



NIRB File No.: 99WR053
NWB File No.: 2AM-LUP0914

June 9, 2014

Thomas Kabloona, Chairperson
Nunavut Water Board
c/o Phyllis Beaulieu, Manager of Licensing
Nunavut Water Board
Gjoa Haven, NU X0A 0H0

Sent via email: phyllis.beaulieu@nwb-oen.ca

Re: Application Exempt from the Requirement for Screening pursuant to Section 12.4.3 of the NLCA: Lupin Mines Incorporated's "Lupin Gold Mine" project, Kitikmeot Region

Dear Phyllis Beaulieu:

On May 16, 2014 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received an application from the Nunavut Water Board (NWB) for a renewal to the water licence (No. 2AM-LUP0914) associated with Lupin Mines Inc.'s "Lupin Gold Mine" project. The Board notes that a conformity determination from the Nunavut Planning Commission was not required for this file, as the proposed project is located within a region that does not currently have an approved land use plan in place (Kitikmeot Region).

Please be advised that the original project proposal (NIRB File No.: 99WR053) was received by the NIRB from the NWB on July 12, 1999 and was screened by the Board in accordance with Part 4, Article 12 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA). On November 16, 1999 the NIRB issued the enclosed NLCA 12.4.4(a) screening decision to the Chairperson of the NWB which indicated that the proposed project could proceed subject to the NIRB's recommended project-specific terms and conditions.

On February 28, 2008 the NIRB received an application for a renewal to the NWB water licence associated with the above mentioned project. After a thorough assessment of the renewal request, the NIRB determined that the application was exempt from the requirement for further screening pursuant to Section 12.4.3 of the NLCA, and reissued the enclosed screening decision report on May 6, 2008.

The current NWB application, the original NIRB Screening Decision Report (File No. 99WR053) and related file information are available from the NIRB's online public registry at the following location:

PREVIOUSLY-SCREENED PROJECT PROPOSAL:

As previously screened by the NIRB (File No. 99WR053), the “Lupin Gold Mine” proposal was located within the Kitikmeot region, approximately 285 kilometres (km) southeast of Kugluktuk. The Proponent indicated that it intended to maintain the previously approved mine site¹ in a care and maintenance phase until such time as operations could resume.

The activities and components associated with the previously screened proposal included:

- Renewal of water licence for five to eight years in order to complete environmental studies and collect required water quality data;
- Monitor results of reclamation activities as implemented in the tailings containment area during the temporary closure period; and
- Complete reclamation of extraction areas, specifically the final grading of the East Zone Crown Pillar entrance.

The activities and components associated with the previous February 28, 2008 water licence renewal included:

- Renewal of water licence for five to seven years in order to continue to maintain the site in care and maintenance.

CURRENT APPLICATION:

Lupin Mines Inc. is currently proposing to renew its NWB Type A water licence (No. 2AM-LUP0914) for an additional ten year period in order to continue with care and maintenance activities at the Lupin Mine and in order to focus on the following activities:

- Continue general site maintenance and conduct monitoring programs:
 - Maintain secondary containment in petroleum storage areas to prevent the release of petroleum products and implement Spill Contingency Plan as needed;
 - Manage site wastes according to Waste Management Plan (Solid and Hazardous) and Liquid Waste Management Plan;
 - Operate, maintain and monitor tailings and sewage facilities in accordance with the Care and Maintenance Plan;
 - Control fugitive dust;
 - Manage site water in accordance with best management practices;
 - Inspect water and domestic sewage pipelines;
- Regularly review and update contingency, mitigation and management plans; and

¹ The NIRB notes that the original mine, owned by Echo Bay Mines Ltd. entered into a 15 year operation period in 1982. In 1998, the site was placed into temporary shutdown due to low gold prices and has since continued in care and maintenance until such time as it may become viable to continue operations. The NIRB notes that the original Lupin Mine proposal was approved by the federal government prior to the ratification of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement. The NIRB’s previous screening covered only the care and maintenance and ongoing reclamation associated with the Lupin shutdown which occurred in 1998.

- Maintain environmental licenses, permits, and authorizations to allow mining operations to resume if project is determined to be economically feasible.

Please note that Section 12.4.3 of the NLCA states that:

“Any application for a component or activity of a project proposal that has been permitted to proceed in accordance with these provisions shall be exempt from the requirement for screening by NIRB unless:

(a) such component or activity was not part of the original project proposal; or

(b) its inclusion would significantly modify the project.”

After completing a review of the information provided in support of the current application, the NIRB is of the understanding that the proposed renewal does not change the general scope of the original project activities, and the exceptions noted in NLCA 12.4.3(a) and (b) do not apply. Therefore, this application is exempt from the requirement for screening pursuant to Section 12.4.3 of the NLCA and the activities therein remain subject to the terms and conditions recommended in the original November 16, 1999 Screening Decision Report (enclosed).

If you have any questions or require additional clarification, please contact Tara Arko, Technical Advisor, at (867) 983-4611 or tarko@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



Ryan Barry
Executive Director
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Karyn Lewis, Elgin Mining Inc.
Stephen Lines, TLA Consultants
The Honourable Bernard Valcourt, PC, MP
Geoff Clark, Kitikmeot Inuit Association
Tracey McCaie, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada

Enclosure: NIRB Screening Decision Report, File No.: 99WR053 (November 16, 1999)