



Izok Corridor Project Proposal

SECTION 4

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4 TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE

4.1 Introduction

MMG is building on the traditional knowledge studies initiated by Wolfden Resources Ltd. for the High Lake Project¹. This previous work included the collection and compilation of traditional knowledge from elders, hunters and trappers, and several site visits. MMG will continue to build on its understanding of the environment as seen, perceived and valued by Inuit in support of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Izok Corridor Project.

4.2 Approach and Methods

MMG will undertake a multi-part traditional knowledge program for the Izok Corridor Project. The program will include:

- Continued collection of documented knowledge for the entire Project area, including the commissioning of reports from the Naonayaotit Traditional Knowledge Program (NTKP) database managed by the Kitikmeot Inuit Association (KIA)
- Recording of Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit from Inuit in the Project area (elders, Hunters and Trappers Organization (HTO)) and Tlicho interests around Izok
- Incorporating issue-specific advice from community knowledge holders

While gathering knowledge is a core part of the work, MMG's primary interest is the application of this knowledge. In particular, MMG is interested in the contribution traditional knowledge can make to the design of the Project and aspects of the environmental assessment, including identification of issues, effects analysis, identification of potential mitigation measures, determination of effects significance and follow-up and monitoring programs.

Finally, traditional knowledge will be a crucial part of management plans developed for this Project. For example, the Kugluktuk HTO communicated their knowledge of the use of the Grays Bay area by the Dolphin and Union caribou herd before these animals migrate across the Coronation Gulf to Victoria Island in the spring.

4.2.1 Study Area

The study area for the collection of traditional knowledge includes the proposed eastern and western shipping routes and the region of the Kitikmeot west of Bathurst Inlet, south of Coronation Gulf, north of the NWT border and east of Rockinghorse Lake.

4.2.2 Applying Existing Traditional Knowledge

Existing traditional knowledge will be collated in a manner that supports information exchange and integration into work being carried out for the Project by the MMG environment and engineering teams. Traditional knowledge has already been incorporated in the mine design process, initial development of

¹ <http://ftp.nirb.ca/02-REVIEWS/ACTIVE%20REVIEWS/06MN082-MMG%20HIGH%20LAKE/>



environmental management plans and operational planning. For example, temporary road closures are being planned during the operational phase of the Project to facilitate caribou movements to calving areas in the vicinity of the proposed Izok Road. In addition, existing traditional knowledge, as reflected in the Draft West Kitikmeot Land Use Plan (NPC 2005), provides appropriate timing windows for marine shipping activities to minimize potential disturbances during the annual migration of the Dolphin and Union Caribou Herd between the mainland and Victoria Island.

4.2.3 Documenting Issue-Specific Traditional Knowledge

MMG plans to seek guidance in preparation of the DEIS from traditional knowledge documented during workshops. These workshops will focus on key issues and concerns articulated by communities for the region south of High Lake and for the proposed shipping routes. Workshops are expected to be held in Kugluktuk and Gjoa Haven. MMG is also arranging with the KIA to obtain a traditional knowledge report for the entire Project area.

MMG has been in contact with the Kwe Beh Working Group of the Tlicho Government, and will be gathering knowledge (e.g., existing literature, workshop) for their area of interest within Nunavut.

4.2.4 Integrating Traditional Knowledge

MMG understands the importance of incorporating traditional knowledge with popular science in all aspects of the Project, and the need for a balanced presentation of issues and conclusions in the DEIS. Accordingly, MMG has adopted an approach that seeks to integrate traditional knowledge into all Project phases including design, operations, closure and post closure. Recognizing that traditional knowledge is both a process and product, MMG will look towards traditional knowledge to contribute baseline information for the Project area, to support the assessment of effects and contribute to the understanding of issues and concerns of the Project and to plan for the mitigation of those effects. Traditional knowledge collection will involve discussions about how local residents view the Project and the acceptability of its potential effects on the environment and its people within the context of local knowledge. Specific issues and concerns regarding the Project will be considered and will form an integral part of the issues scoping process.

