



**Environment Environnement
Canada Canada**

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Our file: 4705 037 POLA

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Via Email at srtech@nwb.nunavut.ca

RE: NWB1POL0311 – Dock Plan and Section Drawings

On behalf of Environment Canada (EC), I have reviewed the information submitted with the above-mentioned application. The following specialist advice has been provided pursuant to Environment Canada's mandated responsibilities for the enforcement of the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act*, Section 36(3) of the *Fisheries Act*, the *Migratory Birds Convention Act*, and the *Species at Risk Act*.

TeckCominco is proposing decommissioning of the dock site at the Polaris Mine Site as per the requirements of their water license, and have submitted the dock plan and section drawings for this work. Environment Canada offers the following comments in regards to these documents:

- What type of sediment control measures will be implemented during the removal of the facilities? Environment Canada requests that the details of the control measures be submitted.
- The Decommissioning of Dock Facilities report prepared by Westmar indicates that the freezing pipes in the dock will be removed as part of the decommissioning plan. Environment Canada requests clarification regarding how TeckCominco plans to remove the freezing pipes in the dock, and whether a spill contingency plan is in place in the event of a spill of refrigerant while decommissioning the freezing pipes. If any soils are contaminated with refrigerant, TeckCominco shall ensure that they receive proper treatment and/or disposal in an approved location.
- The proponent shall not deposit, nor permit the deposit of any fuel, chemicals, wastes or sediment into any water body. According to the *Fisheries Act*, Section 36(3), the deposition of deleterious substances of any type in water frequented by fish, or in any place under any conditions where the deleterious substance, or any other deleterious substance that results from the deposit of the deleterious substance, may enter any such water, is prohibited.
- Many of the section drawings indicate that the existing ground level will be lowered during the recontouring of the dock facilities. However, no information is given regarding the disposal of this excavated material, or if any testing will be completed to determine if the soil is contaminated. The Westmar report, Decommissioning of Dock Facilities, indicates that the near surface material is likely contaminated with concentrate dusts. Environment Canada requests that this information be submitted, including the amount of material to be removed, any proposed treatment, and its final disposal location.

- Will the benchmark locations be in place until the end of the decommissioning? The locations indicated include structures that will ultimately be removed during the reclamation. How does TeckCominco plan to address this issue? Will the benchmark locations be reestablished in the same spot (using GPS coordinates) after the structures on which they are currently located have been removed?
- Section drawings 800 N and 900 N do not include any information on the decommissioning of the temporary dock. What are TeckCominco's plans for decommissioning this structure?
- It is assumed that during the decommissioning of the dock area, material will be removed from the beach area. Environment Canada recommends that any material used to restore the existing beach area be clean and free of fines.

If there are any changes in the proposed project, EC should be notified, as further review may be necessary. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or comments with regards to the foregoing at (867) 975-4639 or by email at colette.meloche@ec.gc.ca.

Yours truly,

Original signed by:

Colette Meloche
Environmental Assessment Specialist

cc: (Mike Fournier, Northern Environmental Assessment Coordinator, Environment Canada, Yellowknife)