

Environment
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Environmental Protection Branch
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March 07, 2002

Our File: 4703 000 001

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Environmental Assessment Officer
Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB)
PO Box 2379
Cambridge Bay, NT X0E 0C0.

Attention: David Sateana

Re: Land Use Permit Application NIRB 02EN023 / NWB Water Application NWB2VAM - Ashton Mining of Canada Inc. - Exploratory Drilling - Kiglikabik Lake, NU.

On behalf of the Environment Canada I have reviewed the information submitted with the above application, and recommend the following conditions for inclusion in the land use/water licence. This advice is provided pursuant to Section 12(3) of the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* (CEAA), and is based primarily on Environment Canada's mandated responsibilities for the enforcement of the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act* (CEPA), Section 36(3) of the *Fisheries Act* and the *Migratory Birds Convention Act*.

Comments and Recommendations

- Meeting the requirements of the Federal *Fisheries Act* is mandatory, irrespective of any other regulatory or permitting system. Section 36(3) of the *Fisheries Act* specifies that unless authorized by federal regulation, no person shall deposit or permit the deposit 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.
- The proponent shall not deposit nor permit the deposit of slash, debris or sediment into any water body. These materials shall be disposed of above the high water mark in such a fashion that they do not enter the water.
- Environment Canada recommends that all fuel storage be equipped with secondary containment and the other hazardous materials be stored in such a manner as to prevent their release into the environment.
- If an artesian flow is encountered, core-drill holes shall be plugged and permanently sealed upon project termination. Poor quality ground water from one aquifer may contaminate another or in some cases flowing conditions at the surface can create large washouts or quicksand conditions.
- ✓ Drilling wastes from land-based drilling shall be disposed of in a sump such that they do not enter any waterbody.
- For on-ice drilling, return water released to the lake must be non-toxic, and not result in an increase in total suspended solids in the immediate receiving waters of the lake above Canadian Council of Ministers for the Environment Guidelines for the Protection of Freshwater Aquatic Life (ie. 10mg/L for lakes with background levels under 100 mg/L, or 10% for those above 100 mg/L).
- Drilling additives or mud shall not be used in connection with holes drilled through the lake ice unless they are re-circulated or contained such that they do not enter the water, or demonstrated to be non-toxic.

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- The permittee shall not store material on the surface ice of streams or lakes.

Changes in the proposed or permitted activities associated with this land use application would require further review. I can be contacted at (867) 669-4736 (by e-mail at wade.romanko@ec.gc.ca) for any questions or comments with regard to the foregoing.

Yours truly,



Wade Romanko
Aquatic Environmental Officer
Environmental Protection Branch - Northern Division

cc. Rita Becker - NWB Licensing Administrator