



File: 2AM-LUP2032/E2

June 08, 2026

Felix Mensah-Yeboah
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Alkane Resources

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Subject: Lupin Discharge Variance Request; Type A Water Licence 2AM-LUP2032, Lupin Mine Project; Lupin Mines Incorporated

Dear Felix Mensah-Yeboah,

On December 17, 2025, the Nunavut Water Board (NWB or Board) received from Lupin Mines Incorporated (LMI or Licensee) the document entitled “Lupin Mine Discharge Variance Request” dated December 16, 2025 (Request) to seek approval from the Board to initiate discharge from Pond 2 as early as May 01, 2026, as required by Part E, Item 2 of Water Licence No: 2AM-LUP2032 (Licence).

As per Part E, Item 2, “*The discharge of Effluent from the Tailings Containment Area at Monitoring Program Station LUP-10 shall commence no sooner than July 15 of any calendar year unless otherwise approved by the Board in writing.*” As outlined in the Request, the rationale for the request for early discharge is to allow for closure objectives to be met given the short operating season. Early discharge would:

- *Expose and dry tailings prior to heavy equipment mobilization to reduce geotechnical risk and support successful cover placement and achieve final reclamation objectives;*
- *Allow safe access for heavy equipment to place non-acid-generating (NAG) cover on the tailings;*
- *Facilitate grading, armoring, and other final closure works in accordance with the FCRP.*

Additionally, as per the Request, starting discharge in May allows for a longer, more controlled decant period, reducing the need for higher peak flow rates later in the season. Discharge during freshet or peak snow and ice melt onsite allows maximum dilution and reduces the likelihood of measurable effects on downstream receiving environments. Furthermore, LMI expects that Pond 2 effluent quality will remain within Water Licence limits for all regulated parameters at the time of discharge.

The Request was distributed for public review with a deadline for submissions set for January 30, 2026. Comments were received from Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada

(CIRNAC), Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) and the Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) by January 30, 2026.

The Licensee also informed the NWB that DFO made the recommendation to complete a Request for Review.

On May 05, 2026, LMI provided a response to the comments received and by May 14, 2026, the Interveners confirmed that their comments were addressed.

A summary of the comments and responses received is provided below:

Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC):

1. CIRNAC recommended that the Licensee incorporate all Part E, Item 6 limits into the discharge plan and demonstrate compliance prior to and during discharge.

Licensee response: The Licensee confirmed that since the Lupin Mine has received Recognized Closed Mine status as per February 21, 2022, these limits do not apply.

2. CIRNAC recommended that the Licensee include un-ionized ammonia monitoring and calculations consistent with the licence and report results at LUP-10 and applicable downstream stations.

Licensee response: The Licensee confirmed that since the Lupin Mine has received Recognized Closed Mine status as per February 21, 2022, there is no requirement to incorporate un-ionized ammonia monitoring based on total ammonia, pH, and temperature into the monitoring program.

3. CIRNAC recommended that the Licensee confirm MDMER applicability and demonstrate how compliance will be verified during early discharge.

Licensee response: The Licensee confirmed that since the Lupin Mine has received Recognized Closed Mine status as per February 21, 2022, MDMER does not apply.

4. CIRNAC recommended pre-discharge, lab-verified pH results meeting licence criteria be provided, and that on-site treatment capacity (soda ash inventory and dosing plan) be confirmed.

Licensee response: The Licensee confirmed that pre-discharge water quality monitoring results will be provided as per permit requirements and that permit conditions do not require supplying soda ash inventory and dosing plan prior to discharge; provided compliant lab results are provided for required water quality parameters as outlined in Part E, Item 5.

5. CIRNAC recommended coordinating with DFO and implementing stepwise flow ramping and adaptive reduction procedures to mitigate potential effects.

Licensee response: The Licensee confirmed a DFO Request for Review (RFR) has been completed. The RFR requests a June 15 discharge date, and outlines monitoring and mitigative measures to protect fish and fish habitat.

6. CIRNAC recommended the submission of detailed Erosion and Sediment Control (ESC) designs and weekly inspection schedules consistent with Schedule G reporting.

Licensee response: The Licensee committed to implementing and adhering to the monitoring and inspections schedule for the duration of the discharge period as per Part G, Item 5 of the Licence and stated that the discharge does not warrant the submission of a separate ESC plan.

7. CIRNAC recommended that Licensee provide the technical design memos/drawings for tailings cover and Dam K/M prior to discharge.

Licensee response: The Licensee noted that exposed tailings cannot be covered prior to compliance discharge and committed to provide as-built reports for tailing cover and work completed on the TCA prior to discharge. LMI also confirmed that there are no works currently planned at K Dam.

8. CIRNAC recommended that Licensee provide plain-language communications (Inuinnaqtun/Inuktitut/English) to the community of Kugluktuk prior to approval.

Licensee response: The Licensee confirmed that a plain language summary has been translated to Inuktitut and is included in this submission and stated that LMI has been unable to secure translation services to Inuinnaqtun.

9. CIRNAC recommended correcting the date of proposed discharge year throughout the submission to prevent administrative error.

Licensee response: The Licensee confirmed a DFO Request for Review (RFR) has been completed which requests a June 15 discharge date, and outlines monitoring and mitigative measures to protect fish and fish habitat.

Environment and Climate Change Canada

1. ECCC recommended that the Licensee refer to the Recognized Closed Mine (RCM) letter that was issued on February 21st, 2022 regarding discharges after a mine becomes an RCM.

Licensee response: The Licensee LMI thanked ECCC for providing this letter, confirming Closed Mine Status and confirming the applicability of the MDMER limits.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada

1. DFO recommended that the Licensee follow DFO's protective measures for fish and fish habitat and standard codes of practice.

Licensee response: The Licensee confirmed a DFO Request for Review (RFR) has been completed which requests a June 15 discharge date, and outlines monitoring and mitigative measures to protect fish and fish habitat during the restricted activity window.

2. DFO recommended that the Licensee respect the NU in-water works restricted activity timing windows to protect fish during spawning and incubation periods when spawning fish, eggs and fry are vulnerable to disturbance or sediment.

Licensee response: The Licensee confirmed a DFO Request for Review (RFR) has been completed which requests a June 15 discharge date, and outlines monitoring and mitigative measures to protect fish and fish habitat during the restricted activity window.

3. DFO recommended that the Licensee complete and submit a request for review form.

Licensee response: The Licensee confirmed that LMI submitted a project Request for Review as recommended.

4. DFO reminded that it's the proponent's Duty to Notify DFO if they have caused or are about to cause, the death of fish by means other than fishing and/or harmful alteration, disruption, or the destruction of fish habitat.

Licensee response: The Licensee acknowledged the requirement.

Copies of all documents received during the review can be accessed through the NWB's Public Registry using the following link:

[2AM-LUP2032 Discharge Variance Request](#)

NWB's Review and Decision

The NWB has fully reviewed the Licensee's request taking into consideration the potential impact of the proposed activities on the freshwater environment, and consistency of the proposed activity in relation to the scope of the Licence. Based on the review, the Board has approved the Request for early discharge with the discharge start date of June 15, 2026 as requested in the RFR submitted to DFO, provided that all effluent quality parameters are met and the discharge rate is consistent with Part E, Item 2 of the Licence i.e., 125,000 cubic metres per day.

Furthermore, in accordance with Part E, Item 5 of the Licence, all applicable monitoring requirements shall remain applicable to this approval.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact the undersigned at (867) 360-6338 (extension 32) or nidhi.singh@nwb-oen.ca at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,



Nidhi Singh
Nunavut Water Board,
Technical Advisor
ns/rqd

Cc: Distribution List – Lupin