



Northwest Territories Environment and Natural Resources

December 21, 2009

Ron Bujold
Aquatic Environmental Assessment Technician
Environment Canada
5019-52nd Street, 4th Floor
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2P7

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 October 29th, 2009 and subsequent email dated November 9th, 2009 that gave clarification. 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. If the proponent is baiting bears for sport hunters, how will the proponent deal with other wildlife that may be a resident in the area or be attracted to the bait being used for bears?***
 - The proponent does not have authorization to outfit for other species. If other wildlife become a concern, the proponent can contact the appropriate agency.
- 2. How will the proponent deal with other human activity in the area that may not be aware bear baiting is taking place?***
 - ENR has prepared a draft set of terms and conditions. ENR feels that the concern Environment Canada (EC) has provided can be mitigated within the proposed terms & conditions of the permit.

The Permittee shall ensure that bait stations are not established within 500m of any parks, Highway #3, public roads (including Lac La Martre Old Winter Road), trails, camps, buildings, commercial wood cutting areas, leased lands or private lands (including Tli Cho Lands) or other areas of known human activity.

The Permittee shall ensure that each bait station is approved by a Renewable Resource Officer as directed by the Regional Superintendent.

The Permittee shall ensure that each bait station has posted a readily visible warning signs made of durable material that is not less than 8" x 12" on which clearly and legibly states the following information:

1. WARNING! Bear Bait Station in the vicinity
2. Permit #: (GW _____)
3. Contact: (Outfitter's Number)...for more information

The Permittee shall ensure that each bait site is posted with signs on all approaches to the site that warn other people of the presence of the bait site.

The Permittee shall post signs within 200m of the bait sites, but no closer than 100m.

The Permittee shall maintain a record of information for the following:

1. What baits were used at each bait station
2. Number, location, sex, age class of bears harvested
3. Carcass (not used for bait) disposal that is at least 1000m from any human activity.

And provide the record of information to the ENR North Slave Regional Office by July 15th, 2010.

As per Section 126(2a) of the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act (MVRMA), a regulatory authority, designated agency or department or agency of federal or territorial government has the ability to refer to an EA.

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'èezhìi 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.

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)