

Environmental Baseline Data Collection

Researcher's Name and Affiliation

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Project Location

Itivia barge landing and general harbor area in the Hamlet of Rankin Inlet.
Water and sediment quality sample collection in the immediate vicinity of the proposed mine site (Meliadine Lake, Meliadine River and small lakes/ponds on the peninsula where the advanced exploration site is located)

Timeframe

Sample collection would occur in the spring to fall 2012

Project Description

The purpose of the project is to collect baseline data in support of an Environmental Impact Statement being prepared for the Meliadine Gold Project. The goal is to collect sufficient information to characterize the "before development" of areas likely to be impacted by the development of the mine.

Local roads will be used in Rankin Inlet to access the Itivia barge landing area with a boat and driver rented in town. An Inuit assistant will be hired to participate in sample collection.

The Meliadine site is 25 northwest of Rankin Inlet. A helicopter contracted for exploration activities and located at the Meliadine site will be used to access areas to be sampled in the vicinity of the mine development. An Inuit Assistant will provide support in taking samples and at the same time learn various sampling techniques.

The existing Meliadine exploration camp will be used for accommodation as will a hotel in Rankin Inlet. A reclamation plan has been filed for the Meliadine camp with the Nunavut Water Board.

Methodology

Standard environmental sampling techniques and equipment will be used to collect samples. The sample location will be determined using a GPS. Water samples will be collected by dipping a clean sampling bottle into the water, or using a van dorn flask or its equivalent in deeper water. Sediment samples will be collected using an Ekman dredge or its equivalent. Rock and till samples will be collected using hammers and shovels, respectively.

Data

The immediate use of the data would be in the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement for the Meliadine Gold Project. Long term use of the data could include scientific papers by others. The data will also serve to characterize the area sampled before development occurred.

Reporting

The data will be reported as part of the Environmental Impact Statement, which will be distributed within the Kivalliq region. This includes an Inuktitut summary, which will form part of the EIS.

The environmental assessment process includes public consultation with communities in the Kivalliq region with particular focus on the local study (Chesterfield Inlet and Rankin Inlet) areas where the sampling and the results will be explained. It is unlikely a paper will result from this work.

Signed

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John Witteman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" and last name "Witteman" clearly distinguishable.

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