

NORTH SLAVE MÉTIS ALLIANCE

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October 29, 2007

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RE: Review of Applications for Scientific Research Licenses, Archaeological Research Licenses, Wildlife Research Permits, and Fisheries Research Licenses

Dear Sirs,

The North Slave Métis Alliance (NSMA) has noticed that the three existing independent environmental monitoring agencies for the three existing Diamond Mines in the Northwest Territories do not appear to review the applications and annual reports for the above mentioned regulatory approvals relevant to the mines they are responsible for monitoring. The annual reports of the agencies do not list these licences and permits in their regulatory compliance section, and do not provide comments on the applications, or review the annual research summary reports.

The NSMA requests that the Monitoring Agencies begin reviewing these applications for the purpose of providing advice to the companies, to the regulators and to community reviewers, which will assist them in ensuring that the proposed research:

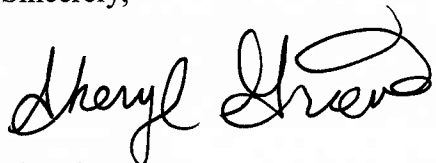
- ∞ Respects and protects the environment of the Aboriginal Peoples;
- ∞ Uses holistic and ecosystem-based approaches for the monitoring, management and regulation of the Project;
- ∞ Maximizes the effectiveness and co-ordination of environmental monitoring and regulation of the Project;
- ∞ Facilitates effective participation of the Aboriginal Peoples and the general public in the research.

The NSMA also strongly suggests that the three monitoring agencies collaborate in their reviews of similar and/or related applications with a view to increasing consistency and coordination between the research projects in the interest of integrated resource management, and in support of cumulative effects monitoring.

In addition, it would be a great benefit to the NSMA community if all three monitoring agencies would provide their feedback on the above mentioned regulatory approvals to the NSMA far enough in advance of comment deadlines so that we could take into account the knowledge, experience and recommendations of the agencies in preparing our own views and submitting our comments. The NSMA considers that the review and comment requested is firmly supported by the mandate of each agency and should be included in their workplans and budgets.

Any assistance in this regard would help to alleviate some of the severe capacity issues experienced at the community level in attempting to coordinate and conduct reviews of the avalanche of research applications that inundate and overwhelm us during the first half of each year.

Sincerely,



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