



Environment Canada  
Environnement Canada

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**Re: Comments on Water License NIRB01EN064/NWB2AST- Cominco Ltd. Exploration - Mineral Exploration on West Central Baffin Island, NU.**

On behalf of Environment Canada (EC), I have reviewed the above noted water license NIRB01EN064/NWB2AST. The comments provided for the above land-use permit have been made under Section 36 of the *Fisheries Act*, the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act* (CEPA) and the *Migratory Birds Convention Act* (MBCA).

**Proposed Undertakings in Relation to the Water License NIRB01EN064/NWB2AST**

Cominco Ltd. has proposed to conduct surface reconnaissance mineral exploration within the Flint Lake area, Borden Basin on Baffin Island. Surveys will be conducted July 10<sup>th</sup> to August 10, 2001 with a total of 6 people involved. Activities will consist of geological mapping, prospecting, minor geophysics, stream and soil geochemistry. Transportation to and from sites will be done via all terrain vehicles, daily foot transverse and helicopter assistance.

**Comments and Recommendations**

The proponent neglected to:

- state that "all spills" are to be documented and reported to the NWT Spill line (867) 920-8130;
- provide a list of all hazardous materials that may be used during the program;
- indicate if spill kits are to be used at fueling and fuel storage areas;
- indicate the location of campsite in relation to water;
- indicate the location of sump in relation to water;
- include the estimated volume of sump for camp activities;
- include location of fuel storage in relation to water for aircraft, and camp activities.

The following conditions should be applied throughout all phases of the project.

- The proponent shall ensure that any chemicals, fuel or wastes associated with the proposed project do not enter waters frequented by fish. All sumps, spill basins and fuel caches should be located in such a manner that the contents do not enter a waterbody.

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- EC encourages proponents, when storing barreled fuel at a location, to use a secondary containment rather than relying on "natural depressions". Self supporting insta-berms are available from various suppliers within Canada.
- Surface drainage should be controlled such that runoff does not enter sump. Final capping of the sites must be done in such a fashion that erosion does not occur.
- The proponent should re-evaluate the size of the sump to ensure that adequate volume is available without overtopping the structure under all conditions. These changes should be made prior to construction of the sump.
- No disturbance of the bed or banks of any definable watercourse is permitted. Special efforts must be made to avoid bed and bank disturbance during the spring.
- Ensure the treatment of hazardous and solid wastes at an appropriate disposal facility ie. Yellowknife or Rankin Inlet;
- Environment Canada recommends the use of an approved Incinerator.

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 [lawrence.ignace@ec.gc.ca](mailto:lawrence.ignace@ec.gc.ca).

Yours truly,



Lawrence Ignace  
Environmental Assessment Specialist

cc: (Paula Pacholek, Northern Environmental Assessment Coordinator, Yellowknife)