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NUNAVUT WATER BOARD

NUNAVUT IMALIRIYIN KATIMAYINGI

By Email and Regular Mail

File #: NWB1POL0311/TRF2

June 6, 2003

Mr. John Knapp
Site Manager
Teck Cominco Ltd., Polaris Operations
P.O. Box 188
Resolute Bay, NU
X0A 0E0

Subject: License NWB1POL0311
Meltwater Control Procedures at the Polaris Mine

Dear Mr. Knapp,

On June 5, 2003, the Nunavut Water Board ("NWB") met by teleconference to consider for approval TeckCominco Limited's ("TCL") application for Meltwater Control Procedures. In parallel, the Lands Department of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada ("INAC") also reviewed the above noted application as it relates to its jurisdiction, and both the NWB and INAC decided to review and approve this application jointly in order to eliminate duplication and avoid inconsistencies in their respective approvals.

In considering TCL's March 20th, 2003 submission, the NWB and INAC examined the Protocol itself, a peer review of the Protocol conducted by BGC Engineering, and recommendations from interested parties who were invited to submit comments. Only Environment Canada, Iqaluit, submitted a list of recommendations. A subsequent letter requesting clarification of certain elements of the plan was sent to TCL from the NWB on May 16th, 2003. TCL provided a response to the NWB on May 25, 2003. BGC Engineering and Environment Canada were given the opportunity to review TCL's response: BGC replied that it had no further concerns or comments; Environment Canada replied on June 2, 2003, stating that its concerns were largely addressed, but that it would like to add a few additional requirements respecting sampling and assaying of meltwater, as well as volume monitoring and logging, to which TCL did not object.

Therefore, it is the opinion of both the NWB and INAC that TCL has adequately addressed all previous concerns. The NWB and INAC approve of the Meltwater Control Procedure with the following conditions, which are binding on TCL:

1. That TCL ensure that long term degradation of the underground permafrost environment does not occur in the area of the meltwater disposal.

2. That TCL ensure that water collected in the ditching system originate from non-contaminated areas.
3. That TCL avoid ditch construction in areas which support plant life, are easily eroded, or are in some other way sensitive to disturbance.
4. That TCL employ silt curtains and sediment containment socks whenever surface water quality is impacted by sediment and may pose a threat to aquatic life.
5. That TCL not dispose of meltwater into Little Red Dog Quarry at this time due to concerns over mineral sulfides.
6. That TCL test soil excavated for ditches in contaminated areas before utilization.
7. That TCL employ mitigation measures such as geotextile membranes to eliminate the risk that contaminants enter fresh water where ditches are constructed in areas of soil contamination.
8. That TCL, after final utilization, backfill and contour the ditching system to match the natural landscape as is practically feasible.
9. That solids removed from the containment sump be disposed of underground in an area designated for metal sulfide contaminated waste.
10. That TCL analyze the water chemistry of at least one (1) meltwater sample, destined for underground disposal, for potential hydrocarbon and mineral sulfide contamination.
11. That TCL, as is permissible given safety concerns and staff availability, conduct a weekly examination of the meltwater chamber during the spring thaw to assess the remaining volume of the chamber. Should the chamber's water storage capacity reach 85% or more, TCL shall obtain approval of the NWB and INAC before implementing any contingency measures.
12. That TCL, at the end of the meltwater control procedure, record the approximate volume of all meltwater disposed of underground in cubic meters, and provide this information to the NWB and DIAND in its annual report pursuant to Item B (6)(ix) of License NWB1POL0311.

Please contact the undersigned should you have questions about this approval.

Sincerely,

Original signed by:

Philippe di Pizzo
Executive Director
Nunavut Water Board

Original signed by:

Carl McLean
Manager, Land Administration
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada

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