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FOR RELEASE #11-031 February 22, 2011

Yukon government seeks modifications to Peel regional plan

WHITEHORSE—The Government of Yukon has submitted a formal response seeking modifications to the Recommended Peel Watershed Regional Land Use Plan.

"The Yukon government recognizes the Peel watershed is a unique area that includes many areas of environmental and cultural significance as well as identified non-renewable resources," Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources Patrick Rouble said.

The Government of Yukon is committed to a land use plan for the Peel region that can be implemented and administered by the parties, and provide workable guidance over the long term

"We are seeking modifications to the plan that will accommodate and balance Yukoners' varied interests in the region," added Rouble.

The Yukon government's response has been provided to the Peel Watershed Planning Commission in conjunction with a joint response released last week by the plan parties: the First Nation of Na-cho Nyäk Dun, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation Government, Gwich'in Tribal Council and the Government of Yukon. The joint response outlines several areas of consensus between the parties.

As detailed in a joint letter of understanding and timeline approved by the parties in January 2011, the Peel regional land use planning process is anticipated to conclude in November 2011.

For more information on the Peel watershed regional planning process and to view the Yukon government's response to the Peel Commission, visit www.emr.gov.yk.ca.

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Contact:

Emily Younker Cabinet Communications 867-633-7961

emily.younker@gov.yk.ca

Rod Jacob Communications, Energy, Mines & Resources

867-667-3183 rod.jacob@gov.yk.ca

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