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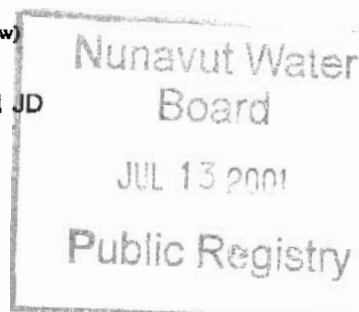
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OUR FILE NUMBER: 12147-011 JD

Mr. Philippe di Pizzo  
 Executive Director  
 Nunavut Water Board  
 P.O. Box 119  
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July 13, 2001

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| INTERNAL |  |
| PG       |  |
| LA       |  |
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| EB       |  |
| CEO      |  |
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**RE: Application for Amendment to Licence NWB1LUP0008**

Dear Sir:

We are in receipt of your letter of July 12, 2001 which responds to correspondence sent by Mr. Ignasiak, counsel to Echo Bay Mines Ltd. (EBM). I would like to respond to the points raised by counsel for EBM on behalf of the Kitikmeot Inuit Association (KIA).

First, Mr. Ignasiak suggests that section 3.1 of the Nunavut Water Board (NWB) Rules of Practice and Procedure should be interpreted in such a way as to prevent individuals who did not file written comments or concerns with the Board before June 29th, 2001 from participating at the hearing scheduled for August 9th, 2001 in Kugluktuk. It is hard to imagine how the plain wording of section 3.1 could be extended to this end. Furthermore, such an approach would be entirely inappropriate in Nunavut where many community residents and participants in the land claim do not read or write English well. To prevent their participation in this proceeding on the basis of such an interpretation of section 3.1 would be improper and, it is the position of KIA that any such action by the Board would be a flagrant violation of the rules of fairness.

Mr. Ignasiak also challenges the independence of the consultant retained by the Board. However, he provides no indication of the reasons for his concern. I suggest, on behalf of KIA, that the Board should hear from all parties to the proceeding before making any determination with respect to the appropriateness of Mr. Brodie's continued involvement in this matter.

Finally, Mr. Ignasiak suggests that a meeting be held between Mr. Brodie and experts retained on behalf of the applicant. He suggests: "... if Mr. Brodie and the experts retained by EBM have a chance to discuss the technical aspects of the Application, they will be able to resolve many if not all of the outstanding issues. Any issues left outstanding will likely be simplified for the benefit of all those involved." This proposal smacks of an *ex parte* meeting between the applicant and Board advisers. While KIA would support an effort to simplify the issues which must be addressed at the hearing, we feel that such initiatives must take place within the framework of the Board's Rules and the requirements of natural justice. It is our position that the proposal made by counsel for the applicant is not consistent with these requirements.

I trust that our position on these matters is clear. The KIA remains prepared to cooperate with the Board and the applicant in order to expeditiously resolve the issues in this hearing. However, we urge the Board to ensure that the unique circumstances of Nunavut are respected and that opportunities for Inuit participation are not adversely affected by any arrangements made in pursuit of the goal of efficiency.

Yours truly,

**GULLBERG, WIEST,  
MacPHERSON & KAY**



*for:*

John Donihee  
Counsel for the  
Kitikmeot Inuit Association

JD/

cc. Martin Ignasiak,  
Fraser Milner Casgrain LLP

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