



Date: May 27, 2002

Hon. Robert Nault
Minister Responsible for Indian and Northern Affairs
Ottawa, Ontario

**RE: Screening Decision of the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) on Application:
NIRB 02EN067 NWB2JAC DIAND N2001C0028
Exploratory Drilling Jackson Inlet, NU (Twin Mining Corp.)**

Authority:

Section 12.4.4 of the Nunavut Land Claim Agreement states:

Upon receipt of a project proposal, NIRB shall screen the proposal and indicate to the Minister in writing that:

- a) the proposal may be processed without a review under Part 5 or 6; NIRB may recommend specific terms and conditions to be attached to any approval, reflecting the primary objectives set out in Section 12.2.5;
- b) the proposal requires review under Part 5 or 6; NIRB shall identify particular issues or concerns which should be considered in such a review;
- c) the proposal is insufficiently developed to permit proper screening, and should be returned to the proponent for clarification; or
- d) the potential adverse impacts of the proposal are so unacceptable that it should be modified or abandoned.

Primary Objectives:

The primary objectives of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement are set out in section 12.2.5 of the Land Claims Agreement. This section reads:

In carrying out its functions, the primary objectives of NIRB shall be at all times to protect and promote the existing and future well-being of the residents and communities of the Nunavut Settlement Area, and to protect the ecosystemic integrity of the Nunavut Settlement Area. NIRB shall take into account the well-being of the residents of Canada outside the Nunavut Settlement Area.

The decision of the Board in this case is 12.4.4 (a) the proposal may be processed without a review under Part 5 or 6; NIRB may recommend specific terms and conditions to be attached to any approval, reflecting the primary objectives set out in Section 12.2.5;



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Reasons for Decision:

NIRB's decision is based on specific considerations that reflect the primary objectives of the Land Claims Agreement. Our considerations in making this decision included:

- storage and disposal of chemicals, fuel, garbage, sewage, and gray water, and impact of these on the ecosystem;
- the impact of noise from helicopter and exploration activities and their disturbance to wildlife and traditional users of area;
- the impact of campsite and equipment on terrain;
- the impact of exploration activities on archaeological sites or cultural landmarks in the area; and
- clean up/restoration of the camp site upon abandonment.

Terms and Conditions:

That the terms and conditions attached to this screening report will apply.

Drill Sites

1. The Licensee shall not conduct any land based drilling within thirty-one (31) metres of the normal high water mark of a water body.
2. The Licensee shall not use drilling muds or additives in connection with drill holes unless they are re-circulated or contained such that they do not enter the water, or are certified to be non-toxic.
3. The Licensee shall ensure that any drill cuttings and waste water that cannot be re-circulated be disposed of in a properly constructed sump or an appropriate natural depression that does not drain into a waterbody.
4. The Licensee shall ensure that drilling wastes do not enter any water body. The use of biodegradable, salt free drill additives is encouraged over non-biodegradable types.
5. The Licensee shall ensure that the sump/depression capacity is sufficient to accommodate the volume of waste water and any fines that are produced so that there will be no additional impacts.
6. The Licensee shall not locate any sump within thirty-one (31) metres of the normal high water mark of any water body.
7. The Licensee shall ensure that disturbance of vegetation from deposit of drill fluids/cuttings is restricted to the area of the sump and the ground prepared for revegetation upon abandonment.
8. The Licensee shall, where flowing water from bore holes is encountered, plug the bore hole in such a manner as to permanently prevent any further outflow of water. The occurrence shall be reported to the Nunavut Water Board and Land Use Inspector within 48 hours.

Fuel Storage

9. The Licensee shall ensure that fuel storage containers are not located within thirty-one (31) metres of the ordinary high water mark of any body of water.
10. The Licensee shall ensure that any chemicals, fuels or wastes associated with the project do not spread to the surrounding lands or enter into any water body.
11. The Licensee shall construct an impermeable dyke around each stationary fuel container or group of stationary fuel containers where one container has the capacity exceeding 4,000 litres.
12. The Licensee shall take all reasonable precautions to prevent the possibility of migration of spilled petroleum fuel or chemicals over the ground surface.
13. The Licensee shall examine all fuel and chemical storage containers daily for leaks. All leaks should be prepared immediately.
14. The Licensee shall seal all container outlets except the outlet currently in use.
15. The Licensee shall mark all fuel containers with the Licensee's name.
16. The Licensee shall have an approved emergency response and spill contingency plans in place prior to the commencement of the operation.
17. The Licensee shall immediately report all spills of petroleum and hazardous chemicals to the twenty four (24) hour spill report line at (867) 920-8130.

Water

18. The Licensee shall ensure that all water intake hoses are equipped with a screen with an appropriate mesh size to ensure that there is no entrapment of fish.

Waste Disposal

19. The Licensee shall not discharge or deposit any refuse substances or other waste materials in any body of water, or on the banks thereof, which will impair the quality of the waters of the natural environment.
20. The Licensee shall not locate any sumps or areas designated for waste disposal within thirty-one (31) metres of the ordinary high water mark of any body of water, and be sufficiently bermed or otherwise contained to ensure that these substances do not enter a waterway unless otherwise authorized.
21. The Licensee shall treat greywater and sewage according to the terms and conditions outlined in the NWB approval.
22. The Licensee shall backfill and recontour all sumps to match the natural environment prior to the expiry date of the license.
23. The Licensee shall incinerate all combustible and food wastes daily.
24. The Licensee shall keep all garbage and debris in a covered metal container until disposed of.
25. The Licensee shall ensure that all wastes generated through the course of the operation are backhauled and disposed of in an approved dumpsite.

Wildlife

26. The Licensee shall ensure that there is no damage to wildlife habitat in conducting this operation.
27. The Licensee shall not feed wildlife.
28. The Licensee shall not hunt or fish, unless the appropriate permits and licenses are acquired from a GN Renewable Resources Officer.
29. The Licensee shall make every effort to prevent the unintentional harassment of polar bears, caribou, and nesting or molting waterfowl at all times. It is an offense under the Wildlife Act to harass wildlife.
30. That the Licensee shall ensure that there is no hunting by employees of the company or any contractors hired.
31. The Licensee shall not conduct any activity associated with the land use operation during critical periods of wildlife cycles (eg. caribou migration, calving, fish spawning or raptor nesting).
32. The Licensee shall ensure that aircraft pilots adhere to recommended flight altitudes of greater than 300 m above ground level as to not disturb wildlife.
33. The Licensee shall not detonate explosives within fifteen (15) metres of any body of water which is not completely frozen to the bottom.
34. The Licensee shall ensure compliance with Section 36 of the Fisheries Act which requires that no person shall deposit or permit the deposit of a deleterious substance on any type in water frequented by fish or in any place under any conditions where the deleterious substance may enter such a water body.
35. The harmful alteration, disruption or destruction of fish habitat is prohibited under Section 35 of the Fisheries Act. No construction or disturbance of any stream/lake bed or banks of any definable watercourse is permitted unless authorized by DFO.
36. The Licensee shall ensure that trenching/drilling sites avoid known environmentally sensitive areas (denning, nesting etc.) by a minimum of 250 metres.
37. The Licensee shall barricade trenches to prevent wildlife from falling into them.

Environmental

38. The Licensee shall ensure that the land use area is kept clean and tidy at all times.
39. The Licensee shall prepare the site in such a manner as to prevent rutting of the ground surface.
40. The Licensee shall be required to undertake any corrective measures in the event of any damage to the land or water as a result of the Licensee's operation.
41. The Licensee shall not remove any material from below the ordinary high water mark of any waterbody.
42. The Licensee shall suspend overland travel of equipment or vehicles if rutting occurs.
43. The Licensee shall not do anything that will cause erosion of the banks of any body of water on or adjacent to the land and shall provide necessary controls to prevent such erosion.

44. The Licensee shall not move any equipment or vehicles unless the ground surface is in a state capable of fully supporting the equipment or vehicles without rutting or gouging.

Camp

45. The Licensee shall not erect structures or store material on the surface ice of lakes or streams.
46. The Licensee shall locate all structures and storage facilities on gravel, sand or other durable land.

Archaeological Sites

47. The Licensee shall follow all terms and conditions for the protection and restoration of archaeological resources as outlined by the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youths (CLEY).

Reclamation

48. The Licensee shall remove all scrap metal, discarded machinery and parts, barrels and kegs, buildings and building material upon abandonment.
49. The Licensee shall complete all clean-up and restoration of the lands used prior to the expiry date of the permit.

Other Recommendations

1. NIRB would like to encourage the proponent to hire local people and services, to the extent possible.
2. NIRB strongly advises proponents to consult with local residents regarding their activities in the region.
3. Any amendment requests deemed by NIRB to be outside the original scope of the project will be considered a new project.
4. The Environmental Protection Branch (DOE), Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO), Department of Sustainable Development (DSD), Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB), and the Nunavut Water Board (NWB) should be advised of any material changes to plans or operating conditions associated with the project.

Validity of Land Claims Agreement

Section 2.12.2

Where there is any inconsistency or conflict between any federal, territorial and local government laws, and the Agreement, the Agreement shall prevail to the extent of the inconsistency or conflict.

Dated June 5/02 at Arviat, NU


Elizabeth Copland, A/Chairperson