

First Nations welcome “brave recommendation” from Panel reviewing Kemess Mine expansion

September 18, 2007 (Amazay Lake, northern BC) –

The Tse Keh Nay First Nations have welcomed an Environmental Review Panel report that recommends against turning Amazay Lake into a mining waste dump.

A joint federal-provincial panel has been reviewing Northgate Minerals' plan to use Amazay Lake to contain tailings from its proposed Kemess North copper-gold mine expansion, located 425 kilometres northwest of Prince George.

“The Tse Keh Nay congratulates the panel members on their brave recommendation, and calls upon both governments to follow the panel's lead and protect Amazay Lake,” said Gordon Pierre, Grand Chief of the Tse Keh Nay.

“This is not just about protecting this lake for First Nations people; this is about protecting all lakes for all Canadians”, said Pierre. “There are currently over 20 lakes in Canada facing similar mining proposals and we are happy that a precedent has been set in Tse Keh Nay territory: killing lakes is unacceptable.”

The Chiefs of the Takla, Tsay Keh Dene, and Kwadacha Nations have been negotiating agreements with various mining and exploration companies in recent years.

“We are not against development in our Territories,” said Pierre. “However, we are against development such as Northgate's proposal to kill a lake and the source of our communities' drinking water.”

“In the spirit of the Province's New Relationship we invite government and industry to engage with us immediately regarding mining and exploration development on Tse Keh Nay Territory,” said Pierre.

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For more information, www.tsekehnay.net

Photo 1: Tse Keh Nay children playing in Amazay.



Photo 2: Tse Keh Nay members and supporters gathered at Amazay in August, 2007.

