



**NWT & NUNAVUT  
CHAMBER OF MINES**

April 28, 2006

Ms. Gabrielle Mackenzie-Scott  
Chair  
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board  
Yellowknife

**Gachho Kue Scoping Sessions**

I am writing to express our concern about the badly flawed process underway in addressing the scoping of the environmental assessment of the Gachho Kue project.

This is the NWT's fourth diamond mine. This is a major northern project, by any standard, and yet we find that business organizations have not been invited to participate. Specifically, the Yellowknife Chamber of Commerce (that contains about half the NWT's population and a high proportion of its businesses), the NWT Construction Association (representing the largest private sector employer in the NWT) and the NWT Chamber of Commerce (representing business interests in all communities of the NWT) have not been invited to participate in the review. I confirmed this with the above mentioned groups yesterday.

On Wednesday, when I first became aware that there was a hearing scheduled in Yellowknife, I confirmed with Mr. Haefele of your office that my organization, composed of over 800 members and representing mining and exploration interests in the NWT & Nunavut, was not on the distribution list for information regarding this major mining project.

I asked Mr. Haefele if my previous letter to you concerning scoping of this project was on the public registry. He indicated that it was not.

I explained to Mr. Haefele that the MVEIRB website was not helpful in determining when hearings were scheduled as one had to know in advance when a hearing is scheduled to find details of the hearing. I noted that, according to the information on the website, there would be no opportunity to participate for anyone who had not been at the previous community workshops. It is interesting to note that none of these previous workshops was held in Yellowknife, where half of the NWT population resides. Mr. Haefele assured me this was not the case, as there was time set aside on the agenda for presentations from the public. That is not what the website says. Mr. Haefele subsequently sent me a copy of the hearing agenda that indicates that there is an opportunity for public presentations.

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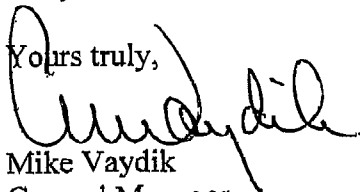
So, in summary, if you know there's a hearing, and you know the date, and you know that the website information is incorrect, then you can show up and be heard. This is not good procedure for a public process and points to major flaws in the MVEIRB process concerning this project and we believe that they must be addressed.

Specifically:

1. Correspondence to you concerning this project is not on the public registry.
2. Business organizations, and possibly others, are not placed on the distribution list for information about a project of this size.
3. Your website is not helpful to the general public in finding out about your processes. In fact, it was inaccurate in this case.
4. A community with half the NWT's population has been effectively left in the dark about the review of the project to date.

One wonders about the balance, fairness and effectiveness of a process that sees workshops held in smaller communities surrounding Yellowknife yet effectively excludes Yellowknife. We trust that you will take action to bring fairness to this public process.

Yours truly,



Mike Vaydik  
General Manager

- c. Bob Overvold, Regional Director General, DIAND, Yellowknife  
John Clark, Executive Director, NWT Chamber of Commerce  
Don Worrall, Executive Director, NWT Construction Association  
Marino Casebeer, Executive Director, Yellowknife Chamber of Commerce