



Environment Canada
Environnement Canada

Environmental Protection Branch
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May 28, 2002

Gladys Joudrey
Environmental Assessment Officer
Nunavut Impact Review Board
PO Box 2379
Cambridge Bay, NU X0E 0C0

Rita Becker
Licencing Administrator
Nunavut Water Board
P.O. Box 119
Gjoa Haven, NU X0B 1J0

Attention: Rita Becker

Re: **NIRB 02EN080 & NWB2BAF: De Beers Canada Exploration Inc. for North Central Baffin.**

On behalf of Environment Canada (EC), I have reviewed the above noted water use permit application to conduct exploration in the north-central Baffin Region. The comments provided for the above application have been made under Section 36(3) of the *Fisheries Act*, the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act* (CEPA) and the *Migratory Birds Convention Act* (MBCA).

De Beers Canada Exploration Inc. is proposing to set up a 20 person tent camp on their mining claims located in the north-central Baffin Island area. The base camp will be used to conduct the following: soil sampling and geological mapping. The seasonal field work will commence in June of 2002 and be completed in September 2004. Two helicopters will be used to transport field crews to various locations within the claim blocks in order to conduct soil sampling and geological mapping.

Comments and Recommendations

- Operational practices for the handling of fuel should be posted on site and include: an approved spill contingency plan; state that "all spills" are to be documented and reported to the NWT - 24 Hour Spill Line number (867) 920-8130; and an appropriate spill kit with absorbent material should be located at all fuel storage locations.
- The proponent shall ensure that chemicals, fuel, and wastes associated with the project do not enter waters frequented by fish.
- All fuel containers must be properly sealed and stacked in an upright position to prevent the possibility of spills and leaks. Fuel containers should be stored on flat, stable terrain or in natural depressions well away from water bodies and inspected periodically for leaks.
- When storing barrelled fuel at a location, EC encourages the use of a secondary containment rather than relying on "natural depressions." Self supporting insta-berms are available from various suppliers within Canada.
- Provide to my attention, camp and fuel cache co-ordinates in; degrees, minutes, and seconds.
- Provide a detailed map indicating the locations and distances of camp, sumps, and fuel caches in relation to water.

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Our file: 4703 001 041

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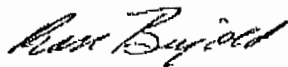
020528 NWB2BAF, EC, Comments - ILAE

Migratory Birds

- Portions of the Gifford River and the lowlands, up to and including, the western shore of Erichsen Lake are key habitat sites for migratory birds. EC recommends that all concentrations of birds, notably snow geese be avoided, both on foot and particularly by aircraft. This recommendation is not only for the safety of the birds, but also for the safety of pilots and passengers. Altitudes of more than 2000 feet and preferably 3000 feet should be used when possible.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at (867) 669-4744 or ron.bujold@ec.gc.ca with any questions or comments.

Yours truly,



Ron Bujold
Environmental Assessment Technician

cc: Steve Harbicht (Head, Assessment & Monitoring, EPB)
Paula Pacholek (Coordinator, A&M, EPB)
Mark Mallory (Habitat Biologist, CWS)