

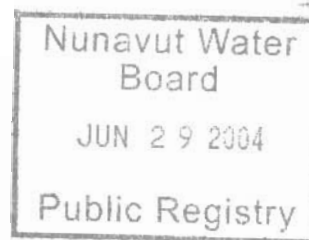


Environment Environnement
Canada Canada

Environmental Protection Branch
Suite 301, 5204 - 50th Avenue
Yellowknife, NT, X1A 1E2

June 28, 2004

Manager of Licensing
Nunavut Water Board
P.O. Box 119
Gjoa Haven, NU
X0B 1J0



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Our file: 4702 022

Via facsimile

Re: NWB2WHA – NTI, Dept. of Lands & Resources – Whale Cove Project – Amendment to Type "B" Water License

On behalf of Environment Canada (EC), I have reviewed the information submitted with the above-mentioned application. The following comments are 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*.

The Whale Cove Geoscience Project is aimed at examining mineralized showings on subsurface Inuit Owned Lands (IOL) in the area of Whale Cove by carrying out an exploration and mapping program. Robin Wyllie with NTI Dept. of Lands & Resources will conduct fieldwork throughout the summer of 2004 and up until August 2005. Field work will be staged from Rankin Inlet and Whale Cove and will be supported by boats and aircraft.

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

1. The proponent shall not deposit, nor permit the deposit of chemicals, sediment, wastes, or fuels associated with the project 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 deleterious substance that results from the deposit of the deleterious substance, may enter any such water, is prohibited.
2. Any sumps, pits, spill basins and fuel caches shall be located above the high water mark of any waterbody and in such a manner as to prevent the contents from entering any waterbody frequented by fish. Therefore, please note that maintaining a buffer of a specific distance may not always be an adequate preventative measure.
3. Environment Canada recommends the use of drip pans, or other similar preventative measures, when refueling equipment on site.
4. The proponent shall ensure that all hazardous wastes, including waste oil, receive proper treatment and disposal at an approved facility.
5. Environment Canada recommends the use of an approved incinerator for the disposal of combustible material.
6. All non-combustible solid wastes (e.g., potable water bottles) shall be disposed of at an appropriate facility, i.e., Yellowknife, NWT or Iqaluit, NU. The proponent is encouraged to make use of recycling facilities for all recyclable materials.
7. The proponent shall have a Spill Contingency Plan in place prior to establishing any fuel caches.

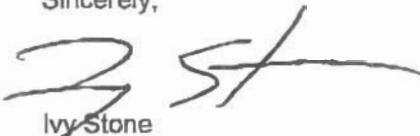
8. Please note as well that any material and equipment cached for this study must be removed at the end of the project.
9. All spills are to be documented and reported to the NWT 24 hour Spill Line at (867) 920-8130.

The Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) of Environment Canada has reviewed the above-mentioned land use permit application and makes the following comments and recommendations pursuant to the *Migratory Birds Convention Act and Regulations*, and the *Species at Risk Act*.

10. Section 6 (a) of the *Migratory Birds Regulations* states that no one shall disturb or destroy the nests or eggs of migratory birds. Therefore, CWS recommends that all activities be conducted outside the migratory bird breeding season, which extends from approximately June 1 to August 1. These dates are approximate, and if active nests (i.e. nests containing eggs or young) are encountered outside of these dates the proponent should avoid the area until nesting is complete (i.e. the young have left the vicinity of the nest).
11. If activities are permitted to occur during the breeding season, CWS recommends that the proponent confirm there are no active nests (i.e. nests containing eggs or young) in the vicinity of their operations before activities commence. If active nests of migratory birds are discovered, the proponent should halt all activities until nesting is completed (i.e. the young have left the vicinity of the nest).
12. In order to reduce disturbance to nesting birds, CWS recommends that aircraft used in conducting project activities maintain a flight altitude of at least 610 m during horizontal (point to point) flight.
13. In order to reduce disturbance to resting, feeding, or moulting birds, CWS recommends that aircraft used in conducting project activities maintain a vertical distance of 610 m and minimum horizontal distance of 2 km from any observed concentrations (flocks / groups) of birds.
14. The *Species at Risk Act* (SARA) came into full effect on June 1, 2004. The purposes of the *Species at Risk Act* are to prevent wildlife species from being extirpated or becoming extinct, to provide for the recovery of wildlife species that are extirpated, endangered or threatened as a result of human activity and to manage species of special concern to prevent them from becoming endangered or threatened.
15. Species at risk that may be encountered in this area include: Peregrine Falcons (subspecies *tundrius*) and Polar Bears, both listed as species of Special Concern on Schedule 3 of the *Species at Risk Act* (SARA). While conducting their operations, the proponent should be aware of the special status, and minimize disturbance or contact with these species.
16. CWS recommends that camp waste be made inaccessible to wildlife at all times. Camp waste can attract predators of migratory birds (e.g. foxes and ravens) to an area if not disposed of properly.

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) 669-4708 or by email at ivy.stone@ec.gc.ca.

Sincerely,



Ivy Stone
Environmental Assessment

cc: Steve Harbicht (Head, Assessment & Monitoring, EPB, Environment Canada, Yellowknife, NT)
Paula Pacholek (Northern Environmental Assessment Coordinator, EPB, Environment Canada, Yellowknife, NT)
Mike Fournier (Environmental Assessment Coordinator, ECB, Environment Canada, Yellowknife, NT)
Colette Meloche (Environmental Assessment/Contaminated Sites Specialist, Environment Canada, Iqaluit, NU)