

# *Deninu Kue First Nation*

*Presentation to Mackenzie Valley Environmental  
Impact Review Board*

*for:*

*UR-Energy's Application to conduct a Uranium  
Exploration Project at Screech Lake in the Thelon  
River Basin and the Traditional Territory of the  
Akaitcho Dene First Nation*

- *Introduction*
- *Tradition and Culture*
- *Cumulative Impacts*
- *Concerns with UR-Energy's Application*
- *Conclusion*

# Introduction

- Akaitcho Territory consist of Yellowknives (Dettah and Ndilo), Lutsel Ke and Deninu Kue First Nation. AKDFN are signatories to Treaty making 1900 that was signed by our ancestors on the shores of Deninu Kue with the understanding that it was for...

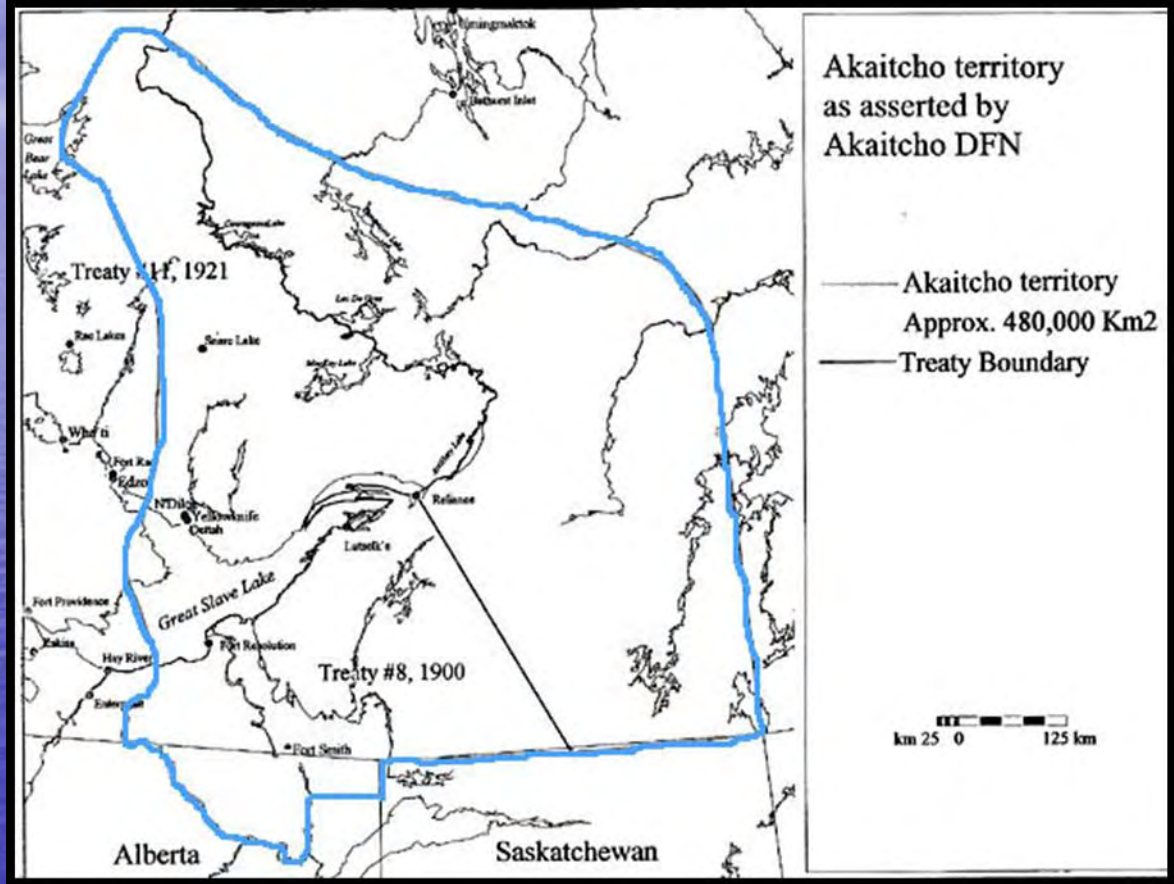
*"As Long as the Sun Shines,  
Grass Grows and Rivers  
Flow"*

*On the Shores of Deninu Kue Treaty Day*  
1900



- Akaitcho Dene First Nation (AKDFN) assert that Akaitcho Territory refers to the traditional and current land use of the AKDFN which sustain their society, economy, distinct way of life and distinct culture. Section 35 (1) of the Constitution Act, 1982 states " the existing Aboriginal and Treaty Rights of the Aboriginal Peoples of Canada are hereby recognized and affirmed", including the right to a meaningful consultation process and accommodation.

- On July 25, 2000 a Framework Agreement was signed by the Crown and AKDFN to guide the negotiations of the Akaitcho Agreement and the parties recognize that certain lands within the Akaitcho DFN asserted territory are of environmental, cultural, economic and spiritual importance to the Akaitcho DFN. With that the parties also recognized that appropriate Interim Measures are necessary in order to advance negotiations.





- Recent Supreme Court decisions have raised the obligation in terms of consultation and accommodation. The present system in place now does not meet the obligation set by the court. Government regulatory agencies must change the way they consult and accommodate.

- *Deninu Kue First Nation strongly oppose wrongful practice in regards to any exploration or mining of Uranium within the Akaitcho Territory.*

- *Deninu Kue First Nation*  
*demands Industry recognize*  
*our Inherit and Treaty rights*  
*in our Traditional Territory.*

- Deninu Kue First Nation has an obligation to its membership to ensure that development does not come before the preservation of the eco-system. This project may be just an exploration project however DKFN, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC), Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board have to consider the cumulative impacts all mineral activity in the Northwest Territories may have on the eco-system before considering approval for an land use permit for mineral exploration.

- Deninu Kue First Nation encompass concerns that need to be addressed to guarantee that Industry and Development of Uranium within the Akaitcho Territory is not or has minimal infringement or affect our Aboriginal and Treaty Rights.
- Deninu Kue First Nation strongly recommends that the MVEIRB hold a hearing in the communities of Deninu Kue and Yellowknife (Dettah and Ndilo) as well.



## *Tradition and Culture...*

- Since time immemorial the Dene (Chipewyan) of Deninu Kue First Nation have used the land, water and wildlife to sustain their way of life.
- Caribou and Fish has been a main source of food for the Chipewyan of Deninu Kue.
- Chipewyan have used caribou for clothing, shelter, tools and other useful items.

- To see a decline in caribou, is to see a decline in a way of life for the Dene.
- Today DKFN members travel to Thelon River Basin to hunt for caribou and musk ox.
- These land users see the ever increasing need to travel further to reach the caribou with a forever decreasing population.



- Traditional Water ways and traditional trails of the Dene (Chipewyan) of Akaitcho and Deninu Kue First Nation
- Historically, it is a documented fact that Screech Lake is within the Traditional Territory of Chipewyan.

- Heritage assessments must include all Akaitcho Dene First Nation communities and membership.
- Archeological studies needs to be done within this area.



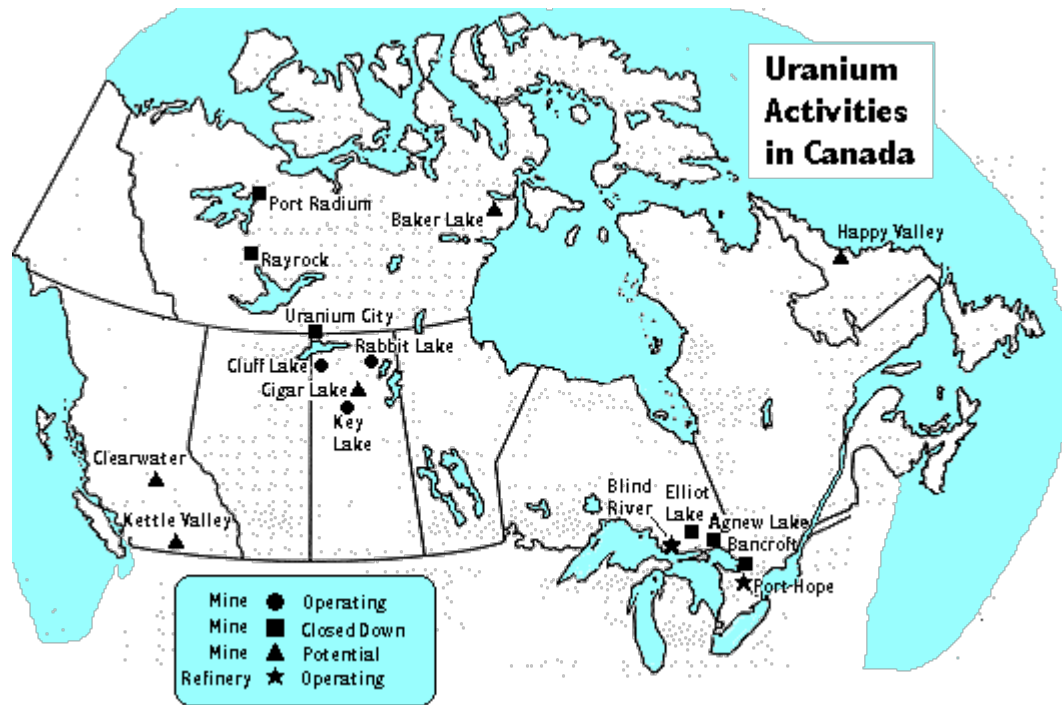
## *Cumulative Impacts...*

- For the Chipewyan of Deninu Kue, the Great Slave Lake is like a heart and all the rivers, streams and channels are like veins that supply the heart with blood.
- If you contaminate the blood, everything begins to shut down, and soon your heart stops. This is what we see for the future of the Great Slave Lake with all the development north, south, east and west of it.

- The Thelon River Basin is an important area for both water and wildlife that the Akaitcho Dene have relied on for thousands of years.

- The Caribou migration routes are changing drastically. Current mining activities are in the way of the migrations; along with the winter roads the caribou do not cross anymore they hit it and go back just like they are stuck.
- Within a 35 mile radius of current mining activities, are fossil fuels affecting the taste of vegetation for all herbivores and omnivores? What data is available?
- Fifty thousands caribou were coming between these two mines fifteen years ago to nothing at all going between there or avoiding this area all together. What data is available?

- What monitoring mechanism are in place to ensure minimal or negligible impacts to the Thelon River Basin?
- With the outstanding amount of mineral claims and prospecting permits in the Thelon River Basin, what monitoring mechanism are in place to evaluate the activity in this area?
- MVEIRB must consider cumulative impacts of all activities, explorations, or mines within Akaitcho Territory, inclusive when considering UR Energy's application.





## *Concerns with UR Energy's Application...*

- In the UR- Energy application, they foresee impacts as negligible and should not be considered an environmental impact or consequence on the Hydrology, Air Quality, Noise, Terrain, Fish and Fish Habitat, Soil and Vegetation, Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat, Heritage Assessment Requirements, Traditional Land Use, Non-Traditional Land Use, Socio-Economics. What mechanism, application or confirmation did UR- Energy use to determine or foresee impacts?

- In the application you provide location maps, DKFN requires the footprint of both the camp area, containment area and drilling area.
- DKFN require UR Energy to provide a 3D model of the entire drill process and hardware used to drill.

- What are UR Energy's plans if this project is feasible?
- Will this area become a mine?
- Where and who will the Uranium be distributed to?
- Is it for War?
- Health issues such as cancer are a concern for the Chipewyan of Deninu Kue. How will this be mitigated?
- Closure and reclamation of this project is there a plan?
- How can UR Energy ensure it will be safe after clean up for the drilling program and any future activity?

- Transportation of Uranium; how will it be transported and contained? It can not be transported by plane or barge. Is there going to be a road, if so from where?
- Why is the MVEIRB considering any mineral exploration activity, without proper guidelines for the Eco-System of the Northwest Territories and Akaitcho Territory? How can they determine best practices for NWT with guidelines developed for Saskatchewan?

- What role is the Federal Government taking at this hearing and in the decision of this application?
- During a proposed cruised missile testing in the early 80's it was the position of Denedeh to be a **Nuclear Free Zone!** Will this be considered when it comes time to make a decision?
- If this becomes a full scale project, how will Deninu Kue First Nation benefit ie; contracts, IBA's, training, etc.

# *Conclusion*

- Deninu Kue First Nation Membership, Chief, Council and Staff take this opportunity to extend our appreciation to the host community Lutsel Ke Dene First Nation and to Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board for hosting this hearing.
- Marsi Cho!