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Our file: 4703 001

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RE: NIRB 04EN009 / NWB2CAN – Strongbow Resources – Canoe Lake Project

On behalf of Environment Canada (EC), I have reviewed the information submitted with the above-mentioned application. The following specialist advice has been provided pursuant to Environment Canada's mandated responsibilities for the enforcement of the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act*, Section 36(3) of the *Fisheries Act*, the *Migratory Birds Convention Act*, and the *Species at Risk Act*.

Strongbow Resources has filed applications for a water license, a land use permit, and a crown land application to allow for mineral exploration at Canoe Lake, located approximately 30 km south of the Wolfden Resources High Lake Project site. The proposed program, which will be conducted in two phases, will include airborne and ground geophysical surveys, mapping, prospecting, and exploration drilling. Phase II of the project may include the construction of temporary camp(s). Till sampling for kimberlite indicator minerals may be included in the Phase II program.

In order to facilitate the review of this application, EC requires the following information:

- Once available, a map outlining the location of the drill holes.
- Clarification regarding how many camps are to be created. The NTI Mineral Exploration Agreement Executive Summary included with the applications indicates that one camp may be created, while the Crown Land Application indicates that two temporary camps are proposed.
- Once available, the location of the camp(s) using latitude and longitude coordinates. A detailed map outlining the location of the camp, and a map of the camp layout are also required.
- Clarification regarding the amount of fuel to be stored on site. The applications give differing numbers regarding how much fuel is to be stored, varying from 17 to 40 barrels of JetB. Similar discrepancies are noted in relation to the amount of diesel that is to be stored on site.

Environment Canada recommends that the following conditions be applied throughout all stages of the project:

- The proponent shall not deposit, nor permit the deposit of any fuel, chemicals, wastes or sediment into any water body. According to the Fisheries Act, Section 36(3), the deposition of deleterious substances of any type in water frequented by fish, or in any place under any conditions where the deleterious substance, or any other deleterious substance that results from the deposit of the deleterious substance, may enter any such water, is prohibited.
- Drilling additives or muds shall not be used in connection with holes drilled through lake ice unless they are re-circulated or contained such that they do not enter the water, or demonstrated to be non-toxic.
- Environment Canada would like to inform the proponent that the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act* has recently listed CaCl as a toxic substance. The proponent shall therefore ensure that all sumps containing CaCl are properly constructed and located in such a manner as to ensure that the contents will not enter any water body.
- For "on-ice" drilling, return water released must be non-toxic, and not result in an increase in total suspended solids in the immediate receiving waters above the Canadian Council of Ministers for the Environment Guidelines for the Protection of Freshwater Aquatic Life (i.e. 10mg/L for lakes with background levels under 100 mg/L, or 10% for those above 100mg/L).
- If an artesian flow is encountered, the drill hole shall be immediately plugged and permanently sealed.
- EC encourages proponents, when storing barrelled fuel at a location, to use secondary containment such as self-supporting insta-berms.
- All sumps shall be located above the high water mark of any water body and in such a manner as to prevent the contents from entering any water frequented by fish. Further, all sumps shall be backfilled upon completion of each field season and contoured to match the surrounding landscape.
- All fuel caches shall be located above the high water mark of any water body and in such a manner as to prevent the contents from entering any water body frequented by fish.
- The proponent shall not store materials or erect camps on the surface ice of lakes or streams, except that which is for immediate use
- Environment Canada recommends the use of an approved incinerator for the disposal of combustible camp wastes.
- The proponent shall ensure that any non-combustible waste is disposed of appropriately at an approved facility.
- The proponent shall ensure that any hazardous materials, including waste oil, receive proper treatment and disposal at an approved facility.
- Environment Canada recommends that the Spill Contingency Plan include specific plans of action on how to respond to different types of spills. This should include information on where spill response equipment can be acquired if it is not available on site. Further, the plan should clearly indicate that all spills are to be documented and reported to the 24 hour Spill Line at (867) 920-8130.

If there are any other changes in the proposed project, EC should be notified, as further review may be necessary. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or comments with regards to the foregoing at (867) 975-4639 or by email at colette.meloche@ec.gc.ca.

Yours truly,

Original signed by

Colette Meloche
Environmental Assessment Specialist

cc: (Mike Fournier, Northern Environmental Assessment Coordinator, Environment Canada, Yellowknife)