



Fisheries
and Oceans

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et Océans

Fish Habitat Management
PO Box 358
Iqaluit Nunavut
X0A 0H0

January 21, 2003

Phillippe di Pizzo
Executive Director
Nunavut Water Board
P.O. Box 119 Gjoa Haven
Nunavut X0B 1J0
(867) 360-6338

**RE: DFO Intervention on NWB Hearing regarding the Polaris Mine
Decommissioning and Reclamation Plans**

Dear Mr. di Pizzo:

The Department of Fisheries and Oceans – Fish Habitat Management (DFO-FHM) is providing advice on the Polaris Mine Decommissioning and Reclamation Plan to the Nunavut Water Board. I have reviewed the additional information submitted by Bruce Donald (Teck Cominco Ltd. [TCL]) entitled “*Decommissioning the Polaris Mine Freshwater Supply Facilities at Frustration Lake*” dated October 11th, 2002. Based on the information provided to DFO-FHM by Teck Cominco Ltd. there does not appear to be any significant impacts on fish habitat associated with the TCL’s plans to leave the jetty in place in Frustration Lake. DFO-FHM suggests that erosion of the jetty should be considered in the post-closure monitoring plan. Appropriate contingency measures to prevent elevated sedimentation adjacent to the jetty should be reflected in the terms and conditions of the Nunavut Water Board issued Water License.

The attached report entitled “*Decommissioning of the dock, marine foreshore and Garrow Lake Dam at Polaris Mine*” identifies additional DFO-FHM concerns associated with the plans to decommission Polaris Mine. The information provided in this report compliments the Nunavut Impact Review Board screening conducted on the “Polaris Fish Habitat Restoration Plan.” The environmental assessment conducted by NIRB was triggered by the requirement for a Section 35(2) *Fisheries Act* authorization needed to decommission the dock, marine foreshore, and Garrow

Canada

Lake Dam at Polaris Mine. DFO-FHM requests that the NWB consider the information in this report. The “Conclusions and Recommendations” section of the DFO-FHM report suggest that a security deposit should be collected by the Nunavut Water Board from TCL.

If you have any questions regarding the information submitted in this intervention please feel free to contact my office at (867) -979-8000.

Sincerely,

Jordan DeGroot
Habitat Management Biologist
Fish Habitat Management
Eastern Arctic Area