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24 November 2011

EC File: 4703 003 013
NWB File: 2AM-DOH0713

Phyllis Beaulieu
Manager of Licensing
Nunavut Water Board
P.O. Box 119
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Via email: licensing@nunavutwaterboard.org

RE: 111024 2AM-DOH0713 Modification Request Airstrip Expansion

Environment Canada (EC) has reviewed the above-mentioned modification request submitted to the Nunavut Water Board (NWB). The following specialist advice has been provided pursuant to the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act*, Section 36(3) of the *Fisheries Act*, the *Migratory Birds Convention Act*, and the *Species at Risk Act*.

Hope Bay Mining Ltd. (HBML) has submitted a proposal to the NWB to revise the design of the airstrip expansion and bypass road at the existing airstrip location. The revision includes the removal in the design of a separate bypass road that was to be constructed on the east side of the expanded airstrip, and the addition of an 8-m wide attached bypass road to be constructed along the east edge of the expanded airstrip. The proposed modification will reduce the activity footprint and there will not be an increase in water consumption or waste water generation. HBML has confirmed that the revised airstrip and bypass road design will not trigger any substantive revisions to plans required under water license 2AM-DOH0713.

EC has no concerns this time with this modification as long as all current license conditions continue to be adhered to, including that all required monitoring plans are updated accordingly. As well, appropriate mitigation measures regarding drainage management, dust suppression and minimizing ammonia residues in construction rock should be implemented.

If there are any additional changes to the airstrip design, EC should be notified as further review may be necessary. Comments previously submitted on behalf of EC regarding water license 2AM-DOH0713 would still apply to this project. Please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned with any questions or comments with regards to the foregoing at (867) 975-4631 or by email at Paula.C.Smith@ec.gc.ca

Yours truly,



Paula C. Smith

Environmental Assessment Coordinator

cc: Carey Ogilvie (Head, Environmental Assessment-North, EPO, EC, Yellowknife, NT)
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