

May 15th, 2007

Honourable Jim Prentice
Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs
10 Wellington St.
Gatineau, QC
K1A 0H4

By Fax: (613) 947-9475

RE: Please accept the recommendations of the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board regarding UR-Energy proposal, NWT.

Dear Minister Prentice:

CPAWS-NWT urges you to accept the May 7th, 2007 recommendation of the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board to reject the proposed UR-Energy exploration program in the Upper Thelon River basin.

CPAWS wrote to the Board in August 2006, along with many other individuals and organizations, requesting that the proposal be sent to environmental assessment. During the subsequent EA process, the Board heard from many parties about the significant environmental and cultural impacts that would result if the proposal were to proceed. We ask that you respect the recommendations of the Board as an important short term step towards the goal of implementing a long term vision for the NWT that will protect the important ecological and cultural values of our territory.

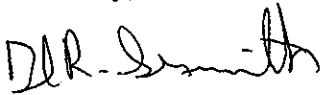
We further urge you to seek immediate approval from Cabinet for the interim land withdrawal (ILW) requested in 2006 by Akaitcho First Nations. Getting this widely supported ILW in place immediately is crucial to avoiding more mineral staking and future land use conflicts in the region, and to providing certainty and clarity to all parties. The application has been in the system for close to a year and further delays mean that more of the area is subject to mineral staking in spite of the objections of the local communities.

The Akaitcho interim land withdrawal is one of several NWT interim land withdrawals awaiting approval, including the Ramparts wetlands in the Sahtu region; the renewal of the Edézhie (Horn Plateau) interim land withdrawal (which expires at the end of June); and an additional land withdrawal in the Nahanni watershed. All of these are important concrete steps forward towards achieving the long term goal of conserving ecological and cultural values in the NWT in the face of unprecedented industrial pressures.

Ensuring Cabinet approves these land withdrawals by June would allow you and possibly Minister Baird to travel north to celebrate this summer. We would look forward to celebrating concrete progress as we did for the important announcement your government made in March regarding protection of Sahoyúé ehdacho National Historic Site.

In summary, please accept the MVEIRB recommendations to reject the UR Energy proposal, and please seek immediate Cabinet approval for the pending interim land withdrawals for the Akaitcho region, Ramparts, Edézhie (Horn Plateau), and Nahanni.

Sincerely,



Daryl Sexsmith
Executive Director, CPAWS-NWT

cc. Chief Adeline Jonasson
Honourable John Baird, Minister of Environment