



Hope Bay Mining Ltd.
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November 9, 2009

Dionne Filiatrault
Executive Director
Nunavut Water Board
P.O. Box 119
Gjoa Haven, NU
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(867) 360-6338

Re: Hope Bay Mining Ltd. Response to NWB August 26, 2009 Letter

Dear Ms. Filiatrault,

Hope Bay Mining Ltd. (HBML) is writing in response to your letter of August 26, 2009 and to thank you for confirmation that the deferral of construction of facilities and infrastructure will not contravene terms and conditions of license 2AM-DOH0713 (the "License"). As you note, we will continue to ensure compliance with the terms of the License and to work closely with INAC in respect of compliance. We are pleased that the Board is in general agreement with our identification of the terms and conditions which are applicable or not during the current deferral of the project.

Planning is underway with respect to site construction activities in 2010 and we are continuing with advanced exploration. As requested, HBML will advise the Board when decisions are made with respect to the Doris North Project and development of the Hope Bay belt, and will submit any associated applications on a timely basis. On October 29, 2009, in the Newmont Q3 Earnings Call it was announced that:

Newmont intends to precede with the initial development of the Doris North underground mine as the first phase of the development of the Hope Bay Greenstone Belt. The initial development will consist of an underground decline and advanced exploration. Following a positive investment decision, construction of a scalable production facility will commence.

Based on this decision by Newmont, I will shortly provide you with a schedule for complying with the elements of the 2AM-DOH0713 water licence that were previously deferred.

With respect to the filing of outstanding administrative requirements associated with the License, we respond as follows:

- Part D, Item 8: An Annual Construction and Monitoring Report (by March 31, of each year). We confirm that this report will be brought up to date, and filed by March 1, 2010.
- Part D, Item 26: Construction Summary Report for construction of Roberts Bay Fuel Storage if the secondary containment is considered a structure to contain water or wastes. We confirm that the Report will be filed by March 1, 2010.
- Part F, Item 1: Revised Water Management Plan (May 1, 2008). We confirm that the Report will be filed by June 1, 2010.
- Part K, Item 5: Revised Monitoring and Follow-up Plan (March 1, 2008). We confirm that the Report will be filed by January 31, 2010.

As well, we confirm your understanding that since the associated facilities have not yet been constructed, the following administrative requirements are currently not applicable:

- Part G, Item 7: Landfill Management Plan
- Part G, Item 14 Landfarm Management Plan
- Part G, Item 15 Revised Waste Rock Management Plan
- Part G, Item 23 Tailings Management Plan

As per my conversation with David Hohnstein regarding these requirements, HBML will provide separate letters describing the current status of each of the above noted facilities and associated administrative requirements. These letters are attached. Obviously given the events of October 29, 2009, which post-dates that conversation, these letters will now detail the status of plans and a schedule for implementation.

As requested, HBML will provide separate correspondence to the Board with respect to Licence conditions governing the Sewage Treatment Plant operation and monitoring.

Thank you for your time and consideration of our response. If you should have any further questions please feel free to contact me at chris.hanks@newmont.com.

Sincerely yours,

Chris Hanks
Director, Environment and Social Responsibility
Hope Bay Mining Ltd.

cc: David Hohnstein, Acting Director of Technical Services
cc: Phyllis Beaulieu, Manager of Licensing

attachments