

Nov 13, 2008

Peel Watershed Planning Commission
Suite 201, 307 Jarvis St.
Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2H3

Attention: Mr. Reg Whiten

Dear Reg,

The Yukon Chamber of Mines is pleased to have participated in the workshop of Oct 29 – 30, and to submit comments thereafter. The Chamber also thanks you for the invitation to provide a presentation on Nov 18, at the upcoming workshop.

However, we have decided to decline your offer, as the Chamber is in the process of formulating its policy towards the planning process, in particular issues pertaining to amounts of land potentially alienated from exploration and development, and the viability of the policy of zoning of the remaining land into Integrated Management Areas. We feel it would be inappropriate to participate directly until we have completed this review and can offer some considered commentary.

We also need to state that the Yukon's mining sector cannot accept persistently increasing alienation of Yukon's land base; the ability to acquire and access mining claims is the cornerstone of a successful mining industry and necessary for a vibrant, economically viable mining sector.

We would like to comment briefly on the matter of access, which you mentioned in your email of Nov. 5th. All mining operations require an all-weather road or rail link, except possibly gold mining operations, which still require at least a winter road. Designation of set "access points" is not a viable course of action, as all deposits are "site specific". There is no way to predict the exact location of a "new" mineral deposit. Even a small variance of location may have a profound effect on local access to circumvent natural barriers, such as mountain ranges, water courses, etc. This type of barrier to access operations could significantly affect the selection of an access point. Route selection is based on access providing the minimum distance and number of stream crossings and avoidance of other obstructions while in turn minimizing ecological impacts from the access point to the operations site. Pre-selection of



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set access points may actually result in increased ecological disturbance through unnecessarily extended and more costly access routes.

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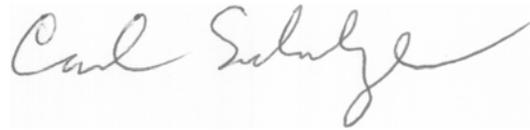
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We will continue to work with the planning process in as constructive manner as possible while representing the interests of our membership, following the solidification of the Chamber's policy. We trust that the Planning Commission will conduct the process in an objective and even-handed manner, and hope the outcome will be agreeable to all stakeholders.

Thank you again for your dedication to the project.

Sincerely,



Carl Schulze, PGeo
President, Yukon Chamber of Mines
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