



March 31, 2010

VIA Email

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Re: Management proposal for the use of bait in outfitted spring black bear hunts in Wek'èezhii

The Wek'èezhii Renewable Resources Board (WRRB) considered the aforementioned management proposal for the use of bait in outfitted spring black bear hunts at its board meeting February 16, 2010 and distributed its initial recommendation to you on February 25th, 2010.

After consideration of comments received from Department of Environment and Natural Resources (ENR), the Board sees no need to revise its original motion and therefore motion #122-16-02-2010 remains as it stands and should be considered a final recommendation from the Board on this matter. We provide the following in response to issues brought up by ENR:

- Please note that the terms and conditions accepted by the Board included #7 - "The Permittee shall ensure that the bait consists only of un-processed fats and meat, oats, corn, fish and fish parts and other natural foods normally found in the nature of the surrounding area, North Slave Region".
- Further, with respect to inspection reports, it is our understanding that reports not resulting in enforcement action are no longer confidential while those related to ongoing investigations are confidential until a decision is made. If ENR is concerned about issues of confidentiality, arrangements can be made to treat such material in appropriate confidence as per Rule 32¹ of our Rules of Procedure. In addition, it is common practice among boards and governments to share such reports. For example, Department of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada shares its inspection reports with land and water boards unless they are involved in open enforcement files.

¹ Rule 32 – "Any material provided to the Board on a confidential basis shall not be made public without the consent of the originator".

For your reference Motion #122-16-02-2010 is as follows:

The WRRB recommends the proposal for 2010 Spring Bear Baiting proceed with the following conditions:

- True North Safaris should speak with elders in Behchokò to inform them of the practice;
- Public safety concerns be alleviated using the proposed terms and conditions with appropriate monitoring of the activity (e.g. spot checks). The WRRB would like to have a Board member accompany ENR Renewable Resource Offices during inspections;
- ENR commitment to a bear management plan to address long-term sustainability of bear populations and harvest. The WRRB cannot continue to support future applications without a plan; and
- Item #17 of terms and conditions must be forwarded to the WRRB by no later than August 15, 2010 along with actual inspection reports and pictures.

For further clarity, pursuant to Section 12.5.11 of the Tłıchǫ Agreement, should permit terms and conditions and/or Board recommendations be modified, your decision must be provided in writing, with reasons, to the Board. If you have any questions regarding this matter please do not hesitate to call our office any time.

Sincerely,



Grant Pryznyk
Interim Chair

cc. Gary Bohnet
Deputy Minister, ENR

Grand Chief Joe Rabesca
Tłıchǫ Government