



Office of the Minister  
Box 2703, Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2C6

November 18, 2005

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Mr. Herb Norwegian  
Chair, Deh Cho Land Use Planning Committee  
General Delivery  
Fort Providence, NT X0E 0L0

Dear Mr. Norwegian:

**Re: Draft Deh Cho Land Use Plan**

The Draft Deh Cho Land Use Plan has recently been brought to my attention and as Minister of Energy Mines and Resources for the Yukon government I appreciate the opportunity to provide comments on transboundary issues. As you are aware the westerly border of the plan area is aligned with the NWT/Yukon border. There are numerous Yukon interests in close proximity to the border which may influence and be influenced by the proposed land use zone number 6 (Greater Nahanni Conservation Zone) and zone number 26 (Liard River/Franklin Mountains Special Management Zone).

The proposed Greater Nahanni Conservation Zone includes the Cantung Mine which is serviced from Watson Lake and a zone of high mineral potential along the Yukon/NWT border. This zone includes numerous active claims and has very high potential for new discoveries which would be accessed from the Yukon. Cantung Mine is a major contributor to the economy of SE Yukon and the Kaska First Nation with exceptional potential for new discoveries. The proposed boundary of the Greater Nahanni Conservation Zone removes the option for continued exploration and discovery, thereby restricting the life of the mine and its contribution to the Yukon economy. In addition, it will be difficult to explore and develop the high potential areas in Yukon along the NWT border as they would be next to a conservation area or expanded Nahanni National Park which would restrict exploration and investment opportunities. As an example, access to Howard Pass mineral deposit is via a winter road from Cantung which traverses a portion of the proposed Conservation zone (see attached map).

Proposed Special Management Zone 26, Liard River/Franklin Mountains is adjacent to the Yukon portion of the La Biche drainage basin. In addition to active Kotaneelee gas leases, the area contains significant potential for additional oil and gas development. This area is currently accessed through the NWT. The La Biche also contains significant forestry values and the Yukon government is collaborating with the Kaska First Nation to

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develop a joint forest management plan for the areas which are expected to be completed by March 2006. Given that the proposed Special Management Zone permitted uses include oil & gas and forestry it follows that planning for the development of these industries will incorporate access to the Yukon.

In addition to the transboundary issues there are questions regarding the Water Monitoring and Management section (page 6). The summary states "no hydro electric development ...will be allowed on the Mackenzie and Liard Rivers". It would appear that this section only applies to the portion of the rivers within the Deh Cho Planning region. While the Yukon has no plans to undertake hydro-electric development on the Liard River we do reserve the right to do so. This section also contains the sentence "All wastewater will meet or exceed CCME Water Quality Guidelines". While Yukon Government supports the guidelines, any activity involving water use and waste disposal must comply with the laws of general applications. This includes territorial legislation such as the Waters Act (Yukon) and federal legislation such as the Fisheries Act. These acts are used to license and monitor Yukon water consumptive activities including those upstream of the Deh Cho planning region.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in the Deh Cho land use planning process. If you require additional information or clarification please do not hesitate to contact John Spicer, Director of Corporate Policy for Energy Mines & Resources at (867) 393-7126.

Sincerely,



Archie Lang  
Minister, Energy Mines and Resources

cc. Brendan Bell, Minister of Industry Tourism and Investment, GNWT  
Steven Joudry, Director General, Natural Resources and Environment Branch, DIAND

# Yukon - Northwest Territories Transboundary Area Mineral Deposits, Mining Claims and First Nations Land Claims

- Mineral Deposits**  
with 50 km of VT - NWTT border  
★ Deposit Name
- Mining Claims**  
Active Quartz Claims  
Active Fisher Claims  
F J Active Coal Licenses
- Protected Areas**  
National and Territorial Parks  
Special Management Area or Habitat Protection Area  
Proposed Conservation Zone - Draft Land Use Plan, Debrah Land Use Planning Committee - June 2005
- Traditional Territories**  
Kaska Nation
- Interim Protected Lands**  
Rosa River First Nation  
Llax First Nation  
Carcross Tagah First Nation
- First Nations Settlement Lands**  
Nascho Nyak Dun  
A  
B  
FS  
Seltik First Nations  
A  
B  
FS  
Tsalin Tlingit Council  
A  
B  
FS



Yukon (Dark Area) Map  
October 2005

