

December 21, 2009

Grand Chief Sam Gargan  
Dehcho First Nations  
PO BOX 89  
Fort Simpson NT X0E 0N0

**RE: Bear Baiting Operation – True North Safaris Ltd. (NS2010GWP001)**

Environment & Natural Resources (ENR) North Slave Regional Office would like to thank you for your letter dated November 26<sup>th</sup>, 2009. In order to make our final Preliminary Screening (PS) decision, we have conducted an assessment of the activity by analyzing concerns with respect to the General Wildlife Permit application, including your specific concerns of:

***1. Consultation with the Grand Chief, baiting bears is considered unethical and disrespectful. It is not a traditional Dene practice.***

- ENR has prepared a draft set of terms and condition. ENR feels that the concerns that Deh Cho First Nations have provided can be mitigated within the proposed terms & conditions of the permit.

**The Permit** is valid for the areas shown on the attached map.

ENR has completed an assessment and determined that the application for a General Wildlife Permit to bait black bears, not be referred to an Environmental Assessment (EA) as per Section 126 (2a), as the development of a Black Bear Management Plan and the proposed terms & conditions will mitigate these concerns.

As per Section 126(3) of the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act (MVRMA), the decision and reasons for the decision will be sent to the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (MVEIRB) for their review and to make a decision as to whether it should be referred to EA on its own motion.

After MVEIRB has completed their review and if it is determined that the application will not be referred to an EA, a management proposal will be sent to the Wek' èehzìi Renewable Resource Board (WRRB), by January 2010. A final decision about issuing a permit will be made by the Superintendent under the Wildlife Act.

If you have questions or concerns please contact Sarah True, Regional Environmental Assessment Coordinator, North Slave Regional Office at (867) 873-7443 or email [sarah\\_true@gov.nt.ca](mailto:sarah_true@gov.nt.ca).

Sincerely,

Lance Schmidt  
North Slave Regional Superintendent  
Environment & Natural Resources

CC.  
Gary Jaeb  
True North Safaris Ltd.

Vern Christensen  
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (MVEIRB)