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8 August 2005

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Via Email

RE: NWB2PIX – Ashton Mining (NT) Ltd. – Pix Project – New – Type 'B'

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*.

Ashton Mining (NT) Ltd. has applied for a type 'B' water licence from the Nunavut Water Board for water use and waste disposal associated with remote camp activities regarding the operation of their Pix Project. The proponent has requested permission from the Kitikmeot Inuit Association (KIA) to construct this camp on Inuit Owned Land (parcel BB-16) with coordinates 66° 10' 0.84"N, 107° 6' 34"W. The camp will consist of five tents, an outhouse, and a generator. Six people will live in the camp throughout the month of August, after which it will be put into storage for the rest of the year. The proponent understands that it has requested permission to access privately owned land and as a result, will obey all land use terms and conditions established by the KIA.

Environment Canada recommends that Ashton Mining (NT) Ltd. revise its Spill Contingency Plan. The proponent must state procedures that address fuel spills on land, water, snow, and ice, and provide a clear chain of command to follow when responding to these situations should they occur.



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

GENERAL

- The proponent shall not deposit, nor permit the deposit of any fuel, 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 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.

CAMPS

- EC recommends the use of an approved incinerator for the disposal of combustible camp wastes.
- The proponent shall ensure that any non-combustible waste is disposed of appropriately at an approved facility.
- Any sumps, including those created for the disposal of drill cuttings, shall be located above the high water mark of any water body and in such a manner as to prevent the contents from entering any water body frequented by fish. Further, all sumps shall be backfilled upon completion of the field season and contoured to match the surrounding landscape.

FUEL STORAGE/SPILL CONTINGENCY/HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

- All fuel caches shall be located above the high water mark of any water body. Further, EC recommends the use of secondary containment, such as self-supporting insta-berms when storing barrelled fuel on location rather than relying on natural depressions.
- The proponent shall ensure that any hazardous materials, including waste oil, receive proper treatment and disposal at an approved facility.

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 if you have any questions or comments with regards to the foregoing by telephone at (867) 975-4631 or by email via david.abernethy@ec.gc.ca.

Regards,



David W. Abernethy
Environmental Assessment Technician