

FOR RELEASE #2008-03
October 29, 2008

YESAB'S DAWSON DESIGNATED OFFICE HAS REFERRED THE YUKON QUEEN II PROJECT TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR A MORE DETAILED ASSESSMENT

WHITEHORSE – The Dawson Designated Office of the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board has completed its assessment of Holland America's Yukon Queen II project. The Dawson office has determined that the project be referred to the Executive Committee for a more comprehensive screening.

The evaluation garnered close to 150 pages of public comments from throughout Yukon, including 7 First Nations along the Yukon River. Comments received varied in content. While some comments spoke to the adverse effects that the Yukon Queen II has on Yukoners way of life and on the resources that sustain them, other comments highlighted numerous positive socio-economic benefits.

Felix Horne who led the Designated Office Evaluation says, "after a thorough evaluation we have found that we cannot determine the significance of two adverse effects. Specifically, the entrainment of salmon from the engines intake and the erosion of First Nation settlement land along sections of the Yukon River." Because of this determination, The Dawson office must refer the project to an Executive Committee Screening.

In order for the screening to begin, Holland America will be required to submit a revised project proposal to the Executive Committee. Stephen Mills, the Executive Committee Member who will likely take on the screening notes, "The issues raised in the initial assessment are important ones and a more in-depth Executive Committee Screening will provide Yukoners with more clarity and certainty as to the potential effects of this project".

An Executive Committee Screening typically takes anywhere from 6 months to 2 years depending on the type of project and the time it takes the Proponent to respond to any information requests.

For more information about the Proposed Yukon Queen II project visit our website at www.yesab.ca/registry and search project number 2008-0070.

-30-

Rob Yeomans
Communications & Information Manager
YESAB
(867) 668-6420

Stephen Mills
Executive Committee Member
YESAB
(867) 668-6420