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T-736 P.02/03 Job-977



Environment  
Canada

Environnement  
Canada

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August 7, 2003

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Nunavut Water  
Board

SEP 15 2003

Public Registry

Our file: 4703 001

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**RE: NIRB 03EN111 – Coppercorp Corp. – Mineral Exploration, Kugluktuk area**

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*.

Coppercorp Corp. is proposing to conduct a mineral exploration program near Kugluktuk, NU. The exploration work would involve diamond drilling six (6) drill holes, with approximately 4,000 m of drilling currently planned. No camp would be constructed at the site, and all employees would be flown in and out each day.

The application documents indicate that the proposed start date for the project is August 1, 2003. Environment Canada would like to remind the proponent that all necessary permits and approvals must be in place prior to the commencement of any work.

In order to facilitate the review of the project, EC requires the following information:

- A detailed map of the project location, including the location of the proposed drill holes, especially in relation to water;
- Information regarding whether drill additives are to be used in association with the project. If they are, EC requires information regarding their type, quantity and proposed disposal method.

Environment Canada recommends that the following conditions be applied throughout all stages of the project:

- The proponent shall not deposit, nor permit the deposit of chemicals, sediment, wastes, or fuels associated with the project into any water body. According to the *Fisheries Act*, Section 36(3), the deposition of deleterious substances of any type in water frequented by fish, or in any place under any conditions where the deleterious substance, or any other deleterious substance that results from the deposit of the deleterious substance, may enter any such water, is prohibited.
- No land-based drilling is to be done within 30 metres of the high water mark of any water body. Drill waste from land-based drilling shall be disposed of in a sump such that it does not enter any water body.
- For "on-ice" drilling, return water released must be non-toxic, and not result in an increase in total suspended solids in the immediate receiving waters above the Canadian

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Council of Ministers for the Environment Guidelines for the Protection of Freshwater Aquatic Life (i.e. 10mg/L for lakes with background levels under 100 mg/L, or 10% for those above 100mg/L).

- If drilling additives or muds are to be used, they shall not be used in connection with holes drilled through the lake ice unless they are re-circulated or contained in such a manner that they do not enter water, or demonstrated to be non-toxic.
- If CaCl is to be used as a drilling additive during the course of the drilling, EC would like to inform the proponent that the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act* has recently listed CaCl as a toxic substance. The proponent shall therefore ensure that if CaCl is used as a drill additive, all sumps containing CaCl are properly constructed and located in such a manner as to ensure that the contents will not enter any water body.
- If an artesian flow is encountered, drill holes shall be immediately plugged and permanently sealed.
- All sumps and fuel caches shall be located above the high water mark of any waterbody and in such a manner as to prevent the contents from entering any waterbody frequented by fish. Further, all sumps shall be backfilled upon completion of the project and recontoured to match the existing landscape.
- EC encourages proponents, when storing barrelled fuel at a location, to use secondary containment such as self-supporting insta-berms, rather than relying on natural depressions.
- The Nunasi Helicopters Inc. Spill Contingency Plan attached with the application documents provides a list of Environment Canada contact numbers for reporting spill emergencies in Canada. This list does not include Nunavut. Environment Canada recommends that this list be amended to include Nunavut. All spills within Nunavut shall be documented and reported to the NWT 24 hour Spill Line at (867) 920-8130.

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) 975-4639 or by email at [colette.meloche@ec.gc.ca](mailto:colette.meloche@ec.gc.ca).

Yours truly,

  
Colette Meloche  
Environmental Assessment Specialist

cc: (Mike Fournier, Northern Environmental Assessment Coordinator, Environment Canada, Yellowknife)