



Fisheries and Oceans
Canada

Pêches et Océans
Canada

Eastern Arctic Area
P.O. Box 358
Iqaluit, NU X0A 0H0

Secteur de l'Arctique de l'est
Boîte postale 358
Iqaluit, NU X0A 0H0

April 26, 2007

Your file *Votre référence*
2BE-MEL

Our file *Notre référence*
NU-04-0165

Phyllis Beaulieu
Manager of Licensing
Nunavut Water Board
P.O. Box 119
Gjoa Haven, Nunavut X0B 1J0

Via electronic mail to:
licensing@nunavutwaterboard.org

Dear Ms. Beaulieu:

Subject: Comaplex Minerals Corporation – Meliadine Lake Project - Renewal

Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) received your referral concerning the multi-year diamond exploration with associated camp operations near Meliadine Lake located near Rankin Inlet, Nunavut, as proposed by Comaplex Minerals Corporation. To expedite future correspondence or inquiries, please refer to the following referral title and file number when you contact us:

Habitat File No.:	NU-04-0165
Referral Title:	Exploration, Meliadine Lake Project, Meliadine Lake, Kivalliq Region

It is our understanding that the proposal consists of:

- *a diamond exploration program between February 15, 2007 and February 15, 2009 involving*
 - *on-ice drilling where cuttings from the drills on lakes with fish populations are collected in a bladder for removal to a land based depression;*
 - *on-land drilling where cuttings are collected in a sump;*
 - *a camp operation of 40 persons;*
 - *prospecting; geological mapping; and, geophysical surveying.*

As outlined in the following plans:

- *Application for Renewal of a Water Licence submitted to the Nunavut Water Board, by Mark Balog (Comaplex Minerals Corporation);*
- *Exploration/Remote Camp Supplementary Questionnaire, submitted by Comaplex Minerals Corporation; and,*
- *Abandonment and Restoration – Preliminary Demobilization and Reclamation Plan – Meliadine West Gold Project Camp, submitted by Comaplex Minerals Corporation, dated January 2007.*

If the above plans have changed since the time of submission, the advice in this letter may no longer apply and we should be consulted to determine if further review is needed.

We have concluded that the proposed works and undertakings are adequate to protect fish and fish habitat provided that the work is carried out as described in the plans and the following additional measures are implemented:

- If artesian flow is encountered, drill holes should be plugged and permanently sealed upon completion of the project.
- All disturbed areas should be stabilized and reclaimed to pre-construction conditions upon completion of work. Work associated debris should be removed immediately after completion of construction.
- Suitable erosion and sediment suppression measures should be implemented on disturbed areas before, during and after construction until vegetation or other appropriate measures are established in order to prevent sediment from entering any waterbody.
- All wastes, drill cuttings, sewage containments, settling ponds and fuel caches should be located a minimum of thirty (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 any water body.
- No material should be left on the ice when there is potential for that material to enter the water (i.e. spring break-up).
- If the operations requires water in sufficient volume that the source water body may be drawn down, details should be submitted (volume required, size of water body, percent of total volume of water in source lake to be used, fish species etc.) to DFO for review. DFO strongly discourages the use of streams as a water source.
- Intakes of all water intakes (for drills and domestic uses) should be equipped with an appropriately sized screen to prevent debris blockage and fish mortality (refer to DFO's Freshwater Intake End-of-Pipe Fish Screen Guidelines, 1995, available at www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/library/223669.pdf). DFO discourages the use of small lakes and streams for water withdrawal.

By implementing these additional measures and those already outlined in the plans, it is our opinion that the proposed works and undertakings will not likely result in the harmful alteration, disruption or destruction (HADD) of fish habitat, which is prohibited unless authorized by DFO. These are recommendations to ensure that the proposed works will likely not result in a HADD of fish habitat. Therefore a subsection 35(2) *Fisheries Act* Authorization is not necessary.

The Proponent could contravene subsection 35(1) of the *Fisheries Act* if a HADD of fish habitat results from any change in the proposed plan or from failure to properly implement these additional measures. Subsection 35(1) states, "*no person shall carry on any work or undertaking that results in the harmful alteration, disruption or destruction of fish habitat.*"

This letter of advice does not permit the deposit of a deleterious substance into waters frequented by fish which is prohibited under Subsection 36(3) of the *Fisheries Act*.

This letter of advice does not release the proponent from the responsibility to obtain any other federal, territorial or municipal approvals.

We request that we be notified at least 10 working days before the start of work and that a copy of this letter be kept on site while work is in progress. If there are any questions concerning the above, or if my understanding of the proposal is either incorrect, incomplete, or if there are changes to the proposed works or undertakings, DFO should be contacted directly by telephone at (867) 979-8007 or by fax at (867) 979-8039.

Yours sincerely,

Original Signed By:

Amy Liu
Fish Habitat Biologist
Fisheries and Oceans Canada – Eastern Arctic Area

Copy: Ipeelee Itorcheak, DFO, Conservation and Protection