



Lupin Operation
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Executive Director
Nunavut Water Board
P.O. Box 119
Gjoa Haven, NU
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RE: Request to Dispose of Contaminated Soils Underground at Lupin Mine

Dear Sir:

The mined-out workings at the Lupin Mine have been repositories for development waste rock since mining began in 1982, and for mill tailings (paste backfill) since 1995. Approximately 30% of the mill tailings produced since 1995, over 1.7 million tonnes, have been placed in open stopes as backfill to facilitate mining activities and to conserve the capacity of the Tailings Containment Area (TCA). As stated in the Lupin reclamation plans submitted to the Nunavut Water Board, the remediation strategy for surface soils containing residual hydrocarbons or elevated concentrations of metals is either direct burial in the TCA or disposal within the mined-out workings.

Restoration of the exposed tailings cells in the TCA will be completed in 2006 and the TCA will no longer be available for disposal purposes. As such, the preferred disposal method for contaminated surface soils at this point is to place these materials underground. There are a number of open stopes accessible from surface, by the development of short drop raises, which will provide suitable repositories for the waste soils. The stopes are located within the permafrost zone and are isolated from underground access.

Consistent with the accepted practice of disposing waste rock and tailings underground, Lupin requests formal written approval from the Board for the underground disposal of surface soils containing residual hydrocarbons and/or elevated concentrations of metals. All disposal locations will be capped with at least 1 metre of clean esker sand or non-PAG waste rock. The original surface till cover, removed prior to mining the crown pillars and stockpiled nearby, will be used as the final cover and contoured to suit the topography.

Since the Final Abandonment and Restoration (A&R) Plan for the Lupin site is currently under review and has yet to be approved, the requested approval for this particular activity is necessary at this time for us to proactively proceed with reclamation and clean-up activities this summer.

We look forward to a timely response and greatly appreciate your assistance with this matter. Should you or your staff have any questions regarding the above request, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at the contact numbers listed above.

Sincerely,

*Original signed by
Michael Tansey*

Michael Tansey
Reclamation Manager, Lupin