

November 9, 2012

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

Attention: Phyllis Beaulieu
Manager of Licensing

Dear Sirs and Mesdames:

Renewal and Amendment of Type A Water Licence No. 2AM-DOH0713

Thank you for your letter of October 10, 2012 which (among other items) requests comments on the type of hearing which should be held in respect of the amendment and renewal of Type A Water Licence No. 2AM-DOH0713 (the "Type A Water Licence").

Hope Bay Mining Ltd. ("HBML") is writing this letter to provide our comments with respect to the type of hearing that is appropriate given the scope of HBML's application relating to the Type A Water Licence. Additionally, in order to respond to various questions from regulatory authorities, HBML also wishes to take this opportunity to clarify the various Doris North and Phase 2 Hope Bay Belt-related regulatory applications that have been considered over the past year.

A. Summary of Recent HBML Regulatory Applications

The following section of this letter provides a summary of the various applications that have been submitted and withdrawn over the past year which relate to Doris North and the Phase 2 Hope Bay Belt projects, and the current status of those applications that remain active.

- In November 2011, HBML commenced 2 separate regulatory applications: one, to expand the existing Doris North Project (Phase 1 Hope Bay Belt Project), and two, to permit new mines in other areas of the Hope Bay Belt, which would rely in part on existing infrastructure at Doris North and also result in additional surface disturbance in other areas of the Hope Bay Belt (Phase 2 Hope Bay Belt Project).
- In respect of the Phase 1 Doris North Project, HBML submitted an application to NIRB and to the NWB to permit HBML to renew the Type A Water Licence, proceed with the changes required to expand the Doris North Project footprint and significantly revise the tailings water management strategy. This application sought

to amend both the Doris North NIRB Project Certificate No. 3 and the Type A Water Licence (the “Phase 1 Doris North Project Amendment Application”).

- In respect of the Phase 2 Hope Bay Belt Project, HBML submitted an application to the NIRB and to the NWB to permit it to proceed with the Phase 2 mines (the “Phase 2 Hope Bay Belt Project Description”).
- In January 2012, HBML’s parent company, Newmont Mining Corporation, announced that it planned to suspend all activities at Doris North and the Hope Bay Belt, and to place the belt-wide property in care and maintenance. HBML requested that all processing of the Phase 1 Doris North Project Amendment Application and Phase 2 Hope Bay Belt Project Description be suspended.
- In May 2012, HBML retracted the Phase 1 Doris North Amendment Application. With respect to the Phase 2 Hope Bay Belt Project Description, HBML requested that NIRB proceed with processing of the application to the issuance of NIRB guidelines for the preparation of an environmental impact statement for the Phase 2 Hope Bay Belt Project.
- In August 2012, the new Phase 1 Doris North Water Licence Renewal Application was submitted to the NWB (the “New Phase 1 Doris North Water Licence Renewal Application”).
- As per the New Phase 1 Doris North Water Licence Renewal Application, HBML has requested the renewal of the Type A Water Licence for a ten year term and requested only very limited changes to the Type A Water Licence. The amendments mainly relate to the current status of the Doris North Project, which is in care and maintenance for the foreseeable future. Therefore, all construction and exploration activities are on hold, and current site activities are limited to seasonal water management and environmental monitoring. No expansion to the mine or material changes to the footprint are being sought.
- No material changes to the Doris North Project as permitted by the NIRB Project Certificate No. 003 have been made in the construction of the Project to date, nor are any material changes proposed in the New Phase 1 Doris North Water Licence Renewal Application. Therefore, HBML has not identified any amendments to the NIRB Project Certificate that are triggered by the amendments requested in the New Phase 1 Doris North Water Licence Renewal Application.

B. Request for Written Hearing for Renewal of Type A Water Licence

HBML does not anticipate that any matters of technical complexity requiring detailed oral submissions will arise in respect of the New Phase 1 Doris North Water Licence Renewal Application. In the New Phase 1 Doris North Water Licence Renewal Application, HBML has requested to renew the existing Type A Water Licence on essentially the same terms upon which it was issued. HBML has requested certain minor amendments in order to clarify applicable requirements during care and maintenance and in consideration of the current construction at site. The site has been fully secured for care and maintenance purposes and seasonal

management of site runoff water will be required. To date, site construction is limited as no mill has been brought to site and no tailings have been generated.

Given the simple nature of the New Phase 1 Doris North Water Licence Renewal Application HBML believes that a written hearing is appropriate in the circumstances and would consent to the disposition of this matter without a public hearing. HBML would participate fully in a written hearing or hearing delivered via teleconference if the NWB deems such a hearing is appropriate.

Thank you for the opportunity to make these submissions. HBML looks forward to proceeding with the renewal and amendment of the Type A Water Licence and participating fully in the NWB process. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please do not hesitate to contact me at Chris.Hanks@Newmont.com or (720) 917-4489.

Sincerely,

for

Chris Hanks
Vice President, Environmental Affairs
Hope Bay Mining Ltd.