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January 20, 2010
Wek'eezhii Renewable Resources Board
102A 4504-49th Avenue
Yellowknife, NT, X1A 1A7

Attention: Ms. Jody Snortland, Executive Director

Dear Sirs/Mesdames,

Re Joint Caribou Proposal: Request for adjournment

Thank you for considering intervener requests for a re-start/adjournment. I believe that adequate time to review and prepare for this hearing is critical to ensure a fair hearing. I appreciate that the Board is willing to consider the interests of interveners at this time.

As I understand you are meeting today, I am writing to respectfully request that submissions be due March 5, 2010 rather than February 20, 2010. While an extension of intervener submissions to February 17, 2010 provides some additional time, it is insufficient time and inconsistent with the WRRB's original schedule.

In the previous schedule you had produced for this hearing, intervener responses were due January 20, 2010, 17 days in advance of the hearing to commence February 9, 2010 with intervener presentations due February 3, 2010. In the WRRB schedule yesterday, intervener responses are now due 33 days in advance of the hearing and board members have an additional 16 days for a total of 33 days to review information. A key reason for the request for the restart or adjournment was to afford interveners meaningful and adequate time to review material and to prepare for this hearing, for some of the reasons outlined in my January 16, 2010 letter. The date of February 15, 2010 is a date I suggested in my letter for production of documents from the proponents, and for intervener questions to be answered by proponents, as is required under the WRRB rules. An extension from January 20, 2010 to February 17, 2010 is inadequate, especially given the colossal volume of draft material produced by ENR essentially after the holidays and 7 weeks into the hearing.

I respectfully ask that the WRRB reassess its time lines to ensure that adequate time is provided to interveners. As I indicated in my letter dated January 16, 2010, the WRRB has considerable resources at their disposal, resources that are not available to interveners.

It seems to me that a date for intervener submissions of March 5, 2010 with proponent production of documents and answers to intervener questions by February 7, 2010 would be reasonable. I would also ask that members of the public be permitted to identify themselves as interveners by January 27, 2010 as this was a critical condition of the intervener requests last week and is essential for a fair and meaningful hearing.

Sincerely,

Karen McMaster