



Deh Cho Land Use Planning Committee

September 21, 2005

Mike Vaydik, General Manager
NWT & Nunavut Chamber of Mines
Box 2818
Yellowknife, NT, X1A 2R1

RE: Consultation with Mining on Draft Dehcho Land Use Plan

Dear Mr. Vaydik,

Thank you for your letter dated September 1, 2005 regarding your concerns with the comment period on the Draft Dehcho Land Use Plan. I have been asked to respond to your concerns on behalf of the Committee. However, before I proceed any further, let me first explain our timeframe and what is driving our deadlines.

The Dehcho Land Use Planning Committee is a federally funded initiative under the Dehcho Process. We were established in 2001 under the Dehcho First Nations Interim Measures Agreement. We are funded for Plan development only until March 31, 2006. Once this year is complete, the Committee will lose its Plan Development funding as well as some staff and we will transition into Plan Implementation. The Plan must be complete and ready for approval before this happens.

In order to meet this deadline, we have set the following schedule:

- September 2/05: Comments due on Draft Plan (extensions granted to Sept. 9 upon request).
- September-October/05: Follow-up discussions and Revisions to the Draft Plan.
- November/05: Distribution of Revised Draft Plan (available digitally in early November with hardcopy distribution approximately 3-4 weeks later).
- November/05 – January/06: Public review and comment on Revised Draft.
- Early February/06: 2nd Regional Forum to present final comments on Revised Draft.
- February-March/06: Final follow-up discussions and revisions to the Land Use Plan.
- March 31/06: Submit Final Draft Plan to DFN, GNWT and Canada for approval.

Continued...

We have been rigorous about setting timelines well in advance, publicly announcing them and sticking to them, so our planning partners can set aside time in their busy schedules to participate in our process. We have strived to provide participants with as much time as possible to review and comment on the Plan. This Draft was available digitally on June 21st, allowing over 10 weeks for comments. We have also been flexible in providing extensions when requested and will continue to be.

As your letter mentions, we did discuss your scheduling concerns earlier this summer. We agreed that a fall meeting would be established for the mining industry but that the Committee could not change our overall deadlines because of the pressures we are under to complete the Plan. I followed this up with an email on July 13th, 2005 (attached) to all mining companies on our distribution list inquiring about the best time and location (Vancouver or Yellowknife) for such a meeting to maximize participation. Having received few responses I again spoke with you to determine the best time and location for a meeting. We have agreed to hold a session at the Northern Geoscience Forum this November in Yellowknife (possibly November 14th, to be confirmed). We will consider meetings at the other forums you have suggested in the near future and make arrangements with you should we be in a position to attend.

However, by November, we will have a Revised Draft to present to you and the opportunity to incorporate mining related changes into that Draft will have been lost. Therefore, we are still very interested in receiving additional comments from the mining industry on the current Draft to ensure you maximize the opportunity to participate in our process. I encourage anyone still interested in commenting to call me ASAP to set workable deadlines.

We are doing everything possible to ensure mining input is included in our planning process. We have had regular attendance and input regarding mining from both government and industry at all of our meetings, including the Regional Forum, Yellowknife and Ottawa sessions for the past number of years. In addition, we have made presentations at the Northern Geoscience Forum every year for the last 3 years as well as the Exploration Roundup in January 2004. We received numerous comments on the Working Draft Map and Terms from various companies. Canadian Zinc was exemplary on this last round of consultations, attending and participating in four meetings across the Dehcho, Yellowknife and Ottawa. They have set a great example of how companies can benefit from discussions occurring with other parties and provide constructive comments on the Plan. Furthermore, we maintain an open door relationship with our planning partners. Should you have questions, comments and concerns at any time, you and your members should always feel free to contact us at any time.

We will continue to seek opportunities for your industry to participate. However, we cannot delay the process in doing so, for that would jeopardize the efforts of everyone else who has participated in Plan development thus far. We urge you to review the Draft Plan and provide us with comments as soon as possible. The Committee gives careful consideration to all comments received in determining future revisions to the Plan. Please give us the opportunity to consider your needs in the development of the Dehcho Land Use Plan.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me at (867) 699-3164 or hwiebe@dehcholands.org.

Continued...

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Heidi Wiebe". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being more prominent than the last.

Heidi Wiebe, Executive Director
Deh Cho Land Use Planning Committee

Cc: Phil Bousquet, Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada, Toronto
Pierre Gratton, Mining Association of Canada, Ottawa
Liseanne Forand, ADM, DIAND, Ottawa
Robert Overvold, RDG, DIAND, Yellowknife
Malcolm Robb, Manager, Mineral Development, DIAND, Yellowknife
Deb Archibald, Director, Mineral Development, GNWT, Yellowknife

Encl: July 13, 2005 Email

Heidi Wiebe

From: Heidi Wiebe [hwiebe@dehcholands.org]
Sent: Wednesday, July 13, 2005 12:09 PM
To: info@luminacopper.com; dstrang@luminacopper.com; ecraigie@shaw.ca; squin@miramarmining.com; info@strongbowexploration.com; kearney@canadianzinc.com; bill@nordacres.com; sleahy@natungsten.com; lkeough@telus.net; twob@shaw.ca; robin@ppau.ca; rberdahl@yukon.net; burns_r@msn.com; dn@tyhee.com
Cc: 'Malcolm Robb'; mvaydik@ssimicro.com
Subject: Mining Consultations

Hi All,

You may have noticed in our recent consultation schedule that we have not planned a Vancouver meeting for the mining industry on this round. At our Vancouver meeting last summer, the point was made that community members should be present at these presentations to allow discussion of community issues surrounding mining as they pertain to particular areas. We are not able to bring community members with us on our consultations, so we felt it would be easier to bring you to the communities where you can have those discussions - hence the emphasis on opening community meetings. However, I realize this is a busy time for mining folks and travel to northern communities may not be possible for the dates set. Mike Vaydik (NWT Chamber of Mines) has also raised concerns with the timing of the Yellowknife meeting and the possibility of a separate fall meeting for mining. We are very open to that.

The Committee would like to ensure you have equal opportunities to participate in our process. As such, we would like your input on the following choices for meetings:

1. The current consultation schedule is fine and we intend to participate in community meetings.
2. I would like to see a meeting held in Vancouver.
3. I would prefer a fall meeting in Yellowknife as proposed by Mike Vaydik.

Please let me know your preference as soon as possible so we can make arrangements. If you are in favour of a Vancouver meeting, it would either have to be the last week of July or in September as our planning staff have booked holidays for most of August. While we would still welcome comments by September 2nd, we could work out a 2nd comment period if a meeting is not scheduled until the fall.

If you have another suggestion, please feel free to bring it forward. We look forward to seeing you at one of our meetings to discuss the land use plan. I will report back to all of you if a new meeting is scheduled.

Heidi Wiebe, Executive Director

Deh Cho Land Use Planning Committee
Box 199, Fort Providence, NT, X0E 0L0
Phone: (867) 699-3164
Fax: (867)699-3166
Email: hwiebe@dehcholands.org
Website: www.dehcholands.org