

BEVERLY AND QAMANIRJUAQ CARIBOU MANAGEMENT BOARD

4 August 2006

Carolanne Inglis-McQuay
Technical Advisor
Nunavut Impact Review Board
P.O.Box 1360
Cambridge Bay, Nunavut, Canada
X0B 0C0

Dear Ms. Inglis-McQuay:

Land Use Permit Application NIRB File No. 06EN054

Thank you for bringing the amendment to this land use permit application by Pacific Ridge Exploration Ltd. to my attention, and for providing a map with updated information about the proposed project. By this letter I am submitting supplementary comments on the amended application on behalf of the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Board (BQCMB).

The amendment does not reduce the BQCMB's concerns about this proposed exploration activity in the Kazan River area, in terms of its potential impacts on Qamanirjuaq caribou. Pacific Ridge still proposes exploration activity on the calving and post-calving range of this caribou herd, and also near key water crossings, including "designated crossings".

I reiterate comments in my 28 July letter to Stephen Lines regarding the need for enforcement of the existing Caribou Protection Measures as the minimum action that should be taken regarding this application. In particular, it is critical that (i) operations cease if cows and/or calves occupy the project area between May 15th and July 15th, (ii) camps, fuel caching and blasting within 10 km of designated water crossings be prohibited between May 15th and September 1st, and (iii) drilling within 5 km of a designated water crossing should not occur between May 15th and September 1st.

However, the BQCMB believes that mineral exploration and development should not be permitted on the Qamanirjuaq calving and post-calving areas, and that these essential habitats should be included in legislated protected areas. The Board's specific recommendation, from its position paper on protecting caribou and habitats¹ is:

¹ The full technical paper and plain language summaries in Inuktitut, Dene and English are available on the Board's website (www.arctic-caribou.com).

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“The traditional calving grounds and post-calving areas . . . should be provided with long-term legislated protection that prohibits any type of activity that would cause serious or irreversible negative effects to caribou or habitat.”

In conclusion, the BQCMB remains concerned about the extent of mineral exploration underway and proposed across the caribou ranges in the Kivalliq region, and the potential cumulative impacts of these and other land use activities on the Qamanirjuaq caribou herd. The BQCMB believes that NIRB is rejecting principles of sustainable development by continuing to approve permits for mineral exploration on the Qamanirjuaq calving and post-calving areas.

Please let me know if you require further information or have any questions about these additional comments from the BQCMB.

Sincerely,

Leslie Wakelyn
BQCMB Biologist

cc: Richard Aksawnee, Baker Lake HTO
Jerome Denechezhe, BQCMB Chairperson
Monte Hummel, World Wildlife Fund Canada

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