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NUNAVUT WATER BOARD

NUNAVUT IMALIRIYIN KATIMAYINGI

File: NWB1POL0311/Part B/Item 3

December 22, 2003

By Email and regular mail

Mr. John Knapp
Site Manager
Teck Cominco Ltd., Polaris Operations
P.O. Box 188
Resolute Bay, NU
X0A 0E0

Subject: Review of 1st and 2nd Quarter Polaris Mine Decommissioning and Reclamation Progress Reports

Dear Mr. Knapp,

The Nunavut Water Board (“NWB”) and the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (“DIAND”) have reviewed the 1st and 2nd Quarter Polaris Mine Decommissioning and Reclamation Progress Reports (“Reports”), dated August 21, 2003 and August 28th, 2003 respectively, from TeckCominco Limited (“the Licensee”). Subsequent to receiving the reports, the NWB distributed them to interested parties for review. Review submissions from DIAND – Water Resources and & BGC Engineering were received. Those submissions are available on the NWB’s FTP site at:

<http://ftp.nunavut.ca/nwb/NWB1%20MINING/NWB1POL0311%20Polaris/Technical%20Reviews/Annual%20Reports/>

The structure and content of the reports appear to meet the information requirements cited in Licence NWB1POL0311 (“Licence”) and the two joint NWB-INAC approvals, dated April 15, 2002 and July 4, 2003. However, the NWB and DIAND take this opportunity to request that the following items are addressed in the Licensee’s pending 3rd Quarter Progress Report, which was due September 30, 2003 pursuant to Part B, Item 3 of the Licence:

1. The Licensee shall provide an approximate estimate of the decommissioning and reclamation work completed for the entire project as a whole. The estimate should be presented as a percentage of the total work required to complete the project.
2. The Licensee shall provide approximate estimates of the decommissioning and reclamation work completed on specific reclamation components. Those estimates should be presented as percentages of the total work required to complete the tasks in question.
3. The Licensee shall provide greater detail as to why the cost of several of the reclamation components have increased or decreased from the estimations provided in the original 2002 budget.
4. The Licensee shall clearly indicate if a reduction in security is to be required based upon expenditures and overruns to date.

Should you have any questions or concerns with the abovementioned items, please contact the under signed at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Original signed by:

Dionne Filiatrault
Senior Technical Advisor
Nunavut Water Board

Original signed by:

Carl McLean
Manager, Land Administration
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada

c.c. Distribution List