



NORTHWEST TERRITORY MÉTIS NATION

October 30, 2007

Mr. Alistair MacDonald
Environmental Assessment Officer
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board
5102 – 50 Avenue
YELLOWKNIFE, NT X1A 2N7

Dear Mr. MacDonald:

Comments on Conduct of Environmental Assessments in the Upper Thelon River Basin (EA0708-002 – EA0708-003 – EA0708-004 – EA0708-005)

After reviewing the document entitled, *Call for Comments on Conduct of Environmental Assessments in the Upper Thelon River Basin*, from your office the Northwest Territory Métis Nation comments are as followed.

The NWTMN wants to see the MVEIRB conduct environmental assessments according to law and established regulations. To say that there are similarities in the next four EAs is not enough to combine the process. No other EA has been combined and there is no need to combine these four as it so happens the applications were received close together.

There are no short cuts for environmental assessments.

1. Evidence Transfer from Public Record for UR Energy

- a) It should be up to the Board whether or not they think other files may help in the environmental assessment of any developer's application for water or land use in the NWT.

This question is redundant to the NWTMN as we would be making some case that has been given in evidence in other EAs. Even if the MVEIRB includes evidence, relevant or not, the Board in all likelihood will run into or receive the same or similar evidence from public hearings.

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- b) Again, it should be up to the Board whether or not they want to use (written or verbal) submissions that are on file from other similar EAs as its our feeling the Board is going to get new submissions on each request for development requests.
- c) The Board should come to a conclusion on its own that the UR Energy case is relevant for these new EAs and they decide what is relevant. We will be making our case on what is relevant.

2. Scoping

Scoping should continue as in the past. If the Board chooses to develop a standard set of scoping questions to use as a tool to help themselves and the interested parties on each EA, the parties should review the draft and comment on it before it is adopted and used.

3. Gathering New Evidence

All the EAs should have Terms of Reference as well as a Developer's Assessment Report. Each EA and project should be separate as it becomes confusing to elders when questions are asked about two or more applications at the same time. There is a need to state that any development is not small as stated, they may be similar but any development that starts may become a lot bigger in the future and should be looked at as such.

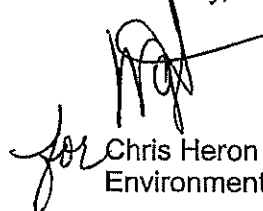
4. Public Hearings

Public hearing are very important for communities as well as aboriginal governments and aboriginal people who still to this day live off of the land and depend on it being there for their children and grandchildren.

The MVRMA was created by government to control development so that it is done fairly and environmentally safe and the MVRMA Boards are there to do that. It is the job of the Board to have an EA for each application not to create short cuts for developers or short cuts for the job that is created by the proponent, that the Boards must do.

Our elders will do what must be done at these EAs as well as our resource people. If they have to do it four times then so be it.

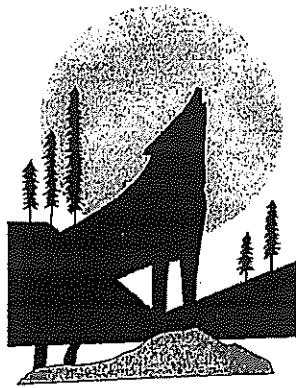
Sincerely,



Chris Heron
Environment Manger

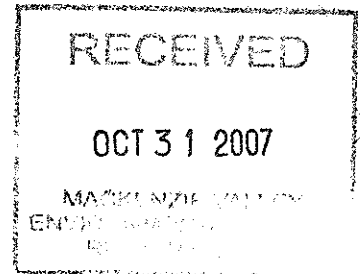
- c. All Métis Councils
NWTMN IMA Committee

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Environmental Assessment Officer
MVEIRB

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Pages: 3 including cover

Phone:

Date: October 30, 2007

Re: EA0708-002 – EA0708-003
EA0708-004 – EA0708-005
How to Conduct Four EAs

CC:

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