

MAY 08 2006



Mr. Brian Johnston
Senior Planner
Peel Watershed Planning Commission
#201-307 JARVIS STREET
WHITEHORSE YT Y1A 2H3

Dear Mr. Johnston:

Thank you for the opportunity to review and provide comments on the Issues and Interests Report of the Peel Watershed Planning Commission.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) has reviewed the report and has no comments at this time on the stated issues or interests. However, we do note that commercial timber harvesting is not identified as a proposed land use issue. Commercial forestry operations have the potential to impact both fish and wildlife habitat. In addition, natural disturbances such as fire or insects are not referenced. Though land use plans typically focus on human disturbances. Natural disturbances should be considered in managing and protecting wildlife habitat. The combined effect of natural and human disturbances would need to be considered to determine what development the watershed can sustain.

ENR looks forward to participating in further discussions throughout the planning process.

Sincerely,



R. P. Bailey
Deputy Minister

