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Department of
Sustainable Development

Ikupigvilinjikkut

Ministère du Développement
Durable

June 24, 2002

Ms. Stephanie Briscoe
Executive Director
Nunavut Impact Review Board
P.O. Box 2379
Cambridge Bay, NU
X0E 0C0

Mr. Philippe di Pizzo
Executive Director
Nunavut Water Board
P.O. Box 119
Gjoa Haven, NU
X0E 1J0

Dear Ms. Briscoe & Mr. di Pizzo

**Re: Doris Hinge Project; A small gold mine n the Hope Bay Belt Requests to
amendment to KIA Land Use License KTL 399C028 and Water License
NWB2HOP0207**

The Department of Sustainable Development has reviewed the proposal for an amendment to an existing water license for the purpose of developing an exploration decline at the Doris Hinge site in order to produce a bankable feasibility study. It is understood that the completion of the study is critical to the future development of the site, which accounts for the urgency expressed by HBJV in its request.

The proposed amendment has raised a number of concerns related to scope and the completeness of the application (The application references the Preliminary Project Description, which in turn references the EIS, which has yet to be developed). The proposed method of approval has also raised concerns related to how broader issues will be addressed.

HBJV has already submitted a preliminary description that was lacking in development, but committed to addressing issues more completely in their EIS, which would be required as a result of their request for a review. As the company had committed itself to a more comprehensive assessment of the project to address potential public concern, any concern related to the lack of information in the project description would be dealt with through the development of comprehensive guidelines. Unfortunately, their reliance on the preliminary project description as a means of facilitating their proposed



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amendment has raised concern over the need for more detailed information related to potential issues specifically associated with the amendment.

Your respective boards should carefully consider the implication of approving a component of a larger proposal for which NIRB has requested a review. If your intentions are to proceed with the approval of the amendment via 12.10.2 (b) and 13.5.5 then it would be necessary to know how community and stakeholder concerns, related to the HBJV's proposed activities, would be addressed.

In deciding how best to proceed with the assessment and approval of this proposed amendment, it would be important to weight the overall value of the project as identified by the proponent, while ensuring that concerns related to impacts associated with the proposed activities are addressed. If the method requested by HBJV provides a forum by which these issues could be addressed then it might be an option the boards might wish to consider pursuing.

If you have any question please do not hesitate to get in touch with me.

Sincerely,

Paul Partridge
Coordinator, Environmental Assessment

C.c. Hugh Wilson – Environmental Manager (HBJV)
Earle Baddaloo - Director, Environmental Protection Services (DSD)