

## **Alistair MacDonald**

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**From:** auto123456@mac.hush.com  
**Sent:** February 24, 2007 12:43 AM  
**To:** Vern Christensen, Executive Director  
**Cc:** Alan Ehrlich; Mary Tapsell; Patrick Duxbury; Alistair MacDonald  
**Subject:** Support for Tamerlane Ventures Pine Point Pilot Project.

Vern Christensen, Executive Director  
MVEIRB

Dear Sir:

I wish to express my full support for Tamerlane's proposed Pine Point Pilot Project (PPPP). I believe they have presented an extremely sensitive mining plan that could be the model for the mining industry, particularly in the North. Their plan is light years ahead of the typical open pit base metals mine that are still being operated and approved to this day. The PPPP will be a boon to the local economy, providing highly paid jobs and significant tax revenues while having minimal impact on the environment and quality of life of local populations (whether animal or human).

So far, it has been gratifying to see conscientious attention has been given to Tamerlane's PPPP. However, recent comments by a certain MLA member in the press smack of political correctness and petty personal beliefs. Others appear to have the ever present NIMBY mentality.

To counteract such mean spirited/misguided comments and opinions, I feel compelled to join Jane Groenewegen, MLA Hay River South and Hay River Mayor John Pollard and offer my strong support for the PPPP.

I pray the MVEIRB sees through this mean spirited and misguided opposition and expeditiously approves the project based on it's many obvious merits.

Tamerlane's proposal should be judged on reasonable scientific and social requirements, not high-jacked by groups or individuals with misguided anti-mining philosophies or for their immaterial personal views.

I support Tamerlane's plan as they have chosen mining methods that are rarely used in conjunction with each other, in order to present an extremely benign (environmentally and aesthetically) mining plan.

The use of freeze rings to significantly reduce or eliminate ground water infiltration (and thus dewatering) is a novel and highly commendable plan. It solves many environmental issues at once, albeit at a high economic cost to the company (and thus the need for a Pilot Project to prove that this plan is economic for future mining operations on lower grade deposits). However, the alternative (i.e. resumption of open pit mining and massive dewatering as was used by Cominco for nearly a quarter century) is no where near as desirable.

Additionally, Tamerlane's proposed underground mining operation in which waste and tailings are to be returned underground as backfill is very sound. It effectively eliminates the traditional sources of environmental contamination/degradation due to acid leaching, air or water borne contamination, tailings ponds and waste stockpiles. It is also much more aesthetically pleasing than the typical open pit mining operation (such as was used by Cominco for 25 years at Pine Point).

It makes no sense from a public policy perspective that mines aren't encouraged in historic "brown field" mining areas due to the existing infrastructure and significantly lower impact on the environment, rather than new "green field" mines on virgin lands.

Pine Point is a prime candidate for redevelopment, particularly using the extremely benign mine plan that Tamerlane proposes.

Personally, I find it astonishing that Tamerlane isn't being congratulated, encouraged and rewarded for their novel and extremely sensitive mine plan. Few mine plans in the world could favorably compare.

I sincerely hope that Tamerlane garners the support of the MVEIRB and that their mine plan is approved in an expeditious manner.  
Many people in the local community are highly supportive of this plan and the views of a very few vocal or prominent dissenters should not overwhelm the wishes of the majority.

Sincerely,

R. Swanson

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