

2001 Compliance Report for Water Licence NWB1LUP0008

Echo Bay Mines - Lupin Mine

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Water Licence: NWB1LUP0008

Iqaluit, NU

2001 Compliance Report

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Introduction

The Northwest Territories Water Board issued a licence renewal on June 1, 1995 (licence N7L2-0925) which expired on May 31, 2000. This Licence allowed for the Lupin Mine's water use and waste disposal associated with mining activities. The Nunavut Water Board issued a renewal (NWB1LUP0008) on July 1, 2000 that will expire on July 30, 2008. However, the *Water Regulations* licensing criteria for industrial undertakings identify the Lupin Mine operations as those befitting a Type "A" licence. As the *Nunavut Water and Surface Rights Tribunal Act* states that the NWB may only issue such a licence with the approval of the Minister, no Water Licence previously or currently assigned to the Lupin Mine can consequently be considered valid at this time.

In the absence of a binding Water Licence, the present compliance report was conducted of the terms and conditions of the current licence without prejudice. This Report assesses compliance with the licence for the period between January 1, 2001 and December 31, 2001. The Licence permits the use of up to 1,700,000 cubic metres of water per year for water use and waste disposal activities at the Lupin Mine. The format of this report follows that of the Licence; however, conditions with no licensee requirements for the year 2001 are not outlined as a compliance assessment does not apply.

Compliance Assessment

Part B - General Conditions

Condition Number and Summary	Compliance Assessment
1. The water use fee shall be paid annually.	The fee was received by the Board on June 5, 2001.
2. The security deposit shall be posted and maintained as required by the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development.	The Licensee has complied with this condition.
3. N/A	
4. N/A	

Condition Number and Summary	Compliance Assessment
5. An Annual Report shall be filed prior to March 31 of the year following the calendar year reported.	The Report was received by the Board on March 18, 2002.
6. The Surveillance Network Program (SNP) shall be completed.	The SNP was completed; however, some parameters are missing from the 925-14 analyses. The data for June 18 lacks results for total nitrite and total alkalinity; July 16 lacks results for total oil and grease; and August 13 lacks results for oil and grease. The Annual Report should include an explanation as to why this analysis was not conducted.
7. N/A	
8. Meters and other such methods of measuring water usage and discharges shall be installed, operated, and maintained.	The Licensee has complied with this section.
9. Signs identifying SNP stations shall be maintained.	The Licensee has complied with this section as signage was deemed acceptable during the inspection.
10. A copy of the Licence shall be kept at the site at all times.	The Licensee has complied with this section.

Part C - Conditions Applying to Water Use

Condition Number and Summary	Compliance Assessment
11. All water shall be obtained from Contwoyto Lake.	The Licensee has complied with this section.
12. Quantities of water withdrawn shall not exceed 1,700,000 m ³ /year.	A total of 886,630 m ³ was used in 2001.
13. The fresh water intake shall be equipped with a mesh screen.	The Licensee has complied with this section.

Part D - Conditions Applying to Waste Disposal

Condition Number and Summary	Compliance Assessment
14. Tailings shall be discharged to the containment area or as backfill to other locations as approved by the Board.	Tailings effluent was not discharged in 2001; sufficient capacity remained in the ponds to provide retention through to 2002.
15. Discharge from the Tailings Containment Area shall commence no sooner than July 15 unless otherwise approved by the Board.	N/A, see condition one.
16. Discharge from the Tailings Containment Area shall not exceed 70,000 m ³ /day unless otherwise approved by the Board.	N/A, see condition one.
17. At least 5 days notice to an Inspector shall be provided prior to the first discharge from the Tailings Containment Area.	N/A, see condition one.
18. Discharges from the containment area shall meet the effluent quality requirements.	N/A, see condition one.
19. The Tailings Containment Area shall be constructed, operated and maintained to engineering standards.	The Licensee has complied with this condition, all recommended maintenance work suggested in the 2001 Geotechnical Inspection was completed.
20. All sewage shall be discharged to the Sewage Lakes Disposal System or as otherwise approved by the Board.	The Licensee has complied with this condition as all sewage was discharged to the sewage lakes disposal system.
21. All waste discharged from the Sewage Lakes Disposal System shall meet the effluent quality requirements.	The pH requirement of 6.0 - 9.5 was exceeded in June (5.85) and August (5.96). This could be attributed to the minewater discharge. The remaining effluent requirements were met.
22. At least 5 days notice to an Inspector shall be provided prior to the first discharge from the Sewage Lakes	The Licensee has complied with this section.

Condition Number and Summary		Compliance Assessment
Disposal System.		
23.	All minewater shall be discharged to either the Tailings Containment Area or the Sewage Lakes Disposal System, except as in Part D, Item 11.	The Licensee has complied with this condition as all minewater was discharged to the Sewage Lakes Disposal System (Lake 2). A total of 50,177 m ³ was discharged in 2001.
24.	N/A	
25.	N/A	

Part E - Conditions Applying to Modifications

Condition Number and Summary		Compliance Assessment
26.	Modifications to the water supply and waste disposal facilities may be completed without the Board's approval provided they meet the terms/conditions of the Licence.	The Licensee has complied with this condition. Modifications to the Mdam were completed to contain and prevent seepage near the abutment of Mdam and Jdam. Other modifications included the addition of a lift to Xdam, an internal dyke within Cell 5, and the construction or a portion of a containment dyke in Cell 3b.
27.	N/A	
28.	Plans and drawings of approved modifications must be submitted to the Board within 90 days of completion.	The Licensee has complied with this condition, drawings for the 2000 (not submitted previously) and 2001 modifications were included in the 2001 report.

Part F - Conditions Applying to Construction

Condition Number and Summary	Compliance Assessment
29. Design drawing of any dams, dikes, or water/waste management structures other than those in the Contingency Plan must be submitted to the Board.	The Licensee has complied with this condition.
30. N/A 31. N/A 32. N/A 33. N/A	

Part G - Conditions Applying to Studies

Condition Number and Summary	Compliance Assessment
34. Within 8 months of issuance of the Licence, a “Tailings Containment Area Management Report” shall be submitted to the Board.	The Report was received by the NWB on March 22, 2001, no additional material was requested by the NWB.
35. N/A 36. N/A	

Part H - Conditions Applying to Contingency Planning

Condition Number and Summary	Compliance Assessment
37. Within 6 months of issuance of the Licence, an updated Contingency Plan shall be submitted to the Board.	A revised Contingency Plan was received by the Board on January 9, 2000.
38. N/A	
39. The Contingency Plan shall be reviewed and modified as necessary on an annual basis.	Modifications were not required in 2001.
40. Unauthorized discharges shall employ the contingency plan, be reported	There were no reported unauthorized

Condition Number and Summary	Compliance Assessment
immediately, and summarized in a report to the Inspector within 30 days.	discharges in 2001.

Part I - Conditions Applying to Abandonment and Restoration

Condition Number and Summary	Compliance Assessment
41. Within 9 months of issuance of the Licence, a revised Abandonment and Restoration Plan shall be submitted.	Approval was granted for an extension to April 30, 2001 for submission of the Plan, the Plan was received by the Board on May 23, 2001.
42. The Licensee shall submit an annually updated assessment of the mine restoration liability.	The restoration liability assessment has not been submitted.
43. N/A	
44. N/A (submission pending approval) 45. N/A 46. N/A	
47. The Licensee shall endeavor to carry out immediate restoration of areas that are no longer needed prior to closure of the operations.	Reclamation of the Center Zone Crown Pillar (as described in the 1999 Annual Report) was put on hold due to commitments in other areas of the underground operations.
48. N/A	

Conclusion

During the year currently under review, the Licensee has complied satisfactorily with the conditions of licence NWB1LUP0008. The SNP was completed; however, some parameters are missing from the 925-14 analyses. The data for June 18 lacks results for total nitrite and total alkalinity; July 16 lacks results for total oil and grease; and August 13 lacks results for oil and grease. The Annual Report should include an explanation as to why this analysis was not conducted.

In addition, the pH requirement of 6.0 - 9.5 was exceeded in June (5.85) and August (5.96). This could be attributed to the minewater discharge. The remaining effluent requirements were met.