Yukon River Inter-Tribal Watershed Council

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Dear Richard Turtil and NRC Leadership,

On behalf of the Yukon River Inter-Tribal Watershed Council and the Kwanlin Dun First Nation, we are pleased to invite you to our seventh YRITWC Biennial Summit, to be held in Whitehorse, Yukon Territory, Canada from August 6-8, 2009.

YRITWC Summits are an exciting opportunity to gather our entire leadership, now representing 70 signatory Tribal and First Nation governments, as well as friends and supporters from across North America and abroad. By bringing many voices to this gathering, we will enhance the friendships and collaboration that are so important to the protection and preservation of our shared watershed. This year's summit will include full half-day sessions on Energy, Climate Change, and Water Quality, in addition to a full day on Fish issues across the Yukon.

The 2009 Summit will be an historic opportunity to gather in the Yukon Territory as an entire Watershed community. With three days of discussions, trainings for environmental technicians, and community potlatches, it will be an opportunity to learn about the diverse watershed, make important decisions about watershed protection, and ensure that our many efforts to preserve and protect the Yukon River and its tributaries are continuing strong. As we push forward in our second decade of work, our partnerships are strong and our challenges are great. The resolutions passed and stories shared will certainly set the path for our next forty years of Watershed preservation and inter-Tribal collaboration.

We would welcome an opportunity to hear from you about the future intentions of the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission regarding Tribal consultation and improved communications with Indigenous governments, and invite you to address the Summit participants on these topics during one of the evening sessions. We would be honored by your presence at our gathering and hope you will contact our Summit Coordinators with any questions you may have regarding the Summit and arrangements for your participation.

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Carl Sidney
Yukon Region Board Chairman
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Chief Mike Smith
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