



Athabasca Denesuliné Negotiation Team

June 5, 2007

The Honourable Jim Prentice
Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development
Terrasses de la Chaudière, North Tower
Suite 2100
10 Wellington Street
Gatineau, Quebec K1A 0H4

06-07-07 11:50 IN

Dear Minister Prentice,

Re: Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact review Board Decision re: UR Energy

The Athabasca Denesuline support the findings, assessment and recommendations of the MVEIRB respecting the recent UR Energy exploration application for the Screech Lake area in the Upper Thelon Basin. The MVEIRB recommendation to deny the UR Energy exploration application is the correct decision; a decision which will allow the Denesuline First Nations in the region to conclude their Treaty and Aboriginal rights negotiations with Canada and will allow Canada to properly fulfill its duty to consult and accommodate with First Nations in the region on the cumulative impacts from mineral development.

The Athabasca Denesuline will continue to oppose mineral exploration and development in the Upper Thelon until:

1. The Treaty and Aboriginal rights of the Athabasca Denesuline have been recognized and confirmed through a constitutionally protected settlement agreement;
2. A land use plan, including the identification of lands for permanent protection, has been developed and approved by the Athabasca Denesuline, the overlapping Denesuline First Nations of Lutsel K'e and Deninu Kue, Canada and the GNWT.


We take this position based on four (4) generations of experience with the mining industry in the Athabasca region of Saskatchewan. Our communities experience has lead to our conclusion that unless the full recognition and implementation of treaty/aboriginal rights and conservation, protection and land use plans are in place prior to mineral development, First Nation rights will be undermined and mineral development will compromise traditional and eco-system values. More than fifty (50) abandoned mines on the north shore of Lake Athabasca provide continuing evidence to support our position.

c/o Prince Albert Grand Council
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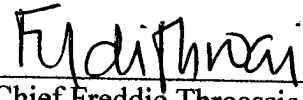
The recent joint May 25, 2007 letter issued to you by Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada, the Mining Association of Canada and the NWT and Nunavut Chamber of Mines in opposition to the MVEIRB recommendation to deny the UR Energy exploration application demonstrates the prejudicial impact that initial mineral exploration permits have on the Treaty rights of the Denesuline and the integrity of the our traditional territory and eco-systems. Our experience is that these initial permits create interests that challenge and frequently prevent the full recognition and implementation of treaty rights. Issuing these permits during treaty negotiations undermines the negotiation process and is in conflict with the Crown's duty to consult and accommodate.

We support the call by our neighboring Denesuline First Nations of Lutsel K'e and Deninu Kue for an interim withdrawal of all surface and sub-surface Crown interests in the Upper Thelon until current Treaty negotiations are concluded for all First Nations in the region and a land use plan is approved that will provide for the protection of Denesuline and eco-systems values and address the cumulative impacts of mining development in the region.

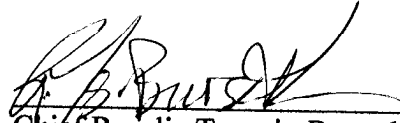
Sincerely,



Chief Victor Fern
Fond du Lac First Nation



Chief Freddie Throassie
Black Lake First Nation



Chief Rosalie Tsannie-Burseth
Hatchet Lake First Nation

cc: Chief Adeline Jonasson, Lutsel K'e First Nation
Chief William Norn, Deninu Kue First Nation