

February 9, 2004

Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development
Box 100
Iqaluit, NU X0A 0H0

Attention: Carl McLean, Manager, Land Administration

Nunavut Water Board
Box 119
Gjoa Haven, NU X0B 0H0

Attention: Phyllis Beaulieu, Licensing Administrator

Dear Carl and Phyllis;

Re: Polaris Decommissioning and Reclamation Plan – Request To Place Garrow Dam Core Material into the Barge Excavation

In a response for our request to place dam-core soils into the barge excavation, in a letter dated December 18, 2003 the NWB and DIAND requested additional information related to three items. Teck Cominco's responses to these three questions are as follows:

1. Request for ABA testing of the dam-core materials
 - ABA tests have been done with several material types at the site (including shale which is the material that the dam-core is made of) and is referred to in Section 5.1.6, Volume 1 of the DRP and reported in more detail in Volume 3, Section 6.4 of the 1999 Site Assessment Investigations. No ABA concerns related to shale were identified with this testing. Recently we have conducted further ABA testing on soils contaminated with relatively high concentrations of metals (from concentrate dusts) which again have demonstrated that the Polaris Mine site does not have ABA issues. These test results were submitted the NWB and DIAND in a letter dated January 28, 2004 as a follow up to regulator questions regarding our request to place metals contaminated soils in LRDQL.
 - The barge excavation is in at least 4 metres deep so that the dam-core material will be buried several meters below ground level and will be firmly encapsulated in permafrost. As the soils are now in a frozen state and will remain frozen in the future, there is no potential to generate ARD even if tests indicated that the material had ARD potential (which it doesn't). The work on the dam will be complete and the barge area excavation filled before spring so that the dam-core material will not be exposed to warm temperatures even during the first summer season after being buried.

2. Does the Licensee have a plan to conduct to ensure blasting chemical residues are minimized in the backfill?
 - The plan and approvals already granted by regulatory authorities require blasting be done by non-nitrogen based explosives due to the dam being adjacent to an aquatic environment. However, experience on site has determined that this material can be excavated mechanically without blasting so that the use of explosives is no longer being anticipated. There is no need to conduct leach tests for nitrogen.
3. What materials will make up the remainder of the fill for the barge area?
 - As per the approved DRP, local clean materials reclaimed from re-contouring the dock and adjacent shoreline, and from re-contouring of areas immediately around the mill/barge area will be used.

I trust that this information responds adequately to your questions.

Yours truly,

Original signed by B.Donald

Bruce Donald
Reclamation Manager

Cc: Patrick Duxbury (NWB)
Joe Dahoy (Cascade Management)