

FACSIMILE MESSAGE**Environment Environnement
Canada Canada****Environmental Protection Branch
Qimugjuk Building 979 P.O. Box 1870
Iqaluit, NU X0A 0H0****DATE:** August 12, 2003**TO:** Phyllis Beaulieu

Licensing Administrator

Nunavut Water Board

PHONE: 867-360-6338**FAX:** 867-360-6369**FROM:** Colette Meloche

Environmental Assessment Specialist

Environment Canada

PHONE: 867-975-4639**FAX:** 867-975-4645**TO:** Spencer Dewar

Land Administration Specialist

Indian and Northern Affairs Canada

PHONE: 867-975-4283**FAX:** 867-975-4286**Number of pages** 3, including cover**Subject:** NWB2SNN0305 - APEX GeoScience Ltd - Amendment to Water License**MESSAGE:**

Hi Phyllis and Spencer,

Please find attached Environment Canada's comments on the above-mentioned application to allow for drilling within 30 m of the high water mark. Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns. Thanks.

Sincerely,

Colette Meloche
Environmental Assessment Specialist

030812NWB2SNN EC Comments-ILAE



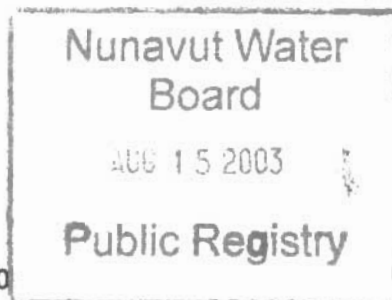
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August 11, 2003

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Our file: 4704 004

Via Facsimile

Via Facsimile

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RE: NWB2SNN0305 – APEX GeoScience Ltd. – Amendment of Water Licence

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*.

APEX Geoscience Ltd, on behalf of Northern Empire Minerals Ltd., Navigator Exploration Corp., and Strongbow Resources Inc. have applied for an amendment to their current water license to allow for exploratory drilling within 30 m of the high water mark.

The following information is required in order to help facilitate the review of this project:

- The distance from the proposed drill hole to the high water mark.
- Additional information regarding whether any heavy equipment will be used to move the proposed drill rig.
- Information regarding the type of terrain in the area. Is the ground within 30 m of the high water mark susceptible to erosion? What measures will be taken to prevent erosion from occurring?
- Further clarification regarding what measures the proponent is going to take to prevent any drill waste from entering the water. This would include how the drilling wastes will be removed from within 30 m of the high water mark.

Environment Canada strongly discourages proponents from drilling within 30 m of the high water mark in order to prevent destabilization of the shoreline and the subsequent potential for sedimentation of the littoral zone. However, in order to help mitigate any potential impacts that may occur if the proposal proceeds, EC recommends that the following conditions be applied throughout all stages of the project:

- The proponent shall not deposit, nor permit the deposit of any sediment, drill cuttings, fuel, or wastes into any water body. According to the *Fisheries Act*, Section 36(3), the

Canada

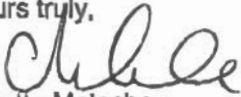


deposition of deleterious substances of any type in water frequented by fish, or in any place under any conditions where the deleterious substance, or any other deleterious substance that results from the deposit of the deleterious substance, may enter any such water, is prohibited.

- In order to prevent the potential of the deposition of any deleterious substances into the water during an extreme wind/rain events, EC recommends that the proponent not store any potentially hazardous materials within 30 m of the high water area. For example, all fuel, lubricants, drill additives, etc... should be stored well above the high water mark and in such a manner as to prevent its contents from entering any waterbody.
- Environment Canada recommends that a spill kit be kept at the drill site in order to facilitate the immediate response to any spills that may occur.
- Drip pans, or other preventative measures, should be placed under the drill and other equipment to help contain any spills/leaks, and should also be used when refueling equipment.
- All spills are to be documented and reported to the NWT 24 hour Spill Line at (867) 920-8130.

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.

Yours truly,



Colette Meloche
Environmental Assessment Specialist

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