



Sahtu Land Use Planning Board

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March 4, 2011

Ms. Trish Merrithew-Mercredi,
Regional Director General
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada
P.O. Box 1500
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2R3

Re: Response Required on Oil & Gas Questions

Dear Ms. Merrithew-Mercredi,

We require your assistance in getting responses from your department on a few outstanding questions on the Sahtu Land Use Plan by next Friday, March 11th.

The Sahtu Land Use Planning Board received responses from INAC officials on February 25th on a number of outstanding questions regarding INAC's views on the Sahtu Land Use Plan. They were very helpful and we thank INAC for its active engagement in the planning process. However, there were two questions related to oil and gas (Action items # 3 and 6) on which the department is still working on its response. The submission stated that an answer would be provided prior to the Board's Public Hearing. Unfortunately, the Board cannot wait that long.

The Board is meeting the week of March 14 to set its hearing agenda. Depending on how INAC addresses these questions, those topics may, or may not be included in the Hearing for discussion. The Board therefore needs to have INAC's full comments in hand before it can make decisions on the content of the Hearing. The initial deadline for response to these questions was mid January. The Board has been very patient in waiting for this response. I hope you'll agree that further delays to the Board's process are not in anyone's best interests.

We appreciate your efforts and those of your staff to work with the Board in completing the Sahtu Land Use Plan and look forward to receiving a final answer on these outstanding questions by next Friday, March 11th. The response can be sent to our lead planner, Heidi Wiebe at heidi.wiebe@shaw.ca.

Respectfully,

Judith Wright-Bird, Chairperson
Sahtu Land Use Planning Board

Cc: Teresa Joudrie, Director, Renewable Resources and Environment, INAC
Sheila Gariepy, Director of Environment & Renewable Resources, INAC
Kerry Newkirk, Director, Oil and Gas Management Directorate, INAC