



NIRB File No.: 08YN047

May 7, 2008

Golder Associates Ltd.
300, 10525 – 170 Street
Edmonton, Alberta
T5P 4W2

Via email: Corey_DeLaMare@golder.com

Re: **Notice of Part 4 Screening for Baseline environmental studies in support of the Comaplex Minerals Corporation – Meliadine West Gold Project**

Dear Corey DeLaMare:

On the April 16, 2008 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received Golder Associates Ltd.'s (Golder) Baseline environmental studies in support of the Comaplex Minerals Corporation – Meliadine West Gold Project proposal from the Nunavut Research Institute (NRI). On April 16, 2008, the NIRB received a positive conformity determination (Keewatin Regional Land Use Plan) from the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC). NIRB has assigned this project proposal file number 08YN047.

The project is located in the Kivalliq Region, Nunavut. The nearest communities are Rankin Inlet (30 km) and Chesterfield Inlet (60 km). All research activities will operate from the Comaplex Minerals West Gold Project exploration camp which has already been permitted for use. Please refer to Land Use Permit No.: N2005Q0001 and NIRB File No.: 07EN044 for more details.

The proponent plans to collect the following baseline environmental data along the proposed all-weather road from Rankin Inlet to the Comaplex project site:

- Collect wildlife data and document wildlife habitat, including:
 - aerial surveys for caribou (~ six per year);
 - aerial caribou trail survey;
 - aerial survey for waterfowl;
 - upland songbirds and shorebirds survey; and
 - aerial surveys for raptors.
- Vegetation field surveys: vegetation inventory to delineate the common plant communities and a helicopter fly over of sites to confirm interpretation of satellite imagery.
- Rare plant surveys and identifying rare plant potential.
- Aquatic field surveys: detailed habitat mapping to describe and quantify fish habitat; watercourse crossing studies to identify and verify potential Arctic grayling spawning sites.
- Water quality and sediment quality surveys.

- Snowcourse survey and hydrometric monitoring.
- Heritage resources survey.

All documents received and pertaining to this project proposal can be obtained from NIRB's ftp site at:

<http://ftp.nirb.ca/SCREENINGS/ACTIVE%20SCREENINGS/08YN047-Golder%20Associates/>
including:

- *NRI Application*
- *NPC Conformity*

Pursuant to Part 4, Article 12 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA), NIRB shall proceed to screen the project proposal. NIRB may request additional information at any time during the process. NIRB will copy you on screening process related correspondence and upload related documents to the above ftp site for public access.

Be advised that NIRB is copying interested Parties and municipalities most affected by your project proposal. Interested persons are encouraged to comment directly to NIRB by **May 14, 2008**. Please note that proposed project specific terms and conditions, should the project proceed, have been attached for consideration and comments.

NIRB would like Parties to provide comments regarding:

- Whether the project proposal is likely to arouse significant public concern; and if so, why;
- Whether the project proposal is likely to cause significant adverse eco-systemic and socio-economic effects; and if so, why;
- Whether the project is of type where the potential adverse effects are highly predictable and mitigable with known technology, (please provide any recommended mitigation measures); and any matter of importance to the Party related to the project proposal.

Please send your comments to the attention of NIRB's Manager of Environmental Administration Leslie Payette by email at lpayette@nirb.ca or via fax at (867) 983-2594.

If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact the NIRB's Assistant Technical Advisor, Paul Mikiyungiak at (867) 983- 4600 or pmikiyungiak@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,

Paul Mikiyungiak
Assistant Technical Advisor

Cc: Distribution List
Andrew Dunford, NRI, adunford@nac.nu.ca
Corey DeLaMare, Golder Associates Ltd., Corey_DeLaMare@golder.com

Attachments:
Proposed Terms and Conditions
Comment Form

Proposed Project-specific Terms and Conditions

The following is a list of project-specific terms and conditions which, should the project proceed, may be recommended to be attached to any approval.

General

1. Golder Associates Ltd. (The Proponent) shall maintain a copy of the Project Terms and Conditions at the site of operation at all times.
2. The Proponent shall forward copies of all permits obtained and required for this project to the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) prior to the commencement of the project.
3. The NIRB shall be notified of any changes in operating plans or conditions associated with the project prior to any such change.
4. The Proponent shall operate in accordance with all commitments stated in correspondence provided to NIRB including:
 - a. Nunavut Research Institute (NRI) Scientific Research Application received by NIRB on April 16, 2008
 - b. Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC) Application to Determine Conformity.
5. The Proponent shall operate the site in accordance with all applicable Acts, Regulations and Guidelines.

Waste

6. The Proponent shall remove all garbage and debris from the project site to an approved facility for disposal.
7. The Proponent shall keep all garbage and debris in bags placed in a covered metal container or equivalent until disposed of. All wastes should be kept inaccessible to wildlife at all times.

Fuel and Chemical Storage

8. The Proponent shall store all chemicals, fuels and hazardous materials in such a manner to prevent their release into the environment and so that they are inaccessible to wildlife.
9. The Proponent shall report all spills of fuel, or other deleterious materials immediately to the 24 hour Spill Line at (867) 920-8130.

Wildlife

10. The Proponent shall ensure that there is no damage to wildlife habitat in conducting this operation.
11. Harassment of wildlife is contrary to the *Wildlife Act*. This includes persistently worrying or chasing animals, or disturbing large groups of animals. Deliberate feeding of any wildlife is absolutely prohibited. The Proponent shall not hunt or fish, unless proper Nunavut authorizations have been acquired.
12. The Proponent shall restrict aircraft/helicopter activity related to the project to a minimum altitude of 610m above ground level unless there is a specific requirement for low-level flying, which does not disturb wildlife.
13. The Proponent shall ensure that aircraft maintain a vertical distance of 1000 meters and a horizontal distance of 1500 meters from any observed groups (colonies) of migratory birds.
14. The Proponent shall ensure that aircraft/helicopter do not, unless for emergency, touch-down in areas where wildlife are present.

15. The Proponent shall avoid raptor nesting sites and concentrations of nesting or molting waterfowl by aircraft/helicopter at all times and ensure that there is minimal disturbance to any nesting birds, migratory birds and wildlife in the area.
16. The Proponent shall follow procedures outlined in the "Safety in Bear Country Manual", and should contact the Regional Biologist or the Wildlife manager for information and advice on measures which should be taken to minimize the possibility of conflicts/interactions with bears. Consideration should be given to setting up an electric fence around the camp.

Restoration

17. The Proponent shall remove all garbage, fuel and equipment upon abandonment of each location.

Other

18. The Proponent should, to the extent possible, hire local people and to consult with local residents regarding their activities in the region.
19. The NIRB encourages the Proponent to present the results of their research to the local community once it is complete

Regulatory Requirements

In addition to the proposed project specific terms and conditions, Golder Associations Ltd. is advised, should the project proceed, that the following legislation may apply to the project:

1. The Proponent shall ensure compliance with the *Fisheries Act* (<http://laws.justice.gc.ca/en/showtdm/cs/F-14//en>). Section 35(1) of the *Fisheries Act* specifies that unless authorized by federal regulation, no person shall carry on any work or undertaking that results in the harmful alteration, disruption or destruction of fish habitat. Section 36(3) of the *Fisheries Act* specifies that unless authorized by federal regulation, no person shall deposit or permit the deposit of a deleterious substance in any type in water frequented by fish or in any place under any conditions where the deleterious substance may enter such a water body.
2. The *Migratory Birds Convention Act* which requires that no person disturb or destroy the nests or eggs of migratory birds. If nests containing eggs or young are encountered, the Proponent shall avoid these areas until nesting is complete and the young have left the nest (<http://laws.justice.gc.ca/en/showtdm/cs/M-7.01>).
3. The *Species at Risk Act* (effective June 1, 2004 at <http://laws.justice.gc.ca/en/showtdm/cs/S-15.3>). The Proponent should consult the Species at Risk Public Registry to identify any Species at Risk within the project location (<http://www.sararegistry.gc.ca/>). See Appendix A for a list of species.
4. The *Transportation of Dangerous Goods Regulations, Transportation of Dangerous Goods Act* (<http://www.tc.gc.ca/tdg/menu.htm>), and the *Environmental Protection Act* (<http://laws.justice.gc.ca/en/C-15.31/text.html>) which present the requirements for the

handling, storing, managing and transportation of dangerous goods, including hazardous wastes, fuel and contaminated material.

The Proponent will also be advised that:

1. All releases of harmful substances are immediately reportable where the release:
 - a. Is near or into a water body;
 - b. Is near or into a designated sensitive environment or sensitive wildlife habitat;
 - c. Poses an imminent threat to human health or safety; or
 - d. Poses an imminent threat to a listed species at risk or its critical habitat

Appendix A

Species at Risk in Nunavut

This list includes species listed on one of the Schedules of SARA (*Species at Risk Act*) and under consideration for listing on Schedule 1 of SARA. These species have been designated as at risk by COSEWIC (Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada). This list may not include all species identified as at risk by the Territorial Government.

- Schedule 1 is the official legal list of Species at Risk for SARA. SARA applies to all species on Schedule 1. The term “listed” species refers to species on Schedule 1.
- Schedule 2 and 3 of SARA identify species that were designated at risk by the COSEWIC prior to October 1999 and must be reassessed using revised criteria before they can be considered for addition to Schedule 1.
- Some species identified at risk by COSEWIC are “pending” addition to Schedule 1 of SARA. These species are under consideration for addition to Schedule 1, subject to further consultation or assessment.

Schedules of SARA are amended on a regular basis so it is important to periodically check the SARA registry (www.sararegistry.gc.ca) to get the current status of a species.

Updated: **January 3, 2007**

Species at Risk	COSEWIC Designation	Schedule of SARA	Government Organization with Lead Management Responsibility ¹
Eskimo Curlew	Endangered	Schedule 1	EC
Ivory Gull	Endangered ²	Schedule 1	EC
Peregrine Falcon (subspecies anatum)	Threatened	Schedule 1	Government of Nunavut
Ross's Gull	Threatened	Schedule 1	EC
Harlequin Duck (Eastern population)	Special Concern	Schedule 1	EC
Felt-leaf Willow	Special Concern	Schedule 1	Government of Nunavut
Peregrine Falcon (subspecies tundrius)	Special Concern	Schedule 3	Government of Nunavut
Short-eared Owl	Special Concern	Schedule 3	Government of Nunavut
Fourhorn Sculpin	Special Concern	Schedule 3	DFO
Peary Caribou	Endangered ³	Pending	Government of Nunavut
Beluga Whale (Eastern Hudson Bay population)	Endangered	Pending	DFO
Beluga Whale (Cumberland Sound)	Threatened	Pending	DFO

population)			
Beluga Whale (Western Hudson Bay population)	Special Concern	Pending	DFO
Beluga Whale (Eastern High Arctic – Baffin Bay population)	Special Concern	Pending	DFO
Bowhead Whale (Hudson Bay-Foxe Basin population)	Threatened ⁴	Pending	DFO
Bowhead Whale (Davis Strait-Baffin Bay population)	Threatened ⁴	Pending	DFO
Porsild's Bryum	Threatened	Pending	Government of Nunavut
Atlantic Walrus	Special Concern	Pending	DFO
Narwhal	Special Concern	Pending	DFO
Rusty Blackbird	Special Concern	Pending	Government of Nunavut
Barren-ground Caribou (Dolphin and Union population)	Special Concern ³	Pending	Government of Nunavut
Grizzly Bear	Special Concern	Pending	Government of Nunavut
Polar Bear	Special Concern	Pending	Government of Nunavut
Wolverine (Western Population)	Special Concern	Pending	Government of Nunavut

¹ Environment Canada has a national role to play in the conservation and recovery of Species at Risk in Canada, as well as responsibility for management of birds described in the Migratory Birds Convention Act (MBCA). Day-to-day management of terrestrial species not covered in the MBCA is the responsibility of the Territorial Government. Populations that exist in National Parks are also managed under the authority of the Parks Canada Agency. EC = Environment Canada, DFO = Department of Fisheries and Oceans

² Designated as Endangered by COSEWIC in April 2006 and it is expected that the category of concern in SARA will also be changed from Special Concern to Endangered.

³ Peary Caribou was split into three separate populations in 1991: Banks Island (Endangered), High Arctic (Endangered) and Low Arctic (Threatened) populations. The Low Arctic population also included the Barren-ground Caribou - Dolphin and Union population. In May 2004 all three population designations were de-activated, and the Peary Caribou, *Rangifer tarandus pearyi*, was assessed separately from the Barren-ground Caribou (Dolphin and Union population), *Rangifer tarandus groenlandicus*. The subspecies *pearyi* is composed of a portion of the former "Low Arctic population" and all of the former "High Arctic" and "Banks Island" populations, and it was designated Endangered in May 2004. Although SARA lists Peary Caribou on Schedule 2 as three separate populations, the most current designation is the COSEWIC designation of the subspecies *pearyi* as Endangered.

⁴ The "Eastern and Western Arctic populations" of Bowhead Whale were given a single designation of Endangered in April 1980 by COSEWIC. These were split into two populations to allow separate designations in April 1986. The Eastern population was not re-evaluated in April 1986, but retained the Endangered status of the original "Eastern and Western Arctic populations". The Eastern Arctic population was further split into two populations (Hudson Bay-Foxe Basin population and Davis Strait-Baffin Bay population) in May 2005, and both these populations were designated as Threatened. Both these populations are under consideration for addition to Schedule 1. Although SARA lists the Eastern Arctic population as Endangered (Schedule 2), the most current designation is the COSEWIC designations of the Hudson Bay-Foxe Basin and Davis Strait-Baffin Bay populations as Threatened.