



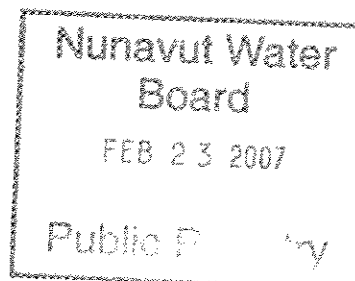
Kitikmeot Inuit Association

Kitikmeot Inuit Katuyikatigit

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February 23rd, 2007

Mr. Thomas Kabloona
Acting Chairperson
Nunavut Water Board
P.O. Box 119
Gjoa Haven, NU
X0B 1J0



RE: Doris North Water Licence

Dear Sir:

I am writing on behalf of the Kitikmeot Inuit Association (KIA) to express our dismay at the recent Nunavut Water Board (NWB) decision to reject the Miramar Hope Bay Limited (MHBL) water licence application for the Doris North project. This action by the NWB was, in KIA's view, both unprecedented and unnecessary.

KIA has reviewed the comments submitted to the Board by participants in the Doris North licensing proceeding in advance of the rejection decision. We note and support the views expressed by many of these parties. There is no doubt that improvements could have been made to the MHBL filing. It was not, however, necessary to reject the application to ensure that these improvements occurred. For example, the NWB could simply have placed the onus on the applicant to satisfy its concerns before scheduling a hearing.

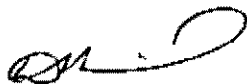
In KIA's view, the important question is why did NWB choose to reject the application instead, as suggested by many participants, of working with MHBL and the participants to improve the application before a hearing was scheduled?

The extremely lengthy list of comments provided by Board staff in support of a decision to "deem the application incomplete" includes a number of trivial concerns which could easily have been addressed cooperatively.

The Doris North project is located on Inuit Owned surface and subsurface lands, and KIA has signed an Inuit Impact and Benefits Agreement with MHBL. The project promises important business and employment opportunities for the Kitikmeot Region and benefits for Inuit throughout Nunavut. Many of our beneficiaries and businesses have been preparing for these opportunities in anticipation of construction this fall.

KIA is concerned that the delay resulting from this NWB decision could mean that construction of the project may be further delayed. We urge the Board to take a more collaborative approach to the completion of the Doris North licensing proceeding and to move it to completion as soon as possible.

Yours truly,



Donald Haviyak
President KIA

cc. Honourable James Prentice, P.C., M.P. Minister INAC
Honourable Paul Okalik, Premier, Nunavut
James Eetoolook, 1st Vice President, NTI
Kitikmeot MLAs