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Environnement Canada

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June 25, 2003

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Via Facsimile

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**RE: NIRB 03EN091 – Comaplex Minerals Corp. – Noomut Project**  
**NWB2NOO – Noomut 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*.

Comaplex Minerals Corp., association with Placer Dome (CLA) Canada, is proposing to conduct a mineral exploration program in the Henik Lakes area of the Kivalliq region. The project will include geophysical surveys and diamond drilling. Some permits for this project have already been issued during 2002. The proposed project will use the existing Noomut Camp, which can accommodate a maximum of twenty (20) people. The project is expected to commence around June 25, 2003.

It is noted that the anticipated start date for work associated with this project is June 25, 2003. Environment Canada would like to remind the proponent that all necessary permits must be in place prior to commencement of work.

The majority of the information presented within the application documents relates to the 2002 field season. Environment Canada requests that the proponent submit information relating to the 2003 field season. If the 2002 information applies to the 2003 season, a letter should be submitted indicating as such.

Environment Canada requests that following conditions be applied throughout all stage of the review process:

- 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

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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.

- 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.
- If "on-ice" drilling is to be conducted, 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).
- The proponent has indicated that drilling additives, including CaCl, will 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 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.
- All sumps (sewage, greywater, or drill cuttings) shall be located above the high water mark of any waterbody and in such a manner as to prevent the contents from entering any waters frequented by fish. Further, all sumps are to be backfilled upon completion of the field season and contoured to match the existing landscape.
- The proponent had indicated in the 2003 Spill Contingency plan that the fuel cache for the camp is located on a local topographic high. In order to assist with the containment of any potential spills, EC recommends the use of secondary containment, such as self-supporting insta-berms. This will prevent any potential spills from spreading down-gradient and contaminating additional soils.
- All fuel caches shall be located above the high water mark of any definable waterbody and in such a manner as to prevent the contents from entering any waterbody frequented by fish.
- The proponent has indicated that three hundred (300) bags of calcium chlorite will be stored on pallets at the Yandle fuel cache. Environment Canada recommends that preventative measures, such as covering the bags with a tarp, be taken to prevent the contents from potentially leaching during rain/snow events and entering any waterbody frequented by fish.
- Environment Canada recommends the use of an approved incinerator for the disposal of combustible camp wastes.
- The proponent shall ensure that all hazardous and/or non-combustible materials, including waste oils, receive proper treatment and disposal at an approved facility.
- All spills are to be documented and reported to the NWT 24 hour Spill Line at (867) 920-8130. Environment Canada recommends that the proponent add the NWT Spill Line number to the Contacts Listing included in the 2003 Spill Contingency Plan.

If there are any 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](mailto:colette.meloche@ec.gc.ca).

Yours truly,



Colette Meloche

Environmental Assessment Specialist

cc: (Mike Fournier, Northern Environmental Assessment Coordinator, Environment Canada, Yellowknife)