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October 1, 2003

Mr. Philippe di Pizzo
Executive Director
Nunavut Water Board
P.O. Box 119
Gjoa Haven, NU X0E-1J0

Dear Mr. di Pizzo:

RE: PROPOSED UNDERGROUND DISPOSAL OF MILL COMPLEX DECONTAMINTATION WASTE WATER NWB1NAN0208 PART 5 ITEM V

There were several issues in the August 10th response to the wastewater deposition

Item 1. *Request for more details regarding transport of water underground and spill contingency.*

Water will be pumped into a tanker truck and hauled to the West open pit where it will be deposited into the existing sump. The truck will be inspected routinely for damage, leaks etc. and will be maintained accordingly. If a spill during transport occurs, then the spill response plan will be acted on, this would include containment of the spill and removal of any contaminated soil to an approved storage area. An electric pump will be set up in the West open pit to pump the water up to the opening into the mine where it will be discharged and allowed to gravity flow into the workings as shown on the previously submitted drawings. The pipe line from the sump to the mine opening is entirely within the open pit, so that any spilled water resulting from a breach in the pipe would flow back into the sump.

Item 2 *Containment of water within the lower shale Zone*

This area is at a lower elevation than the adjacent haulage ways and stopes and therefore, any water deposited here cannot flow into other parts of the mine. The mine is in permafrost and the ambient temperature is below freezing (-12) year round. When the water settles out in the lower shale zone it will eventually freeze. This area is non-man entry and is not scheduled to have any demolition debris or waste rocks deposited during reclamation and therefore water deposition here will not affect the available space for other waste disposal.

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Item 3 *Identification of contaminants.*

Washing activities will be carried out during the dismantling of the mill components. The type of equipment that will be washed will be machinery such as pumps, grinding mills, floatation cells, conveyor ways etc. The type of material being washed off the equipment will be tailings, dust and dirt that may contain metal such as lead, zinc and iron sulphides. Water that is hauled to the pits will be sampled prior to deposition underground and will be tested for metals and hydrocarbons. Sampling will be carried out on a daily basis to determine the characteristics of the water.

Item 4 *West Pit containment*

The bottom of the sump is contained within rock on all sides, and we do not anticipate a breach as such. Water will be maintained at a low level to ensure that water is not released to the environment. Upon completion of the project, all the water from the pit will be pumped out to facilitate back filling and contouring of the area.

Item 5 *Monitoring the disposal area*

As previously stated, the disposal area is within a non-man entry area that is lower in elevation than the surrounding stopes and haulage roads. The long term effects of water left stagnant in a minus 12 permafrost environment will be the formation of ice, and migration of contaminants will not be possible.

If you have any questions or comments please do not hesitate to contact me.

Regards,

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