



Crown-Indigenous Relations
and Northern Affairs Canada

Relations Couronne-Autochtones
et Affaires du Nord Canada

Water Resources Division
Resource Management Directorate
Nunavut Regional Office
P.O. Box 100
Iqaluit, NU, X0A 0H0

Your file - Votre référence
2BE-HAK1621

January 18, 2021

Our file - Notre référence
CIDM#1292371

Richard Dwyer
Manager of Licensing
Nunavut Water Board
P.O. Box 119
Gjoa Haven, NU, X0B 1J0
sent via email: licensing@nwb-oen.ca

**Re: Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada Comments on
Glencore Canada Corporation, Renewal and Extension Application for the
Hackett River Project, Licence No. 2BE-HAK1621.**

Dear Mr. Dwyer,

Thank you for your December 18, 2020 invitation to provide technical review comments on the above referenced application. The Water Resources Division of Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC) examined the application and the results of our review are provided in the enclosed memorandum for the Nunavut Water Board's consideration.

Comments have been provided pursuant to CIRNAC's mandated responsibilities under the *Nunavut Waters and Nunavut Surface Rights Tribunal Act* and the *Department of Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Act*. If there are any questions or concerns, please contact me at (867) 975-4282 or by e-mail at bridget.campbell@canada.ca.

Sincerely,

Bridget Campbell
Water Resources Coordinator, Nunavut Regional Office

Technical Review Memorandum

To: Richard Dwyer, Manager of Licensing, Nunavut Water Board

From: Bridget Campbell, Water Resources Coordinator, CIRNAC

Date: January 18, 2021

Re: Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada's comments on
Glencore Canada Corporation's renewal application for water licence #2BE-
HAK1621 for the Hackett River Project

Region: ☒ Kitikmeot ☐ Kivalliq ☐ Qikiqtani

A. BACKGROUND

The Hackett River Project is located in the Kitikmeot Region of Nunavut 80 kilometers southwest of Bathurst Inlet.

Xstrata Zinc Canada acquired the property from Sabina Gold and Silver Corp. in November 2011; Glencore Canada Corporation (Glencore) then acquired the property in October 2013. Glencore currently has facilities and infrastructure to support operation and maintenance of an advanced exploration drilling operation that can accommodate approximately 120 people.

In August 2013, the Hackett River Project entered a Care and Maintenance Phase with progressive reclamation activities, with potential to resume exploration during the licence term.

Glencore submitted an application for the renewal of the Hackett River Project's Type B water licence 2BE-HAK1621 on December 9, 2020. The application proposes a 5 year term to allow for the potential of continued exploration in the Hackett River Project area. No modifications or amendments to 2BE-HAK1621 have been identified in the application.

On December 18, 2020, the Nunavut Water Board (NWB) requested comments from interveners on the renewal application. As an intervener, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC) provides the comments and recommendations under Section C for the Board's consideration. Documents submitted and reviewed are provided in Table 1 under section B. Further references are provided under Section D.

B. DOCUMENTS REVIEWED

The following table (Table 1) provides a summary of the documents submitted and reviewed.

Table 1: Documents Submitted with the 2019 Annual Geotechnical Inspection Reports

Attachment	Document Title	Author, File No., Date
1	Cover Letter & Water Licence Renewal Application	Rick Schwenger, Glenore Canada Corporation December 9, 2020
2	Project Map	Glencore Canada Corporation, Proj # 0194150-0150 GIS # HAC-15-059, UTM NAD83 Z12, January 28, 2014
3	NPC Determination	Nunavut Planning Commission, Dec 10, 2015
4	NIRB Screening	Nunavut Impact Review Board, Apr 1, 2004
5	NIRB Screening	Nunavut Impact Review Board, Nov 2, 2009
6	NIRB Screening	Nunavut Impact Review Board, Dec 10, 2009
7	Abandonment and Restoration (AR) Plan & Financial Security Cost Estimate	Glencore Canada Corporation, March 5, 2005, Revised December 3, 2020
8	Summary of Environmental Reports & Studies	Glencore Canada Corporation, Date not provided
9	201209 2BE-HAK1621 Attachment 9 Plain Language Summaries	Glencore Canada Corporation, Date not provided
10	Payment of Application Fee & Deposit	Glencore Canada Corporation, December 4, 2020
11	Table of Leases and Authorizations	Glencore Canada Corporation, Date not provided
12	Certificate of Name Change	Glencore Canada Corporation, Date not provided
13	Consultation Record	Glencore Canada Corporation, October 9, 2013

C. RESULTS OF REVIEW

1. High Water-Mark

Box 15 of the Cover letter of the Hackett River Renewal Application indicates that both greywater and sludges may be deposited into a sump more than 31 meters from water.

Further, Box 17 indicates that, “Greywater from the camp is deposited in a sump more than 31 m from any waterbody where it can percolate through the moss and soil.” And also that, “where drilling occurs on or near lakes, the return water containing drill

cuttings will be pumped well back (> 31 m) from the shore of the lake into a natural depression.”

CIRNAC notes that these sections do not clearly state that the watermark and shoreline mark should be measured from the high-water mark of any water body. This information is important to ensure that quality of any associated water body is protected.

Recommendation:

CIRNAC recommends that Glencore confirm that sumps and natural depressions used to deposit any waste will be at least 31 meters from the high-water mark of any water body.

2. Incineration of Solid Waste

Box 15 of the Hackett River Renewal Application indicates that solid waste, including plastic, will be treated by incineration. It is not clear to CIRNAC whether wastes will be incinerated according to current or any guidelines and criteria. The guidelines to be followed for incineration will be useful to evaluate if the activity planned by Glencore for this solid waste incineration aligns with regulatory standards. For example will Glencore be using the Government of Nunavut, Department of Environment Environmental Guideline for the Burning and Incineration of Solid Waste (January 2012)?

Recommendation:

CIRNAC recommends that Glencore clarify the guidelines and criteria that will be followed for the incineration of wastes.

3. CIRNAC Reference

The Scope section of Hackett River Attachment 7, AR Plan Cost Estimate references the Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC) land use permit. The Department legally changed its name on July 15, 2019, to Crown-Indigenous Affairs and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC).

Recommendation:

CIRNAC recommends that Glencore refer to the department as Crown-Indigenous Affairs and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC).

D. REFERENCES

Government of Nunavut, Department of Environment, Environmental Guideline for the Burning and Incineration of Solid Waste, January 2012.