

Environmental Protection Branch
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EC File: 4703 001 016
NWB File: 2BE-HOP0712

Phyllis Beaulieu
Manager of Licensing
Nunavut Water Board
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Via email: licensing@nunavutaterboard.org

**RE: 2BE-HOP0712 Amendment 3 – Hope Bay Project – Hope Bay Mining Ltd. –
Kitikmeot Region**

Environment Canada (EC) has reviewed the information submitted with the above-mentioned application to the Nunavut Water Board (NWB). The following specialist advice has been provided pursuant to 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. (HBML) is applying for an amendment of their water license 2BE-HOP0712 from the NWB. HBML is seeking to amend Part C, Condition 1 and 3 of the water license to allow HBML to select drill water sources, rather than drawing water exclusively from the sources outlined on the June 2007 drawing currently designated in 2BE-HOP0712. HBML requests that the company be permitted to draw water for drilling purposes from any water body in the Hope Bay belt that exceeds a surface area of 15 000m². The company will ensure that the amount of water extracted for drilling within any drill season from any individual water body will not draw down the level of that water body by greater than 2cm.

EC has no comments to provide regarding the amendment provided that the proponent follows mitigation measures outlined in the application and that they are in compliance with their existing water license. Terms and conditions applied to the existing water license should be carried forward to the amendment of the license.

Comments previously submitted on behalf of EC by S. Levenson on 26 May 2008 would still apply to this project (see attached). If there are any changes in the proposed project, EC should be notified, as further review may be necessary. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or comments with regards to the foregoing at (867) 975-4631 or by email at paula.c.smith@ec.gc.ca

Yours truly,



Paula C. Smith
Environmental Assessment Coordinator

cc: Carey Ogilvie (Head, Environmental Assessment-North, EPO, Yellowknife, NT)
Ron Bujold (Environmental Assessment Technician, EPO, Yellowknife, NT)