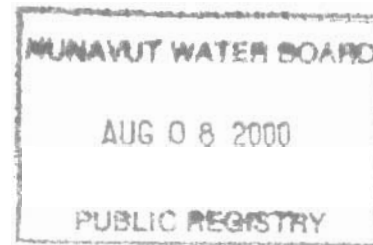


Northern Division  
Environmental Protection Branch  
Prairie and Northern Region  
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Ph, (867) 669-4700

August 8, 2000

Dionne Filiatrault  
Technical Advisor  
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Our File: 4703 001 NEW

By email: dionne@polarnet.ca

**Re: Dia Met Minerals Ltd. - Water Licence Application NWB2DIA - Mineral Exploration - Victoria Island**

I have reviewed the above application on behalf of the Environmental Protection Branch, Environment Canada (EPB) and offer the following comments for your consideration. The project involves a 16 man camp, up to 6 land-based drill holes, surface soil sampling, and use of an existing airstrip.

The proponent has proposed the following mitigation measures:

- Greywater is to be disposed to a sump, such that it does not return to source waters;
- A settling pond is to be used to separate drilling solids, with liquids disposed to a sump;
- Sewage, hazardous, and solid wastes are to be flown out for disposal to Cambridge Bay;
- Spill kits will be on hand at both the storage area and the drill site.

Comments and recommendations:

1. The applicant shall ensure that any drill cuttings, chemicals, fuel or wastes associated with the proposed project do not enter waters frequented by fish. Drilling supernatants should not be returned to source waters, as mentioned in the application. Drilling solids shall be contained such that they do not migrate into surface drainages.
2. All sumps, spill basins and fuel caches should be located a minimum of thirty (30) meters from the normal high water mark of any such waterbody.
3. EC encourages exploration companies, when storing barreled fuel at a location, to use a secondary container rather than relying on "natural depressions". There are self supporting instant berms now available from various suppliers within Canada and if these "insta-berms" are used properly it will virtually eliminate the possibility of ever having to deal with petroleum contaminated soils.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at (867) 669-4735 with any questions or comments regarding the foregoing.

Yours truly,

Anne Wilson  
Water Pollution Specialist

cc: Steve Harbicht (Head, Assessment & Monitoring, EPB)