


teckcominco

John Knapp
Site Manager

November 17, 2003

Indian and Northern Affairs Canada
Land Administration
Box 100
Iqaluit, NU
X0A 0H0

Attention: Carl McLean, Manager, Land Administration

Dear Mr. McLean,

Re: Polaris Mine Garrow Lake Wavebreak

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This letter is being written to summarize discussions that took place at Polaris during the last inspection visit by DIAND, and to formally present the rationale that Teck Cominco Metals Limited employed in determining the actions taken with respect to the Garrow Lake Wavebreak structure.

The wavebreak structure, located near the south end of Garrow Lake was placed in 1999, during the winter, when the lake was covered in ice. It consists of quarried limestone rock, and spans the full width of the lake. It was established to alleviate concerns that wind and wave activity could lead to unacceptable sediment loading in the water being discharged over Garrow dam, via the siphons. The Polaris Reclamation and Closure Plan stated that "When the dam was constructed, a small berm was placed at the South end of Garrow Lake as a wave break for the reservoir between the original Garrow Lake and Garrow Lake dam. The central portion of this berm may have to be removed to re-establish the creek bed. This work would be timed to avoid erosion or sediment mobilization during the summer discharge season".

At the time of DIAND's site visit of Sept 8th to 10th, Garrow Lake had been drawn down to approximately 1006.1 meters. A significant portion of the wavebreak was above water, and exposed. Since the time of the visit, the lake was drawn down to 1005.9 meters. A portion of the wavebreak remained above water level, but minor work with hand shovels was undertaken to avoid any impediment to the flow of water during the discharge period. The lake froze immediately following the discharge season, leaving some wavebreak material above the level of the lake / ice. This material was mechanically removed, working from the surface of the ice.

Cominco Mining Partnership

c/o Teck Cominco Metals Ltd./Polaris Reclamation Project

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2

This eliminated the possibility of disrupting potential fish habitat, but will result in some coarse rock remaining visible during the upcoming melt season. Teck Cominco Metals Limited feels that this situation is preferable to the disruption of potential fish habitat that could result if further efforts are expended in removing the remaining coarse rock. Although the aesthetics of the area will be slightly impacted, complete removal of the wavebreak structure could only be achieved at an unacceptable cost to the local ecosystems.

The partial removal of the wavebreak structure will meet the obligations of the regulatory approval while preserving the commitments of the Reclamation & Closure Plan.

Please feel free to contact me if the above leads to any concerns or further questions.

Yours truly,

Cominco Mining Partnership



John Knapp
Site Manager
Polaris Reclamation Project

cc: Mr. Philippe DiPizzo, Nunavut Water Board
Mr. Bruce Donald, Reclamation Manager, TCL
Mr. Bob Hutchinson, General Manager, Projects, TCL
Mr. John Lees, Cascade Management Inc.