



Indigenous and
Northern Affairs Canada

Affaires autochtones
et du Nord Canada

Your file - Votre référence
2BE-CBP----

July 11, 2017

Our file - Notre référence
IQALUIT-#1162470

Licensing Department
Nunavut Water Board
P.O. Box 119
GJOA HAVEN, NU, X0B 1J0

Sent via email: licensing@nwb-oen.ca

Re: Technical Review of new Type 'B' Water Licence Application (No. 2BE-CBP----) – Committee Bay Project (5530 Nunavut Inc.)

To Whom It May Concern,

Thank you for the Nunavut Water Board's June 22, 2017 notice of the above mentioned water licence application.

A memorandum is provided for the Nunavut Water Board's consideration. Comments and recommendations have been provided pursuant to Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada's mandated responsibilities under the *Nunavut Waters and Nunavut Surface Rights Tribunal Act* and the *Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development Act*.

Please do not hesitate to contact me by telephone at 867-975-3877 or email at Amanda.Winegardner@aandc-aadnc.gc.ca for further information.

Sincerely,

Amanda Winegardner
Water Management Specialist
Water Resources Division
Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada
P.O. Box 100
Iqaluit, NU X0A 0H0

Encl.

Cc. Ian Parsons, A/Manager, Water Resources, INAC, Nunavut Regional Office (NRO)
Erik Allain, Manager, Field Operations, INAC, NRO

Canada 

Memorandum

To: Licensing Department, Nunavut Water Board

From: Amanda Winegardner, Water Management Specialist, Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC)

Cc: Ian Parsons, A/Manager, Water Resources, INAC
Erik Allain, Manager, Field Operations, INAC

Date: July 11, 2017

Re: Technical Review of Application No. 2BE-CBP---- for Committee Bay Project

Applicant: 5530 Nunavut Inc.
Project: Committee Bay Project
Region: Kivalliq/Kitikmeot

Comments:

A. Background

APEX Geoscience Ltd. on behalf of 5530 Nunavut Inc. (the Applicant) has filed an application for a new Type 'B' Water Licence to support an exploration program for the Committee Bay Project. The Committee Bay Project consists of three areas west of Ukkusikalik National Park, 300 km west of Nauyasat and 300 km northeast of Baker Lake. The project straddles the Kivalliq and Kitikmeot regions. The 2017 program will involve the construction of a temporary camp for 6-10 people that is expected to be removed after the completion of a six-week program (commencing around August 1, 2017). The 2017 program will involve prospecting, till sampling and ground geophysical surveys with the primary goal of identifying drilling targets. The exploration program is expected to expand once drilling targets have been identified and will result in the construction of a (larger, 10-12 people) seasonal camp. Drilling may occur during summer and winter months in future years.

The Applicant has applied for authorization to deposit waste and use up to 42 m³ per day of water to support camp activities (2 m³/day) and drilling (40 m³/day). The Applicant intends to use numerous unnamed water sources and to deposit greywater into sumps to allow for slow infiltration into the land. Sewage will be disposed of using Pacto toilets and incineration. During 2017, all solid waste will be backhauled to a yet to be identified community or approved disposal facility (for contaminated or hazardous waste). Once the seasonal camp has been constructed, a batch incinerator will be used as permitted for solid waste and sewage.

The Applicant has requested a Water Licence term of five years, through to June 2022.

A. Results of review

On behalf of INAC's Water Resources Division, the following comments and recommendations are provided for the NWB's consideration:

1. Sources of water for camp use and drilling program

Source:

- 1) 2BE-CBP---- New Committee Bay Property General Water Licence Application 29 May 17, Section 13: 'Quantity and Quality of Water Involved'

Comment: The Applicant proposes to extract water from numerous unnamed sources for both camp and drilling purposes. Water extracted for camp use will be from an unnamed lake adjacent to camp location and will be extracted using an electrically powered submersible pump with screen on the intake. Sources of water for drilling will vary and water will be extracted using diesel pump with suction hose and screen.

Recommendation #1: INAC reminds the Licensee that they will be responsible for identifying water sources used for both drilling and camp use. These locations must be reported in their Annual Report.

2. Waste disposal at approved disposal sites

Source:

- 1) 2BE-CBP---- New Committee Bay Property General Water Licence Application 29 May 17, Section 14: 'Quantity and Quality of Waste Involved'

Comment: The Applicant has indicated that for the 2017 exploration program, that all waste with the exception of sewage will be backhauled to Baker Lake or Rankin Inlet. It is unclear whether sewage will be incinerated in 2017 as application materials suggest that an incinerator will not be brought in until the seasonal camp will be constructed. The Applicant has also indicated that non-combustible waste, contaminated soil and water, and hazardous waste/oil will be taken to approved recycling or disposal sites throughout the duration of the project.

Recommendation #2: INAC recommends that the Applicant confirm which community they will backhaul waste to for the 2017 season and provide verification of approval from the receiving facility. INAC also recommends that the Applicant keep the NWB updated on the approved facilities that will receive waste in subsequent years.

Recommendation #3: INAC recommends that the Applicant confirm whether sewage will be incinerated during the 2017 exploration work and if not, how disposal will occur.

3. Management plans

Source:

- 1) 2BE-CBP---- Committee Bay Waste Management Plan
- 2) 2BE-CBP---- Committee Bay AR Plan
- 3) 2BE-CBP---- Committee Bay Emergency Response Plan
- 4) 2BE-CBP---- Committee Bay Environmental Management Plan
- 5) 2BE-CBP---- Fuel Management Plan
- 6) 2BE-CBP---- Spill Prevention and Response Plan

Comment: The Applicant has provided six management plans for approval by the NWB. INAC finds these plans to be thorough and up to date.

Recommendation #4: INAC reminds the Applicant that they will be responsible for updating their management plans on a yearly basis and providing any revisions to the management plans in their Annual Report.

4. Drilling on ice

Source:

- 1) 2BE-CBP---- Revised Schedule

Comment: The Applicant has communicated to the NWB, in a revised schedule that drilling will commence once drilling targets have been established. The Applicant has indicated that drilling may continue into the winter months.

Recommendation #5: While the Applicant has not yet identified their drilling targets, there is the potential that some of them may occur over ice if drilling continues into the winter months. As such, INAC recommends that the NWB include standard conditions related to drilling on ice in any issued Water Licence.