



Celebrate, Educate, Protect!

May 14, 2007

Honourable Jim Prentice
Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0A6

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Dear Minister Prentice,

Nature Canada urges you to accept the recent recommendation from the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (MVEIRB) to reject the UR-Energy uranium exploration development at Screech Lake, Northwest Territories.

We further request that you move ahead with the interim land withdrawal requested by the Akaitcho First Nations. This withdrawal includes the expanded East Arm National Park proposal, which Ministers Ambrose and Baird have both publicly committed to moving ahead with in October 2006 and January 2007 respectively.

The decision by the MVEIRB could not have been clearer:

"It is the Review Board's opinion that this development, in combination with the cumulative effects of other present and reasonably foreseeable future developments in the Upper Thelon basin, will cause adverse cultural impacts of a cumulative nature to areas of very high spiritual importance to aboriginal peoples. These impacts are so significant that the development cannot be justified."

"The Review Board has recommended, pursuant to section 128(1)(d) of the MVRMA [Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act] that the project be rejected without an Environmental Impact Review."

In addition, approving the Akaitcho land withdrawal request would help to avoid the kinds of conflicts MVEIRB had to deal with, and get the ground rules straight for both First Nations and industry. Further delay will only lead to further land use conflicts.

Nature Canada requests that you give these two very important matters your urgent attention.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Julie Gelfand".

Julie Gelfand
President/Directrice Generale

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