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*Via Email*

**RE: NWB2DBY – Indicator Minerals Inc. – Darby Property – New - Type ‘B’**

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*.

Indicator Minerals Inc. has submitted a new application to the Nunavut Water Board for a Type 'B' water licence which applies to water use and disposal associated with exploratory drilling operations. The proponent's objective is to locate economic diamondiferous kimberlite deposits in the Darby Property area of Nunavut's Kitikmeot region. The Darby Property is within Crown lands, having the coordinates 67° 24' 43"N, 93° 12' 25"W. It has an area of 200, 000 acres with 77 contiguous mineral claims (BR1 to RB77).

The water licence application submitted by Indicator Minerals Inc. encompasses a multi-year time schedule from 15 July 2005 to 30 November 2009. Specific to 2005, water will be employed for camp and diamond drilling exploration purposes. It is estimated that 135-180 L of water will be consumed per person for camp use on a daily basis. The diamond drill will require 30-40 L of water per minute for each drill hole made. It is anticipated that ten to fifteen 100 metre drill holes will be included in the exploration project, being drilled in either the autumn of 2005 or during the 2006 field season. Other exploration components include field mapping, prospecting, and soil and till sampling.

The proponent will conduct all of its field activities from the Committee Bay Resources Ltd. Hayes Camp (coordinates: 63° 39' 30"N, 91° 33' 11"W). Seeing as the Darby Property area is approximately 100 km from the Hayes Camp, if a diamond drilling program is initiated a small temporary camp will be established. This will entail the use of temporary fuel caches on Crown lands, 6-7 Jutland type tents (including a kitchen)



and 4-5 sleeping tents. A maximum of 10 fuel drums will be brought to each drill site, consisting of 4 diesel drums, 1 gasoline drum, and 5 Jet-B drums. In addition, two 100 lb propane tanks will be used for camp purposes. All empty drums are to be flown to either Rankin Inlet or Repulse Bay for proper disposal.

The guidelines to follow with regard to the handling of wastes generated by the project's camp and exploration activities were not attached to the water licence application form as indicated in section 8. However, the necessary information was located in the "Spill Contingency Plan for Camp and Remote Operations" and the "Environmental Procedure Plan for Exploration and Remote Camps" posted on the NWB ftp site (<http://ftp.nunavut.ca>) under the Darby Project folder.

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

#### General

- 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

- Environment Canada would like to inform the proponent that CaCl is listed as a toxic substance under the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act*. Therefore, the proponent shall 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.
- 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 Environmental Guidelines for the Protection of Freshwater Aquatic Life (i.e., 100 mg/L for lakes with background levels under 100 mg/L, or 10% for those above 100 mg/L).

#### Fuel Storage/Spill Contingency/Hazardous Materials

- All fuel caches shall be located above the high water mark of any water body. Further, EC recommends the use of secondary containment, such as self-supporting insta-berms, when storing barrelled fuel on location rather than relying on natural depressions.
- **All spills** are to be documented and reported to the 24 hour Spill Line at (867) 920-8130.

#### Migratory Birds

- Environment Canada recommends that all activities be conducted outside the migratory bird breeding season, which extends from approximately 1 June - 15 July. These dates are approximate, and if active nests (i.e., nests containing eggs or young) are encountered outside of these dates, the proponent should avoid the area until nesting is complete (i.e., the young have left the nest). Paragraph 6(a) of the *Migratory Birds Regulations* state that no one shall disturb or destroy the nests or eggs of migratory birds.

If there are any changes in the proposed project, EC should be notified, as further review may be necessary. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or comments with regards to the foregoing at (867) 975-4631 or by email via [david.abernethy@ec.gc.ca](mailto:david.abernethy@ec.gc.ca).

Regards,



David W. Abernethy

Environmental Assessment Technician