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R3B 0R9

January 2, 2008

Martin Haefele
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board
200 Scotia Centre
Box 938, 5102-50th Ave
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2N7

Re: EA0708-007 Taltson Hydroelectric Expansion Project Scoping

Dear Mr. Haefele,

Unfortunately Parks Canada was unable to attend scoping sessions on Dezé Energy Corporation's proposed hydroelectric expansion project. As a result, we would like to submit the following comments for the Board's consideration.

The proposed transmission line crosses through the study area for a national park on the east arm of Great Slave Lake, which has been withdrawn under the *Territorial Lands Act* (see attached map). Section 3(b) of the withdrawal order exempts "interests in land to be used for transmission lines and ancillary facilities for power generated at any hydroelectric project on the Taltson River". Therefore, the withdrawal order does not affect the ability of this project to proceed, but there is a possibility that in the future the transmission line will cross through a national park. The final boundary proposal for the park will only be developed after Parks Canada has undertaken studies and consultation.

In light of the national park proposal in this area, Parks Canada recommends the following issues be considered as part of the environmental assessment for the Taltson Hydroelectric Expansion Project. Parks Canada recommends the environmental assessment include a comparison of environmental impacts from alternative transmission line routes. From our understanding of the project description, the marine cable option was rejected as a result of initial studies prior to 2003 indicating that it was cost prohibitive. Before rejecting this alternative, Parks Canada would be interested in knowing if costs have changed and under what conditions the costs be comparable to the other routes.



Potential environmental impacts of each route of particular interest to Parks Canada include:

- length of transmission line within the withdrawn area
- visibility of the transmission line, within the withdrawn area, from current travel routes, key fishing areas, wilderness canoe routes, and features of high visitor experience value
- transmission line tower siting criteria and mitigation (wildlife, vegetation, aquatics, archaeological resources, land forms)
- design of transmission towers and lines and the effects of the structures on wildlife
- effects of the right of way width and methods of clearing on wildlife
- ongoing maintenance and monitoring effects on wildlife, introduction of non-native species, aquatics etc.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions about the above comments, please contact me at (204) 984-1929 or katherine.cumming@pc.gc.ca

Sincerely,

Katherine Cumming
Environmental Assessment Scientist
Parks Canada



Parks
Canada

Parcs
Canada

Study Area for a National Park
Aire d'étude pour la création d'un parc national
East Arm of Great Slave Lake / Bras-Est-du-Grand-Lac-des-Esclaves

