



Environment Environnement
Canada Canada

Environmental Protection Branch
Qimugjuk Building 969 P.O. Box 1870
Iqaluit, NU X0A 0H0
Tel: (867) 975-4639
Fax: (867) 975-4645

April 13, 2004

Our file: 4704 000

Phyllis Beaulieu
Licensing Administrator
Nunavut Water Board
P.O. Box 119
Gjoa Haven, NU X0B 1J0
Tel: (867) 360-6338
Fax: (867) 360-6369

Via Email at licensing@nwb.nunavut.ca

RE: NWB2CNT – Navigator Exploration Corp. – Contwoyto Area Project

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*.

Navigator Exploration Ltd. is proposing to conduct a limited diamond drilling program along the eastern coast of Contwoyto Lake, 8 km east of Lupin Mine. All activities will be based out of Lupin Mine, so no camp will be established. Up to 5 short drill holes will be drilled, and cores will be sent to Yellowknife for splitting. The work is to be carried out in spring 2004 or in 2005/2006 if logistics/funding require the program to be postponed.

Environment Canada recommends that the following conditions be applied throughout all stages of the project:

- The proponent shall not deposit, nor permit the deposit of any fuel, drill cuttings, chemicals, wastes or sediment into any water body. According to the Fisheries Act, Section 36(3), the deposition of deleterious substances of any type in water frequented by fish, or in any place under any conditions where the deleterious substance, or any other deleterious substance that results from the deposit of the deleterious substance, may enter any such water, is prohibited.
- The proponent has indicated that drilling additives may be used in association with this project. Environment Canada would like to inform the proponent that the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act* has recently listed CaCl as a toxic substance. The proponent shall therefore ensure that if CaCl is used as a drill additive, all sumps containing CaCl are properly constructed and located in such a manner as to ensure that the contents will not enter any water body.
- Drilling additives or muds shall not be used in connection with holes drilled through lake ice unless they are re-circulated or contained such that they do not enter the water, or demonstrated to be non-toxic.
- For "on-ice" drilling, return water released must be non-toxic, and not result in an increase in total suspended solids in the immediate receiving waters above the Canadian Council of Ministers for the Environment Guidelines for the Protection of Freshwater Aquatic Life (i.e. 10mg/L for lakes with background levels under 100 mg/L, or

- 10% for those above 100mg/L).
- Land based drilling should not occur within 30 m of the high water mark of any water body. Drilling wastes from land based drilling shall be disposed of in a sump such that the contents do not enter any water body.
 - Any sumps created for the disposal of drill cuttings shall be located above the high water mark of any water body and in such a manner as to prevent the contents from entering any water body frequented by fish. Further, all sumps shall be backfilled upon completion of the field season and contoured to match the surrounding landscape.
 - The proponent shall not store materials on the surface ice of lakes or streams, except that which is for immediate use.
 - Environment Canada recommends the use of an approved incinerator for the disposal of combustible camp wastes.
 - All fuel caches shall be located above the high water mark of any water body. Further, EC recommends the use of secondary containment, such as self-supporting installments, when storing barreled fuel on location rather than relying on natural depressions.
 - If an artesian flow is encountered, the drill hole shall be immediately plugged and permanently sealed.

If there are any other 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)