



**MIKISEW CREE FIRST NATION**

Government and Industry Relations

206 – 9401 Franklin Ave.

Fort McMurray, AB T9H 3Z7

Phone (780) 714-6500 Fax (780) 715-4098

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December 16, 2014

Pierre River Mine Project - Joint Review Panel  
Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency  
160 Elgin Street, 22<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Place Bell Canada  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0H3

Attention: Mr. Alex Bolton – Joint Review Panel Chairman


**RE: Response to Notice of Panel Request for Written Comments  
Pierre River Mine Project  
Canadian Environmental Assessment Registry No. 59539**

Dear Mr. Bolton:

The following is Mikisew Cree First Nation's ("Mikisew") response to the Joint Review Panel's ("JRP") November 19, 2014 letter, which requested written comments from interested parties regarding Shell's proposed process to resolve various methodological issues pertaining to the assessment of effects from the Pierre River Mine project.

Mikisew respectfully submits that it is premature to hold a pre-hearing proceeding at this time. Among other reasons, holding a pre-hearing conference would interfere with the process that Mikisew wishes to undertake with Shell regarding the issues set out in the JRP's letter and may, therefore, result in an unnecessary use of JRP resources to address issues that may be collaboratively resolved by Shell and Mikisew.

At this time, Mikisew takes no position on whether the matters set out in the JRP's letter can be appropriately dealt with through a pre-hearing conference. Should Shell renew its request for a pre-hearing conference on the same matters at a later date, Mikisew asks that the JRP solicit comments from interested parties prior to making a determination on that request.

Respectfully submitted, 

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 Melody Lepine