



Environment Canada
Environnement Canada

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October 31, 2003

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Our file: 4705 POLA 037

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Via Facsimile

RE: NWB1POL0311 – Polaris Mine Portal Seal Design for Approval

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*.

Based on the information provided with the application, Environment Canada has no real concerns with this project at this time. In order to help prevent the potential for subsidence to occur, EC recommends that the proponent ensure that there are no void spaces between the cemented rockfill and the top of the tunnel. Currently, the specifications included with the application state that "large" or "significant" void spaces are to be avoided. Environment Canada recommends that this be reworded to state that every effort shall be made to prevent the creation of void spaces. Alternately, if void spaces are inevitable, it would be beneficial if TeckCominco quantified the size of void spaces that are considered acceptable.

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,


Colette Meloche
Environmental Assessment Specialist

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

