



Northwest Territories Environment and Natural Resources

December 21, 2009

Chief Edward Sangris
Yellowknives Dene First Nations
Box 2514
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2P8

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 27th, 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. YKDFN does not support the practice of baiting bear as it is not a traditional method of hunting and lacks respect for the animals.***
 - ENR has prepared a draft set of terms and condition. ENR feels that the concerns that Yellowknives Dene First Nations (YKDFN) have provided can be mitigated within the proposed terms & conditions of a 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'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)