



Environment Environnement
Canada Canada

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Our file: 4704 000

Via Facsimile

RE: NIRB 03EN057 – Shear Minerals Limited – Churchill 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*.

4579 Nunavut Ltd and its partner, Shear Minerals Ltd. has submitted a water license in preparation for the proposed mineral exploration in the Rankin Inlet area. Work will involve ground geophysical surveys, diamond drilling, prospecting, rock and soil sampling and geological mapping. The proponent is proposing to be in the field from March 15 – October 2003. A similar season is planned for 2004. Environment Canada has already reviewed land use application for this project (NIRB 03EN036), and requests that the recommendations submitted with that referral also be applied to this project.

The proponent has indicated that the start date for the project was to be March 15, 2003. Environment Canada would like to remind the proponent that all approvals must be in place prior to the commencement of any work.

Environment Canada requires the following information in order to facilitate the review of this project:

- A site specific spill plan outlining a clear path of response to be followed in the event of a spill, including a map outlining the location of the fuel caches at the site in location to water.
- As mentioned in our previous review letter to the NIRB on file 03EN036, Environment Canada requires the following information:
 - Environment Canada requests that a copy of the drill locations and additional fuel caches, including a map detailing their location in relation to water, be submitted once available.
 - Information regarding the disposal of sewage and greywater for the temporary field camps should be submitted.
 - Once available, Environment Canada requests that the location of the additional fuel caches be provided, including a detailed map indicating their location in relation to water.

Environment Canada requests that in addition to the recommendations presented in the NIRB 03EN036 review letter, the following conditions be applied throughout all phases of the project:

- In their Spill Contingency Plan, the proponent has indicated that either the NWT Spill Line and/or the DIAND Spill Line may be contacted in the event of a spill. However, all spills must be documented and reported to the NWT Spill Response Line at (867) 920-8130.
- The proponent has indicated in their Environmental Procedure Plan for Exploration and Remote Camps that "If encountered, artesian water flow will be controlled to prevent erosion of the ground surface and the silting of watercourses". Environment Canada recommends that if an artesian flow is encountered, the drill hole shall be immediately plugged and permanently sealed.

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,

Colette Meloche
Environmental Assessment Specialist

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