



January 31, 2025

By Email

Nunavut Impact Review Board
P.O. Box 1360
Cambridge Bay, NU X0B 0C0

Attention: Tundra Kulitana
Screening Officer

Dear Tundra Kulitana:

**Re: Comments on Atha Energy's Thelon Property Mineral Exploration Project
NIRB File No. 24EN052**

Sayisi Dene First Nation and Northlands Denesuline First Nation (collectively referred to as “Ghotelnene K’odtineh Dene”) appreciate the opportunity to provide comments on the Atha Energy’s Thelon Property mineral exploration project proposal.

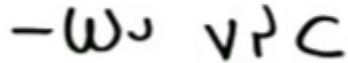
Ghotelnene K'odtineh Dene have, and continue to, harvest Beverly/Qamanirjuaq caribou throughout our traditional territory in what is now Nunavut, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and the Northwest Territories. Ghotelnene K'odtineh Dene have Section 35 rights throughout our traditional territory. The existence, culture, way of life and rights of our people are deeply connected to the caribou and its habitat – any harm to the caribou is a harm to the Dene.

Ghotelnene K'odtineh Dene submit that the activities described in the Thelon Property Project may result in significant adverse impacts on the ecosystem, wildlife, wildlife habitat, and harvesting activities of Ghotelnene K'odtineh Dene and other Indigenous peoples, as well as other potential socio-economic effects on Ghotelnene K'odtineh Dene.

Ghotelnene K'odtineh Dene have significant concerns related to the proposed activities, particularly on the potential impacts to caribou and their habitat. Also of concern for Ghotelnene K'odtineh Dene is the need for greater assessment of the cumulative impacts

to wildlife and wildlife habitat, particularly caribou, from this project proposal. As noted above, caribou are critical to our well-being, way of life and the exercise of our rights.

Masi cho,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Geoff Bussidor" in a stylized, cursive script.

Geoff Bussidor
Chief Negotiator
Sayisi Dene First Nation

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Benji Denechezhe" in a stylized, cursive script.

Benji Denechezhe
Chief Negotiator
Northlands Denesuline First Nation





COMMENT FORM FOR NIRB SCREENINGS

The Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) has a mandate to protect the integrity of the ecosystem for the existing and future residents of Nunavut. To assess the environmental and socio-economic impacts of the project proposal, NIRB would like to hear your concerns, comments and suggestions about the following project proposal application:

Project Proposal Title: <u>Thelon Property</u>																			
Proponent: <u>Atha Energy Corp</u>																			
Location: <u>(Kivalliq Region)</u>																			
Comments Due By: <u>January 31, 2025</u>	NIRB #: <u>24EN052</u>																		
<p>Indicate your concerns about the project proposal below:</p> <table style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> no concerns</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> traditional uses of land</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> water quality</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Inuit harvesting activities</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> terrain</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> community involvement and consultation</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> air quality</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> local development in the area</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> wildlife and their habitat</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> tourism in the area</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> marine mammals and their habitat</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> human health issues</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> birds and their habitat</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> other: _____</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> fish and their habitat</td> <td>_____</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> heritage resources in area</td> <td>_____</td> </tr> </table> <p>Please describe the concerns indicated above:</p> <p>The activities described in the “Thelon Property Project may result in significant adverse impacts on the ecosystem, wildlife, wildlife habitat, and harvesting activities of Ghotelnene K’odtineh Dene and other Indigenous peoples, as well as other potential socio-economic effects on Ghotelnene K’odtineh Dene.</p> <p>Ghotelnene K’odtineh Dene have significant concerns related to the proposed activities, particularly on the potential impacts to caribou and their habitat. Also of concern for Ghotelnene K’odtineh Dene is the need for greater assessment of the cumulative impacts to wildlife and wildlife habitat, particularly caribou, from this project proposal.</p>		<input type="checkbox"/> no concerns	<input type="checkbox"/> traditional uses of land	<input type="checkbox"/> water quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Inuit harvesting activities	<input type="checkbox"/> terrain	<input type="checkbox"/> community involvement and consultation	<input type="checkbox"/> air quality	<input type="checkbox"/> local development in the area	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> wildlife and their habitat	<input type="checkbox"/> tourism in the area	<input type="checkbox"/> marine mammals and their habitat	<input type="checkbox"/> human health issues	<input type="checkbox"/> birds and their habitat	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> fish and their habitat	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> heritage resources in area	_____
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<p>Do you have any suggestions or recommendations for this application?</p> <p>The application should be referred for a review under Part 5 of Article 12 of the Nunavut Agreement.</p>																			



Do you support the project proposal? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Any additional comments? Ghotelnene K'odtineh Dene support a review under Part 5 Article 12 of the Nunavut Agreement.			
Name of person commenting: <u>Benajmin Denechezhe</u>		Of _____	
Position: <u>Chief Negotiator</u>		Organization: <u>Northlands Denesuline First Nation</u>	
Signature: <u></u>		Date: <u>January 31, 2025</u>	
Name of person commenting: <u>Geoff Bussidor</u>		Of _____	
Position: <u>Chief Negotiator</u>		Organization: <u>Sayisi Dene First Nation</u>	
Signature: <u></u>		Date: <u>January 31, 2025</u>	