

Information Request 1: Potential impacts to cultural use of Lac de Gras Area

Question 1: Akaitcho Dene First Nations members have used what is described as the Lac de Gras Area since time immemorial for cultural purposes including but not limited to hunting, fishing, trapping, gathering and travel before mining started there. We believe there is a long public record already available describing some of our historic and active sovereignty in our Akaitcho Territory, including future plans for continuing to exercise our rights and responsibilities as Akaitcho Dene. The Akaitcho Dene First Nations may choose to elaborate and provide MVEIRB more detail regarding use of the area for cultural purposes at their discretion and in their individual responses to IR#1.

Question 2:

- a. Akaitcho Dene First Nation members would use and feel that the Lac de Gras area will be contaminated. This question relies on the assumption that the water quality criteria for the reconnection scenario has been achieved, it also makes the assumption that the NWT regulatory regime can accurately set water quality criteria that is acceptable to Akaitcho Dene First Nations.
- b. Akaitcho Dene First Nation members would use and feel that the Lac de Gras area will be contaminated and that other areas will be contaminated also. We believe that no matter what water quality criteria is set by the NWT regulatory regime it will never be able to be achieved, reconnection will not be possible and that the site will require perpetual care forever.
- c. Akaitcho Dene First Nation members would use and feel that the Lac de Gras area will be contaminated. This scenario seems to be the most likely and should be planned for.

Information Request 2: Closure Options

Question 1: When determining if the pits should be reconnected to Lac de Gras at closure, water quality in the pit is not the only criteria that should be considered.

Question 2: Additional criteria for reconnection that should be considered includes fish habitat requirements, fish ecology requirements, bird habitat requirements, bird ecology requirements such as wetlands and the use of birds as environmental indicators or indicator species when determining if pits should be reconnected. Climate change and the model used to predict climate change should also be included when determining if the pits should be reconnected. The most important criteria that must be considered is the consent of Akaitcho Dene First Nations for this proposal to proceed. The Akaitcho Dene First Nations may choose to elaborate and provide MVEIRB more detail, at their discretion and in their individual responses to IR#2.