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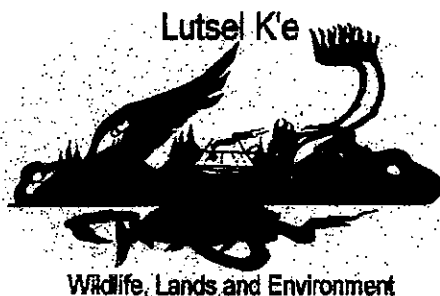
# Fax

To: Leslie Payette, N/RB From: Sonya Almond - A/Manager  
Fax: 1867 983 2594 Pages: 6  
Phone: 1867 233 3033 Date: Jan 12/09  
Re: \_\_\_\_\_ CC: \_\_\_\_\_

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• Comments:

Re: uravan - Garry Lake comments.



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January 11, 2009

Leslie Payette  
NIRB  
Nunavut

**Re: Lutsel K'e comments on Garry Lake-Uravan**

Please accept the following as comments from Lutsel K'e Wildlife, Land and Environment Department of the Lutsel K'e First Nation Band.

We have been following the responses and comments that are provided by many who have concerns about the resource development and exploration programs in the area of the Garry Lake-Uravan Program. There are responses from many people including other parts of the world to deny the application for exploration and resource development of Uranium.

Lutsel K'e Dene have been very concern and have advocated to deny all Uranium activities in the area of the caribou calving grounds, caribou habitat and caribou migration route for years. Despite our recent success with Ur-Energy we are still continued to be harassed and bombarded by the mineral craze for uranium.

From looking at the comments that have been routed to NIRB there are more than enough to create your attention to this matter that would seriously and irrevocable impact a Nation that relies heavily on the caribou for the following reasons;

- 1 Lutsel K'e has been negatively impacted due to exploration and resource development in Lutsel K'e Dene regarding the caribou,

In the early years of exploration and resource development with that Lutsel K'e participated in the process of hearings and comments on land use application. This process started with BHP mine. There were many proponents and developers who wanted the support of Lutsel K'e Dene for exploration and resource development. Lutsel K'e Dene and especially the elders have expressed their concerns regarding the negative impacts on the caribou. LKDFN have stated that the caribou will be affected and

impacted negatively despite mitigative measures that is planned, due to activities on the land such as aircraft noise, human activities caused by exploration and development, vibration on land created by vehicles such as exploration equipment and even snowmobiles are now used by the exploration programs and even made worse by resource development, and we are told by the proponent and developers that mitigate measures plan would be developed and adhered to and that they would be minimally impacted.

## 2 Health of the Caribou

The community as a whole have raised the issue that the health of the caribou would be disastrous. Some would ask, why do LK Dene says the impacts and affects on the caribou be disastrous. To LK Dene this is disastrous due to high reliance on the caribou for sustenance as supported by BQ caribou management study on valuation of the caribou to LK Dene and other Bands that rely on the caribou, diet for generations, traditional and cultural relevance and health. LK Dene have noticed that more caribou are unhealthy due to broken legs that don't heal properly because they have to be on the move due to created activities of exploration and resource development. Local hunters are traveling further and further each year trying to find the caribou. If the caribou is found the hunters are bringing the meat back to the community for their families, friends, elders and those who are not so fortunate to hunt for themselves. Each year cost of hunting has increased noticeably that include gas and oil, shells, repairs due to terrain on travel route to location of caribou and amount of time used to prepare. The cost is considered very high by our Community since the hunters have to purchase and carry several jerry cans of gas and oil for their machines. Carrying this amount of gas creates very little room for meat.

## 3 Sustenance

Caribou is a very sacred and important food to LK Dene and has been for time immemorial. Caribou has provided food that is required for healthy body and mind. It is interesting to note that despite the harsh environment and climate, LK Dene have survived and remain healthy. Caribou has provided all the necessary needs of the body to sustain in this part of the world in all seasons. History books eluded to many excerpts of how the Dene have helped the early explorers from succumbing to the harsh environment and climate. Through our own historians there are stories that remain in the minds of the elders who claim and are supported by history books and educational institutes that this is correct. Why did they survived? Our elders were sacred holders of the means to remain healthy because caribou were healthy and provided the LK Dene to sustain themselves. There certainly were non-existence of pollutants and contaminants that would aid to unhealthy caribou and disruption to caribou calving and post calving grounds, caribou habitat and migration route.

## 4 Studies and Researches on the caribou

Many studies and researches have been done by qualified experts and people that tells us that there is certainly a decrease in the herds that LK Dene rely on. The herd that Lutsel

K'e have been using is founded to decrease by at least 97%. That is drastic! The statements made by the elders in the early years of the mine, BHP, contact with Lutsel K'e Dene through community meetings and public hearings have been confirmed by the Beverly-Qamanirjuaq Management Board. This decline has been very noticeable since then and even more so since other mines was developed in this area. It includes all the exploration programs and resource development that have been allowed to proceed despite the protests and concerns raised by Lutsel K'e Dene. There is a need to seriously consider the long term cumulative impacts of industrial activity on the calving and post calving areas, particularly in the area with construction of permanent and short term camps, airfields and touch down areas, year round storage materials, vibrations on the ground and ice, transportation by air and all terrain vehicles.

Lutsel K'e Dene supports all those comments that request NIRB to deny the application by Uravan-Garry Lake Project.

These are some of the concerns of Lutsel K'e Dene. We hope to see continuance of a healthy herd of caribou that as a Nation we will continue our healthy ways that is so much needed for our traditional and cultural practices and way of life depends on the healthy herds of caribou.

Sincerely,

Sonyalmond  
for

Charlie Catholique  
Chair, WLEC and Councilor, LKDFN

C: Chief and Council, Lutsel K'e First Nation, Lutsel K'e, NT  
WLEC members, Lutsel K'e First Nation, Lutsel K'e, NT  
Steve Ellis, IMA Manager, ATG, Lutsel K'e, NT

## **Garry Lake, Nunavut**

### **Scoping Session (Charlie)**

#### **LK Concerns**

- 1 Traditional practices from trappers in LK is that they do not deplete an area of fur bearing animals but leave for a year or move to another location for trapping-do you need to say this comment?**
- 2 NIRB could use the Game Sanctuary Management Plan as a tool to guide activities in the area and reference to Inuit and Dene people for the calving grounds**
- 3 The Caribou Management board has done a study on caribou valuation where it speaks to how much monetary value is on caribou. To Lutsel K'e Dene monetary value is just one item that is considered. The other items are spiritual, emotional and physical well being that is attached to caribou. Lutsel K'e Dene rely on the caribou for food and physical health, emotional and spiritual well being because of economics and**
- 4 Total valuation for caribou harvesting is about 19.9 Million, of the \$ 19.9 Million, \$ 15 Million from Qamanirjuaq and about \$ 4.8 Million from the Beverly herd**
- 5 In the news there are concerns about contamination in packaging plants that got packaged food off the shelves in many stores**
- 6 Lutsel K'e Dene has relied on the caribou for millennium and will continue to do so because that is our diet that got us through the harsh climate where our ancestors have survived for years.**
- 7 One of our elders, a respected elder who left us about three years ago, late Liza Enzoe, says the land is my pillow, everyday I sleep on it and everyday I have to ensure the land remains pristine and continue to supply necessities for Lutsel K'e Dene.**
- 8 Environmental Assessment evidence for Ur-Energy must be considered when it comes to any uranium exploration or mining in the North.**

- 9      **What happens in Nunavut will definitely create havoc and a huge disturbance to caribou that Lutsel K'e Dene rely heavily on and so is for the Saskatchewan Dene, including the Inuit People of Nunavut.**
- 10     **There is a serious Global warming due to greenhouse effect that is created by technology (all vehicles use gas that burns)**
- 11     **The global warming will affect the permafrost that will create aquifers in North-just take a look at BC, where wells are polluted due to aquifers diversion created by huge disturbances to the land.(making holes in ground and disturbing underground water and can divert the direction of water flow)**
- 12     **All Land Use Application for land or water use in the North should be addressed to Lutsel K'e Dene as well as site visits and Company meeting with Lutsel K'e Dene because of the effects and impacts on the caribou, especially when it is on the calving grounds. One cannot say that only Beverly and Ahiak herds are involved. We are told by the caribou researchers that there was a mix of three herds in the area of concern. Caribou does not have boundaries.**
- 13     **Global warming and land activities certainly have affected the caribou population, migration and reproduction.**
- 14     **Elders have been telling us that female caribou (cows) are leaders in the caribou migration, which is supported by caribou researchers and the elders also tell us that the cows are also very selective in choosing healthy bulls for reproduction which is supported by the Science World as well.**