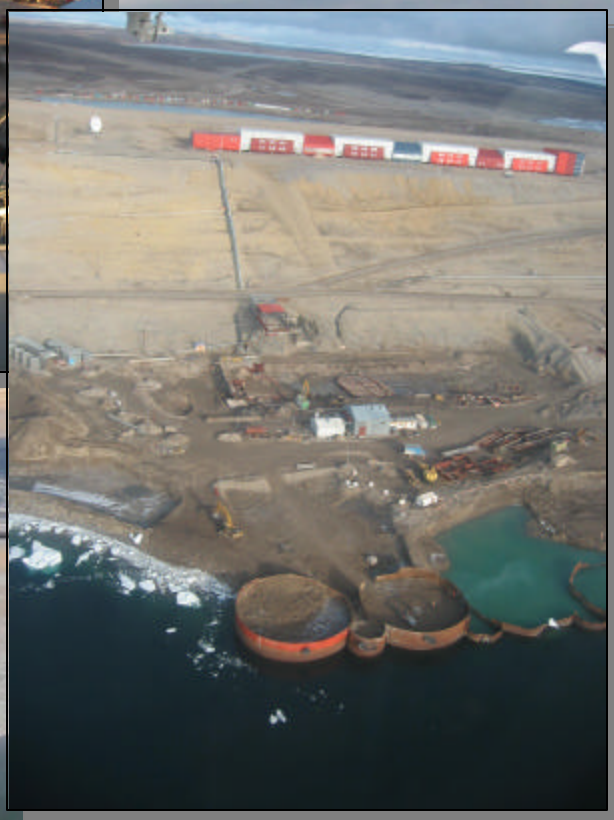
Site Visit and Community Consultation Report

September 6-15, 2003



Polaris Mine and Resolute Bay

By:

Patrick Duxbury
Mine Reclamation Coordinator
Nunavut Water Board

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1 Introduction

Between September 8th to September 15th, 2003 Patrick Duxbury, Mine Reclamation Coordinator for the Nunavut Water Board ("NWB"), paid a site visit to the Polaris Mine and subsequently held a community consultation session in Resolute Bay. The purpose of his travel was to observe the progress of reclamation at Polaris, to share information on that progress with the communities of Resolute Bay and to compile information for NWB members and staff on the mine closure project.

During the site visit at Polaris Mine, Mr. Duxbury joined an inspection team, consisting of the following individuals:

Mr. Carl Mclean – Manager, Land Administration, DIAND
Mr. Jim Noble - Resources Management Officer, DIAND
Mr. Holger Hartmaier - Senior Geotechnical Engineer, BCG Engineering Inc. (Consultant for the NWB and DIAND)

The following staff at Polaris Mine assisted the inspection team during their visit:

Mr. John Knapp – Polaris Site Manager, TeckCominco Limited
Mr. Ron Matthews – Supervisor, TeckCominco Limited
Mr. Tony Toombs – Supervisor, Cascasde Management.

Community consultation activities at Resolute Bay were solely conducted by Mr. Duxbury. A synopsis of that consultation is presented in Appendix 3.

2 Daily Log of Activities

Saturday, September 6, 2003

- Patrick Duxbury departed Cambridge Bay at approximately 16:30 on a Kenn Borek flight bound for Resolute Bay. He arrived in Resolute Bay at approximately 19:30 local time.

Sunday, September 7, 2003

- Mr. Duxbury spent the day in Resolute waiting for the DIAND Inspection Team.

Monday 8th, September 8, 2003

- Mr. Duxbury visited Resolute Bay's Hamlet Office to speak to Martha Idlout, Senior Administrative Officer, about organizing a public meeting for the evening of Thursday 11th, 2003 to discuss community concerns about the Polaris Decommissioning and Reclamation Plan ("D&R Plan").

- Arrangements were made with Susan Salluviniq for her to interpret the Thursday night public meeting.

- Resolute Bay Hunters and Trappers Association ("HTA") office was visited to invite the HTA board to the Thursday evening meeting.

- At approximately 15:30, the DIAND charter aircraft from Iqaluit arrived at the Resolute Bay airport. Patrick Duxbury met with members of the inspection team.

- The charter aircraft departed Resolute Bay at approximately 16:15 for the Polaris Mine.

- The aircraft landed at Polaris and the inspection team was greeted by John Knapp. The site visit commenced until approximately 21:45 when the sunlight began to fade. Frustration Lake, Little Red Dog Quarry, the Barge Complex and the Concentrate Storage Shed were visited that afternoon and evening.

Tuesday 9th, September, 2003

- The site tour continued at approximately 9:30. Garrow Dam and Garrow Lake, the Tailings Thickener footprint, the Operational Landfill, the New Quarry, the subsidence zone, the raise borehole area and the underground workings were visited.

- The site tour finished in early afternoon. John Knapp met with the inspection team in the afternoon to discuss regulatory concerns.

Wednesday 10th, September, 2003

- The inspection team met with TeckCominco and Workers' Compensation Board representatives in the morning to discuss reclamation concerns, particularly the issue of the subsidence zone.

- The DIAND charter aircraft left Polaris Mine in the early afternoon for Resolute Bay to refuel and drop Patrick Duxbury off.

Thursday 11th, September, 2003

- Preparations were made for the public meeting on the Polaris D&R Plan.

- A public meeting on Polaris D&R Plan was held at 19:00.

Friday 12th, September, 2003

- Patrick Duxbury waited in Resolute Bay for the First Air connector flight to Nanisivik.

Saturday 13th, September, 2003

- Due to poor weather conditions the scheduled flight to Nanisivik was cancelled.

Sunday, September 14, 2003

- Poor weather conditions prevailed throughout Sunday preventing a departure from Resolute to take place.

Monday, September 15, 2003

- Patrick Duxbury arrived in Iqaluit on Monday afternoon to wait until Wednesday to travel to Nanisivik.

3 Polaris Mine

3.1 Background Information

The Polaris Mine is located on Little Cornwallis Island in the Canadian High Arctic, in the Territory of Nunavut. It is situated at approximately latitude 75°N and longitude 97°W, and is about 100 km northwest of the community of Resolute Bay. During production, Polaris Mine was an underground zinc-lead mining operation and was the world's most northerly metal mine. The Polaris Mine occupies a total of about 962 hectares of land under surface leases held from the Government of Canada and administered through Indian and Northern Affairs Canada. The mine is accessible by helicopter or fixed wing aircraft, as well as by ocean-going ships during the short period of open water in the late summer and early fall.

The Polaris orebody was discovered in the early 1970's. The first concentrate was produced in late 1981. The mine ceased production in September, 2002 with the exhaustion of economically-viable ore reserves. Approximately 21 million tonnes of ore was excavated and processed into concentrate.

The terrain of Little Cornwallis Island consists of gently rolling, low-relief hills and plains. The Polaris Mine site area is characterized by a steep, west-facing hillside leading from the accommodation complex down to the dock area below.

The climate is of the site is typical of the high arctic, with cold winters, short cool summers and low precipitation. Snow-melt typically begins in June, and break-up of the sea ice occurs from approximately mid July into early August. Freeze-up begins in late September.

The Polaris mine site is located within the zone of continuous permafrost. The vegetation of Little Cornwallis Island is classified as “Arctic Tundra”. Due to the harsh climate, high winds and shallow soils, vegetation forms are typically dwarfed, low-lying and grow in clusters or as a dense mat. In general, vegetation with the immediate mine site is extremely sparse.

3.2 Visited Areas of the Property

A map the Polaris Mine property and surrounding area is provided in Appendix 1. Photographs 1 – 7 of Appendix 2 depict several of the areas that were visited by the inspection team as they were viewed during a fly-by of the mine site on September 8, 2003. A general description of the visited areas is presented as follows:

Frustration Lake

Fresh water for industrial and domestic use is supplied from Frustration Lake, which is located approximately 5 km north-east of the process barge footprint. Water is pumped from the lake through a pumphouse which is built on a rock jetty extending out into the lake. Water is transported by a five km of 200mm diameter insulated, heat traced fibreglass pipe.

Little Red Dog Quarry

During operation, the Little Red Dog Quarry ("LRD Quarry") was used to provide limestone aggregate material for processing in the Cement Rockfill Plant. LRD Quarry consists of eight benches and is about 250 meters long and 200 meters wide. It produced approximately 2.3 million tonnes of limestone and overburden. Due to its limestone geology, the LRD Quarry does not contain any sulphide mineralization and therefore is not a risk for acid-rock drainage. Since the commencement of reclamation activities, TeckCominco has been using LRD Quarry as a final disposal location for demolished surface buildings, concrete foundations, decommissioned pipelines, electrical cable and other materials from demolition. After the final disposal of demolition materials, an engineered cover will be constructed and contoured to prevent ponding of surface water.

Dock and Barge Complex

The barge was 31 meters wide, 122 meters long and 18 meters high above a 4.3 meter deep hull. The barge was outfitted with a process plant, power generators, mine offices, warehouse and maintenance shops. At the commencement of the mine, the barge was floated into a man-made lagoon before being placed onto a prepared gravel bed. A berm was constructed across the entrance to the lagoon, the sea water was pumped out and the excavation void was backfilled. Since fall 2002, the barge complex has been systematically dismantled.

The dock is located on the shore of Crozier Strait and consisted of four main cells with a 92m docking face and a water depth of about 13m. The four cells were constructed from steel sheet pilings that were backfilled with crushed rock. The rock fill was artificially frozen in place by a glycol piping system that was buried in the rock fill. The dock rose to about 5m above mean sea water level. The dock incorporated a conveyor system for the loading of concentrates onto vessels. The conveyor system was fully

dismantled at the time of the site visit. The dock area was being excavated through the summer and fall of 2004.

Concentrate Shed Footprint

The Concentrate Storage Building was a metal-clad, steel frame structure, mounted on concrete footings and equipped with six interior conveyors. Concentrate was stored there until loading onto ships. At the time of the visit, the entire steel cladding and steel frames had been removed.

Garrow Lake and Garrow Dam

Mill tailings were deposited in Garrow Lake since mill start up in late 1981. Garrow Lake is a meromictic lake which is both thermally and chemically stratified with no vertical circulation. The lake has an area of about 4 km^2, a maximum depth of 46 metres and is stratified into three distinct layers of increasing salinity. The surface layer supports populations of aquatic organisms, including fish. The bottom layer, where tailings were deposited, is devoid of aquatic life, has no dissolved oxygen and has salinity more than twice that of seawater. The conditions at the bottom layer prevent mobilization and vertical mixing of tailings.

The Garrow Lake Dam was constructed during 1990 and 1991 to contain water within Garrow Lake so that it could be discharged in a controlled manner. The dam is located along Garrow Creek approximately 600 meters downstream of the original outlet of Garrow Lake. Garrow Creek flows downstream from the dam toward the ocean approximately 600 meters south of the dam. The dam crest is approximately 250 meters long with a maximum dam height of 8 meters. The dam core was constructed of crushed shale, placed in the winter to create a frozen core. The shell of the dam was constructed of blasted quarry shale.

A rockfill wave break structure is located approximately 500 meters from Garrow Lake Dam at the original outlet of Garrow Lake. The wave break was constructed to reduce erosive forces on the upstream face of the dam. Until the recent draw-down the wave break was submerged under water and was not easily visible.

Tailings Thickener Footprint

The Tailings Thickener was located west of the Garrow Lake tailing disposal area. The Tailings Thickener consisted of a 40 meter diameter steel tank approximately five metres in height. The facility was enclosed within a metal-clad, steel frame structure. The entire facility was built on a concrete foundation. An emergency tailing impoundment basin was located adjacent to the building. The building was dismantled at the time of the site visit.

New Quarry

The New Quarry produced shale backfill material used to fill the mined out areas underground. The quarry does not contain any sulphide mineralization and does not present a risk of acid rock drainage. Since commencement of reclamation activities, the New Quarry has been used to provide cover material for the operation landfill and other mine components.

Operation Landfill

The Operational Landfill was opened in 1981 and was approximately 400 meters long, 70 meters wide and 10 meters high. The wastes deposited there included empty dry chemical bags; empty drums; construction materials; used equipment and parts; wood scrap and municipal type solid waste. The Operational Landfill was constructed in layers working from west to east, with each layer covered with shale, graded and compacted prior to starting a new layer. In March 1999, five thermistors were installed into the Operational Landfill to provide data in preparation for closure planning. The Operational Landfill was no longer in use at the time of the site visit.

Subsidence Zone

Some surface subsidence over portions of the ore body has occurred and is routinely monitored by mine personnel. Subsidence at Polaris Mine stemmed from early mining practices. A backfill program was implemented to help bring subsidence under control.

North Pit and Boreholes

The North Pit was an area developed during the early exploration and assessment of the Polaris Mine ore body.

A large number of 1.8 meter diameter vertical raise bore holes were drilled from the surface into the orebody, 50 to 300 meters below surface. The holes provided a method of dumping fill into each working place, as well providing ventilation air underground. During backfilling of the mining areas, the raisebore holes were filled to surface with backfill, creating a permanently frozen waterproof plug that helped to support the underground and reduce subsidence.

Underground Workings

The underground workings in the Polaris mine include access tunnels of approximately 6.5 km in total length, extending from surface to a maximum depth of 310 meters. Besides the mine workings, the underground facilities include an explosives mixing plant, maintenance shops, an electrical shop, crushing stations and machinery. Underground chambers have been used for the storage of contaminated soil and meltwater runoff since the commencement of reclamation activities.

3.3 Observations and Discussion

3.3.1 Frustration Lake (Photos 8-10)

The Frustration Lake facility was still being used to provide fresh water to the mine during the time of the site visit. During the spring breakup the pump house was damaged by an ice pan which struck the side of the building. Some repairs to the access road to Frustration Lake had been undertaken in the summer due to freshet-caused wash-outs.

3.3.2 Little Red Dog Quarry (Photos 11-14)

Most of the identifiable items stored in the quarry were sections of barge hull that had been cut by plasma torches. A large quantity of crushed siding from the concentrate shed was also placed adjacent to the barge sections. To minimize void space between items, the barge sections were placed on end and arranged in a way that would permit fill to enter between the sections. It was observed that the previous lifts had already been covered with shale material. There was no water pooling apparent except for a very small area. Remaining material to be stored in the LRD Quarry will likely be the accommodation complex, and possibly metal-contaminated soil.

3.3.3 Dock and Barge Complex (Photos 15-20)

The final stage of the barge complex dismantlement was taking place during the site visit. Workers were cutting up the steel plate hull with plasma cutters. At the time of the visit, approximately 10-15% of the hull remained. Around the barge void, heavy machinery was observed excavating contaminated soil, which was subsequently hauled away for storage underground.

The dock cell structures were also being decommissioned during the visit. Soil backfill behind the sheet pilings was being excavated and removed for storage underground. TeckCominco had intended to have their divers cut down the sheet pilings to the approved level, however, due to the presence of ice pans in Crozier Strait, it was considered unsafe to carry out this activity in open water. TeckCominco was proposing to have the divers return sometime in late winter or early spring when ice conditions would be stable enough to permit the divers to safely cut down the pilings.

Workers were exposing the glycol pipes used to keep the dock cells frozen during mine operation. The glycol piping system was systematically drained, excavated and then stored in LRD Quarry. The glycol was being incinerated in the on-site incinerator.

3.3.4 Concentrate Shed Footprint (Photos 21-24)

The concentrate storage shed was demolished over the summer. The sheet metal siding was cut into small sections and placed in the LRD Quarry. The foundation and lower portions of the shed's support column were the only components of the shed still

left at the time of the visit. Soil which had served as the shed's footprint has been excavated and disposed of underground.

Gartner Lee Limited, TeckCominco's environmental consultant, was on site to undertake confirmatory sampling to ensure that the Soil Quality Remedial Objectives developed in the Polaris Human Health and Ecological Risk Assessment were being reached. John Knapp explained that a problem existed at the Concentrate Storage Shed site due to the fact that small quantities of concentrate had migrated into cracks and fissures in the shed's footprint. Despite the fact that the overall quantity of concentrate in the footprint area was actually small, the concentrate present had led to elevated soil metal readings during confirmatory testing. The testing examined the metal concentrations within the 2mm soil fraction, the fraction where concentrate is normally located, and the fraction upon which the reclamation criteria are based upon. To help solve this problem, TeckCominco had excavated more soil from the Concentrate Storage Shed footprint than it had initially intended to; to the point where the excavators had reached bedrock in several places. As it was John Knapp's opinion that the excavation of the shed footprint could carry on indefinitely because residual concentrate would continually settle further into the cracks and fissures of the bedrock during excavation, he suggested that the company would need to modify the D&R Plan so that the footprint may be covered with several metres of fill and the contoured to meet the objectives proposed for reclamation of the foreshore. John Knapp believed that the other possible options to reclaim the shed footprint were less attractive. TeckCominco will likely submit a modification of the Polaris D&R Plan to the regulators to address this issue.

3.3.5 Garrow Lake and Garrow Dam (Photos 25-28)

During the summer, the level of Garrow Lake was lowered by a siphon system consisting of 18 large siphons. At the time of the inspection, the lake level had been lowered to within approximately 0.4 metres of its original level. After siphoning the lake to its original level, TeckCominco intends to excavate the centre portion of the dam before the spring freshet. Explosives will be required to aid in this process. It was mentioned that some insulation material will be removed later in the fall. Water testing has been occurring over the period of open water and these results are expected in the 3rd quarterly report.

As the water level of the lake has been reduced, the rockfill wave break has become visible. John Knapp proposed that the structure should stay in place if it can be shown that it will not impede the natural flow of water. He felt that the structure's removal could increase sedimentation problems. However, the structure does appear to have the potential to impede water flow. An exposed structure crossing the creek, as the wave break does, may freeze up and prevent flow.

TeckCominco representatives said that they would submit a formal request to the regulators as to how they wish to proceed with this issue.

3.3.6 Tailings Thickener Complex (Photos 29,30)

The Tailings Thickener building was dismantled and disposed of in the LRD Quarry in the fall of 2002. At the time of the inspection, work was underway to remove the containment dam around the overflow area. The frozen pad foundation was being removed as well. Confirmatory soil sampling for metals will be undertaken by Gartner Lee Limited to ensure that the site is clean.

3.3.7 New Quarry (Photos 31,32)

The New Quarry has been the source for much of the backfill material used in the reclamation, such as in the Operational Landfill and LRD Quarry. TeckCominco has stockpiled a large quantity of shale for the remaining reclamation components. The sides of the quarry have been flattened and re-contoured. The blasted shale has been used to fill in holes and depressions. It may be useful to have as-built drawing of the quarry submitted by TeckCominco.

3.3.8 Operation Landfill (Photos 33-35, 44)

The landfill is now closed and 1.2 metres of crushed shale material has been placed on the site as cover. Another 0.6 metres of crushed limestone will be placed on top of the shale to ensure greater stability. Some areas that were observed to be problematic in the previous site visit by the inspection team had been addressed, including the recontouring of the slope above the landfill. The Inspection Team discussed the need for TeckCominco to provide as-built drawings of the landfill due to some modifications of the original plans that occurred.

Domestic garbage is now diverted to a sea container north of the Operation Landfill where it is dumped and incinerated. Adjacent to the landfill is a collection of old mine equipment which may be removed off site. The equipment otherwise will be drained of hazardous materials and disposed of.

3.3.9 Subsidence Zone (Photos 36-38)

Teck Cominco has been placing shale fill over the subsidence zone in an effort to maintain positive drainage over the zone to prevent pooling of water. John Knapp explained that this method appears to have limited effect in addressing the problem of subsidence. Subsidence appears to be still occurring and the additional weight of fill being placed over the zone may actually be promoting the slumping effect. A small pool had developed at the centre of the depression. TeckCominco had concerns that the quantity of fill being placed there may, in the long run, be insufficient for the potential subsidence that could occur. There were also safety concerns about operating heavy machinery over the zone, due to the lack of information on the subsidence zone's stability. One option that John Knapp proposed during the inspection would be to let the zone sink naturally to permit the formation of a pond that could provide stability by

promoting ice formation in any cracks and fissures. The group agreed to meet later to discuss this and other outstanding concerns.

On Wednesday 10, 2003, the inspection team, along with John Knapp, Ron Matthews and Workers' Compensation Board Mines Health and Safety Inspector, Martin Van Rooys met to further discuss the issue of the subsidence zone. The group reviewed mine plans and cross-section drawings of the underground areas where subsidence is occurring. The fact that the subsidence zone appears to widening was discussed. It was estimated that the subsidence zone is about 300 meters in diameter at the surface. The maximum possible depth of settlement is about 30 meters, as and such, continued placing of fill over the subsidence zone is probably ineffective.

TeckCominco has hired EBA Engineering Consultants to review the subsidence issue and their report will be submitted to the regulators which will likely identify a proposed plan of action.

3.3.10 North Pit and Raise Boreholes (Photos 39-43)

The pit's reclamation is complete and the rock slopes surrounding the former surface orebody were graded and contoured. As-built drawing may need to be submitted.

Work crews were observed trucking contaminated soil from excavated areas to the open raised boreholes above the mine workings. After the trucks had dumped the soil near the boreholes, front-end loaders pushed the soil down into boreholes. Below in the underground workings, scoop trams were used to push the soil into drifts where it was to be permanently stored. Due to the discovery of greater volumes of contaminated soil, TeckCominco is developing a plan to deal with this quantity of material.

3.3.11 Underground Workings (Photos 45,46)

The chamber where metal-containing meltwater from the barge complex area had been stored was investigated. The entire volume of meltwater was frozen into a block of solid ice several metres deep. The level of ice in the chamber was close to the elevation of the main portal underground access road. Therefore is little space to store any additional meltwater.

Work crews were observed handling the contaminated soil with heavy machinery and storing it into drifts.

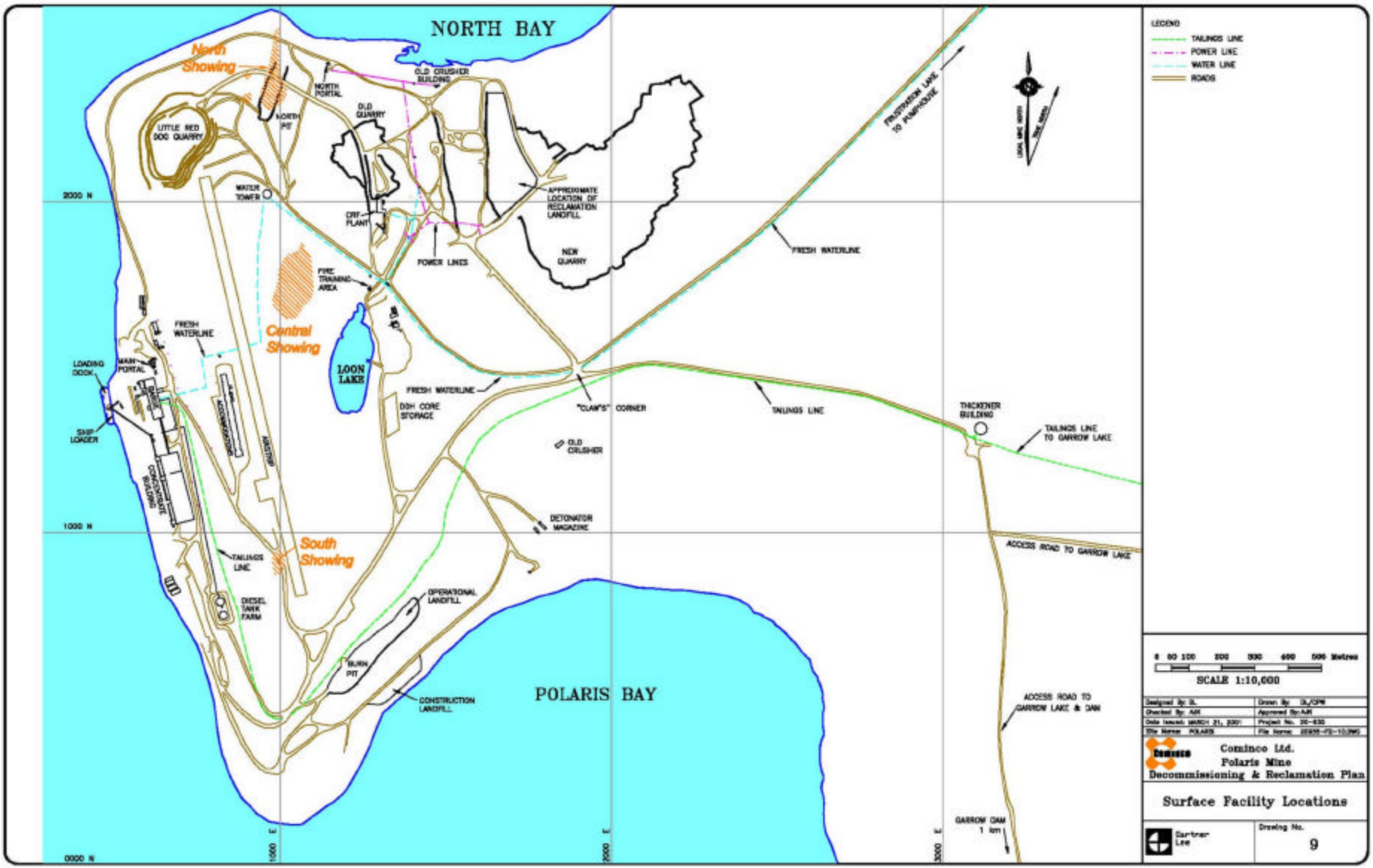
4 Conclusions

Overall, at the time of the site visit, the decommissioning and reclamation of the various mine components has been proceeding according to plan. There are, however, a few issues that were brought to light during the visit, which are the following:

- The ongoing subsidence over the mine workings;
- The possible removal of the wave break structure in Garrow Lake;
- The issue of residual metals contamination in the footprint of the Concentrate Storage Shed.

It is expected that Teck Cominco will provide DIAND and NWB with plans as how it these issues during the winter season.

Appendix 1 – Site Map of the Polaris Mine


NORTH BAY
North Showing
Central Showing
South Showing
LOON LAKE
POLARIS BAY
LITTLE RED DOG QUARRY
OLD CRUSHER BUILDING
NORTH PORTAL
OLD QUARRY
WATER TOWER
CRF PLANT
APPROXIMATE LOCATION OF RECLAMATION LANDFILL
NEW QUARRY
POWER LINES
FRESH WATERLINE
FIRE TRAINING AREA
LOADING DOCK
MAIN PORTAL
SHIP LOADER
ACCOMMODATIONS
AIRSTRIP
DSH CORE STORAGE
"CLAWS" CORNER
TAILINGS LINE
OLD CRUSHER
THICKENER BUILDING
TAILINGS LINE TO GARROW LAKE
DETONATOR MAGAZINE
ACCESS ROAD TO GARROW LAKE
DIESEL TANK FARM
OPERATIONAL LANDFILL
BURN PIT
CONSTRUCTION LANDFILL
ACCESS ROAD TO GARROW LAKE & DAM
GARROW DAM 1 km
2000 N
1000 N
0000 N
1000 E
2000 E
3000 E
LEGEND
TAILINGS LINE
POWER LINE
WATER LINE
ROADS
SCALE 1:10,000
Cominco Ltd.
Polaris Mine
Decommissioning & Reclamation Plan
Surface Facility Locations
Drawing No.
9

Appendix 2 – Photographs of the Polaris Mine Site

Photo 1 – Aerial View of Dock, Concentrate Storage Shed footprint and Barge Complex

Photo 2 – Aerial view of dump truck transporting contaminated soil for underground deposition via the raise boreholes

Photo 3 – Aerial photo of fuel storage tanks, workshops, sea crates and lay-down area

Photo 4 – Aerial photo of LRD Quarry; Barge Complex material has been stored to one side

Photo 5 – Aerial photo of Accommodation Complex and runway strip

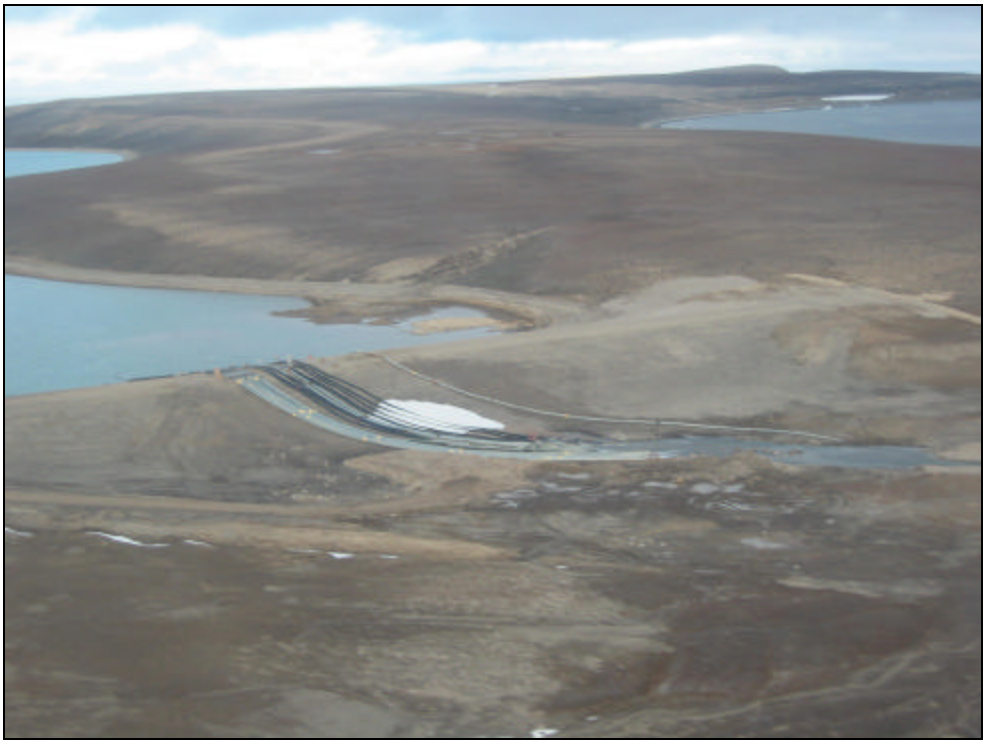


Photo 6 – Aerial photo of Garrow Dam and Garrow Creek

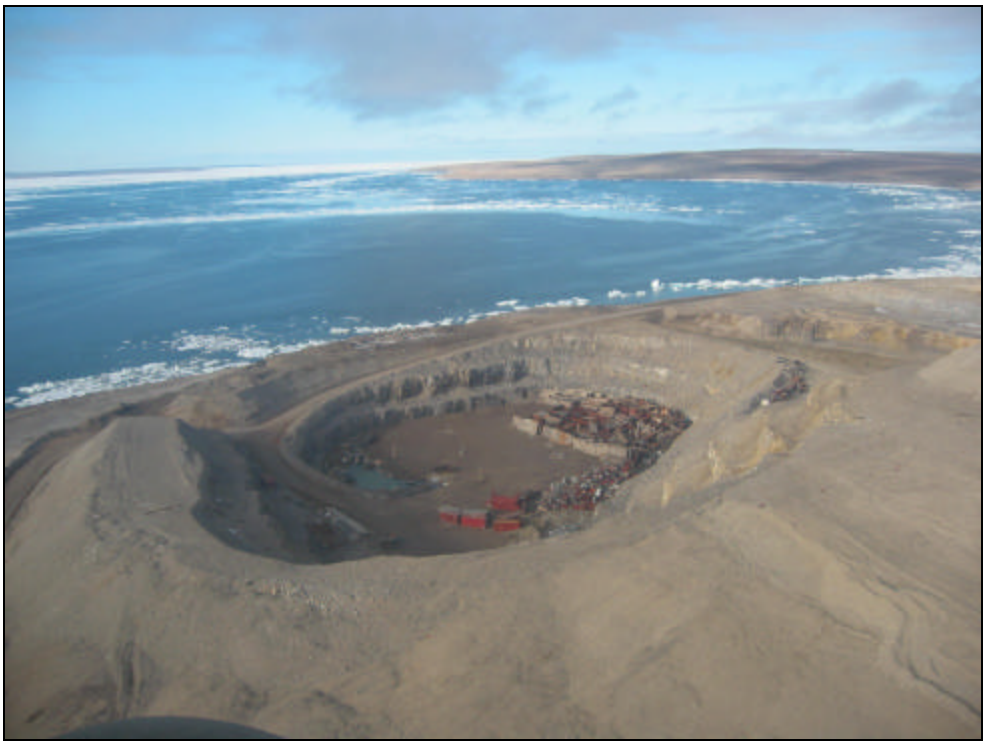


Photo 7 – Aerial photo of Polaris Bay and Little Red Dog Quarry

Photo 8 – Inspection group at Frustration Lake jetty

Photo 9 – Jetty at Frustration Lake

Photo 10 – Insulated water pipe from Frustration Lake to mine

Photo 11 – Cut Barge Complex material placed in Little Red Dog Quarry

Photo 12 – West slope of Little Red Dog Quarry

Photo 13 – Inspection group in Little Red Dog Quarry examining deposited materials

Photo 14 – Large sections pieces of dismantled barge material in Little Red Dog Quarry

Photo 15 – Remaining portion of the Barge Complex awaiting final demolition

Photo 16 – Heavy machinery operating around Barge Complex void

Photo 17 – Close-up of remaining portion of Barge Complex

Photo 18 – Excavated area behind dock pilings

Photo 19 – Excavated area behind dock pilings, facing towards the east

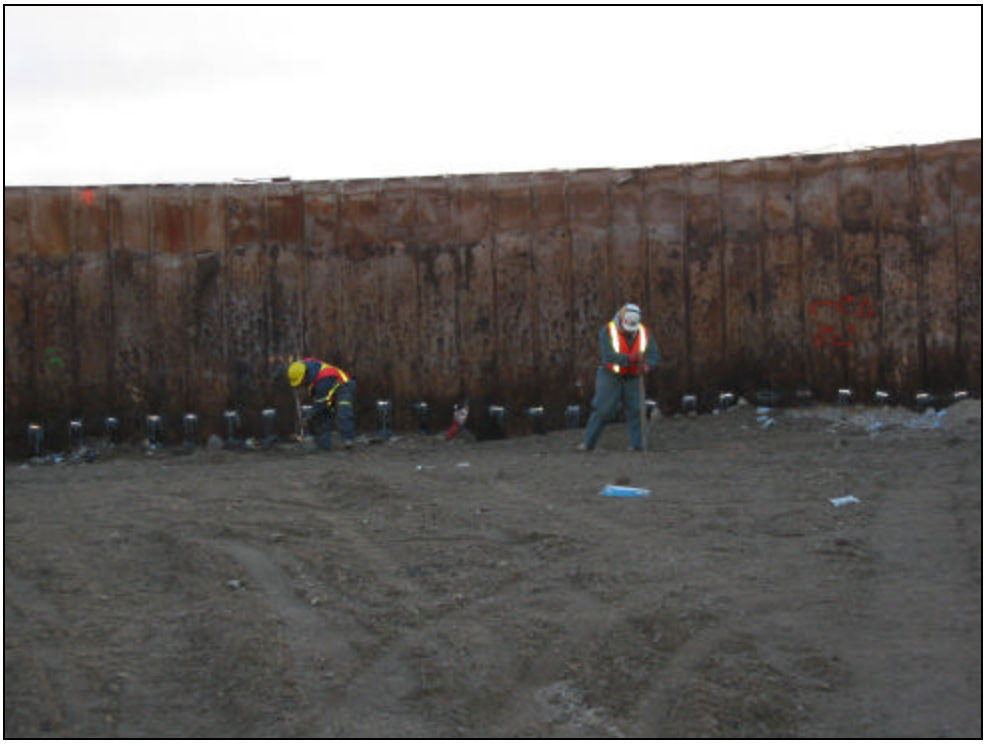


Photo 20 – Workers digging out glycol pipes behind dock pilings

Photo 21 – Site of former Concentrate Storage Shed, facing north-west

Photo 22 – Concentrate Storage Shed footprint, facing towards east

Photo 23 – Concentrate Storage Shed footprint, facing towards east

Photo 24 – Fractured limestone bedrock below Concentrate Storage Shed footprint

Photo 25 – Siphons draining lake water into Garrow Creek

Photo 26 – Close-up of siphons draining lake water into Garrow Creek

Photo 27 – Wave break structure in Garrow Lake

Photo 28 – Wave break structure; the structure has become more apparent as the lake level has dropped

Photo 29 – Tailings Thickener footprint; the building was demolished in September, 2002

Photo 30 – Bulldozer decommissioning the Tailing Thickener berm

Photo 31 – New Quarry, facing towards mine complex

Photo 32 – Inspection group examining New Quarry; the slopes are to be recontoured following final aggregate extraction

Photo 33 – Northeast aspect of Operation Landfill

Photo 34 – Operation Landfill; shale cover has been deposited over the site

Photo 35 – Operation Landfill around toe area

Photo 36 – Inspection group on top of subsidence zone; Teck Cominco has placed shale gravel on top of the site

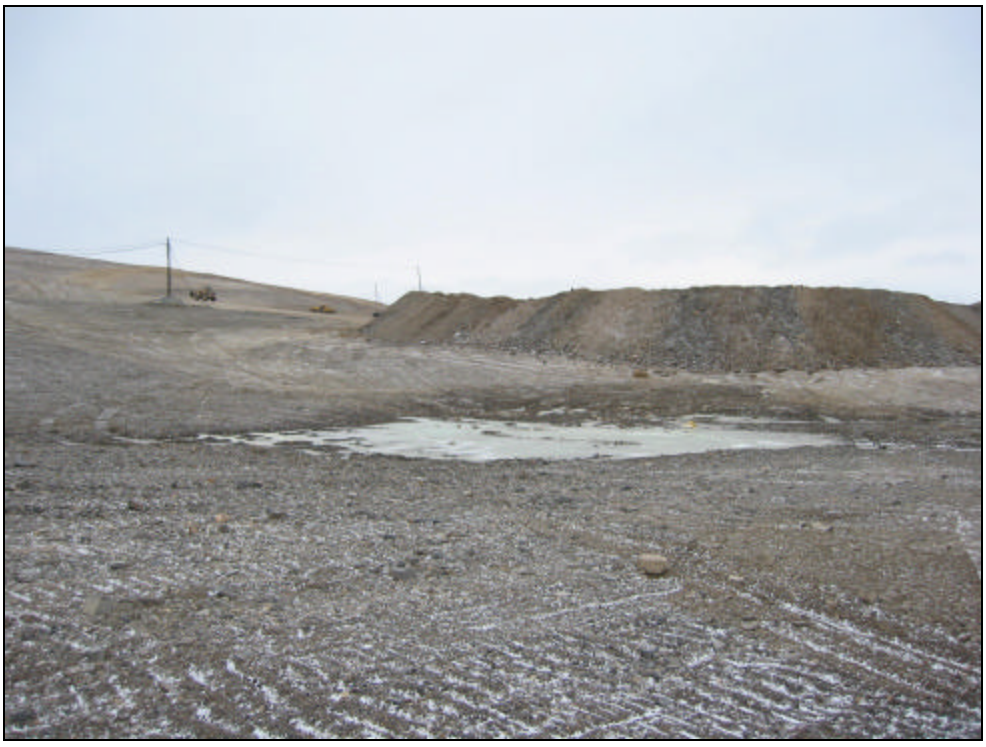


Photo 37 – Water pooling over subsidence zone

Photo 38 – Close-up of water pooling over subsidence zone

Photo 39 – Protective cover over raise borehole

Photo 40 – Piles of contaminated soil awaiting disposal underground

Photo 41 – Dump truck depositing contaminated soil in front of raise borehole

Photo 42 – Front end loader preparing to push contaminated soil underground

Photo 43 – The sides of the North Pit have been smoothed and recontoured

Photo 44 – Front end loader depositing domestic waste into incinerator bin

Photo 45 – Chamber where mine meltwater runoff was directed during spring freshet

Photo 46 – Inspection group holds discussion in underground chamber

Appendix 3 – Report on Community Consultation in Resolute Bay

On Thursday 11th, 2003 the Nunavut Water Board held a public meeting in Resolute Bay on the Polaris Decommissioning and Reclamation Plan. To advertise for this meeting, announcements were delivered at a community feast on Wednesday evening, as well as on the local community radio. Written notices were posted in public spaces throughout the community.

At 19:00, community members met at Resolute Bay's hamlet chambers to participate in the Nunavut Water Board presentation; approximately 15 persons were in attendance. Simultaneous translation was provided by Susan Salluviniq. After a 30 minute slide show presentation by Patrick Duxbury, consisting of photographs taken during his site visit to the Polaris Mine, the meeting was opened up for discussion on the Polaris closure. Questions regarding environmental concerns at the mine focused upon the clean up of contaminated material along the shoreline; items being deposited in the LRD Quarry; the aesthetic appearance of the site after reclamation; and the issue of the stability of tailings in Garrow Lake and its potential to negatively affect marine life.

The majority of the questions and concerns in the discussion were focused upon the possibility of community members acquiring assets from the mine after its closure. Patrick Duxbury stated, while this issue was not specifically a mandated concern of the NWB, he could assist in some way to make the community's wishes known to TeckCominco. Some of the meeting's participants requested that Patrick write to John Knapp to request him to visit Resolute Bay so that they could talk directly to him about their concerns. A copy of the letter to John Knapp is presented after this report. The meeting concluded at 21:00.

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NUNAVUT WATER BOARD
NUNAVUT IMALIRIYIN KATIMAYINGI

By: Email

October 3, 2003

Mr. John Knapp
Manager, Polaris Operations
Little Cornwallis Island, NU
X0A 0Y0

Dear John,

I wish to take this opportunity to again thank you for accommodating Carl, Holger, Jimmy and I during our recent visit to Polaris. It was an excellent opportunity to view mine reclamation in progress, and I sincerely hope that the Polaris closure and reclamation will serve as an example for other northern mining operations.

Following my trip to Polaris I spent a few days in Resolute Bay, during which I had the opportunity to report to the community as to what I saw. This report took the form of a powerpoint presentation containing many photographs that gave community members in attendance an idea of what was going on at LCI.

From what I could gather, Resolute Bay residents did not seem to have many concerns about the environmental aspects of the closure. Largely they seemed content with the reclamation so far, and were impressed by its extent.

However, as I predicted, the topic that took up the greatest amount of time during the discussion was the issue of obtaining assets from the mine following its closure. As this was an item that is well beyond the NWB's mandate, I did not want to get too caught up with it. However, I did re-emphasize some of the things that came up in discussion between you and me on this particular issue when I was at Polaris; particularly the need for a firm commitment from the community, by March 2004, to plan the relocation of assets.

The residents at the meeting asked me to write you a letter to inform you that they request you visit Resolute Bay in the near future to speak to them about this particular concern. They perhaps feel that a plan to relocate the assets could be developed once they have a clear idea of TeckCominco's expectations in regards to this issue. This letter is notice of my fulfillment to the community's request. I trust that you will give it due consideration.

Yours Sincerely,

(original signed by)
Patrick Duxbury
Mine Reclamation Coordinator
Nunavut Water Board