



Fisheries and Oceans
Canada

Pêches et Océans
Canada

Eastern Arctic Area

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June 9, 2008

NIRB: 08EN054
NWB: 2BE-TRN
DFO: 08-HCAA-CA7-00017

Ms. Sophia Granchinho
Nunavut Impact Review Board
P.O. Box 1360
Cambridge Bay, NU
X0B 0C0

Via electronic mail to:
sgranchinho@nirb.ca

Dear Ms. Granchinho:

Subject: Proposal not likely to result in impacts to fish and fish habitat provided that additional mitigation measures are applied.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada - Fish Habitat Management Program (DFO) received the proposal on May 22, 2008. Please refer to the file number and title below:

DFO File No.: 08-HCAA-CA7-00017
Title: Exploratory Drilling, Turner Lake, Bathurst Inlet, Nunavut

The proposal has been reviewed to determine whether it is likely to result in impacts to fish and fish habitat which are prohibited by the habitat protection provisions of the *Fisheries Act*.

Our review consisted of the Nunavut Impact Review Board Part 1 Form Application signed by Lorne Warner (Rockgate Capital Corp.), dated April 6, 2008 and the project description.

We understand that the proponent plans to conduct exploratory drilling on a heath tundra environment in claim areas located approximately 55km northwest of Bathurst Inlet. The proponent proposes to use Turner Lake as an alternate water source for the project. It is noted that one small pond and intermittent stream could be used to access small quantities of water for drilling purposes without the certainty of fish presence. In order to minimize entrainment of fish, if present in the waterbody, freshwater fish screen at end-of-pipe will be placed on the hose intake.

To reduce potential impacts to fish and fish habitat we are recommending the following mitigation measures be included into the proposed plans:

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- If artesian flow is encountered, drill holes should be plugged and permanently sealed upon completion of the project.
- The use of biodegradable, salt free drill additives is encouraged over non-biodegradable types.
- All disturbed areas should be stabilized and reclaimed to pre-construction conditions upon completion of work. Work associated debris should be removed immediately after completion of construction.
- Suitable erosion and sediment suppression measures should be implemented on disturbed areas before, during and after construction until vegetation or other appropriate measures are established in order to prevent sediment from entering any waterbody.
- The cleaning, fuelling and servicing of equipment should be conducted away from any waterbody. Equipment operating near any watercourse should be free of external grease, oil, mud, or fluid leaks.

The extraction of water via intake from any fish-bearing water body is prohibited under Section 30 of the *Fisheries Act* unless the intake is screened to prevent fish entrainment. As a result, the following additional mitigation measure should be implemented:

- The *Freshwater Intake End-of-Pipe Fish Screen Guideline* (DFO, 1995) which is available upon request or at the following internet address: www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/Library/223669.pdf should be followed. Small lakes and streams should not be used for water withdrawal.

Provided that the additional mitigation measures described above are incorporated into the proposed plans, DFO has concluded that the proposal is not likely to result in impacts to fish and fish habitat.

The proponent will not need to obtain a formal approval from DFO in order to proceed with the proposal.

The proponent should notify this office at least 10 days before starting the work. A copy of this letter should be kept on site while the work is in progress.

If the plans have changed or if the description of the proposal is incomplete the proponent should contact this office to determine if the advice in this letter still applies

Please be advised that any impacts to fish and fish habitat which result from the proponent's failure to implement the proposal as described or incorporate the additional mitigation measures included in this letter could lead to corrective action such as enforcement.

If you have any questions please contact myself at our Eastern Arctic Area - Iqaluit office at (867) 979-8007, by fax at (867) 979-8039, or by email at Amy.Liu@dfo-mpo.gc.ca.

Yours sincerely,

Original signed by:

Amy Liu
Habitat Management Biologist
Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Copy: Keith Pelley – Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Phyllis Beaulieu – Nunavut Water Board
Lorne Warner – Rockgate Capital Corp.
Mike Roberts - Rockgate Capital Corp.