

Subject: Framework for the Preparation of Ecological Integrity Statements

Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 7:44:59 PM MT

From: Tom Nesbitt

To: Heidi Wiebe

CC: gdolphus@hotmail.com, Peter Menacho, Russell Kenny, Raymond Taniton

Hi Heidi;

Please find attached a DLC "Recommended Framework for the Preparation of Ecological Integrity Statements". Per our discussion at the end of the session today, please make copies for use in the discussion tomorrow. The Framework is intended for inclusion in the Implementation Guide. Thanks for your help.

Tom Nesbitt

Recommended Framework for the Preparation of Ecological Integrity Statements

Déline Land Corporation

January 30, 2012

1. **Activities:** Describe the nature, scope, and location of the proposed activities.
2. **Ecological Integrity Indicators:** Identify, describe and provide a rationale for ecological integrity indicators for the proposed project.
 - Selected ecological integrity indicators should include those species and ecosystem functions that are essential to the maintenance of ecological integrity. These may include species with special conservation status or ecological importance, habitat values/characteristics/attributes, and water quality indicators. A rationale should be provided for the selection of each ecological integrity indicator. When selecting indicators, consideration should be given to traditional ecological knowledge (“**TEK**”) and the Valued Components developed by the NWT Cumulative Impact Monitoring Program (“**CIMP**”), to build on the work of CIMP and allow for the exchange of mutually beneficial data.
3. **Potential Impacts:** Assess the potential impacts of the proposed activities on the affected ecosystems, with particular emphasis on the selected ecological integrity indicators. Both scientific and traditional ecological knowledge should be considered when assessing potential impacts.
4. **Objectives:** Identify specific objectives (required outcomes), in relation to each of the selected ecological integrity indicators, for the maintenance of ecological integrity in the GBLW.
5. **Demonstration:** Demonstrate how and when the proposed activities will achieve identified objectives and how, more comprehensively, proposed activities will be carried out so as to maintain the ecological integrity of affected Great Bear Lake watershed ecosystems during the entire life of the project, including restoration and reclamation (shutdown, closure and post-closure activities).

NOTES

- a. Proponents should discuss TEK with Déline elders and harvesters to evaluate pre-project ecological integrity or ecosystem health in general, and to identify appropriate EI indicators.
- b. The elders and harvesters may be particularly helpful in describing important habitat for fish, furbearers, caribou and moose, and in understanding how animals might react to disturbances, and what kind of behavioural changes disturbances might cause.
- c. TEK should also be used to evaluate whether ecological integrity is in fact maintained in the long term – TEK will be an important part of project monitoring during operation, restoration and reclamation. The elders and harvesters should be involved in the assessment of whether an ecosystem maintains its integrity.