

Environmental Assessment North
Environmental Protection Operations (EPO)
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21 July 2011

EC file: 4704 004 021
NWB file: 2BE-HAK0915

Phyllis Beaulieu
Manager of Licensing
Nunavut Water Board
PO Box 119
Gjoa Haven, NU X0B 1J0

Via email: licensing@nunavutwaterboard.org

RE: 110713 2BE-HAK0915 Assignment Application

Environment Canada (EC) has reviewed the above-mentioned assignment application submitted to the Nunavut Water Board (NWB). The following specialist advice has been provided pursuant to the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act*, Section 36(3) of the *Fisheries Act*, the *Migratory Birds Convention Act*, and the *Species at Risk Act*.

Sabina Gold & Silver Corp. (Sabina) is exploring for base and precious metals in the Hackett River – Back River area, approximately 110km south of the community of Bathurst Inlet. Sabina has sold its interest in the Hackett River Project to Xstrata Canada Corporation, Xstrata Zinc Canada Corporation (Xstrata) and has applied to the NWB to request the assignment of water license 2BE-HAK0915 to Xstrata. Based on the information presented at this time, EC has no comments regarding the assignment provided that the proponent follows mitigation measures outlined in the original application and that they are in compliance with the existing water license. Terms and conditions applied to the existing water license should be carried forward in the assignment.

If there are any additional changes in the proposed project, EC should be notified, as further review may be necessary. Previous comments and recommendations submitted by EC relating to this license would still apply. Please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned with any questions or comments with regards to the foregoing at (867) 975-4631 or by email at Paula.C.Smith@ec.gc.ca.

Yours truly,



Paula C. Smith
Environmental Assessment Coordinator

cc: Carey Ogilvie (Head, Environmental Assessment-North, EPO, EC, Yellowknife, NT)
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