

Alan Ehrlich

From: Scott Robertson [greatslave@hotmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, May 03, 2007 4:03 PM
To: Patrick Duxbury
Subject: Consolidated Gold Win Venture-Follow-up submission

Dear Mr. Duxbury,

Due to travel and work commitments I was unable to attend the public hearings for Consolidated Gold Win Venture's proposed exploration project in the vicinity of Jackfish Cove. I was able to hear a bit of the highlights on the radio and read some of the information on-line and would like to add a few further comments. I understand the public record is still open until the end of the day today.

Road Access

I would like to reiterate my concern for the location of the proposed access roads to go inland from Great Slave Lake. It is obvious they have little or no knowledge of some of these areas because if they did they would know the access road they are proposing goes through an area with significant currents and overflow on the lake. I fly my own plane throughout the year and in the winter there is always open water and overflow on the lake by the bay they want to go through. I am also concerned that a road in the area would reduce vegetation along the shoreline and therefore increase sediment washed into the lake which would impact a very good fishing and naturalist area.

Roads also bring more traffic. Areas that were previously inaccessible will now be easy routes for snowmobiles and add to the impact in these areas.

Risk of Archaeological Impact

With no exact specifics on where they intend to drill it leaves a huge risk of damaging areas of cultural and archaeological significance. In my years guiding on the lake I have come across many small finds in the area including graveyards, tent circles, and evidence of settlements, many of which I am sure are not documented anywhere. The proposed access road travels right past Old Fort Providence, and area of significant historical relevance. One of Franklin's expeditions overwintered there and tourists are fascinated when we point it out. There are certainly more undiscovered areas nearby with important value that would be destroyed forever if trampled by a bulldozer or a drill rig.

Tourism Impact

My father and I have run a tourism business on Great Slave Lake since 1983. The proposed area is the heart of where we take our day trips. Our clients come out on the lake to experience the pristine wilderness we have to offer.

Drill rigs, cut-lines, access roads, and the irreversible scars left on the land from exploration will destroy this and certainly impact our business. Tourism is growing significantly in the Northwest Territories as travelers seek out the unique, the pristine, and the out-of-the-way locations. We have more advance bookings for this summer for day trips than we have probably ever had. On an average year we take between 300 and 400 people on the lake for fishing, naturalist, and birdwatching tours.

I remember the summer drilling was undertaken on the east shore of Drybones Bay. We could not use the area for camping or fishing for the entire summer. The noise, dust, and helicopters flying over made our cabin, the islands in the bay, and even islands further out from the bay unpleasant given the constant noise, traffic, and dust. Drill rigs are very loud pieces of machinery and their use disrupts the natural uses of the area.

Ecological Impact

Even though the proposal only calls for one access road experience has shown me this is not the extent of the impact. There will be numerous cut lines, areas bulldozed over, and the shoreline will be scarred. The development in the Drybones Bay area has shown me this all too well.

Great Slave Lake is a very important ecological, cultural, and recreational area for thousands of people and countless tourists. The proposed exploration area is close to Yellowknife and an area frequently used for day trips and longer trips for boaters,

canoeists, as well as winter users of the area. The proposed exploration would have significant impacts on those of us who enjoy the lake and the shore in this area. I urge the board to seriously consider the significant long-term impact this exploration will have on locals, aboriginals, tourists, and the environment itself. Please help protect an important and priceless part of the North.

Regards,

Scott Robertson
Yellowknife NT

Fine Dining & Fancy Food. Check Out This Collection Of Good Eats.
<http://local.live.com/?mkt=en-ca/?v=2&cid=A6D6BDB4586E357F!378>