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Date

2006/5/1

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Your file - Votre référence

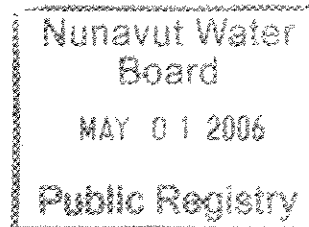
Our file - Notre référence

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May 1, 2006

By fax 250-427-8451 and Mail

Bruce Donald
Reclamation Manager
Teck Cominco Ltd.
Bag 2000
Kimberly, BC V1A 3E1



Dear Mr. Donald:

RE: Polaris Mine – 2005 Third Quarter Post Reclamation Monitoring Report

Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) – Land Administration has completed its review of the Polaris Mine 2005 Third Quarter Post Reclamation Monitoring Report. Overall the report is satisfactory. We do have some concerns/comments that we would like Teck Cominco Ltd. (TCL) to follow up on. They are as follows:

1. The subsidence area that was inspected in 2005 by TCL and Gartner Lee Limited (GLL) has shown a small amount of movement in one area compared to the 2004 and 2005 surveys. Since the 2004 survey is considered the baseline survey, INAC suggests that there be several more years of survey data collected to determine if subsidence movements have become stabilized.
2. The Geotechnical Inspection Report (Appendix 5, Section 2) states that the magnitude of subsidence has been decreasing since termination of mining. As mentioned above there has been only one year of measurements since baseline surveys were carried out. Please provide any other data to verify your conclusion.
3. In the report, it does not discuss the issue of rock mechanics as it relates to the subsidence area. It is understood the Golder Associates is preparing this report for TCL. Please provide a timeline on when this report will be completed as this has been an outstanding item since the mine was decommissioned.

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4. INAC recommends that thermistor measurements in the Little Red Dog Quarry Landfill need to be compared with the depth of cover at each location. The purpose of the thermistors are to prove waste material in the landfill is becoming encapsulated by permafrost.

INAC also recommends TCL provide in future reports, thermistor plots that show the depth to the top of the waste at each thermistor location. This will help assess the effectiveness of the cover.

5. During the 2005 geotechnical inspection carried out by GLL some erosional gullies were noted adjacent to the new quarry. INAC has concerns that in the long term, these gullies will continue to erode in a vertical and lateral direction until a stable channel is established. INAC recommends that GLL, in conjunction with TCL, begin to assess this erosion problem so that appropriate mitigative measures may be implemented if monitoring indicates that erosion is continuing.

A mitigative measure could be to construct diversion berms to prevent runoff from directly flowing into the abandoned quarry and placing erosion resistant materials to stabilize the channels.


6. Minor erosion was noted in the slope above the Operational Landfill. INAC recommends that TCL monitor this location for future erosional problems.

Based on the report, it will become increasingly more important for TCL to monitor erosion around the site. The erosion problems may be the result of modifications to the natural ground surface by mine disturbance and subsequent site reclamation activities. As stated in the report, an array of baseline location points have been established in various mine site locations so future changes can be recognized by visual monitoring.

These baseline location points combined with ongoing geotechnical inspections will help to identify any future stability, subsidence and erosion problems around the site.

If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me at 867-975-4280. We look forward to your response on this matter.

Sincerely,



Spencer Dewar
Manager, Land Administration

c.c. RMO – Baffin
Nunavut Water Board