

JUL 30 2009

Ms. Judith Wright-Bird  
Chairperson, Sahtu Land Use Planning Board  
BOX 235  
FORT GOOD HOPE, NT X0E 0H0

Dear Ms. Wright-Bird:

**Government of the Northwest Territories Review Comments on Draft 2 of the Sahtu Land Use Plan**

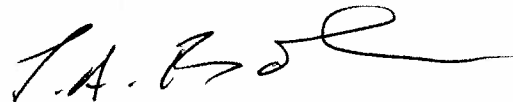
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The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (ENR), on behalf of the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT), would like to congratulate the Sahtu Land Use Planning Board on the completion of the second draft of the Sahtu Land Use Plan.

Attached are the GNWT's proposed comments and suggested revisions concerning draft 2 of the land use plan.

The GNWT would like the opportunity to meet with the Board to discuss these comments further. Please contact Joel Holder, Manager, Land and Water Projects at (867) 920-3485 to make arrangements for a meeting. The GNWT continues to support you in developing a land use plan for the Sahtu.

Sincerely,



Gary A. Bohnet  
Deputy Minister

Attachment

c: Mr. Joel Holder  
Manager, Land and Water Projects



**SAHTU LAND USE PLAN (SLUP)  
WORKING DRAFT 2 – APRIL 30, 2009  
GNWT REVIEW COMMENTS**

Draft 2 of the Sahtu Land Use Plan (the Plan) is a positive development. The following comments have been compiled from the departments of the Government of the Northwest Territories and are to be submitted to the SLUP Board by July 31, 2009. These comments are provided as considerations during the finalizing of Draft 3 in the fall and winter of 2009/10.

**GNWT EXPECTATIONS FOR A FINALIZED PLAN**

- a clear and transparent fit within the NWT land and water management system
- zone designations should state clearly prohibited or permitted uses
- clear, unambiguous guidance for those agencies and authorities who will implement an approved plan
- clear, transparent, unambiguous guidance to developers seeking to plan and submit applications for projects in accordance with an approved plan.
- regard for NWT public interests and opportunities, such as:
  - sustainable development;
  - ecological integrity;
  - protection of Species at Risk;
  - cumulative effects;
  - wise management of land and resources;
  - transportation development;
  - energy development;
  - public water supply, diversion and waste management;
  - community and social development;
  - maintaining culture and archaeological remains;
  - tourism development;
  - economic development;
  - sustainability of government services, including revenue generation;
  - the Mackenzie Gas Project (MGP);
  - MGP potential public infrastructure developments and projects;
  - MGP associated oil and gas projects; mineral and metals exploration and development;
  - quarry and gravel excavation; and
  - oil and gas exploration and development.

**OVERALL COMMENTS**

There are some areas requiring greater clarity and some issues of concern, where the GNWT thinks the Board has perhaps assumed a larger role in regional land management than appropriate. Various other mechanisms of land

regulation are more appropriate venues for certain aspects of land management, which will be outlined further in this document.

### **Content**

With the intent of the Plan being to provide guidance to the regulatory authorities it is important the Plan be as clear and concise as possible. The plan should be written in such a way to eliminate any need for interpretation and conformity checking. In order to achieve this goal the current Draft 2 of the Plan should be simplified so it can be easily interpreted by regulators, developers and citizens alike. For example, supporting documentation and materials can be made available as separate documents, removing the need for comment on these documents at this time and confusion as to how supporting materials relate to the plan. The final document requiring approval should only contain the Plan itself.

### **Great Bear Lake Watershed**

The GNWT has serious concerns about the Great Bear Lake Watershed not being incorporated into the regional Sahtu Land Use Plan. Having a portion of the Sahtu region fall under a separate planning regime as opposed to under the SLUP, with potentially different conformity and implementation mechanisms, would greatly increase the complexity of the overall land management/regulatory regime in the NWT as a whole.

### **Cumulative effects**

Cumulative effects is one of the areas that may be difficult to implement. The plan should avoid using prescriptive measures.

An evolving body of work is emerging on best practices for cumulative effects management. It would be preferable to make a recommendation that best practices be followed for the management of cumulative effects so that as new methods are developed and accepted as common practice they can be incorporated into development planning. Revised

### **Consultation**

The development of a clear set of consultation expectations and procedures for the Sahtu region and/or communities would provide a tool for executable and consistent business practice. Consultation guidelines should exist as an associated document that defines the role of industry and government.

Although, the Government of Canada has developed interim guidelines for federal officials to fulfill the Section 35 consultation, and the Government of the Northwest (NWT) has a similar guideline, the SLUPB should consider developing their own consultation rules for the Sahtu settlement area to fulfill both Section 35 consultation and general consultation requirements. However, we agree this work should be completed outside the Plan so as to not detract from the planning process and final approval.

### **Water Quality Guidelines**

It is agreed that the development of Water Quality Guidelines should be completed as soon as possible but it is not something that is necessary within this planning process.

### **Sahtu Private Lands Outside the Sahtu Region**

There are several parcels of land that fall within the Dehcho Region that are Sahtu Private Lands. The Plan should address how these lands are addressed under the Sahtu Land Use Plan.

### **Exemptions**

Under "Exemptions" , greater clarification is required that transferability of existing rights is allowed on grandfathered rights. The entire mineral development industry is based upon transferability of rights to larger businesses.

Also it needs to be stipulated clearly that renewals of existing rights shall be permitted. It appears to indicate that in 2.d) but it would help to state this unequivocally. 2 a) appears to state that existing rights would only be protected for the duration of the existing licence/permit term. If that is the case, the GNWT could not support that.

The footnote #4 at the bottom of the page appears to indicate that existing rights are not "grandfathered" in the sense of protecting existing rights of rights holders. The Board has requested feedback. It is GNWT's view that the right to explore or develop a resource that existed before the implementation of the plan will continue to exist. This includes transferability and the right to renew authorizations/rights, if consistent with "typical progression" of that resource development, as stated in c). The footnote intention is unclear.

Exemptions should also include existing tourism establishments.

### **Dual Designation**

To answer the 'Dual designation' question posed by the Board - it is quite possible several of the areas identified under the PAS may not seek, require or be granted subsurface protection. The decision as to whether subsurface protection will apply to a PAS area is determined during the 8-step PAS process. Protection of the subsurface through the land use plan should be considered on a case-by-case basis when the area receives its final approval.

For all PAS areas, the GNWT supports the use of the land use plan for land management, including protection, because it allows all parties the maximum flexibility for present and future land management.

### **Spelling and Names**

It is extremely important that the correct Slavey spelling, as presented by the appropriate community, be used consistently throughout the whole Plan.

There should be no mention by name of specific businesses in the Plan or the Backgrounder, if one is created. These documents are not supposed to be “moments in time”, but working documents for the foreseeable future and specific names of businesses, or even organizations like AMMO should not be in there.

### **Mapping**

PAS and SLUPB proposed conservation initiatives shapefiles and area sizes should be consistent.

## **BACKGROUND SPECIFICS**

**Definitions, p. viii** The definition of “community boundaries” for the purposes of the Land Use Plan should be amended. The Land Use Plan should not apply within Community Boundaries, more specifically Community Boundaries created by the Government of the NWT to provide an area where municipal government authority applies. The SLUP should apply to all lands outside of Community Boundaries including Block Land Transfer lands. This approach will ensure that there are no areas in the Sahtu Settlement Region where the Land Use Plan or community government authority does not apply. In this definition of Community Boundaries, that “local” government be replaced with “community” government and that the term Development Control Zones be deleted. Development Control Zones are no longer applied in the Sahtu because all Sahtu communities now have full municipal status.

**p. viii Community Infrastructure** definition to clarify that “community infrastructure” also includes infrastructure built by the GNWT for the community such as a tank farm or infrastructure used by the GNWT to build infrastructure for the community such as a granular site. These should be an exempted activity and allowed to continue in use and be grandfathered activities. The way the definition currently exists, a granular site used by the community will be allowed to continue in use but it should be clear that a granular site used by the GNWT to build infrastructure for the community be allowed to continue in use.

**1.3., p. 2** The Plan states that it, “does not apply to national parks, national historic sites or national monuments, or lands within community boundaries”. This sentence attempts to list the types of areas that the Plan has no authority over. This list is not complete for the region, since there is a Candidate National Wildlife Area that is in advanced stages of the NWT Protected Areas Strategy process. Also, a number of different areas could possibly be created using GNWT legislation.

**1.7.4, p. 9** Activities Outside the Scope of the Plan, subsection 1; should be modified to say “Activities that do not require any form of land or water-based authorization under the MVRMA,....” Tourism outfitters require an authorization, but their activities, including big game hunting, should not trigger any land use zoning conformity issues. If they apply for a land use permit for their activities, then the land use plan would apply.

From Draft 2 of the Plan, it is understood that present and future tourism development will be unaffected by the approval and implementation of the Plan. GNWT further understands that this includes consumptive tourism, such as big game hunting and sport fishing. It would be helpful to include a statement stating tourism development is a permitted use under the Plan and remains subject to necessary regulatory approvals.

**1.7.5., p. 10** Grandfathering has not been clearly defined in the plan. Grandfathering of existing dispositions should be clarified.

**2.1., p. 14** We seem to have some different sizes for the area of the Sahtu Settlement Area and for the Sahtu Settlement lands. Our Sahtu GIS Project, which has done all the mapping for the Sahtu Land Use Planning Board, lists the Sahtu Settlement Area at 283,556 km<sup>2</sup>, on p. 14 and p. 80 it's listed as 280,568 km<sup>2</sup>

The figure on page 80 could be with lands not covered by the plan removed; however, this is not immediately apparent when reviewing the document.

Similarly, in the Sahtu Atlas we used 1,838 km<sup>2</sup> as the subsurface rights area (p. 11 in Atlas) and on p. 14 of the plan it's listed as 1,813 km<sup>2</sup>.

**2.2 p. 15** Suggest the replacement of a paragraph describing GNWT management of land within “community boundaries” with the following:

“The GNWT administers significant areas of land within Block Land Transfer Boundaries and within Community Boundaries. These lands are known as “Commissioner’s Land”. In Colville Lake and Fort Good Hope the Block Land Transfer Boundaries and Community Boundaries are identical. In Norman Wells, Tulita and Deline, Block Land Transfer Boundaries are significantly larger than the Community Boundaries. Community Boundaries are established by the

Government of the Northwest Territories to delineate the geographic area that is within a community government's jurisdiction. Within both Block Land Transfer Boundaries and Community Boundaries, there are also significant areas of land transferred through the Sahtu Dene and Métis Comprehensive Agreement. There are also lands held within Community Boundaries by community governments, as well as by private individuals and corporations. Land outside of Block Land Transfer Boundaries and Community Boundaries not selected under the Sahtu Dene and Métis Comprehensive Agreement, is predominantly Crown Land. Crown Land is administered by Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC)."

**2.3.2., p. 16** Working with the NWT Bureau of Statistics we have managed to obtain the most recent estimates for the population of each Sahtu community. This information was passed along to the SLUPB staff and they will revise it accordingly. For example, the total population as of July 2008 was estimated to be 2692 and not 2473 as in the plan.

**p. 17** Suggest this area be expanded to explain who the Prophet Ayha is for those not familiar with this very significant person in Deline's history. Also, a factual check should be made about Sir John Franklin and his establishment and naming of a trading post. Franklin was an explorer who wintered at Deline, but it was traders who came later that established Fort Franklin and named it in his honour.

Sahoyúé-?ehdacho was established in 2009. The statements that Norman Wells' population has peaked and now is shrinking need to be factually verified.

**Table 2, p. 19** needs to be updated with the July 1, 2008 data.

**Traditional Place Names p. 21** Area of Sahtu Settlement Area is given as 300,000 km<sup>2</sup>, and should conformed to elsewhere in plan (pg. 14).

**Table 3, p. 27** There are many acronyms used that aren't given to the reader in the text until later in the document. For ease of use, it is suggested that acronyms be added to the acronym list

**2.4.3., p. 31** The Great Bear Lake watershed is much larger than 26,000 km<sup>2</sup>. In this paragraph and in some other places, both Sahtu Settlement Area and Sahtu Region are used. The correct term to use is Settlement Area as per the land claim.

**2.4.4., p. 35** In first paragraph need to remove balsam fir and jackpine as 'characteristic'. Balsam fir don't occur in Sahtu and jackpine exist only in relatively small stands south of Tulita. In paragraph 2, the author needs to remove statement about trees growing further north in Sahtu than anywhere else

in Canada, since there are lots of trees in the Inuvik area. Also in paragraph 3 remove references to coyotes and “recovering populations of wood bison”. Neither species occur in the Sahtu.

**2.4.5., p. 37 Table 4** Need a factual check of the Taiga Plains temperature range of -22.5 to -3 C for mean daily January temperature. It is expected that -30 C is more likely.

**2.4.6., p. 43** In two places refer to only Dene, whereas should be Dene and Métis.

**Table 6, p. 43** Need to update this table with 2009 COSEWIC info. Mountain woodland caribou are ‘Special Concern’ and peregrine falcon has changed from ‘Threatened’ to ‘Special Concern’

**2.4.6 Wildlife** The next draft should exclude boreal woodland caribou and peregrine falcons since they have now been removed from the public Important Wildlife Area (IWA) report. It was decided that boreal woodland caribou do not currently lend themselves to identifying IWA and further consultation is required. As peregrine falcons are at risk of poaching, ENR has removed peregrine falcons from the public report and instead the information will be part of a confidential report (only available upon request and after the signing of a data sharing agreement that data). Also, wolverine should be removed, which are included on Map 11 but not in the written portion. They also have been removed from the IWA report because of concerns that they do not lend themselves to mapping for important wildlife areas.

**Map 11 p. 45** IWAs outside of the Sahtu shouldn’t be included on map 11, as per data sharing agreement.

**2.4.6 p. 46** The following sentence should be removed. “It is important to note that only areas uniquely important to a variety of species were considered as opposed to areas that are important to a single species” (citing the IWA September draft). The report is actually mostly important areas of single species, and only one section on “unique areas” is dedicated to areas that are important to a variety of species.

**2.5.1., p. 50** Guided sport fishing, particularly on Great Bear Lake, should be included, given that it is a long-standing and important component of the tourism sector for Sahtu. The only mention of fishing is in para. 2 of 2.5.3 on p. 50. A little bit more information would be useful and best included in Section 2.5.3 rather than in Section 2.5.1.

**2.5.3, p. 50** There should be more recent tourism visitation estimates available from Dept of Industry, Tourism, and Investment. Also note that there are very different numbers in para. 1 for 2002-03 and para. 2 for 2006 and there appears



to be a precipitous drop in tourism visitation to NWT. It is not clear why this has occurred and should be better discussed in the Plan.

The paragraph on major tourism assets of the Sahtu should also list Mountain River, Keele River, Horton River, Bear River, and Saoyú-?ehdacho National Historic Site.

The licensed outfitters in the Mackenzie Mountains have the exclusive privilege to provide outfitting services for non-resident hunting within their outfitting zone. In the last paragraph on the page, it is not correct to say that AMMO are the sole outfitters licensed by the GNWT to operate outfitting and guiding operations in the NWT. There are other non-resident hunting outfitters in the NWT that operate east of Mackenzie River for muskox, barren-ground caribou, grizzly bear, etc. Within the Mackenzie Mountains there are other licensed outfitters for canoeing/kayaking, ecotourism, etc. – but they are not licensed for hunting. Only AMMO is licensed to hunt in the Mackenzie Mountains. Also see general comment on the use of business names in the Plan.

It is not made clear that non-resident and resident hunting would continue to be allowed in Conservation Zones.

**p. 53** Change dall ram to Dall's sheep ram. Perhaps should also mention that grizzly bear hunting for non-residents was eliminated in 1982 and at same time residents were reduced to one adult grizzly not accompanied by cubs per lifetime.

**p. 53, para. 2** Instead of saying annually, suggest saying appx. 330 hunters visit the Mackenzie Mountains during July to August. This is also where some of the information from the economic benefits report (2000) could be inserted. A copy of the report has been given to SLUPB staff. The 37% of total tourism revenue figure is perhaps a bit misleading, since it includes a substantial number of non-residents that hunt with the various barren-ground caribou outfitters.

**2.5.5. p 57** In reference to participants in the Mackenzie Gas Project regulatory exercise, the role of the Inuvialuit Lands Administration and INAC in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region should be included.

**2.5.6, p. 58** In the final para. it states that there are currently no producing mines in the Sahtu, but should add that the North American Tungsten mine at MacMillan Pass (MacTung) on the NWT/Yukon border is in the feasibility stage and the Selwyn project south of MacTung is currently in Environmental Assessment stage through the Mackenzie Valley Impact Review Board. There are some ongoing other projects too – Sanatana Diamonds north of Great Bear Lake, EaglePlain Resources in the Mackenzie Mountains, and Alberta Star on south east side Great Bear Lake.

**2.5.7, p. 60** A table should be added that shows the length of each road and the average opening and closing dates. All this information is available at Department of Transportation website. Roads and road access are critical from a wildlife impact viewpoint.

In the section on barges could add “mid June to late September” in parentheses after ‘summer.’

The section on air travel needs to be expanded in the current draft. Only charter flights are discussed, but there are regularly scheduled flights (propeller aircraft) between the communities, daily jet service north and south from Norman Wells, two charter fixed-wing companies (North-Wright and Ursus), and two charter helicopter companies (Canadian and Sahtu/Great Slave). Increased disturbance from aircraft is frequently brought up in our meetings in communities and is certainly a concern in wildlife management in the Sahtu.

**2.6.2, p. 62** The Sahtu Settlement Harvest Study is no longer running – it began in 1998 and ended in 2005.

**p. 62** Under SLWB – add “They issue, amend or renew land use permits and water licences on government lands (crown land and Commissioner’s Land), on Sahtu Settlement Lands and private land.

**2.6.4, p. 63** A new *Species at Risk Act* just was passed in last Assembly, so this should be added.

In the second para. it states that ENR is a partner with INAC in the NWT Protected Areas Strategy, but there are many more partners that are involved, including aboriginal organizations, non-government environmental organizations, and industry representatives. <http://www.nwtpas.ca/partners-steeringcommittee.asp>

ENR has the responsibility for wildlife research and issuance of Wildlife Research Permits and is responsible for documenting resident and non-resident wildlife harvests.

**p. 64** Under MACA, begin paragraph with “MACA contributes funding to communities to assist them in providing services to their residents.” - delete “(GNWT owned lands)” - add “...provides advice and assistance to community governments on land use and community planning and capital planning and infrastructure, performs property assessments...”

**2.6.4** ITI is also responsible for issuing authorizations related to tourism, including Tourism Operator Licences. All businesses who offer *guided commercial tourism activities* are required to obtain a Tourism Operator Licence.

Any lodges/cabins would require a land use permit, at minimum, and trigger the MVRMA and fall under the land use plan.

**2.6.5, p. 65** For the PAS section for INAC – same comment as above for ENR.

**p. 65** Add *Commissioner's Land Act* and *Property Assessment and Taxation Act* to the list of legislation MACA is responsible for.

**p.65** Change "MACA may be involved..." to "MACA is involved..." – delete sentence "It may be an applicant in the regulatory process for the development of community infrastructure." – this is a community government responsibility.

**p.65** Our calculations are that approximately 84% of land in the NWT is federal Crown Land – the majority of the remaining approximately 16% of land in the NWT is land privately held by land claimant groups in settled land claim areas.

**2.6.6, p.68** Under Community Planning – amend second sentence to read "The sale and lease of Commissioner's Land in the Sahtu Settlement Area is administered by the Government of the Northwest Territories through the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs. Community governments prepare and administer community plans. Although the Sahtu Land Use Planning Board has no authority over lands within Community Boundaries established by the Government of the Northwest Territories,... " – "The planning board will consult with community governments in the development..."

**Protected Area, p. 70** There's also the need to do various assessments of Candidate Areas, including cultural, ecological and economic.

**p. 70** Consideration as to what will happen to lands zoned for proposed conservation initiative protection that do not get included in a final protected area should be stated in the next draft. This should include allowances for the final boundary to be changed and created without having to wait for the five year review. I.E. any land that does not end up in a proposed conservation initiative will automatically revert to Special Management Zone or General Use.

**2.6.6, p 72** Sentence should read: Two sites are currently in advanced stages of becoming protected:

- Ts'ude niline Tu'eyeta is a candidate National Wildlife Area, and is in Step 5 of the NWT PAS process.
- Nááts'ihch'oh has been proposed as a National Park Reserve using the process outlined in the Sahtu Dene and Métis Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement to create National Parks.

**3.3.2., p. 79** Definition of a Conservation Zone changed from what was on p. 12 of Draft 1. Please clarify why this has changed.

**Table 8, p 80** Should exclude *Saoyú - ʔehdacho* in the table since the area was established as a National Historic Site by Parks Canada as of April 2009.

**3.3.3., p. 82 and 3.3.2 pg 79** says that Conservation Zones (not Areas) prohibit new commercial and industrial activities. The definition should be consistent for activities requiring a land or water authorization under the MVRMA.

### **LAND USE PLAN COMMENTS**

**Table 10, p 85** The table lists *Saoyú - ʔehdacho* and *Edaiila* under the Great Bear Lake Watershed Management Plan column, which does not provide the same prohibitions as the Proposed Conservation Initiative Areas column.

**Species at Risk, p. 90** The federal SARA came into force in 2003; the *NWT species at Risk Act* was just passed by the Assembly in 2009.

**p.91 A#1** The GNWT questions the authority of the Land Use Plan here to bind governments to specific actions, and also that the action does not appear to provide direction to applicants relating to the use and development of land, waters and other resources (and in the case of A#1, apply to areas outside of the Sahtu Settlement Area - ie. "INAC *will* develop water quality guidelines that are applicable and enforceable within the Mackenzie Valley") – similar comment on page 92 – A#3

**Traditional Use..., p. 91** "Resident" in terms of harvesting has a specific definition for the GNWT and refers to non-General Hunting Licence holders who are Canadian citizens or landed immigrants who have lived in NWT for two consecutive years prior to applying for a hunting licence. Is this the intent of the use of residents in the first sentence of this para?

**Traditional Knowledge, p. 93** The GNWT has a Traditional Knowledge policy and the SRRB is still developing one.

**Economic Benefits..., R#2 and 3** Both appear to be issues outside of the scope of the Land Use Plan and cannot be supported by the GNWT.

**CR 12** Problematic in that water from drills is not treated before it is released to the environment. Possible rewording to "released into waterways or water bodies".

**CR 15, p. 97** Add Dall's sheep, mountain goat, and black bears. Suggest 'caribou' be split into barren-ground caribou, boreal woodland caribou, and mountain woodland caribou.

**CR 18, p.97** This could result in the distribution of confidential material (e.g. traditional knowledge).

**CR 19, p.98** This may be unrealistic or impractical in terms of the statement that all lands will be restored to the condition they were in before the activity began and that all waste and materials must effectively be removed from all types of development. Final condition of sites should be decided upon consultation with affected parties.

**Conservation Terms, p. 99** What about resident and non-resident hunting and fishing? Should state somewhere in the plan that these are acceptable activities, given that harvest is within sustainable limits.

**Introduction of Domestic Species, p. 99** Should change to *Introduction of Domestic Species and Alien Wildlife Species*. CR#22 needs to be expanded to include alien wildlife species in terms of translocations of wildlife.

ENR HQ and Sahtu worked with wildlife veterinarians to produce a Risk Assessment regarding the potential for introduction of domestic sheep, goats, and llamas into wild sheep and goat habitat in the NWT. A copy of this report was given to the SLUPB staff in May 2009.

**p.128** Canol Trail as proposed on the plan shows breaks along the zoning. Are these intended changes to the zoning? These breaks are most likely because over Sahtu Lands the trail narrows. This needs to be depicted better on the maps by possibly using a line to represent the park still exists over those lands.

It also says in the plan the GNWT and INAC are in negotiations on the creation of the park. This is incorrect, there are contaminated sites within the proposed park that require remediation before the land can be transferred from the Federal Government to the GNWT.

**4.5.2.15, pg. 128** Shúhtagot'ine Néné- It should be added that tourism potential for the area is significant and currently has tourism activity in the area.

**4.5.2.16, pg. 129** Doi T'oh Park (Canol Heritage and Dodo Canyon Trail) Should be retitled to reflect its designation as per the approved Management Plan – Doi T'oh Territorial Park and Canol Heritage Trail

#### **Economic Importance – Tourism Potential**

The tourism potential for this area is very high. Interest has been growing by current tourism operators who want to diversify into eco-tourism products, such as hiking and photography and sightseeing.

#### **NEW INFORMATION EXPECTED TO BE AVAILABLE FOR DRAFT THREE**

### **Hydro Development**

Through the *Draft NWT Hydro Strategy*, work is currently underway to better define the hydro potential in the NWT. This work is funded by ITI and being led by the NT Energy Corporation, a subsidiary of the NT Hydro Corporation. Included in this work is a Sahtu Hydro Assessment, to be followed by a Sahtu Hydro Symposium, currently proposed for the fall of 2009 in Deline. Once this work is completed, ITI will provide available information to the Sahtu Land Use Planning Board (SLUPB) for consideration and incorporation into the Plan.

### **Important Wildlife Areas**

ENR is currently in the process of finalizing the Important Wildlife Areas report and maps and hopes to have this completed for Draft 3 of the Sahtu Land Use Plan.

### **Cumulative Effects**

CE are an area that creates ambiguity for industry and without clarity can be problematic for proponents. Work on biophysical CE is being done by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) and other agencies, and should be considered by the SLUPB. Less work to date has been done on socio-economic CE, but should also be considered in best practices. The Government of Canada has released a *Cumulative Effects Assessment Practitioners Guide* (the Guide) intended for practitioners who are responsible for conducting CE Assessments. The Guide focuses primarily on project-specific CE Assessment, but also provides tips for regional planning.