



March 12, 1998

Mr. Norm Ringstad
Environmental Assessment Office
2nd Floor - 836 Yates Street
Victoria, B.C. V8V 1X4

Dear Mr. Ringstad:

Subject: CEAA CONCLUSIONS ON TULSEQUAH CHIEF PROJECT

The Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) appreciates the co-operation that the Environmental Assessment Office (EAO) has shown in incorporating federal requirements within our joint environmental assessment of Redfern Resources Ltd.'s (Redfern) Tulsequah Chief Project.

As Responsible Authority designated under the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* (CEAA), DFO takes into consideration the following factors in drawing a conclusion regarding the environmental effects of the project:

- The correspondence Ringstad to Klassen, 11 March, 1998, resolves those outstanding issues raised by DFO and Environment Canada on 6 March, 1998 (Nassichuk to Ennis, 12 March, 1998);
- Redfern will be required, through legal provisions and the respective regulatory processes, to implement appropriate mitigation measures outlined in DIAND-Yukon's *Screening Report Tulsequah Chief Mine Project: Ore Concentrate Transportation Plan and Atlin Road Upgrade*;
- The incorporation of Redfern's commitment (Chandler to Ringstad, 11 March, 1998) to permanently deactivate the road upon closure of the Tulsequah Chief Mine as requirements of a Project Approval Certificate and Special Use Permit (Kelly to Ringstad, 11 March, 1998);
- The confirmation (O'Riordan to Wynn, 11 March, 1998) of acceptability of the proposed wildlife assessment approaches and solutions (O'Riordan to Ringstad, 27 February, 1998) by Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks in

light of the wildlife concerns identified by Taku River Tlingit First Nation (TRTFN) in their 6 March 1998 submission to EAO;

- The confidence expressed by Ministry of Forests (Kelly to Ringstad, 11 and 12 March, 1998) in the approach to resolve, and availability of measures to afford mitigation of, potential conflicts between the proposed road alignment and use of TRTFN's traditional trail to Nakinaw River.

DFO has determined that, together with the above considerations, the approaches and measures outlined in the Project Review Committee's recommendations report fulfill our CEAA screening level requirements and that with successful implementation of these approaches and measures, the proposed project is not likely to cause significant adverse environmental effects.

Should the project be approved by the province, DFO looks forward to working towards effective implementation of the environmental protection measures at the permitting stage.

Sincerely yours,

Original signed by

Herbert D. Klassen
Major Projects Biologist

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