



## FACSIMILE COVER PAGE

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To: **Robert Phillips**  
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From: **Ken Reimer**Subject: **Pelly Bay**

I am writing to follow up on our conversation of Thursday, Nov 2, regarding concerns that the community of Pelly Bay have with respect to the nearby DEW Line site, CAM-4. I understand that you have also spoken with Neill Thompson, as have I. Neill is our point of contact on any environmental issues arising from our field studies.

As you know, we have conducted the environmental assessments of all 42 of the DEW Line sites - including those belonging to the Department of National Defence as well as those that were abandoned in the 1960s and which are the responsibility of DIAND. The CAM-4 site was, of course, operated by the United States Air Force until the summer of 1992 when it was closed. Although some cleanup was conducted during the closure process - i.e. removal of POL, electrical equipment etc - the site is slated for a complete cleanup as part of the overall DEW Line Cleanup Project. The timing for the actual work is still unknown and will depend on funding etc.

As we discussed, teflon bottles suitable for low level contaminant analyses are being cleaned by AXYS Analytical in Sydney, B.C. This commercial firm has an excellent reputation and will also

*Faxed on*  
*7 Nov 95*

- conduct the analysis of water samples obtained in Pelly Bay. When the bottles are ready, I will have them sent to you along with appropriate labels, sampling, and shipping information.

I will be very surprised, however, if we find anything significant in the samples - at least as a direct result of DEW Line activities. The CAM-4 site is some distance from the community and is not particularly contaminated. I believe that you are in possession of a copy of the relevant chapter of our report - if you are not we can make it available to you.

The highest concentration of PCBs found at the entire site was 5.5 ppm. (50 ppm is the level regulated under the Canadian Environmental Protection Act; a criterion of 5 ppm is considered protective of residential/parkland areas). This sample was obtained in the drainage from an old sewage outfall pipe near the building trains. (We have found that excess transformer fluids were often discarded "down the drain". Most pertinent to the community are samples collected at the lower site in the vicinity of Barrow Lake. The highest concentration of PCBs was 2.9 ppm obtained directly under a transformer. Although there is some evidence of oily discharge emanating from debris near the lake, the PCB concentrations were usually below detection. This area is targeted for eventual cleanup which should address the concerns of individuals who may wonder if the situation could change as a consequence of degradation of buried barrels. In addition, testing of the contents of several thousand barrels across the north indicates that very few of these contain PCBs. When they do, it is usually in combination with other waste oils (from engines for example) and the PCBs are not highly concentrated.

- In summary, the likelihood of PCB contamination arising from the DEW Line site is small. Community concerns has been expressed to our teams when they have stayed in Pelly Bay during various field studies. We have asked if someone could show us if there is debris in the lake closer to the community, but have been unsuccessful in locating any. We will, of course, be prepared to entertain any new information.

The best way to put the issue to rest is to test the water samples. I will be in touch as soon as the bottles are ready and we can work out a strategy.

Do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or require additional information.

Best wishes,

