



NIRB File No.: 15EN024

NWB File No.: 2BE-MDP----

KIA File No.: KTL315C011

AANDC File No.: N2015C0020

June 26, 2015

Robert L'Heureux
Apex Geoscience Ltd.
100 – 9797 Ave.
Edmonton, AB T6E 5V8

Sent via email: rlheureux@apexgeoscience.com

Re: Notice of Part 4 Screening for APEX Geoscience's "Muskox Diamond" project proposal

Dear Robert L'Heureux:

On April 22, 2015 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received APEX Geoscience Ltd.'s (APEX) "Muskox Diamond" project proposal from Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC). On May 15, 2015 the NIRB received a referral from the Nunavut Water Board (NWB) and on May 21, 2015 the NIRB received the above mentioned project proposal from the Kitikmeot Inuit Association (KIA). The Board notes that a conformity determination from the Nunavut Planning Commission was not required for this file, as the proposed project is located within a region that does not currently have an approved land use plan in place (Kitikmeot Region). The NIRB assigned this project proposal file number 15EN024.

Following a preliminary completeness check, the NIRB determined that the proposal as submitted did not contain sufficient information for the NIRB to permit proper screening. On April 27, 2015 the NIRB requested that APEX Geoscience provide additional information in support of this proposal by May 11, 2015. On May 27, 2015 the NIRB requested a ministerial extension for the file and on May 28, 2015 the extension was granted. On June 24, 2015 the NIRB received the requested additional information to proceed with the screening of the project proposal.

The proposed project is located in the Kitikmeot region of Nunavut, adjacent to the border of Nunavut and the Northwest Territories (NWT), 250 kilometres (km) southeast of the community of Kugluktuk and 230 km northeast of the community of Wekweètì (NWT). APEX is proposing to conduct geological mapping, till sampling, prospecting, ground geophysical surveys and diamond drilling on the Muskox Diamond property. Proposed project activities are expected to

take place annually between June and March starting June, 2015 ending March, 2017 with the potential for a program extension depending on results.

The proposed project activities include:

- Diamond drilling with hole depths averaging 200 metres (m) for an estimated drill program of 5,000 m/year to 10,000 m/year;
- Temporary camp for 10-12 people at three sequential locations (James River Camp, Muskox Camp and Contwoyto Camp);
- Weekly transportation of personnel and equipment during summer months via fixed wing aircraft from Yellowknife utilizing natural landscape as a 200 m airstrip;
- Transportation of personnel and equipment during winter months to site via Tibbit-Contwoyto ice road;
- Use of a helicopter and one to two all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) or snowmobiles to transport personnel and equipment to and around project/camp sites;
- Use of ~82m³/day of water from nearby water sources for domestic and drilling activities;
- Transportation, storage and use of fuel stored in fuel caches at the three proposed camp sites and drilling sites. Total amounts of fuel to be stored:
 - Diesel – 100 x 205 litre (L) drums;
 - Aviation Fuel – 100 x 205 L drums;
 - Gasoline – 10 x 205 L drums;
 - Propane – 20 x 100 pound (lbs) cylinders;
 - Hydraulic and Motor Oil – 12 x 1 L containers, 4 x 20 L containers;
- On site incineration of combustible wastes and disposal of wastewater and sludge (drill cuttings and water) in sumps as appropriate; and
- Temporary storage of non-combustible wastes and hazardous wastes in appropriate containment until removed from site for treatment and disposal.

All documents received and pertaining to this project proposal can be obtained from the NIRB's online public registry at

<http://ftp.nirb.ca/01-SCREENINGS/ACTIVE%20SCREENINGS/15EN024-APEX-Muskox%20Diamond/> including:

- *NIRB Part 1 Summary Application Form in English, Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtun*
- *NIRB Part 2 Summary Application Form in English*
- *Maps*
- *Non-technical Project Proposal Summary in English, Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtun*
- *Various Environmental and Emergency Plans*
- *Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada Land Use Permit Application*
- *Kitikmeot Inuit Association Application for Access to Inuit Owned Land; and*
- *Nunavut Water Board General Water Licence Application*

Pursuant to Part 4, Article 12 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA), the NIRB shall proceed to screen this project proposal. The NIRB may request additional information at any time during the process. The NIRB will copy you on screening process related correspondence and upload related documents to the above ftp site for public access.

The NIRB is copying parties and municipalities potentially affected by APEX Geoscience Ltd.'s project proposal with this letter, and we invite interested parties to comment directly to the NIRB by **July 17, 2015**.

The NIRB would like parties to provide comments 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, (please provide any recommended mitigation measures); and
- Any matter of importance to the Party related to the project proposal.

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 at (867) 983-4615 or dstpierre@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



Davin St. Pierre
Technical Advisor
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Distribution List
Tara Gunson, APEX Geoscience Ltd.
Phyllis Beaulieu, Nunavut Water Board
Geoffrey Clark, Kitikmeot Inuit Association
Tracey McCaie, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada
Nicholas Kavanagh, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada

Enclosures (3): Comment Forms (English, Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtun)