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Your file *Votre référence*
09EN067

Our file *Notre référence*
NU-09-0032

October 28, 2009

Kelli Gillard
Technical Advisor
Nunavut Impact Review Board
P.O. Box 1360
Cambridge Bay, Nunavut
X0B 0C0

via e-mail: info@nirb.ca

Dear Ms. Gillard:

Subject: Part 4 Screening of the Ellesmere Island Coal Exploration Project

Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) appreciates the opportunity to participate in the Part 4 Screening process for the above mentioned project proposal as requested by you in your October 23, 2009 letter. To expedite future correspondence or inquiries, please refer to the referral title and file numbers when you contact us.

Habitat File No.:	NU-09-0032
Referral Title:	Ellesmere Island Coal Exploration, Ellesmere Island, Nunavut

DFO is responsible for protecting fish and fish habitat across Canada. Under the *Fisheries Act*, no one may carry out a work or undertaking that will cause the harmful alteration, disruption or destruction (HADD) of fish habitat, unless it has been authorized by DFO.

It is our understanding that the proposal consists of the following key elements:

- *Coal exploration including prospecting, mapping, ground geophysics and delineation drilling (on ice and on land),*
- *Disposal of drilling water and cuttings,*
- *Temporary fuel caches in the field to support exploration activities, and*
- *Water use for drilling and camp purposes.*

Which were provided in the following documents:

- *NIRB Part 1 Form: Project Proposal Information Requirements in English*
- *NIRB Part 2 Form: Project Specific Information Requirements in English and associated maps*
- *Weststar Resources Corp. Non-Technical Summary.*

DFO has produced a new Operational Statement titled "Mineral Exploration Activities" which can be found at the following website:

<http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/regions/central/habitat/os-eo/provinces-territoires-territoires/nu/os-eo24-eng.htm>

This operational statement covers activities associated with mineral exploration on land including:

- site reconnaissance,
- line cutting,
- temporary work camp operations,
- small diameter/low density drilling,
- high density drilling and/or bulk sampling (extraction of large samples of mineralized material) through large diameter drilling, pitting, trenching and surface stripping,

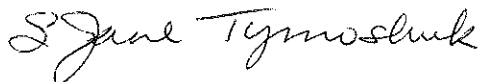
and

- small diameter/low density drilling carried out on ice.

If the proponent meets the conditions outlined in the Operational Statement, then DFO has no concerns regarding this project as it is unlikely to cause significant adverse effects to fish and fish habitat. If the proponent cannot meet the conditions in the Mineral Exploration Activities Operational Statement, they should submit an application to DFO for review.

I trust the information provided will be of assistance in the Nunavut Impact Review Board's review of Weststar's Ellesmere Island Coal Exploration project. If you or the proponent have any questions concerning the above, or if my understanding of the proposal is either incorrect, incomplete, or if there are changes to the proposed work, please contact me directly by telephone at (705) 750-4054, by fax at (705) 750-4016, or by e-mail at jane.tymoshuk@dfo-mpo.gc.ca.

Yours sincerely,



S. Jane Tymoshuk
A/Habitat Management Biologist
Fisheries and Oceans Canada – Eastern Arctic Area

c.c.: Eric Kan - Fisheries & Oceans Canada
Phyllis Beaulieu - Nunavut Water Board