



NIRB file # - 05MN047
NRCan # - NT- 006

January 17 2014

Amanda Hanson
Director, Technical Services
Nunavut Impact Review Board
PO Box 1360
Cambridge Bay, NU, X0B 0C0
Via electronic mail to: info@nirb.ca

Re: TMAC Resources Inc.'s Proposed Modifications to the Doris North Gold Mine Project and Reconsideration of the NIRB Project Certificate No 003 Terms and Conditions

Dear Ms. Hanson,

Thank you for your letter of December 19, 2013 inviting Natural Resources Canada's (NRCan) comments on the proposed amendments to Project Certificate 003 (PC 003). NRCan has reviewed your letter as well as the correspondence submitted to you by TMAC Resources Incorporated (TMAC) on December 9, 2013. The Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) has asked parties to comment on the proposed amendment to PC 003 and, in particular, to comment on the following five specific points of discussion.

1) Whether the proposed changes, as presented in TMAC's amendment application may trigger the requirement for reconsideration as set out in the NLCA, Section 12.8.2 (a), (b), or (c), and if so, which provisions would trigger reconsideration;

- TMAC's submission to NIRB¹ indicates that the approved plans for the development of the Doris North Project surface infrastructure are not operationally feasible as envisioned. They further indicate that to take the Doris North Project to production, TMAC needs to be reasonably certain that the mine life is greater than two years for reasons related to economic sustainability. Although TMAC has not directly addressed requirements under 12.8.2, they have concluded that the original project design is not operationally feasible as originally conceived and that this conclusion could be used as an argument that the circumstances relating to the project have changed [12.8.2(b)].

2) Whether specific terms and conditions within NIRB Project Certificate [No. 003] may need to be reconsidered pursuant to section 12.8.2 of the NLCA and, if so, identifying the terms and conditions that should be reconsidered;

- Within areas of our mandate and expertise, NRCan has reviewed the terms and conditions associated with PC 003 as they relate to the project amendment requested by TMAC Resources Inc, and, is of the view that changes may be necessary given the amended scope of the project. For example, terms and conditions associated with baseline studies, management plans, monitoring, and reporting may need to be added, modified or made more specific in order to reflect the amendments that may change the predicted impacts of the project. Based on NRCan's review, terms and conditions that relate to:

¹ Doris North Mine Modifications and Related Amendments to Project Certificate No. 003 and Type A Water Licence No. 2AM-DOH1323, Section 1.3, Page 27



- impacts to permafrost/terrain stability;
- characterization and storage of waste rock and tailings management; and,
- impacts and management of groundwater (e.g. management of groundwater inflows) may require reconsideration.

However, NRCan would require additional information on changes to the project, potential environmental impacts and mitigation measures in order to effectively comment on how specific existing conditions may change and whether new conditions may be required.

3) Whether a reconsideration of the Project Certificate terms and conditions is likely to arouse significant public concern, and if so, a description of the basis for this concern;

- NRCan does not have any comments in this regard.

4) Based on the proposed amendments and possible changes to specific terms and conditions, whether the reconsideration should include revisiting whether the potential adverse effects previously identified as mitigated in the original NIRB Review would continue to be considered mitigated if the proposed project modifications are implemented;

- For elements of the project that have changed or are new, NRCan is of the view that the reconsideration should revisit whether the potential adverse effects previously identified as mitigated in the original NIRB Review would continue to be considered mitigated if the proposed project modifications are implemented.

5) Any matter of importance to the party related to the amendment application as presented by TMAC

- NRCan suggests that for the benefit of all parties, if it is determined that reconsideration is required, NIRB ensure that there is a clear understanding of:
 - what the proposed modifications that require reconsideration are; and,
 - the procedures/steps that will form part of the reconsideration.

NRCan appreciates the opportunity to comment on the proposed amendment to PC 003. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Kate Cavallaro at (613) 996-0055 or by email at Kathleen.Cavallaro@nrcan.gc.ca.

Sincerely,

[Original signed by]

John Clarke
Director, Environmental Assessment Division
External Relations
Science and Policy Integration
Natural Resources Canada

cc: Rob Johnstone, NRCan (Minerals and Metals Sector)
Matthew Spence, Director General, Northern Projects Management Office