



Indian and Northern  
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www.inac.gc.ca

Affaires indiennes  
et du Nord Canada  
www.ainc.gc.ca

Nunavut Regional Office  
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October 15, 2003

Dionne Filiatrault  
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Nunavut Water  
Board

16 2003

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*Via facsimile*

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**Re: Request for additional underground storage for hydrocarbon contaminated soils**

On behalf of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC), I have reviewed the Teck Cominco proposal dated September 16, 2003, requesting that 27 700 m<sup>3</sup> of underground space currently designated for the storage of metals contaminated soil be reallocated to the storage of hydrocarbon contaminated soils. The review of the application letter, accompanying documents, and the Polaris Mine Decommissioning and Reclamation Plan would indicate that the application is technically sound. We would therefore support acceptance of this application provided that all work is undertaken according to the approved Decommissioning and Reclamation Plan and amendments thereof, and with the request that the following supplemental information be provided:

- For the purpose of achieving clarity and certainty of the current contaminated soil and underground storage volumes, it is requested that the proponent submit a comprehensive balance sheet as supplemental information to the current application. This document should clearly delineate the occupied and remaining volumes of underground storage space for metals and hydrocarbon contaminated soils, as well as the remaining predicted volumes of contaminated soils requiring underground storage. While this information was contained in segregated sections throughout the September 16, 2003 application, a summarized table to confirm assumptions and calculations derived from the application would be a valuable resource for interpreting the current request.
- A trend of identifying previously unaccounted for contaminated soil appears to be emerging as reclamation operations proceed. It is therefore requested that a contingency plan be developed that identifies and evaluates contaminated soil disposal alternatives should the underground storage area reach capacity prior to the completion of reclamation operations.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if there are any further questions or concerns.

**Canada**

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Stephanie Hawkins', written over a horizontal line.

Stephanie Hawkins

Qikiqtani Regional Coordinator, Water Resources

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