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## Avatiliqiyikkut

Department of Environment

Ministère de l'Environnement

File No. NWB 2BE-TIM

August 03, 2006

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**Via Email:**

**licensing@nwb.nunavut.ca**

RE: Trigon Exploration

The Government of Nunavut Department of Environment (DOE) thanks NWB for the opportunity to comment on this file. At this time our comments are restricted to wildlife as DOE does not have any substantive comments on other issues.

## Wildlife Concerns

## Raptors

Scattered cliffs throughout the proposed project area may be used by peregrine falcon and rough legged hawks for nesting. The proponent should be directed to comply with the following guidelines;

## Guidance for Development near Raptors Nesting Site

The following is a list of general precautions that must be considered when conducting prospecting activities near Peregrine Falcon, Gyrfalcon, and other raptor nests (most of these precautions will also apply to all nesting bird species):

- 1) Disturbance is most harmful early in the nesting period (May and June for Peregrine Falcon and Gyrfalcon, similar for Rough-legged Hawk):  
*Raptors will attempt to maximize their chances of successfully raising young. If they decide early in the breeding period that their nest is at risk, they may abandon it. If nests are disturbed at this stage of nesting, there may not be sufficient time to re-nest. All disturbances to nests during the early part of the nesting cycle must be avoided (avoid nest sites from late May through to mid-July).*
- 2) Individuals show variability in their response to disturbance:  
*Different birds will show different responses to varying levels of disturbance. This may result from the general health of the bird, weather conditions,*

*previous life experiences, and adaptability. Therefore, treat all nest sites with equal precaution, regardless of the response of the bird. Do not disturb raptor nests during conditions of poor weather (rain, snow, high winds).*

- 3) Approaching the nest site near the time of fledgling (where chicks fly from the nest) often leads to premature nest departure:  
*During the last few weeks of nesting, severe disturbance at the nest often causes young raptors to jump out of the nest. This can cause death from exposure, predation, starvation, or trauma from the fall itself. All activity within 100m of a nest site during the latter part of the nest stage (10-20 August for peregrine falcons in this region) must be avoided.*

Further details on raptor nests and disturbance mitigation can be obtained from the Wildlife Officer in communities closest to the area of interest, or from the Ecosystems Biologist (Michael Setterington, 867-857-2828).

## Caribou

The Proposed project area lies within barren-ground (Wager and Melville) caribou post calving and late summer grounds, as well as adjacent to calving areas. As such, DOE recommend that operations should take place outside of the calving / post calving period which extends from approximately May 15<sup>th</sup> to July 15<sup>th</sup> of the year.

DOE recommend the following measures be applied when operating in or near caribou calving or post calving grounds, spring migration routes, and water crossings; when caribou are most sensitive to human disturbances:

## 1. Calving Areas Outside of Caribou Protected Areas

(a) In the event that caribou cows are calving, the Proponent should suspend operations within the area(s) occupied by cows and/or calves between May 15 and July 15. DOE Wildlife Office should be contacted to verify location of calving areas outside of Caribou Protected Areas.

b) In the event that caribou cows and calves are present, the proponent should suspend:

- (i) blasting;
- (ii) overflights by aircraft at any altitude of less than 300 meters above ground level; and

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(iii) the use of snowmobiles and ATVs(all-terrain vehicles) outside the immediate vicinity of the camp.

3 (a) During migration of Caribou, the proponent should not locate any operation so as to block or cause substantial diversion to migration.

(b) The proponent should cease activities that may interfere with migration, such as airborne geophysics surveys or movement of equipment, until the migrating caribou have passed.

4. (a) The proponent should not, between May 15 and September 1, construct any camp, cache any fuel or conduct any blasting within 10 km of any water crossing. DOE Wildlife Office should be contacted for locations of water crossings.

(b) The proponent should not, between May 15 and September 1, conduct any diamond drilling operation within 5km of any caribou water crossing.

## NOTE

1. For locations of caribou water crossings and calving and post calving areas, the proponent should contact DOE Wildlife Office:

## Manager, Wildlife

-Monica Angohiatok, (867) 982-7441

Regional Biologist , Kugluktuk

- Mathieu Dumond, (867) 982-7444

Sincerely,

Michael Mifflin

## Coordinator Land Use Planning

Environmental Protection Service