



Indian and Northern
Affairs Canada

Affaires indiennes
et du Nord Canada

Ur-Energy Screech Lake Uranium Exploration

EA 0607-003

January 16-17, 2007
Lutsel K'e, NT



Canada



Presentation Overview

- Response to discussions re: consultation at pre-hearing conference
- Response to discussions re: uranium and regional context at pre-hearing conference
- INAC technical comments



What is S.35 Crown Consultation?

- Based on Supreme Court of Canada rulings (followed by other courts): *Haida Nation* (2004), *Taku River Tlingit First Nation* (2004), *Mikisew Cree First Nation* (2005), *Platinex* (2006), *Dene Tha' First Nation* (2006)
- The Crown has a duty to consult (and where appropriate accommodate) Aboriginal groups when it has real or constructive knowledge that conduct it contemplates may adversely impact an existing or potential Aboriginal or treaty right
- This type of consultation is referred as “s.35 Consultation” or “Crown Consultation” – different than statutory or contractual types of consultation



Interim Approach: Proposed Framework

INAC-NWT approach will:

- Take into account industry consultation when Crown assesses adequacy of consultation, but duty rests with the Crown
- Take into account consultation already done by MVLWB and MVEIRB
- Then do “gap analysis” to determine if additional Crown consultation is required in a given case

This approach is being used for the Ur-Energy application



What we're doing now

1. Consultation Working Group (internal)
2. Conducting Preliminary Assessments when assertions of possible rights infringements are raised
3. INAC, MVLWB and MVEIRB working together to determine roles and responsibilities re: s.35 Consultation
4. Communicating with and seeking input from Aboriginal groups, industry, GNWT and other Federal departments. E.g., meetings with Akaitcho Screening Board and/or staff: Nov. 8/06, and Jan. 15/07.



Regional Activities

- INAC Mineral Development Division is working actively with communities to provide information about uranium exploration and development:
 - INAC organized tour of uranium mines in northern Saskatchewan for Lutsel K'e and Deninu Kué IMA committee members in December 2006
 - INAC will be funding uranium information sessions in communities
 - Contract to collect historical mineral exploration information for the Thelon Basin - product expected by April 2007
 - Technical workshop on uranium in Yellowknife, February 20-21, 2007



Technical Review

- INAC inspectors and other staff have reviewed the information on file
- No unresolved concerns with the proposed development from INAC's perspective



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- *THANK YOU*
 - *Máhsi*