



Environment Environnement
Canada Canada

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July 8, 2003

Our file: 4705 037 POLA

Patrick Duxbury
Mine Reclamation Coordinator
Nunavut Water Board
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Tel: (867) 983-3039

Via Email at coordinator@nwb.nunavut.ca

Dear Patrick:

**RE: NWB1POL0311/E1-5 – Polaris Mine Demolition and Site Reclamation Spill
Contingency Plan**

On behalf of Environment Canada (EC), I have reviewed the information submitted with the Polaris Mine Spill Contingency Plan. 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*.

SNC-Lavalin Engineers and Constructors Inc. (SLE&C) have prepared a Spill Contingency Plan which is intended to replace the previous spill response plan prepared by Teck Cominco for the operation of Polaris Mine.

Environment Canada recommends that the following items be included in the spill contingency plan:

- The proponent shall ensure that the liquid waste incinerator/evaporator unit remains on-site until all liquid wastes slated for on-site disposal are destroyed. If any liquid fuel wastes remain on-site after the incinerator is gone, the proponent shall ensure that these materials receive proper treatment and disposal at an approved facility.
- Section 4.0 states that spills will be reported in accordance with the Government of Nunavut regulations. These regulations specify minimum reportable quantities, e.g. 100 litres of diesel. Environment Canada recommends that all spills be reported to the NWT/Nunavut Spill Line regardless of quantity.
- In Section 4.1.1, it states that spills must be reported to the Spill Line within 24 hours. Environment Canada recommends that spills be reported as soon as possible, and no later than 24 hours after the spill occurs.

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,

Original Signed by:

Colette Meloche
Environmental Assessment Specialist

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