

## ຼຼຼລວ້ NUNAVUT WATER BOARD NUNAVUT IMALIRIYIN KATIMAYINGI

August 8, 2001

To: Distribution List

Subject: Polaris Mine – Decommissioning and Reclamation Plan

## Dear Parties:

As part of the review and approval process of Cominco Ltd.'s proposed Polaris Mine Decommissioning and Reclamation Plan, representatives of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (DIAND), Environment Canada (EC), Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO), Department of Sustainable Development-Nunavut (DSD), and the Nunavut Water Board (NWB), toured the Polaris Mine on August 3 and 4, 2001. We were also fortunate to have in attendance several members of the community of Resolute Bay such as the Mayor and Deputy-Mayor of the Hamlet, and the President of the local Hunters and Trappers Association. On behalf of those who took part in the site visit, we would like to take this opportunity to thank John Knapp, Polaris Mine Manager, and his colleagues Bruce Donald and James Davidson for a very informative tour of the mine's facilities and for their welcoming reception.

Unfortunately, the public pre-hearing meeting that was scheduled to take place in Resolute Bay on August 3, 2001 in conjunction with the mine visit had to be canceled due to inclement weather, and we sincerely apologize to all for the inconvenience and confusion. However, to ensure that the public of Resolute Bay is informed and plays an active role in the review and approval of the Mine's proposed Decommissioning and Reclamation Plan, DIAND and the NWB, in consultation with Cominco, the Mayor of Resolute Bay and representatives of federal and territorial departments who attended the site visit, have decided to reschedule the Resolute Bay public meeting for **September 20, 2001**, from 7:30 to 10 p.m. (meeting's agenda enclosed).

It is still DIAND and the NWB's objective to conclude the review and approval of the Polaris Mine Decommissioning and Reclamation Plan by the end of November 2001 by way of written submissions, as indicated in our letter of May 4, 2001. However, due to the rescheduling of the public pre-hearing meeting, we have pushed back the deadline for written submissions to **October 15, 2001**. Parties who will have submitted comments before the closing date will be given until **October 22, 2001** to reply if they wish, and Cominco will then be given the opportunity to make a final submission or rebuttal before **October 31, 2001**. Meanwhile, the NWB has agreed to use its Geotechnical engineer, Holger Hartmaier, to assist the DIAND and NWB staff with the review of the proposed

Plan, to coordinate if needed discussions between Cominco and interested parties on technical matters before they submit their comments on the Plan to DIAND and the NWB, and to provide expert opinion to the DIAND and the NWB in the analysis of submissions. Please notify Rita Becker by telephone, telecopier or email (<a href="mailto:rbecker@polarnet.ca">rbecker@polarnet.ca</a>) before August 11, 2001 if you wish to be contacted by Mr. Hartmaier on technical issues.

Sincerely,

## ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

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c.c. Nunavut Implementation Panel

Encl. Agenda

Polaris Distribution List- August 8, 2001

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