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**May 9, 2006**

**Heidi Wiebe**  
**Executive Director**  
**Dehcho Land Use Planning Committee**  
**P.O. Box 199**  
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**Re: Approval of the Dehcho Land Use Plan**

The Dehcho First Nations understand that the Draft Dehcho Land Use Plan will be completed by the end of this week. As per the Dehcho Interim Measures Agreement, the Plan will be submitted to the Dehcho First Nations for approval. Once the Dehcho First Nations have approved the Plan, it will be submitted to the Government of the Northwest Territories and the Minister for approval and consideration.

The Dehcho First Nations intend to review and consider the Plan in the coming few weeks, and have scheduled a Dehcho Leadership meeting for May 31<sup>st</sup>. At this meeting, the Dehcho First Nations may decide to approve the Plan.

We are aware that other parties have requested copies of the revised Plan, in advance of the Dehcho First Nations completing their approval process. In the past, we have found that other parties with an interest in the Dehcho territory have exerted considerable effort in lobbying our communities with their own vision for the Dehcho territory and resources.

The Plan is an important component of the Dehcho Process, and we need to focus on our own internal review and approval process undisturbed by external interests. Therefore, we are requesting that the Dehcho Land Use Planning Committee treat the Plan as confidential, until after the Dehcho First Nations review and approval process is complete. We find that this process would be consistent with the letter and intent of the Interim Measures Agreement regarding Plan approval procedures.

Again, we thank the Committee for their sincere hard work in developing this important part of the Dehcho Process, and we look forward to receiving the revised Plan in the near future.

Mahsi Cho

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alison de Pelham". The signature is stylized and somewhat cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Alison de Pelham  
Executive Director

Cc: George Erasmus, DFN Chief Negotiator  
Tim Christian, Federal Negotiator  
Steve Iveson, GNWT Negotiator