



Environment Canada
Environnement Canada

Environment Canada
Prairie and Northern Region
#301-5204 50th Ave.
Yellowknife, NT X1A 1E2

May 26th, 2008

Our File: 4703 001 016
Your File: 2BE-HOP0712

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

**Re: Hope Bay Mining Ltd. – Hope Bay Windy Project Amendment Type “B”
water licence**

On behalf of Environment Canada (EC), I have reviewed the information submitted with the above-mentioned application. The following specialist advice has been provided pursuant to Environment Canada's mandated responsibilities for the enforcement of the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act*, Section 36(3) of the *Fisheries Act*, the *Migratory Birds Convention Act*, and the *Species at Risk Act*.

Hope Bay Mining Ltd. has applied for an amendment to increase the amount of daily water used for drilling and camp purposes from 50 m³/day to 100m³/day. Up to 80m³/day would be for drilling activities. No other activities have changed for the project and all other terms and conditions will remain the same.

Environment Canada does not foresee any major issues with the increased water use as long as there are proper measures in place to cope with the increase in waste water. For example, with respect to drilling, will additional sumps be created or do the current sumps have enough capacity to deal with the increased waste water? Should additional sumps be needed, are there enough suitable locations available?

The application states that the camp proposes to use up to a 20% increase in water consumption, will the waste water management system be able to handle the increase? If so, a short discussion would be useful to explain the capacity of the waste management system or if an alternative/additional system is needed this too should be discussed.

Environment Canada reminds the proponent that:

- Environment Canada recommends that all sumps are located a sufficient distance from the high water mark of any waterbody, and that they are constructed such that the contents do not migrate out from the sump.

In order to approve an increase in water use, it would be useful to understand how these matters will be dealt with to ensure that protection of the environment is not compromised.

Canada 

Should you have any questions regarding the foregoing please contact myself, Savanna Levenson at (867) 669-4772 or via email at savanna.levenson@ec.gc.ca.

Yours truly,

Savanna Levenson
Environmental Assessment Specialist
Environmental Protection Operations

c.c: Carey Ogilvie, Head EA North, Environment Canada
Anne Wilson, Water Pollution Specialist, Environment Canada