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NUNAVUT WATER BOARD
NUNAVUT IMALIRIYIN KATIMAYINGI

December 9, 1999

NWB File No: N7L2-0925
NWB2ULU9700

Mr. David Hohnstein
Environmental Coordinator
Echo Bay Mines Ltd.
Lupin Operations
9818 International Airport
Edmonton, AB T5J 2T2

Subject: Application for Renewal of Licence N7L2-0925 for the Lupin Mine and
Licence NWB2ULU9700 for the Ulu Project

Dear Mr. Hohnstein:

The Nunavut Water Board received two applications from Echo Bay Mines Ltd. dated July 5, 1999 and September 14, 1999 for the renewal of Licence **N7L2-0925** (NWB File: NWB1LUP-) for the Lupin Mine and Licence **NWB2ULU9700** for the Ulu Project respectively. Because these two projects are closely related, the Board has decided to treat these applications together for greater efficiency and optimal use of resources of all parties.

The Board gave notice of the application for the Lupin Mine to interested parties on July 19, 1999 and published the notice of application in the August 2, 1999 issue of News North. The Board also gave notice of the application for the Ulu Project to interested parties on October 19, 1999 and published the notice of application in the October 18, 1999 issue of News North. Pursuant to S. 13.5.1 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement, the Board referred both applications to NIRB for screening on July 19, 1999 and October 8, 1999 respectively.

With respect to the Lupin Mine, NIRB's screening report dated November 16, 1999 states that **"(t)he decision of the Board in this case is 12.4.4 (a) the proposal may be processed without a review under Part 5 or 6; NIRB may recommend specific terms and conditions to be attached to any approval, reflecting the primary objectives set out in Section 12.2.5"**.

With respect to the Ulu Project, NIRB's screening report dated December 8, 1999 states that **"(t)he decision of the Board in this case is 12.4.4 (a) the proposal may be processed without a review under Part 5 or 6; NIRB may recommend specific terms and conditions to be attached to any approval, reflecting the primary objectives set out in Section 12.2.5"**.

Both screening reports are available upon request.

Pursuant to S. 13.7.2 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement, the Nunavut Water Board shall hold a public hearing before approving any application. Please refer to the Board's "Interim Rules of Practice and Procedure for Public Hearings", a copy of which is attached for your consideration. At this time, the Board plans to hold a hearing in Kugluktuk during the week of March 27, 2000. Particulars of the hearing will be forwarded shortly to all interested parties and a public notice to that effect will be given. The Board will also hold a pre-hearing conference as soon as feasible with the applicant and interested parties to discuss the issues related to these applications. Note that the Board may waive the requirement for a hearing if no public concerns are expressed.

We would appreciate if Echo Bay Mines Ltd. could make available to the public and interested parties upon request copies of both applications and supporting documents once the particulars of the hearings are set. Do not hesitate to contact our office should you have any questions.

Finally, by copy of this letter to the distribution list, we are formally appraising interested parties of the Board's intentions with respect to the approval process it intends to follow for these applications, and requesting that any communication to the Board from the applicant or interested parties be made in writing.

We are also requesting Echo Bay Mines Ltd. and the distribution list to let Philippe di Pizzo know if the time and place of proposed hearing is agreeable before December 16, 1999 by faxing or e-mailing your response to (867)873-9031 or pdipizzo@polarnet.ca.

Sincerely,

Rita Becker
Licence Administrator

Enclosure (to Echo Bay Mines Ltd.):
Interim Rules of Practice and Procedure for Public Hearings

c.c. Distribution List

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