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Department of Environment

Ministère de l'Environnement

Aug. 24, 07

Richard Dwyer
Manager of Licensing
Nunavut Water Board

via Email to: licensingtrainee@nunavutwaterboard.org

**RE: NWB FILE # 2BE-HEE – DIAMONDEX RESOURCES LTD. – WATER
LICENSE RENEWAL APPLICATION**

Dear Mr. Dwyer:

The Government of Nunavut, Department of Environment (DOE) has reviewed the water license renewal application from Diamondex Resources Ltd. for diamond exploration on the Heequo Property, approximately 220 km southeast of Kugluktuk. Based on the DOE's legislative mandate under the *Environmental Protection Act*, the DOE has the following comments and recommendations to make.

SPILL CONTINGENCY PLAN:

Based on the DOE *Spill Contingency Planning and Reporting Regulations* and *A Guide to the Spill Contingency Planning and Reporting Regulations*, the DOE has the following comments to make:

- Page 9 of the *Spill Contingency Plan* states that the applicant will “contact Federal and Territorial regulatory agencies to identify appropriate disposal methods before disposing of contaminated material.” Regulators such as the DOE do not provide disposal instructions for spilled and/or contaminated materials. It is the proponent's responsibility to develop a complete plan which addresses the steps to be taken from the start of the spill, up to and including the final clean up and disposal. Regulatory agencies can review the final plan to assess its adequacy and provide advice at that time. Regulatory bodies can, and have, provided information and advice in emergency situations, however, these agencies should not be included in a spill plan as routine advisors.
- The DOE monitors the movement of hazardous waste, from the generator, carrier to the final disposal, through a tracking document (Waste

Manifest). A Waste Manifest must accompany all movements, and all parties must register with the DOE. Please contact Robert Eno at (867) 975-7748 or reno@gov.nu.ca. There is no mention of this procedure in the spill plan.

CAMP INCINERATOR

The Government of Nunavut is signatory to the *Canada-Wide Standards (CWS) for Dioxins and Furans*, and the *CWS for Mercury Emissions*. The DOE therefore requests the proponent ensures incineration emissions comply with the CWSs by implementing the following recommendations.

For a camp of 10 to 50 people, the proponent shall apply appropriate technologies to ensure complete combustion of wastes, and the use of a dual chamber, forced-air incinerator is recommended. Incineration of wastes in a 45-gallon drum as proposed in page 5 of the *Exploration/ Remote Camp Supplementary Questionnaire* is not acceptable. The proponent shall make determined efforts to achieve compliance with the CWSs. Efforts should include the implementation of a comprehensive waste management strategy (especially waste segregation) that is designed to reduce and control the volumes of wastes produced, transported, and disposed of. The Waste Management Strategy should consider and include:

- Purchasing policies that focus on reduced packaging,
- On-site diversion and segregation programs (i.e. the separation of non-food waste items suitable for storage and subsequent transport and disposal or recycling).
- If incineration is required, ensure diligent operation and maintenance of the incineration device and provide appropriate training to the personnel operating and maintaining the incinerator.

Waste wood treated with preservatives such as creosote, pentachlorophenol or heavy metal solutions should not be burned. Additionally, plastics, electrical wire, asbestos and building demolition wastes (except clean wood) are wastes likely to produce dioxins and furans when burned and should be excluded from incineration. Finally, hazardous wastes should not be managed via incineration.

ABANDONMENT & RESTORATION

- Drill sumps should only be used for inert drilling fluids, not any other materials or substances.
- For final site inspections, in addition to photos to be taken as proposed in the application, soil samples should also be taken before and after the project as this would make the process easy on the proponent and leading agencies involved in determining areas of concern.

The DOE thanks the NWB for giving us the opportunity to review and provide comments on Diamondex's water license renewal application. Please contact us if you have any further questions or comments.

Yours sincerely,

Original signed by

Helen Yeh
Environmental Assessment Coordinator
Department of Environment
Government of Nunavut