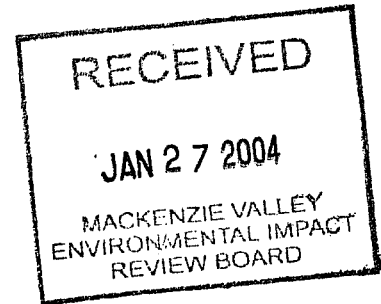




*Kim*

**Andrew Gamble & Associates**  
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**By Fax (3 pages)**



Mr. Vern Christensen, Executive Director  
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board  
Fax: 766-7074

Mr. Bob Wooley, Executive Director  
Mackenzie Valley Land & Water Board  
Fax: 873-6610

Mr. J. David Tyson, Area Habitat Biologist  
Department of Fisheries and Oceans  
Fax: 669-4940

27 January, 2004

Dear Sirs;

**Deh Cho Bridge Environmental Assessment**

The Chamber of Mines letter of September 6<sup>th</sup> of 2003 to the MVLWB has been cited by The Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) as the main reason for their decision to refer this to the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Review Board (MVEIRB) for environmental assessment.

As noted in the attached letter of January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2004, the Chamber now wishes to withdraw its letter of concern.

It would seem that there are two options for regulatory agencies:

1. To withdraw the referral by DFO and allow the proponent to complete its responses for additional information requested through the Land and Water Board. The project could then continue through screening by the MVLWB, DFO and CCG. The project may then be given the necessary approvals or it may still be referred to the MVEIRB for assessment. We note that DIAND-SMD has recommended public hearings. It may also be the view of regulatory agencies that the referral is irreversible and/or that the recent attention given to this project dictates an assessment.
2. To carry on with an environmental assessment – hopefully with a scope and schedule to match the apparent low level of concern.

As proponent, we do not want to encourage the first option, if it puts the project in some sort of 'limbo' while a decision is made on whether this option is viable, or if there is a chance that it would simply delay the start of an EA. In other words, we would rather get on with the EA, if we are not confident of a fairly quick approval without it.

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- 2 -

In hindsight, we would likely have been farther ahead if the project had been referred for EA shortly after we submitted it for screening (8 months ago). We do not want to make that mistake again.

I would ask that you please advise us as soon as possible, what if any effect this letter will have on our applications. In the meantime we will continue to prepare for an environmental assessment.

Yours truly,



Andrew Gamble, Project Manager  
Deh Cho Bridge Corporation

Attachment

C →

Kimberley Cliffe-Phillips, Environmental Assessment Officer, MVEIRB  
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Russell Neudorf, A/DM, Department of Transportation, GNWT  
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Albert Lafferty, COO, Deh Cho Bridge Corporation  
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