



ASHTON MINING
(NORTHWEST TERRITORIES) LTD.

BY COURIER

April 3, 2003

Ms. Phyllis Beaulieu, Acting Licensing Administrator
Nunavut Water Board
P.O. Box 119
Gjoa Haven, Nunavut
X0B 1J0

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Dear Ms. Beaulieu:

RE: NEW WATER USE PERMIT APPLICATION

Ashton Mining (Northwest Territories) Ltd. presently holds five Water Use and Waste Water Disposal Permits in the Territory of Nunavut. Three of these permits will be expiring in 2003 while the remaining two will expire in 2005.

Rather than renew or reapply for these permits individually Ashton is submitting a single application that encompasses our most active mineral claims. The main reason for doing so is to reduce the administrative overhead associated with maintaining five permits and to receive one consistent set of water use terms and conditions that apply to all our work areas.

As with all exploration activities in Nunavut a corresponding Class "A" land use application has been submitted to the DIAND land administration office and the required Nunavut Impact Review Board application has been sent. In addition, as the areas outlined on the map include Inuit Owned Lands, a fourth application was couriered to the Kitikmeot Inuit Association Lands Division.

Please note that all proposed project areas have been checked with the interactive land use maps available at www.planner.nunavut.ca and http://nwt.inac.gc.ca/ism-sid/sidinfo_e.asp. This was done to proactively identify any areas of concern that may be affected by our operations.

In order to assure that the expiry date of the permit does not fall within one of the seasonal work windows we request that the commencement date for the permit be issued as June 1, 2003 even if approval cannot be received by this time. Additionally we would like to request that the permit terms and conditions issued by the Nunavut Water Board be coordinated with the terms and conditions issued by the DIAND.

Once this application is approved we will close the following Water Use and Waste Water Disposal Permits: NWB2EOK0103, NWB2KIG0002, NWB2KLA0103, NWB2RIC0205 and NWB2VAN0205.

A cheque in the amount of \$30.00 is enclosed.

If you have any questions on this application please do not hesitate to contact me at (604) 983-7764.

Best Regards,

ASHTON MINING (NORTHWEST TERRITORIES) LTD.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Willis', is written over a light gray rectangular background.

David Willis
Land Administrator