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March 11, 2002

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License Administrator
Nunavut Water Board
P.O. Box 119
Gjoa Haven, NU X0B 1J0

Our file: 4703-001

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**Re: Comments on Application for Water License and Spill Contingency Plan
NWB2ELU - Sherwood Mining Corp. - Mineral Exploration at Elu Inlet, Kitikmeot,
NU.**

On behalf of Environment Canada (EC), I have reviewed the above noted water license NWB2ELU. The following recommendations have been made in regards to Environment Canada mandated responsibilities for the enforcement of the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act* (CEPA), section 36 of the *Fisheries Act*, the *Canadian Wildlife Act*, and the *Migratory Birds Convention Act*.

Sherwood Mining Corporation has proposed to conduct a two phased spring/summer exploratory mineral program in the Elu Inlet area. Surveys will be conducted February 15, 2002 to February 14, 2004. Up to 12 people will be involved.

Comments and Recommendations

The *Canadian Environmental Protection Act* is in the final stages of the assessment of CaCl as a toxic substance. It is recommended for land-based sumps associated with drilling operations, where CaCl is used as an additive, that the measures to close sumps include documenting the impacts of CaCl on vegetation. The proponent must ensure that such sumps are properly constructed and located at a sufficient distance from any waterbody.

The proponent neglected to:

- provide the general location of drill holes in relation to water;
- include the estimated volume of proposed sumps for camp and drilling activities;
- provide a map indicating the locations of land-based sumps in relation to water;

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

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

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- For "on-ice" drilling, return water released to the lake must be non-toxic, and not result in an increase in total suspended solids in the immediate receiving waters of the lake above the Canadian Council of Ministers for the Environment Guidelines for the Protection of Freshwater Aquatic Life (ie. 10mg/L for lakes with background levels under 100 mg/L, or 10% for those above 100mg/L).
- 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.
- If artesian flow is encountered, drill holes shall be plugged and permanently sealed immediately.
- 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 inclinometer.
- The permittee shall not erect camps or store material on the surface ice of streams or lakes.

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.

Yours truly,



Lawrence Ignace
Environmental Assessment Specialist

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