



Dehcho Land Use Planning Committee

February 16, 2006

To: DLUPC Distribution List

RE: Next Steps following February 2006 Regional Forum

Dear Planning Partners,

We'd like to take this opportunity to thank those who attended the Second Dehcho Land Use Planning Committee Regional Forum on the Hay River Reserve held on February 7-9, 2006, and those who sent in comments but were unable to attend. We believe the Forum was a huge success and had very good participation from delegates. Please be advised that full transcripts are now available for review or download at www.tscript.com. All comments submitted on the Revised Draft Plan are available on the Committee's website at www.dehcholands.org under the "Public Comments" section of the site. The transcripts will also be linked to our website shortly.

As you are aware, the Committee intended to submit the Final Draft Plan to the Parties by March 31, 2006 for their consideration and approval as per our previously approved workplan and budget. Several planning partners, including some of the Dehcho First Nations communities, the GNWT and Canada have requested we delay submission to allow additional time to consider outstanding concerns.

Follow-up discussions with the Parties are being limited to those outstanding issues that have already been raised during this last round of comments and meetings, but which require further discussion. We expect these meetings and resulting revisions will require a couple months of additional work. As such, **we expect to submit the Final Draft Land Use Plan to the Parties in May 2006.**

Work over the following months will focus on the following key areas:

- Conclude discussions on outstanding concerns with DFN communities;
- The Committee has requested a meeting with the relevant Deputy Ministers for the GNWT to discuss their submission;
- Complete a legal review of the Plan to ensure the Plan is consistent with existing legislation and regulatory processes; and
- Complete final revisions to the Plan.

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Upon completion of revisions, the Final Draft Dehcho Land Use Plan will be submitted directly to the three Parties – Dehcho First Nations, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) on behalf of the GNWT, and Department of Indian and Northern Affairs (DIAND) on behalf of Canada for their consideration and approval. We will notify our planning partners of the submission through our distribution list and the Final Draft Plan will be available for download on our website, but will not be broadly distributed until it is approved.

We appreciate your patience and support as we complete work on the Draft Dehcho Land Use Plan. If you have any questions regarding your involvement in the final revision process or our proposed timelines, please contact me at (867) 699-3164 or hwiebe@dehcholands.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Heidi Wiebe". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Heidi Wiebe, Executive Director
Dehcho Land Use Planning Committee