

**Bulkley Valley
Community Resources Board
Box 577
Smithers BC V0J 2N0**

November 18, 2008

Josette Wier
4259 McCabe Rd
Smithers BC V0J 2N7

Dear Ms Wier:

Thank you for your letter of September 24th, 2008, about visual quality objectives for the Davidson project and the Big Onion. The Bulkley Valley Community Resources Board (BVCRB) discussed your concerns at the October 22, 2008 meeting.

The BVCRB takes visual quality objectives very seriously and has raised them as an issue in referrals when relevant. As with any rating system there is some room for interpretation in these definitions. We work with the existing definitions as they are the ones that the community was dealing with when they agreed on objectives in writing the Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP).

We have also commented on the Davidson project to the Environmental Assessment Office. In that letter we say, in part,

"Visual Quality

As noted previously, visual quality is a key resource value in the area where the Davidson Project is located. The expectation is that developments of this nature are planned so that they have a very minimal impact on the visual landscape and the impacts they do have appear to be natural in nature.

The Visual Quality Objective for the area of the proposed mine site is Retention which means that 'resource management activities may not be visible to the average viewer, although discernible. Disturbances should appear to be from natural causes.'

The Visual Quality Assessment portion of the Environmental Assessment Application is missing a key element that would enable the BVCRB to accurately assess the impact of the project on visual quality: A true representation of what the project will look like from the viewpoints noted in the LRMP. Models produced and displayed at the open house show what the cleared area for the project would look like from some of the viewpoints. These models do not include a representation of the buildings, rock piles, utility corridor and other developments associated with the project. Given the importance of visual quality in the area of the project, the BVCRB requires more comprehensive Digital Terrain Models for the development (including buildings, rock piles, lighting, etc.) from the various viewpoints in order to assess the impacts on this

LRMP value. Furthermore, these should be made available for further public review and comment.”

We have not yet received a referral re Big Onion but will apply the same approach when we receive that.

The BVCRB does not and should not have the mandate to approve plans - that is the role of elected officials and regulators.

Your letter is the appropriate way to present your concerns to the BVCRB. Our meetings are open to public observers and the date of meetings is posted on the web site - www.bvcrb.ca.

We hope that this addresses your concerns.

Yours truly,

Greg Storie
Chair, Bulkley Valley Community Resources Board

cc Loren Kelly, Regional Director, Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources, Smithers, B. C.