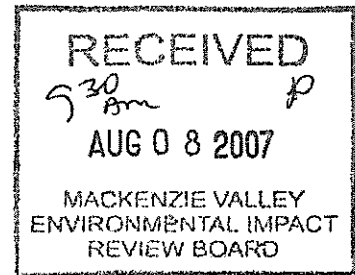




Indian and Northern
Affairs Canada

Affaires indiennes
et du Nord Canada



August 7, 2007

MVEIRB File Number: EA0607-002

Your file / Votre référence

Our file / Notre référence

Alistair MacDonald
Environmental Assessment Officer
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board
P.O. BOX 938
YELLOWKNIFE NT, X1A 2N7

By FAX: 766-7074

Re: Request for comments on the need to conduct a public hearing for the Tamerlane Ventures Pine Point Pilot Project Environmental Assessment

Dear Mr. MacDonald:

Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) is pleased to respond to the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board's (Review Board) request for comments on the need to conduct a public hearing for the Tamerlane Ventures Inc. environmental assessment.

INAC will participate in a public hearing if the Review Board decides that a hearing is required.

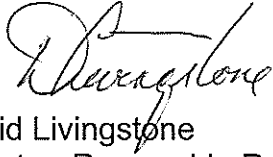
The recent technical sessions focussed on a limited number of water-related issues. Although progress was made in areas such as the infiltration basin, additional discussion is required on matters such as groundwater flows, monitoring, geotechnical data, contingency, and detailed closure and reclamation planning. Our department will be submitting additional Information Requests on these matters, and we believe that it would be premature to consider cancelling the public hearing until the adequacy of responses to the second round of information requests has been evaluated.

It is INAC's view that the MVEIRB EA process also plays a role in carrying out procedural aspects of section 35 Crown consultation. Where a development has the potential to cause adverse impacts on established or potential Aboriginal and treaty rights, public hearings provide an opportunity for Aboriginal parties to the EA and any other potentially affected Aboriginal groups to articulate their views on such potential impacts and potential means of accommodating or mitigating such impacts.

Canada

We look forward to our continued participation in this environmental assessment. If you have any questions about this recommendation please contact Lionel Marcinkoski by phone at 669-2591 or via email at marcinkoskil@inac.gc.ca

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D Livingstone". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

David Livingstone
Director, Renewable Resources and Environment

cc. INAC-EA Working Group