

From: Roberta Frampton Benefiel < >
To: Pineau, Maryse [CEAA]; paul carter <pccarter@gov.nl.ca>
Cc: Brenda & Eric <softsci@ >
Sent: Wed Feb 27 19:46:01 2008
Subject: submission/lower churchill draft guidelines/from Soft
Science/ Brenda Beck and Eric Harris

Soft Science <softsci@ > wrote:

From:

Dr. Brenda Beck, lifelong canoeist who has paddled many, many Northern
Canadian rivers. Address:

Regarding a Proposal To Construct one or more dams on the Lower
Churchill River

Guidelines Important to Conducting the Environmental Assessment

1. It is very important to provide scientifically defensible estimates
submitted _by independent scholars/researchers_ of

1. The amount of forest acreage that will be flooded

2. The amount of methyl mercury that will be produced by
the rotting vegetation

3. The concentration of methyl mercury in the river water
that will result from the rotting of this vegetation

4. The amount by which this methyl mercury will add to the
burden of methyl mercury already present in the river

5. The impact on the health of fish, wildlife and humans
that is predicted will stem from their consumption of this contaminated
river water, including the specific impacts envisioned on Aboriginal
and

Metis making the assumption that water consumption patterns will
continue as at present

7. The predicted impact on aboriginal and Metis hunting and
fishing

6. The predicted impact of the flooding on soil erosion at
the water's edge, and below it in the lake(s) that will form, and the
added sedimentation on the river bed that will result from this erosion

7. The predicted rate of sedimentation behind the dam(s)
and related estimates of how long the dam(s) will be viable as an
electricity generating tool(s).

8. The predicted impact on fish spawning beds, and on fish
survival rates more generally.

2. It is very important to obtain statements and interview material
from persons from across Canada (and abroad) who have paddled the river
(or otherwise traveled on it) to assess these user's opinions of the

river as a natural heritage wonder, and as a national "drawing card" for naturalists, tourists and campers. In my opinion the nation stands to lose a magnificent waterway (in my eyes the most beautiful in all of Canada).

3. It is very important to obtain statements (gathered by independent researchers) from local Labradoreans (and especially from local Metis and aboriginal residents) about what they think should (or should not) happen to their "Grand" river.

4. A public hearing is essential, where real people can stand up and speak to the issues directly, as it affects them and as the plans relate to their specific life experiences.

Roberta Frampton Benefiel