



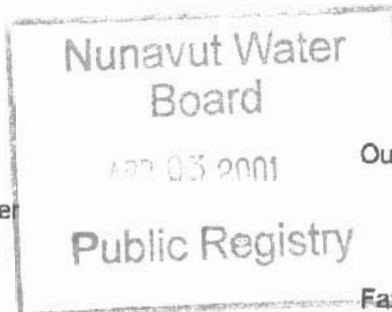
Environment
Canada

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March 26, 2001

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Re: Application for Water License NIRB# 01WN021; NWB# NWB2H1G - Wolfden Resources Inc. - High Lake Property, Grays Bay, Kitikmeot, NU.

On behalf of Environment Canada (EC), I have reviewed the above noted application water license NIRB#01WN021; NWB#NWB2H1G. The comments provided for the above water license application have been made under Section 36 of the *Fisheries Act*, the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act (CEPA)* and the *Migratory Birds Convention Act (MBCA)*.

Wolfden Resources Inc. has proposed to conduct exploratory drilling in the High Lake area. The drill site is located on the west shore of High Lake and Wolfden proposes to drill approximately 20 holes. The drilling activities will begin in mid April and conclude approximately two months later. The crew will be accommodated at a permanent camp that has been used during previous drilling activities in the area. The camp will house a maximum of eight people.

Comments primarily focus on the associated drilling activities, fuel storage and waste management. Initial remedial steps recommended:

- removal of all drilling wastes and cuttings to the sump whether on ice or land;
- avoid disturbing any shoreline, specifically the bed and bank areas during the Spring;
- use of spill kits at the camp and fuel storage areas;
- ensure secondary containment for fuel storage to reduce the risks spills;
- ensure the treatment of hazardous wastes at an appropriate disposal facility ie. Yellowknife;
- use of an approved incinerator for the burning solid wastes.

Comments and Recommendations

The second map on page 14 of the application package provided demonstrates a dashed line drawn from Gray's Bay south toward High Lake. However, I am uncertain as to what the dashed line represents. Please identify the purpose of this dashed line so that the potential impacts of the proposed project may be addressed.

Environment Canada would like to encourage the treatment of sumps with lime when associated with drilling activities that may cause higher than normal pH levels.

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Further inadequate information was provided for the following:

- details of all equipment to be used in association with drilling activities specifically, how the drills are going to be move to and from work sites;
- detailed locations of the drill sites in relation to water;
- location of fuel storage in relation to water for aircraft/drilling/camp uses;
- volumes of fuel to be stored for aircraft/drilling/camp activities;
- volumes and locations of sumps for drilling/camp activities;
- types of hazardous materials considered to be in minor amounts.

The following conditions should be applied to the proposed land permit throughout all phases of the project.

- The proponent shall ensure that any drill cuttings, chemicals, fuel or wastes associated with the proposed project do not enter waters frequented by fish. All sumps, spill basins and fuel caches should be located in such a manner that the contents do not enter a waterbody.
- EC encourages proponents, to use a secondary containment, when storing barreled fuel at a location, rather than relying on "natural depressions". Self supporting insta-berms are available from various suppliers within Canada
- No disturbance of the bed or banks of any definable watercourse is permitted.
- Drilling wastes and cuttings from land-based drilling shall be disposed of in a sump such that they do not enter any waterbody.
- The permittee shall not erect camps or store material on the surface ice of streams or lakes.
- Environment Canada should be notified of changes in the proposed or permitted activities associated with this water use application.

Environment Canada is interested to attaining a copy of the Environmental Inventory completed by Dr. D. Rees in June 1994. Please forward a copy of this report to Lawrence Ignace, Environmental Assessment Specialist, Environment Canada, P.O. Box 1870., Iqaluit, NU X0A 0H0. → sent to YK March 15/01 RB.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or comments with regards to the foregoing at (867) 975-4639 or lawrence.ignace@ec.gc.ca.

Yours truly,


Lawrence Ignace
Environmental Assessment Specialist

cc: (Paula Pacholek, Northern Environmental Assessment Coordinator, Yellowknife)