

To Vladimir V. Putin,
Chairman of the
Government
of the Russian Federation

Dear Vladimir Vladimirovich!

At the meeting in Zheleznogorsk 20.10.2008 there was chosen with Your participation a policy of transforming Krasnoyarsk region into one of the innovation development centers. In the meantime hundreds of millions of roubles are being spent on design development of Evenkijskaja hydroelectric power plant (EHPP) on the Lower Tunguska river in the same region.

In the estimation of a wide coalition of non-governmental environmental organizations, represented by World Wildlife Fund, Greenpeace Russia, International Socio-Ecological Union, Russian Bird Conservation Union, Biodiversity Conservation Center, and Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North, Siberia and the Far East, this project has nothing to do with innovative energy technologies. Taking into account the extremely high socio-ecological damage the project will cause and the financial resources it requires, it can't be effective in principle. It's important to consider that this project was declined in the late 1980s by the Government of the USSR after strict environmental and economical examinations as economically and socially untenable.

We deem in duty to draw Your attention to the fact that after building the Evenkijskaja HPP:

- key territories of natural management of Evenks, an indigenous nation of the Russian Federation, including the Evenk capital — the settlement of Tura, may be devastated, which means annihilation of Evenks as a nation;
- at least one of the three cameras, left after underground nuclear explosions set off at the bottom of the Lower Tunguska river in the late 1970s, containing radioactive brine will be swamped;
- some 1 million hectares of larch forests, practically not affected by human economical activities and overwhelmingly important for biodiversity conservation and ecological balance support of not only Russia, but of the whole planet, will be swamped.

We believe that building of EHPP will be an infringement both of international and Russian rules of law, in particular: the Convention of Biological Diversity, the Federal Environmental Protection Act and the Federal Guarantee of Rights of Indigenous Peoples of the Russian Federation Act.

We suppose that a sound strategic evaluation of alternative forms of development of Krasnoyarsk region, including EHPP project abandonment as untrue to criteria of social and ecological responsibility, will allow to save

resources for real solution of energy security problems not only for the region, but for the whole Russia, which is especially important under world financial crisis.

The fact that such problem projects as EHPP were registered in the Master Plan for location of the objects of the electric power industry by 2020 testifies that the Master Plan itself must be publicly analyzed and revised considering the admitted criteria of economical, social and environmental viability with participation of independent experts including those recommended by non-governmental organizations.

We urge You to make a decision on the abandonment of the Evenkijskaja HHP project and on public revision of the Master Plan for location of the objects of the electric power industry by 2020.

Yours faithfully,
Chairman of Executive
Committee of Russian
Association of
Indigenous Peoples of
the North,
Siberia and the Far East



D.V. Berezhkov

WWF Russia
Environmental policy
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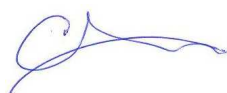
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