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NUNAVUT WATER BOARD
NUNAVUT IMALIRIYIN KATIMAYINGI
OFFICE DES EAUX DU NUNAVUT

File: 1AR-POL1531 / TR / H1

March 14, 2019

Michelle Unger
Manager, Environmental Performance
Teck Resources Limited
Canadian Legacy Properties
Bag 2000
Kimberley, BC V1A 3E1

E-mail: Michelle.unger@teck.com

Subject: Polaris Mine Long Term Limnology, Water Quality and Effluent Monitoring Program; Type “A” Water Licence 1AR-POL1531, Polaris Mine Project, Teck Resources Limited

Dear Ms. Unger:

The Nunavut Water Board (“NWB”) received from Teck Resources Limited (Teck or Licensee) on January 24, 2019 the Long Term Limnology, Water Quality and Effluent Monitoring Program dated October 26, 2018 (Monitoring Program) for Board approval as required under Part H, Item 1 and Part J, Schedule H of the Water Licence 1AR-POL1531 (Licence) that was approved by the Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC) on May 8, 2015.

The Polaris Mine produced lead and zinc between 1981-2002. Reclamation activities continued until completion in September 2004, the site was under active surveillance annually through the end of 2011, and a geotechnical inspection was conducted in 2014 (year 10). The purpose of this Monitoring Programs is to outline the Limnology, Water Quality and Effluent Monitoring Program that will be undertaken in 2019 (year 15) and 2029 (year 25) of post closure monitoring for the Polaris Mine.

As stated by Teck, the Monitoring Program takes into account Licence requirements as well as recommendations of the April 2013 Azimuth Report (that was submitted as part of the Licence application) and addresses recommendations received during the final technical review of the Application and submissions received at the Public Hearing (documented in the March 19, 2015 “Nunavut Water Board Reasons for Decision Including Record of Proceedings”).

The monitoring program outlines regulatory requirements and summarizes the standard operating procedures for limnology and water chemistry monitoring of Garrow Lake, Garrow Creek effluent

monitoring, related QA/QC procedures, and Reporting Requirements. The plan states that “Teck shall conduct all sampling, sample preservation and analyses in accordance with methods prescribed in the most current edition of “Standard Methods for the Examination of Water and Wastewater”, as prescribed by the Metal Mining Effluent Regulations.”

The Monitoring Program was distributed for a public review on January 24, 2019, requesting comments be submitted from interested parties by February 25, 2019. On February 25, 2019, correspondence was received from Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC) and Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC), both indicating that they had no technical comments. However, CIRNAC did request that results of the 2019 and 2029 sampling events be submitted to the Board no later than March 31st of the following year. CIRNAC also noted that the Long Term Limnology, Water Quality and Effluent Monitoring Program was to be submitted to the NWB for approval within six months of issuance of the Water Licence No: 1AR-POL1531, and reminded the licensee to stay within the timelines stipulated in their Water Licence.

Following a technical review by the NWB, additional information was requested on February 27, 2019. The nature of this information was to ensure that the complete suite of Group 4 water quality parameters would be analyzed for in 2019 and 2029.

On March 6, 2019, the Licensee responded with an updated Long Term Limnology, Water Quality and Effluent Monitoring Program dated February 27, 2019, that addressed comments and ensured that Group 4 water quality parameters would be analyzed for in the upcoming monitoring programs.

The Board has reviewed the Monitoring Program and related submissions, and finds the Monitoring Program functional and generally satisfying Licence requirements. By copy of this letter the Board has approved the Long Term Limnology, Water Quality and Effluent Monitoring Program dated February 27, 2019, through the Board Motion No. 2018-A1-031, dated March 13, 2019, as required by Part H, Item 1 of Licence.

Should you have any questions or require any clarification with respect to the above, please feel free to contact the undersigned via email at Derek.Donald@nwb-oen.ca or phone (867) 360-6338 (Ext. 32).

Sincerely,

NUNAVUT WATER BOARD



Derek Donald
Technical Advisor

Attachment: Comments by CIRNAC, ECCC, and NWB
Cc: Distribution list - Polaris