

NIRB File No.: 13EN013

AANDC File No.: N2013C0009

KIA File Nos.: KTL112B009, KTL112B010

July 23, 2013

HTX Minerals Corporation c/o Andrew Turner, Project Manager Apex Geoscience Ltd. Suite 200, 9797-45th Avenue Edmonton, AB T6E 5V8

Sent via email: andrewt@apexgeoscience.com and info@htxminerals.com

Re: Opportunity to Address Comments Received Regarding HTX Mineral Corporation's "Itchen Lake Property and Contwoyto Lake Property" Project Proposal

Dear Mr. Andrew Turner:

On April 22, 2013 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received HTX Mineral Corporation's (HTX or the Proponent) "Itchen Lake Property and Contwoyto Lake Property" project proposal (the Project) from Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC). This was followed by the May 16, 2013 receipt of an application for Access to Inuit Owned Land from the Kitikmeot Inuit Association (KIA) associated with the Project. The NIRB has assigned this project proposal file number 13EN013 – please reference this number in all future related correspondence to our office.

Following receipt of the initial application materials, the NIRB undertook a preliminary completeness check and found that the proposal as submitted did not contain sufficient information for the NIRB to permit proper screening. On May 2, 2013 and May 21, 2013 the NIRB requested that the Proponent provide additional information to the Board. The requested information was received by the NIRB on May 31, 2013.

On June 19, 2013 the NIRB distributed a public notice of the screening for this project proposal, requesting that interested parties review the proposal and provide the Board with any comments or concerns by July 10, 2013 regarding:

- Whether the project proposal is likely to arouse significant public concern; and if so, why:
- Whether the project proposal is likely to cause significant adverse eco-systemic and socio-economic effects; and if so, why;

- Whether the project is of a type where the potential adverse effects are highly predictable and mitigable with known technology, (providing any recommended mitigation measures); and
- Any matter of importance to the Party related to the project proposal.

On July 10, 2013 the NIRB received a request from the Kugluktuk Hunters' and Trappers' Organization (HTO) to extend the public commenting period to allow the Kugluktuk HTO an opportunity to provide comments on the project proposal. The Board found this request to be reasonable and extended the public commenting period until July 19, 2013.

On or before July 19, 2013, the NIRB received comments from the following interested parties:

- Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC)
- Environment Canada (EC)
- Kitikmeot Inuit Association (KIA)
- *Government of Nunavut (GN)*
- Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT)
- Tlicho Government
- Wek'èezhìi Renewable Resources Board (WRRB)
- Canadian Arctic Resources Committee (CARC)

Please note that by the end of the extended deadline for public comments, the NIRB had not received a comment submission from the Kugluktuk HTO with regards to this project proposal.

All comment submissions received pertaining to the screening of this project proposal can be obtained from the NIRB's online public registry at:

http://ftp.nirb.ca/01-SCREENINGS/ACTIVE%20SCREENINGS/13EN013-HTX%20Minerals%20Corp.-Itchen%20Lake%20Property/02-DISTRIBUTION/COMMENTS/.

The following presents a *summary* of concerns raised by parties:

- Concerns regarding absence of public consultation meeting summaries or presence of comprehensive public consultation plan;
- Potential negative impacts of project activities on caribou and caribou habitat (particularly Bathurst Caribou herd) including proposed project schedule overlapping with caribou migration periods, as well as socio-economic and cultural impacts on communities that rely on caribou;
- Concerns of potential for cumulative effects of project activities in a region that has significant historical, current and proposed future mineral development;
- Concerns of potential transboundary impact of project activities, especially on Bathurst Caribou herd:
- Potential impact of project activities (including low-level flights) on wildlife (including migratory birds);
- Concern that insufficient information has been provided relating to construction, management and decommissioning of sumps; and

Clarification required on recruitment process for local hiring and engagement of local businesses in project operations.

The NIRB would like to provide the Proponent with an opportunity to address these concerns prior to the Board making its indication to the Minister. The NIRB requests that HTX review all comment submissions received and provide a response directly to the Board by August 2, 2013.

Please send your comments to the NIRB at info@nirb.ca or via fax at (867) 983-2594.

If you have any questions or require clarification, please contact the undersigned directly at (867) 983-4607 or crodriguez@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



Catherine Braun Rodriguez **Technical Advisor** Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Distribution List

Phyllis Beaulieu, Nunavut Water Board Geoff Clark, Kitikmeot Inuit Association Jeff Mercer, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada Tracey McCaie, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada Zabey Nevitt, Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board Mark Cliffe-Phillips, Wek'èezhìi Land and Water Board