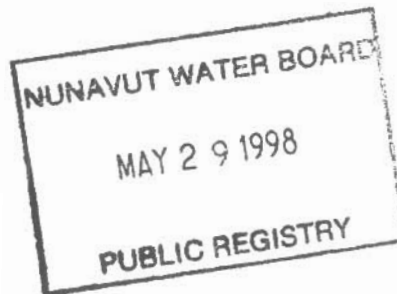


Fisheries and Oceans  
CanadaPêches et Océans  
Canada

Box 358  
Iqaluit, NT.  
XOA OHO  
Ph: (819) 979-6274  
Fax: (819) 979-4539

May 28, 1998

David Porter  
License Administrator  
Nunavut Water Board  
Box 119  
Goa Haven, NT  
X0E 1J0



**Re: Mineral Exploration in the Meadowbank River Area NIRB: 98W02N077**  
**NWB: NWB2MEA**  
**Letter of Advice**

On behalf of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) I have reviewed the information submitted with the above application. DFO's assessment takes into consideration fish and fish habitat related concerns only.

On the basis of the information provided, it has been determined that the above project has the potential to affect fish or fish habitat pursuant to the Fisheries Act. It has also been concluded that the potentially adverse environmental effects that may be caused by the proposal are mitigable with known technology. Factors to consider when developing measures to mitigate any potentially adverse effects on fish and fish habitat may include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. The harmful alteration, disruption or destruction of fish habitat is prohibited under Section 35 of the Fisheries Act, unless authorized by regulation. No disturbance of the bottom or banks of any definable watercourse is permitted unless authorized by DFO.
- DFO recommends that mechanized clearing not be permitted within 30 metres of the normal high water mark of a watercourse in order to maintain a vegetative mat for bank stabilization.
2. If applicable, the construction of any winter stream/lake crossings to access drill sites should be located to minimize approach grades. The use of material other than ice or snow to construct a temporary crossing over any ice-covered stream is prohibited under Section 11 of the Northwest Territories Fishery Regulations, unless authorized by a Fishery Officer. All temporary crossings shall be removed prior to spring breakup in a manner and to the satisfaction of a Fishery Officer.
- Prior to the selection of stream/lake crossing locations, the proponent should provide details of the fish habitat in the area of the proposed crossings and outline the methods that will be employed to mitigate any adverse effects on this habitat or areas downstream, and include a construction schedule.

3. The deposition of deleterious substances into water bodies frequented by fish is prohibited under Section 36 of the Fisheries Act unless authorized by regulation. The proponent shall, therefore, ensure that any chemicals; fuel or wastes associated with the proposed project do not enter any such waters.
  - DFO recommends that all sumps, wastes, sewage containment's and fuel caches be located a minimum of 30 metres from the normal high water mark of any water body, and be sufficiently bermed or otherwise contained to ensure that these substances do not enter a waterway.
  - All spills of oil, fuel or other deleterious materials shall be reported immediately to the 24-hour Spill Line at (867) 920-8130.
  - In addition, for drilling in kimberlite deposits, toxicity testing should be done on the effluents from the drilling operation.
  - Slash or debris should be disposed of above the high water mark so that it does not enter any water body.
4. If artesian flow is encountered during drilling, drill holes should be plugged and permanently sealed upon project termination.
5. The permittee should not erect camps or store materials on the surface ice of any water body.

DFO should be notified of any changes in plans or operating conditions associated with this land use activity which may adversely affect fish or fish habitat.

If the proposed work is carried out as described in the Information provided to the Department of Fisheries and Oceans and appropriate mitigation measures are implemented, the proposed work will not be considered as contravening Section 35(1) of the Fisheries Act which reads:

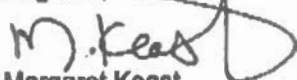
*"No person shall carry on any work or undertaking that results in the harmful alteration, disruption or destruction of fish habitat."*

Accordingly, an authorization under Section 35(2) of the Fisheries Act will not be necessary. Failure to comply with any of the above conditions and failure to implement measures to mitigate adverse impacts may result in the harmful alteration, disruption, or destruction of fish habitat in contravention of the Fisheries Act subject to prosecution under Section 35(1) of the Fisheries Act.

Please note that none of the foregoing should be taken as authorization of the undertaking in accordance with the Fisheries Act or any other applicable legislation.

If you have any questions, concerns or comments with respect to the above, please contact me at the above number.

Regards,



Margaret Keast  
Area Habitat Management Biologist  
Nunavut Area

Cc. Gary Weber, Area Manager, Nunavut Region

CC. Jaida Edwards, Environmental Assessment Screener, NIRB  
Cc. Robert Luke, Fishery Officer, Rankin Inlet