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SCHOOLINGSDESION

Date: March 25, 1999

Thomas Kudloo Chairperson Nunavut Water Board

Dear Mr. Kudloo:

RE: Screening Decision of the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) on Application:

NIRB 99EN149 DIAND#1999C0015 NWB:NWB2FLE

Mineral Exploration on Northwestern Baffin Island

Cominco Exploration

Authority:

Section 12.4.4 of the Nunavut Land Claim Agreement states:

Upon receipt of a project proposal, NIRB shall screen the proposal and indicate to the Minister in writing that:

- a) the proposal may be processed without a review under Part 5 or 6; NIRB may recommend specific terms and conditions to be attached to any approval, reflecting the primary objectives set out in Section 12.2.5;
- b) the proposal requires review under Part 5 or 6; NIRB shall identify particular issues or concerns which should be considered in such a review;
- c) the proposal is insufficiently developed to permit proper screening, and should be returned to the proponent for clarification; or
- d) the potential adverse impacts of the proposal are so unacceptable that it should be modified or abandoned.

Primary Objectives:

The primary objectives of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement are set out in section 12.2.5 of the Land Claims Agreement. This section reads:

In carrying out its functions, the primary objectives of NIRB shall be at all times to protect and promote the existing and future well-being of the residents and communities of the Nunavut Settlement Area, and to protect the ecosystemic integrity of the Nunavut Settlement Area. NIRB shall take into account the well-being of the residents of Canada outside the Nunavut Settlement Area.

The decision of the Board in this case is 12.4.4 (a)

Reasons for Decision:

NTRB's decision is based on specific considerations that reflect the primary objectives of the Land Claims Agreement. Our considerations in making this decision included:

- the impact of drilling activities on the ecosystem;
- disposal of drill cuttings and waste water;
- impact to water quality, aquatic habitat and wildlife and fish populations from chemicals, drill waste, drill fluids and potential fuel spills;
- storage and disposal of chemicals, fuel, garbage, sewage, and gray water, and impact of these
 on the ecosystem;
- the impact of noise from drilling activities and their disturbance to wildlife and traditional users of area;
- the impact of camp site equipment on terrain;
- the impact of exploration activities on archaeological sites or cultural landmarks in the area;
- clean up/restoration of the camp site and drilling locations upon abandonment; and
- community concerns

Terms and Conditions:

That the terms and conditions attached to this screening report will apply.

Drill Sites

- W. The Permittee shall not conduct any land based drilling within thirty (30) metres of the normal high water mark of a water body.
- 2. The Permittee shall not use drilling muds or additives in connection with drill holes unless they are recirculated or contained such that they do not enter the water, or are certified to be non-toxic.
- 3V The Permittee shall ensure that any drill cuttings and waste water that cannot be recirculated be disposed of in a properly constructed sump or an appropriate natural depression that does not drain into a waterbody. The Permittee shall ensure that drilling wastes do not enter any water body.
- The Permittee shall ensure that the sump/depression capacity is sufficient to accommodate the volume of waste water and any fines that are produced so that there will be no additional impacts.
- 5. The Permittee shall not locate any sump within thirty (30) metres of the normal high water mark of any water body.
- The Permittee shall backfill and recontour all sumps to match the natural environment prior to the expiry date of the permit.
- 7. The Permittee shall, where flowing water from bore holes is encountered, plug, the bore hole in such a manner as to permanently prevent any further outflow of water. The

occurrence shall be reported to the Nunavut Water Board and Land Use Inspector within 48 hours.

Fuel and Chemical Storage

- 8. The Permittee shall ensure that fuel storage containers are not located within thirty-one (31) metres of the ordinary high water mark of any body of water.
- 9. The Permittee shall ensure that any chemicals, fuels or wastes associated with the project do not spread to the surrounding lands or enter into any water body.
- M. The Permittee shall take all reasonable precautions to prevent the possibility of migration of spilled petroleum fuel or chemicals over the ground surface.
- H. The Permittee shall examine all fuel and chemical storage containers daily for leaks. All leaks should be prepared immediately.
- M. The Permittee shall seal all container outlets except the outlet currently in use.
- 13. The Permittee shall mark all fuel containers with the Permittee's name.
- 14. The Permittee shall have emergency response and spill contingency plans in place prior to the commencement of the operation. Submitted a fatigue care
- 15. The Permittee shall immediately report all spills of petroleum and hazardous chemicals to the twenty four (24) hour spill report line at (867) 920-8130 to NWB and to the Land Use Inspector.

Waste Disposal

- 16 The Permittee shall not discharge or deposit any refuse substances or other waste materials in any body of water, or on the banks thereof, which will impair the quality of the waters of the natural environment.
- 17. The Permittee shall ensure that all non-combustible wastes generated through the course of the operation are backhauled and disposed of in an approved dumpsite.

Wildlife

- The Permittee shall ensure that there is no damage to wildlife habitat in conducting this
 operation.
- 19. The Permittee shall not feed wildlife
- 20. The Permittee shall ensure that pilots adhere to recommended flight altitudes of greater than 300 m above ground level as to not disturb wildlife. Concentrations of caribou should be avoided by aircraft at all times.
- 21. The Permittee shall ensure compliance with Section 36 of the Fisheries Act which requires that no person shall deposit or permit the deposit of a deleterious substance on any type in water frequented by fish or in any place under any conditions where the deleterious substance may enter such a water body.
- 22. The harmful alteration, disruption or destruction of fish habitat is prohibited under Section 35 of the Fisheries Act. No construction or disturbance of any stream/lake bed or banks of any definable watercourse is permitted unless authorized by DFO.

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28. The Permittee shall not obstruct the movement of fish while conducting the land use operation.

24. The Permittee shall ensure that the drill sites avoid known environmentally sensitive areas (denning, nesting etc.) by a minimum of 250 metres.

Environmental

25. The Permittee shall ensure that the land use area is kept clean and tidy at all times.

26. The Permittee shall prepare the site in such a manner as to prevent rutting of the ground surface.

The Permittee shall be required to undertake any corrective measures in the event of any damage to the land or water as a result of the permittee's operation.

28. The Permittee shall not use any equipment except of the type, size and number that is listed in the accepted application.

29. The Permittee shall not move any equipment or vehicles unless the ground surface is in a state capable of fully supporting the equipment or vehicles without rutting or gouging.

30. The Permittee shall suspend overland travel of equipment or vehicles if rutting occurs.

31. The Permittee shall ensure pilots avoid overflights of camps and hunters when conducting their land use operations.

Archaeological Sites

32. The Permittee shall follow all terms and conditions for the protection and restoration of archaeological resources as outlined by the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre (PWNHC) in attached letter.

Reclamation

- 33. The Permittee shall remove to an approved dump site all scrap metal, discarded machinery and parts, barrels and kegs, buildings and building material upon abandonment.
- 34. The Permittee shall complete all clean-up and restoration of the lands used prior to the expiry date of the permit.

35. The Permittee shall undertake ongoing restoration for any land or improvements, which are no longer, required for the Permittee's operation on the land.

36. The Permittee shall plug or cap all bore holes and cut off any drill casings that remain above ground to ground level upon abandonment of the operation.

Other Recommendations

- NIRB would like to encourage the proponent to hire local people and services, to the extent possible.
- NIRB strongly advises proponents to consult with local residents regarding their activities in the region.
- Any amendment requests deemed by NIRB to be outside the original scope of the project will be considered a new project.

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The Environmental Protection Branch (DOB), Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO), Nunayut Impact Review Board (NIRB), and the Nunavut Water Board (NWB) should be advised of any material changes to plans or operating conditions associated with the project.

Validity of Land Claims Agreement

Section 2.12.2

Where there is any inconsistency or conflict between any federal, territorial and local government laws, and the Agreement, the Agreement shall prevail to the extent of the inconsistency or conflict.

Dated March 25/49 at Cambridge Bay, NT

Anachment: NIRB Screening Form

c.c. DIAND Lands YK