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December 11, 2009

Wek'eezhii Renewable Resources Board  
Yellowknife Office  
102A 4504-49<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Yellowknife, NT  
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Attention: Mr. Grant Pryznyk, Interim Chair

Dear Sirs,

**Re Joint Caribou Proposal: Legal Issues Deadline**

I am writing regarding the legal issues deadline for the caribou hearings.

As you know, there was no deadline for legal issues in the original schedule for this hearing which was distributed November 20, 2009. The first deadline for legal issues of December 11, 2009 was created November 24, 2009, well after the hearing process was commenced and interveners were identified. The deadline was further amended to December 18, 2009 when the overall schedule for the hearing was revised on December 4, 2009. December 18, 2009 is now also the current deadline for proponent responses to intervener and independent consultant requests.

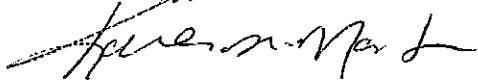
I believe a deadline for legal issues is inappropriate as legal issues are relevant up to and including the actual hearing. The law and due process-which is a legal issue- do not just stop on a date but depend upon information presented and processes that take place before and during a hearing. As well, specific legal issues cannot be reviewed and identified until the public has a complete understanding of what the proponents are putting forth in support of their proposal. Moreover, the new date was not in keeping with the extensions to the overall process. Perhaps most importantly, some issues are matters of law and some are matters of fact, and they can be difficult, if not impossible, to distinguish in advance of a hearing. This distinction is sometimes an issue that is decided by the higher courts if it is not appropriately dealt with by administrative tribunals.

The Board, Tlicho First Nation and GNWT have legal counsel available on an ongoing basis. The Board's decisions are not due until more than 3 weeks after the hearing, allowing ample time to address issues that may arise, and with the benefit of all information produced during the hearing.

I have raised legal concerns as part of my intervener information requests and through email and will bring any other issues forward in due course as the hearing unfolds.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Karen McMaster BA, LLB, MBA