

Environmental Stewardship Branch
Canadian Wildlife Service
Suite 301, 5204 - 50th Avenue
Yellowknife, NT X1A 1E2

March 19, 2008

Mr. Patrick Duxbury
Environmental Assessment Officer
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board
Box 938, 5102-50th Avenue
Yellowknife, NT
X1A 2N7

Dear Mr. Duxbury:

Re: Notification pursuant to the requirements of subsection 79(1) of the *Species at Risk Act* (SARA).

Thank you for your notification letter of March 3, 2008 informing Environment Canada that the proposed Taltson Hydroelectric Expansion Project submitted by Dezé Energy Corporation (MVEIRB file: EA0708-007) will be taking place in an area that is in the range of the following listed species under SARA: Eskimo Curlew, Whooping Crane, and Peregrine Falcon (subspecies *tundrius* and *anatum*).

Environment Canada also notes that the proposed Taltson Hydroelectric Expansion Project will likely overlap with the ranges of the Yellow Rail and Northern Leopard Frog. Both these species are listed on Schedule 1 of the SARA and thus any potential adverse effects to these species must be considered during the environmental assessment.

Expertise and responsibility for Eskimo Curlew, Whooping Crane, and Yellow Rail are within the jurisdiction of Environment Canada. Environment Canada's role with respect to this particular project and these species will be to provide advice and information on potential adverse effects to these birds and their habitat, and suggest mitigation and monitoring measures.

In regards to Eskimo Curlew, Environment Canada notes that there have been no reliable sightings of Eskimo Curlew since 1998 and the National Recovery Team for this species has determined that recovery is not feasible at this time. Environment Canada will inform MVEIRB and the proponent if it is established that this species does occur in the proposed project area and/or if there is a change in its status.

EC is the competent minister under SARA for Peregrine Falcon and Northern Leopard Frog, and as such, has a national role to play in the conservation and recovery of these species in Canada. However, expertise and day-to-day management responsibility for these species in the Northwest Territories is within the jurisdiction of the Government of

the Northwest Territories (GNWT). Thus, for this particular project, the GNWT is best suited to provide specific advice and information on the potential adverse effects of this project to these species and their habitat, and to suggest mitigation and monitoring measures. Environment Canada's role with respect to this particular project and any adverse effects on Peregrine Falcon and Northern Leopard Frog will be to provide advice and information on SARA, and general comments on the assessment.

Sincerely,

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cc: Bruce Macdonald (Western Arctic Section Head, Northern Conservation Section, CWS, EC)
Mike Fournier (Northern Environmental Assessment Coordinator, EPOD, EC)
Joel Holder (Environmental Assessment Analyst, GNWT)
Karin Clark (Wildlife Environmental Assessment Specialist, GNWT)