



September 25, 2008

Our File: EA0809-003

Rachel Crapeau
A/ Director of Lands Management
Yellowknives Dene First Nation
Box 2514, Yellowknife, NT
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RE: Scheduling for EA Scoping Sessions of Tyhee NWT Corp.'s Yellowknife Gold Project

Dear Ms. Crapeau,

The Review Board appreciates your concern and participation in the EA of Tyhee NWT Corp.'s Yellowknife Gold Project (YGP). With regards to your September 19, 2008 letter concerning the scheduling of scoping sessions: since aspects of the development have been previously scoped, the Review Board will continue with the October 16th/17th scoping sessions as originally planned.

The Review Board is aware of YKDFN's sensitivities to the Yellowknife Gold Project (YGP) due to the proximity of the development to YKDFN communities and traditional areas. It was YKDFN's status as a major contributing party to the original scoping of the YGP in 2005 that helped to create a 2005 YGP *Terms of Reference* (ToR) for the initial EA. During this EA, the Review Board fully expects Tyhee NWT Corp. to address any outstanding issues raised in the 2005 ToR, including those that were raised by the YKDFN.

In response to Tyhee NWT Corp.'s renewed application in 2008, Review Board staff compiled and posted to the public registry several documents to assist various parties in identifying relevant issues. These documents include:

- The original 2005 YGP Terms of Reference
- A brief summary of the major design changes between the 2005-YGP and the 2008-YGP
- A concordance table from Tyhee that addresses which issues raised in the 2005 ToR the Developer has addressed in the 2008 *YGP Project Description Report* (PDR), including a reference to the relevant PDR section. (Note: if the 2005 ToR concern was not addressed in the 2008 PDR, the developer has committed to addressing it in the Developer's Assessment Report (DAR) that will follow the October scoping sessions.)

Given that some portions of the YGP remain similar to the development scoped in 2005, and that the preceding documents facilitate a review of the present development, the Review Board



considers the October scheduling to be satisfactory. Upon examining the above documents and others on the public registry from the Preliminary Screening of the project application, should any parties feel that important issues were not adequately addressed or discussed by the Developer, the scoping sessions are the appropriate forum to voice such concerns. The YKDFN are also encouraged to attend both scoping sessions to evaluate the concerns of other parties in the assessment.

With reference to presentations by parties: since scoping sessions are led by Review Board staff and no Review Board members will be present, parties other than the developer are not expected to give presentations but are expected to voice concerns about the Developer's presentation, public registry documents and other concerns stemming from the project. This agenda is consistent with the typical scoping *session* format; scoping *hearings*, within which you recently participated for the Giant Mine EA, follow an entirely different set-up, and will only be held for this file if the Review Board deems it necessary after examining the outcomes of the scoping sessions.

Scoping sessions are designed as a medium through which to raise concerns and identify information gaps, rather than thoroughly analyze any particular project aspect. The DAR that follows each scoping phase is an opportunity for the Developer to justify why a particular issue has been adequately addressed to that point in time; a scoping session either broadens or narrows the number of issues that the developer must address to the satisfaction of the parties and Review Board.

The scoping sessions are not the last opportunity to provide inputs to the scoping process. All parties will have until Friday, October 31st, 2008 to submit further input regarding the scope of this EA. Additionally, there will be further opportunities for the YKDFN and other parties to voice any other concerns about the YGP before the Review Board produces the final *Terms of Reference*.

We look forward to the YKDFN's contribution to the scoping phase of this EA, and involvement throughout the process.

Respectfully,

Paul Mercredi
Environmental Assessment Assistant
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board

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