly progress reports would include monitoring by the company in the form of <u>Wildlife Log</u> , <u>Ice Road Log</u> and <u>Site Visitor Log</u> . The company would be pleased to facilitate visit(s) by observer(s) from traditional user groups.
End of Season	Inspection by representative(s) of traditional user groups.
Post-season	Meeting with traditional users, preferably at one location. Written environmental-related report submitted to regulatory agencies and traditional user groups.

A similar, but less detailed reporting format was used in the 2003 GTEN drilling program, as demonstrated on the following page. Since then, the company has made additional commitments to its proposed Ticho program. Shoreline archeological surveying, environmental data collection and additional reporting should be of benefit to aboriginal groups, regulatory agencies and future land use planners.

Example of Prior Reporting

During the 2003 GTEN drilling program, the project manager faxed daily progress reports to regulatory agencies and YKDFN with the following headings: Gridding, Drilling, Helicopter, Ground Magnetic Surveys, Site Visitors and Wildlife. Following are details of the Site Visitors and Wildlife logs, GTEN project, from its April 1 mobilization to its May 7 demobilization.

Site Visitor Log

April 6, two YKDFN observers moved into cabin on south side of Drybones Bay.
April 7, Safety/Mines Inspector visit by truck to A29 site.
April 8, two person CBC television crew, filmed drill and crew working at A29 setup.
April 10, DIAND Land Use visit by truck to A25 site.
April 11, YKDFN observer Angus Martin visited A23 drill pad.
April 15, linecutting crew had lunch with YKDFN observers Angus Martin and Noel Doctor at south side cabin.
April 15, drill crew day shift (3 men) took shelter at south side cabin for the night due to snowstorm as drill shack all torn down for move.
April 25, YKDFN observer Noel Doctor, on skidoo, visited crew cutting drill pad at Northwest Target site; Cessna 185 buzzing the Drybones Bay area at 9 am, morning inspection by DIAND Land Use by 206B JetRanger helicopter.
April 27, Cessna 185 not related to GTEN project landed in Drybones Bay area, mid-afternoon.
April 28, YKDFN observer Angus Martin visited drill crew at GTEN-8 drill site.
April 29, YKDFN observer Angus Martin videoed first eight drill sites via helicopter visit with Mike Beauregard (project geologist).
May 7, YKDFN observer Angus Martin visited last three drill sites and staging/storage area with Lou Covello (Aurora Geosciences), Stan Cochrane (Titan Drilling) and Mike Beauregard.

Wildlife Log

April 7, first bald eagle observed south of Wool Bay.
April 8, coyote on the ice, southwest corner, Drybones Bay.
April 12, two bald eagles south of Drybones Bay.
April 15, wolf tracks along skidoo trail north of A23 site, bald eagles now commonplace.
April 21, first flock of ducks flying around Drybones Bay.
April 22, cow moose at east end, Drybones Bay.
April 23, three moose at east end, Drybones Bay.
April 25, first Canada geese and sandhill cranes in Drybones Bay locale.
April 27, black bear on north shore of central Drybones Bay.
April 29, many mallards present in open water along shores of Drybones Bay.
May 7, two swans in open water near graveyard, Drybones Bay.

An eight page photo-documentary report was made available to all aboriginal groups and MVEIRB following the GTEN project.

NORTH SLAVE METIS ALLIANCE Information Request #4

Ice Road

Ice roads are commonly used in the Northwest Territories to access communities, mines and a variety of commercial ventures.

Commercial fisherman Archie Buckley is the most experienced person that anyone could hire to plow an ice road on Great Slave Lake. Last year it was Snowfield that paid for ice road access down to Cabin Island. Last year's ice road was started by Archie Buckley at the end of his ice road to his fish camp and used the inside route.

- Due to concerns of access to aboriginal traditional use sites, potential non-lease cabin-building and potential abuse of wildlife harvesting, the inside (or near-shore) route will not be used by Snowfield.
- Snowfield's proposed ice road would commence in the center to west side of Yellowknife Bay and stay well offshore on the outside route until the ice road needs to be turned inshore to access the Burnt Island or Cabin Island winter trail.
- As ice roads are in the public domain, the company cannot close off access. However the company can post signs saying "Private Road" and "No Services".
- Aboriginal groups are invited to post their own signage.
- During regular travel of the ice road, the company employees and its contractors will keep an Ice Road Log of all vehicular traffic encountered, as well as investigating and reporting any off-ice road vehicular activity to regulatory agencies and aboriginal groups.

NORTH SLAVE METIS ALLIANCE Information Request #5

Business Opportunities

Snowfield has conducted exploration in the NWT since 2002. Please see MVEIRB Information Request 1.1.13, Socio-Economic Benefits for a listing of local contractors, services, goods and aboriginal employment. To date, the company has provided a total of 101 mandays of direct employment to Felix Beyonie, Chris Abel and Shawn Godard of Ndilo during the summer of 2003 as well as 50+ mandays of employment for five aboriginals of Ndilo through the services of Aurora Geosciences Ltd and Titan Drilling during a spring 2003 diamond drilling program.

Grassroots mineral exploration supports much small business in many northern communities, including claim-stakers, line-cutters, bush-cooks, expediting services, camp construction services, equipment operators, diamond drilling outfits and charter aircraft companies.

Snowfield Development Corp has submitted a four to five year program to explore five claim blocks along and inland from the north shore of Great Slave Lake with a proposed \$3.35 million budget (Land Use Application MV2003C0023). Exploration is always results-driven and positive results are necessary if the program is to be fully realized. Funds would be raised on the stock-market with the majority of the budget to be spent on goods and services primarily in the communities of Yellowknife, Ndilo and Dettah.

Potential Employment and Service Opportunities

Snowfield's work would mostly require contract diamond drillers, geophysical survey consultants and charter aircraft. A bush-cook would be needed once a camp is in place and drilling underway.

The entry-level diamond drilling job is the helper, an experienced labourer who assists the driller. There are three diamond drilling contractors and several independent diamond drillers in Yellowknife. Connors Diamond Drilling and Major Diamond Drilling are national- to international-sized companies, each of which has maintained a branch office in Yellowknife for many years. Titan Drilling is a small local firm run by Stan Cochrane.

Snowfield would require casual labourers from time-to-time for line-cutting or till sampling work. Individuals with their own equipment, that is, chainsaws, safety equipment and/or skidoos would be paid a higher scale of wages. Bush experience, GPS navigation and map-and-compass skills are required.

Snowfield will train aboriginals and summer students. For instance, two out of a five-man crew last summer had no line-cutting experience while four out of five had no till sampling experience.

The company may also seek occasional services such as charter boat trips, boat rentals and camp construction.