



Yukon River Inter-Tribal Watershed Council

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Paul Lohaus, Director
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US Nuclear Regulatory Commission
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May 16, 2005

Dear Mr. Lohaus:

On behalf of the Yukon River Inter-Tribal Watershed Council (YRITWC), I would like to thank you for hosting a meeting with the YRITWC during February 2005. We found the meeting to be informative, professionally managed and productive. During the February meeting I conveyed a request from 1st Chief Peter M. Captain Sr., requesting that the NRC consider developing tribal protocols and / or policies to assure effective communication between tribes and the NRC.

I appreciate your willingness to consider this request and to present this request to the NRC. Chief Peter M. Captain Sr. has forged important relationships with other federal entities including the 611th Air Force as well as the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Chief Captain has been a true example in developing effective communications with federal entities. Additionally, Chief Captain is the Chairman of the Alaska Region of the YRITWC. The YRITWC is an organization formed by Indigenous governments in Alaska and the Yukon Territory to keep the Yukon River healthy for future generations. Currently 60 indigenous governments have signed an Inter-Tribal Accord agreeing to consult with one and other and to assume lead stewardship roles in their respective territories. At this time, I would like to formally reiterate Chief Captain's request in writing. Please know that our Alaska Executive Committee has since discussed this request in further detail. The Alaska Executive Committee has encouraged the YRITWC staff to continue working with the NRC to assist in the development of draft protocols and/ or policies.

The YRITWC will be hosting a summit in Dawson City, Yukon Territory August 9-11th, 2005 and we would like to invite the NRC to meet with tribal leaders from approximately 60 indigenous governments to further discuss the possible format and important points to include in a set of draft protocols. We do hope that NRC is willing to embark on this collaborative effort with the YRITWC and we sincerely hope that a NRC representative can attend the bi-annual summit. Thank you for any of your time spent in considering this request.

Best Wishes.

Rob Rosenfeld, MA / Alaska Region Director

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