

WHITE RIVER FIRST NATION

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Media Release

WRFN CALLS ON YUKON GOVERNMENT TO ACCEPT YESAB RECOMMENDATION TO REJECT TARSIS CLASS 3 MINING LICENSE

August 2, 2012 - Beaver Creek, YT – For immediate release: Today the White River First Nation (WRFN) called on the Yukon Government to accept a recommendation from YESAB to reject a Class 3 License for Tarsis Mining Corp. (Project # 2012-0080 YESAB)

The 81 page recommendation reaches the conclusion that the proposed impacts of their Class 3 mining license application cannot be adequately mitigated. The report recommends that, “the project not be allowed to proceed, as it has determined that the project will have significant adverse environmental and socioeconomic effects in and outside the Yukon that cannot be mitigated.”

WRFN Councilor Patrick Johnny said, “WRFN fought hard to ensure that we were heard regarding our Traditional Use and environmental concerns with the proposed Project. Tarsis was unwilling to meaningfully engage with WRFN. Tarsis sought to bully their way through YESAB at the expense of our history; our ancestors; the land, water and wildlife. WRFN citizens are not opposed to mining; we are opposed to the approach taken by Tarsis.”

WRFN has no Land Claim Agreement with Canada and Yukon and has surrendered Aboriginal rights and title to the lands that Tarsis was attempting to exploit.

“WRFN has documented numerous concerns with the YESAB process and provided these concerns to Canada and YTG, but in this case they got their recommendation correct. WRFN has also proposed solutions to Government on how we can work together to more appropriately manage resource development interests together. We continue to seek a new relationship with Canada and Yukon. We are now calling on the Premier to ensure that the right thing happens and that this Tarsis project does not proceed”, said WRFN Chief Charles Eikland Jr.

WRFN Councilor Patrick Johnny added, “Government and Industry have taken WRFN Aboriginal rights and title to our Traditional Territory for granted. Canada and Yukon have made few attempts to meaningfully engage with us outside of the UFA Land Claims process, which WRFN rejected. We hope that the outcome of this confrontational process will illustrate that WRFN and Government need a new approach to development, and that we are willing to work with Government to create more certainty for all. The way things have been done in the past is no longer acceptable in WRFN Traditional Territory.”

For more information please contact:

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