



**Environment Environnement  
Canada Canada**

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Our file: 4703 001

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*Via Email*

**RE: NIRB 03EN056 – Committee Bay Resources Ltd. – Crater 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*.

Committee Bay Resources Ltd. is proposing to conduct a gold exploration project in the Committee Bay region. Activities will involve a continuation of the 2002 program, with field camps located at Crater Lake and the Hayes River.

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

- The project summary submitted with the application appears to be duplicated from the previous year of exploration work. Environment Canada requests that an up-to-date project description for the 2003 field season be submitted, outlining this year's activities and indicating the time frame in which the field work will occur.
- A detailed map outlining the location of all fuel caches, especially in relation to water.
- In the "Environmental Procedure Plan" the proponent has indicated that regular water monitoring should be considered for areas of advanced exploration or semi-permanent camps. Environment Canada requests information as to whether water monitoring will be conducted at this site, and the details of the monitoring if it is to be conducted.

The following conditions should be applied throughout all phases of the project:

- The proponent shall not deposit, nor permit the deposit of any fuel, drill cuttings, 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.
- 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).

- The proponent has indicated that drilling additives may be used in association with this project. 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 if CaCl is used as a drill additive, 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.
- All fuel caches shall be located above the high water mark of any definable waterbody and in such a manner as to prevent the contents from entering any waterbody frequented by fish.
- Environment Canada recommends that when storing barreled fuel on location, secondary containment such as self-supporting insta-berms be used.
- The proponent shall not store materials or erect camps on the surface ice of lakes or streams.
- 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.
- All sumps shall be located above the highwater mark of any waterbody and in such a manner as to prevent the contents from entering any water frequented by fish. Further, all sumps, including greywater sumps, shall be backfilled upon completion of the field season and contoured to match the existing landscape.

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](mailto:colette.meloche@ec.gc.ca).

Yours truly,

Colette Meloche  
Environmental Assessment Specialist

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