



INDEPENDENT ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING AGENCY

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January 14th, 2005

Stephen Nielsen
Interim Chairperson
Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board
PO Box 2130
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2P6

Dear Stephen,

Re: Amendment to the Term of Water Licence N7L2-1616

The Independent Environmental Monitoring Agency (IEMA) is providing this letter as written advice to the Board with respect to the request from BHPB to extend the term of water licence N7L2-1616 by two years. Based on our comments, we do not presently intend to appear and make a presentation at a public hearing.

In our view, the term of the licence extension is of secondary importance to successfully developing licence MV2003L2-0013 to adequately protect the receiving environment at Ekati. Until an agreeable process is developed, the timeframe for the amendment is difficult to predict. Regardless of this challenge, and having reviewed BHPB's subsequent letter of January 11, 2005 providing rationale for extending the licence, we are convinced that:

- Two years is considerably more than what ought to be necessary to complete the new licence;
- Of extreme importance is that an effective and collaborative process be developed in the very near future to facilitate the issuance of the licence; and
- We would like to be a part of that process.

If you require any further assistance, please contact us through our office,

Sincerely,

-ORIGINAL SIGNED BY-

William A. Ross, Chairperson

Cc. Society Members.

