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17 December 2010

EC File: 4705 037 CULL
NWB File: 1BR-CUL0911

Richard Dwyer
Licensing Administrator
Nunavut Water Board
P.O. Box 119
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Via email: licensingadmin@nunavutwaterboard.org

RE: 1BR-CUL0911 Cullaton Lake Project Renewal Application

Environment Canada (EC) has reviewed the information submitted with the above-mentioned renewal application to the Nunavut Water Board (NWB). The following specialist advice has been provided pursuant to the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act*, Section 36(3) of the *Fisheries Act*, the *Migratory Birds Convention Act*, and the *Species at Risk Act*.

Barrick Gold Inc. is requesting a renewal of water license 1BR-CUL0911 for the term of 25 years to support the on-going monitoring and inspection activities at the Cullaton Lake property. The purpose of these activities is to allow the completion of studies to confirm whether or not the current mitigation measures satisfy the requirements of the 2006 Abandonment and Restoration Plan. The Cullaton Lake Gold mine is a recognized closed mine site located 645 km north of Thompson, Manitoba and 250 km west of Arviat, Nunavut.

Based on the renewal application, EC provides the following comments for the NWB's consideration:

- EC recommends that the proponent continue the monitoring of permafrost depths at locations T1 through T4 and repair, and if required replace, any thermistors that are providing erroneous data.
- Please note that on page Appendix 4-3 of the 2010 Spill Response Plan the Environment Canada emergency pager number should be removed as that phone number is no longer in service.

EC has no real concerns with license renewal so long as the proponent continues to be in compliance throughout the duration of the renewed water license. The proponent should also continue to use modern technology to support mitigation and monitoring measures outlined in their Abandonment & Restoration Plan. Comments previously submitted on behalf of EC regarding water license 1BR-CUL0911 would still apply to this project. 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 the undersigned with any questions or comments with regards to the foregoing at (867) 975-4631 or by email at Paula.C.Smith@ec.gc.ca.

Yours truly,



Paula C. Smith

Environmental Assessment Coordinator

cc: Carey Ogilvie (Head, Environmental Assessment-North, EPO, Yellowknife, NT)
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