



Dehcho Land Use Planning Committee

October 3, 2006

Patrick Duxbury
Environmental Assessment Officer
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board
Box 938 5102-50th Ave.
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2N7

RE: Paramount Resource Ltd. Request for Ruling (EA0506-007)

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on the above referenced ruling. The Dehcho Land Use Planning Committee encourages the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (MVEIRB) to consider the Final Draft Dehcho Land Use Plan (the Plan), in their deliberations on the environmental assessment (EA) of Paramount Resources Ltd.'s Significant Discovery Licence 8, 2D Geophysical Program (SDL8).

Paramount's request that the Plan not be considered by the MVEIRB would remove, from the EA process, *current*, and highly relevant information related to the social, cultural, economic and environmental impacts and benefits associated with land use in the Dehcho region.

The Plan is the result of over 140 consultations with public and private interests. The Plan was approved by the Dehcho First Nation(s) June 28th, 2006 and is awaiting approval from the Government(s) of the Northwest Territories and Canada.

The Plan's requirements are not legally binding in advance of approval. Nor would the Plan apply to existing uses such as this project (EA0506-007) in its current form. However the Plan provides detail on the expectations of the Dehcho communities and direction on how the lands and resources should be managed in the region.

Communities, industry and Government have begun implementing the Plan when making land use decisions in the region, as illustrated in the Attachment. As such, in advance of approval, the Plan is acknowledged as a valuable tool for making investment and regulatory decisions.

In closing, the Committee believes that Plan implementation, whether binding or advisory, ensures that investment opportunities are advanced in a manner consistent with the goals associated with land use in the Dehcho region.

Regards,

Monika Templin
A/ Executive Director

Attachment

ATTACHMENT – EXAMPLES OF DRAFT PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

- Indian and Northern Affairs Canada

“Year 2006 NWT Guidelines For Prospecting Permit Applicants”

Section 12

Applicants are encouraged to review the “Draft Land Use Zoning” map in the draft Dehcho Land Use Plan prior to applying for a permit. Direction was given by the Dehcho Leadership to the Land Use Planning Committee endorsing this map for use in identifying where the issuance of prospecting permits would be supported. A copy of this map has been provided to the Mining Recorder by the Dehcho Land Use Planning Committee, and is appended to the guidelines. (Shape files are available on request.) DIAND will compare all applications against this map.

- Newspaper Article Dehcho Drum, September 21, 2006

Jean Marie River implements the Plan by indicating that the community will be undertaking exploratory talks regarding opening land for development in an area open by the Land Use Plan for oil and gas development.

- Newspaper Article News North, August 14, 2006

Leaders from around the Dehcho region approve the idea of having more lands opened to oil and gas drilling in the Fort Liard area. Land potentially being opened up to petroleum exploration, as indicated in INAC’s 2006 Call for Nominations in the Fort Liard area, coincides with land that is “open” to oil and gas development as per the Draft Dehcho Land Use Plan

- Canadian Zinc Corporation (EA 0405-002)

Canadian Zinc made the following commitments consistent with the intent of some conformity requirements (CR) and recommendations (R) of the Final Draft Dehcho Land Use Plan, in advance of Plan approval:

- Hiring a local person to act as environmental monitor and to check proposed road alignments and drill locations for archeological resources (R #12);
- Sample water quality and endeavor to comply with federal suspended sediment guidelines for the protection of aquatic life (CR #15);
- Having a qualified biologist conduct a field survey of wildlife habitat and significant vegetation communities in advance of drilling to identify sites to be avoided until appropriate mitigation has been devised (CR # 5 and 25);
- Creating a flight management plan to minimize disturbance to Dall’s sheep (R #27);
- Developing an appropriate seed mix for revegetation using native species (CR #18); and
- Adhering to the Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada (PDAC) Environmental Excellence in Exploration (E3) Guidelines (CR #15, R #15).

- Mining Industry development of Mining Information Kit for Aboriginal Communities

Mining information kit which was released at the end of August 2006 is consistent with the Resource Development Awareness recommendation in the Final Draft Plan that “Canada, the GNWT, DFN, businesses and other interested organizations should engage in more ... public education programs to increase public awareness about resource development...” (R #28). The Information Kit was developed through a partnership among the Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada, Mining Association of Canada, Canadian Aboriginal Minerals Association, and the Government of Canada. One press release (Dehcho Drum September 14, 2006) states that the kit was developed to “respond to the increasing needs of Aboriginal communities for information products on minerals and metals activities”.

- Environmental Monitor Training Program at the Prairie Creek Mine Site

Canadian Zinc Corporation recently announced (advertisement in Dehcho Drum September 21, 2006) the successful completion of an Environmental Monitor Training Program held at the Prairie Creek Mine Site and that CZN will begin preparing training plans for 2007. This initiative is consistent with the recommended Economic Development Strategy Action in the Final Draft Plan (A #17). The Plan’s action calls for long term training and skills development to increase the capacity of Dehcho First Nation(s) and other residents of the region to fully participate in the development of resources in the Dehcho territory.