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May 10, 2004

To: Distribution List

Subject: May 4-5, 2005 Technical Meeting & May 6, 2004 Pre-Hearing Conference

Nanisivik Mine Reclamation and Closure Plan

NWB Licence NWB1NAN0208

Dear Parties:

The Nunavut Water Board ("NWB") held a technical meeting and a pre-hearing conference ("PHC") in Yellowknife on May 4-5, 2004 and May 6, 2004 respectively in preparation of a public hearing on the Nanisivik Mine Reclamation and Closure Plan and supporting documents listed in our April 28, 2004 letter ("RCP"). Notes from these meetings, including an attendance list, will be circulated under separate cover for your information.

Below is a summary of the issues discussed at the PHC and the NWB's decision regarding those issues:

The Proposed Hearing

In accordance with the provisions of the *Nunavut Waters and Nunavut Surface Rights Tribunal Act* ("Act"), the NWB shall hold a public hearing in the community or communities most affected before it can dispose of an application. Although the NWB is aware of logistical issues associated with the conduct of a hearing in Arctic Bay, the NWB is of the opinion that public involvement is pivotal in its proceedings and confirms that the hearing will be held in **Arctic Bay starting June 3** from 1 to 5 p.m. and 7 to 10 p.m., continuing on June 4 as required. An agenda confirming the particulars of the hearing will be circulated to all parties before the hearing.

To promote public awareness and meaningful community participation at the Hearing, the NWB will organize community workshops with interested residents and local organizations in Arctic Bay. Patrick Duxbury, the NWB's Mine Reclamation Coordinator, will be visiting the community in the weeks before the hearing. Patrick Duxbury may be contacted by email (coordinator@nwb.nunavut.ca).

Scope of the Hearing

The scope of the Hearing will be limited to **any matter pertinent to the CRP**, and more specifically to the following:

- G-3 Final Closure and Reclamation Plan
- G-4 Engineering Design of Surface Reclamation Covers
- G-5 Assessment of Surface Cell and Test Cell Taliks
- G-6 Quarry Development and Reclamation Plan
- G-7 Detailed Design of the West Twin Dyke Spillway
- G-8 Rock Piles and Open Pits Closure Plan
- G-9 Closure Monitoring Plan
- G-13 2003 Phase 3 Environmental Site Assessment
- G-14 Human Health and Ecological Risk Assessment
- G-16 Waste Disposal Plan
- G-15 West Twin Disposal Area Closure Plan
- G-17 Landfill Closure Plan

However, other issues may be brought forward as long as they are directly relevant to the approval of the CRP.

<u>Information Requests</u>

Enclosed is a list of Information Requests ("IR") that have been identified during the preliminary review of the CRP. These issues were discussed and reviewed during the technical meeting, and later agreed upon at the PHC. The Applicant and parties are required to provide their response within the timeframe indicated below.

Deadline for Filing Interventions and Language of Documents

The NWB Rules of Practice and Procedures for Public Hearings stipulates that parties who intend to rely on a document at the Hearing must submit their written interventions, in both Inuktitut and English, no later than fifteen days before the commencement of the Hearing.

However, in consideration of several time constraints and following consultation with parties at the PHC, the NWB decides to vary its rules and sets the following deadlines:

May 14, 2004: Deadline to respond to questions or concerns identified in the IR

May 28, 2004: Deadline for Interveners to submit final comments before the Hearing.

The NWB also confirms that Inuktitut translation of all submissions, including the Applicant's response to Information Requests, will be required. However, parties who are unable to do so are required to file with their intervention a detailed executive summary of their submission that will be translated by the NWB.

Site Visit

At the PHC, participants agreed with the NWB that a site visit would not be necessary. However, the NWB recommended to the Applicant to present at the Hearing a visual overview of the site using photos and video material.

Language and Equipment Requirements

The Hearing will be conducted in **Inuktitut and English**, with simultaneous translation. The NWB is also required by law to conduct public hearings in both official languages of Canada in accordance with the *Official Languages Act*. Please notify the NWB at least two weeks before the Hearing should you require simultaneous interpretation in French. Additionally, parties who will need special audio-visual equipment at the Hearing are requested to inform the NWB of their specific needs at least two weeks before the Hearing so that arrangements can be made in advance.

The NWB also confirmed at the PHC that transcripts of the Hearing will be made available within reasonable time after the Hearing upon written request. However, due to possible long delays to prepare transcripts, the NWB formally asks parties not to rely on these transcripts to prepare any eventual post-hearing submission.

Public Registry

All documents listed in our April 28, 2004 letter, as well as any correspondence related to these documents, have been filed in the NWB public registry and will be made available to the public in Arctic Bay and at the NWB Office in Gjoa Haven.

Please do not hesitate to contact Patrick Duxbury (coordinator@nwb.nunavut.ca) or Dionne Filiatrault (srtech@nwb.nunavut.ca) for technical issues, or Phyllis Beaulieu (licensing@nwb.nunavut.ca) or myself for any other matter related to the hearing.

Sincerely,

Original signed by:

Philippe di Pizzo Executive Director exec@nwb.nunavut.ca

Enclosure: Information Requests