



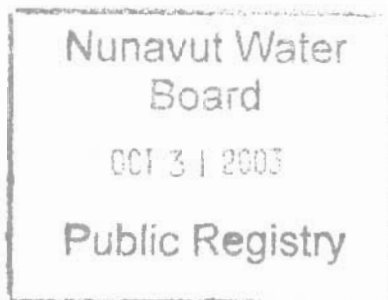
Indian and Northern
Affairs Canada
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Nunavut Regional Office
P.O. Box 100
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October 31, 2003

Phyllis Beaulieu
Licencing Administrator
Nunavut Water Board
P.O. Box 119
Gjoa Haven, NU, X0E 1J0



Your file - Votre référence

NWB1POL0311

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Via facsimile

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Re: Polaris Mine Portal Seal Design for Approval

On behalf of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC), I am pleased to have had the opportunity to review the August 29, 2003, Teck Cominco mine portal seal designs.

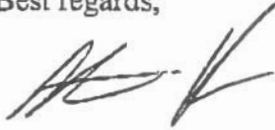
The documents as submitted are consistent with those required in 5.1.3 of the approved Polaris Decommissioning and Reclamation Plan (DRP). The use of quarry rock in the construction of the portals plugs and bulkheads, as identified in Schedule 1 of Drawing 23307-0, is considered appropriate provided they are consistent with the description the limestone quarry rock in Section 5.1.6 of the DRP as low sulphur content materials.

Section 5.1.6 describes the underground mine as not presenting a metal leachate/acid rock drainage concern (ML/ARD). This conclusion appears based on the environmental exposure conditions precluding conditions amenable to ML/ARD, as opposed to mine material not constituting a potential source of ML/ARD generation. It is therefore uncertain if the use of pit run materials as part of the Type B fill used in the Rockfill Bulkheads may pose a potential source of ML/ARD. It is subsequently requested that an analysis of pit run total metals and ML/ARD potential be conducted prior to the use of these materials in the bulkheads. In the absence of such evidence that pit run will not represent a source of ML/ARD, it is requested that evidence be provided indicating that the conditions conducive to ML/ARD would be precluded in the conditions under which this material will exist in the bulkhead.

With the exception of that stated above, no concerns regarding this proposal and the health of the surrounding freshwater were identified.

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

Best regards,



Stephanie Hawkins

Qikiqtani Regional Coordinator, Water Resources
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