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EC File: 4703 001 006
NWB File: 2BE-HOP0712

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

**RE: Type B Water Licence 2BE-HOP0712
Windy Camp and Patch Lake Facility Final Closure Plan (June 2012)**

Environment Canada (EC) has reviewed the above-mentioned plan submitted by Hope Bay Mining Ltd. to the Nunavut Water Board (NWB) as a required under their Type B Water License 2BE-HOP0712. As such, EC provides the following comment below for your consideration.

Background:

The Windy Camp and Patch Lake Facility were both part of the Hope Bay Regional Exploration project, located approximately 160 km southwest of Cambridge Bay in the West Kitikmeot Region of Nunavut. EC notes that the document reviewed *"presents the closure obligations and the plan for closing for both facilities, and demonstrates how the closure obligations are met."* The Windy Camp site was used as an exploration camp until October 2008 and has since been in care and maintenance where progressive closure and reclamation activities are being completed. Usable site equipment and infrastructure were relocated for re-use from the Windy Camp site to Doris camp, which is located 10 km away. The Proponent outlines that the *"[c]losure of the Windy Camp and Patch Lake Facility will occur during the care and maintenance period or upon closure of the entire Hope Bay Project."*

Comments & Recommendations:

Section 3.1.8 Remediation of Hydrocarbon Contaminated Soils (page 7) states: *"The option to encapsulate impacted soils in place is also preserved should it be demonstrated that hydrocarbon risk is minimal and/or other remediation methods are ineffective or inappropriate for a given area."* Given that the full potential impacts of climate change on permafrost are not fully understood, EC notes that this option should be approached with caution.

In closing, if there are any changes to the plan, EC should be notified as further review may be necessary. Please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned with any questions or comments with regards to the foregoing at (867) 669-4721 or by email at Lisa.Lowman@ec.gc.ca.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lisa Lowman', with a stylized, flowing script.

Lisa Lowman
Senior Environmental Assessment Coordinator

cc: Carey Ogilvie (Head, Environmental Assessment-North, EPO, EC, Yellowknife, NT)
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