

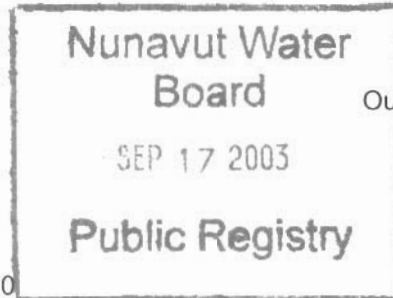


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Canada Canada

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September 10, 2003

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Our file: 4705 037 POLA

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Via Email at srtech@nwb.nunavut.ca

RE: NWB1POL0311 – Design Drawings – Operational Landfill

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*.

TeckCominco Ltd. is proposing to decommission the Operational Landfill at the Polaris Mine Site as per the requirements of their water license, and have submitted the specifications and section drawings for this work. Environment Canada offers the following comments in regards to these documents:

- The specifications submitted with the proposal refer to both the Operational Landfill and the Little Red Dog (LRD) Quarry, however, the section drawings refer only to the Operational Landfill. Environment Canada requests that the section drawings for the LRD Quarry be provided, and will restrict these comments to the Operational Landfill until such drawings are submitted.
- The specifications state that there will be a transition zone where the minimum cover thickness of 1.8 m will be gradually decreased in order to meet the existing ground. The proponent should ensure that the entire landfill, including any waste located around the perimeter of the landfill, has the minimum cover thickness at the appropriate depths for both Type A and B materials.
- Environment Canada requests clarification regarding where the up-gradient interceptor ditch drains. It is not apparent from Drawing 23306-3 where the ditch ends. What plans are in place for removing, treating and disposing of any water that collects in the interceptor ditch?
- The section drawings indicate that a soil berm will be constructed at the toe of the landfill, however, no details regarding it are given. Will it be a water-retaining structure, or will it be permeable, or is its purpose to divert drainage? Environment Canada requests details regarding the dimensions of the berm, as well as its intended function.
- The Material Specifications indicate that there are *potentially* up to four different materials that may be used for the final cover for the landfill. Environment Canada requests clarification as to which materials will be used for the final cover.
- Environment Canada requests clarification as to the final distance between the toe of the Operational Landfill and Polaris Bay.

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)