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Environmental Protection Branch
Qimugjuk Building, P.O. Box 1870
Iqaluit, NU X0A 0H0
Tel: (867) 975-4639
Fax: (867) 975-4645

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Our file: 4705-037

Rita Becker
Licensing Administrator
Nunavut Water Board
P.O. Box 119
Gjoa Haven, NU. X0B 1J0

Gladys Joudrey
Environmental Assessment Officer
Nunavut Impact Review Board
P.O. Box 2378
Cambridge Bay, NU. X0E 0C0

Fax: (867) 983-2504

Re: Comments on Application for Water License NWB2NAD0101 - NIRB01ER101 - BHP Diamonds Inc. - Exploratory Drilling and Campsite Nadlaurjuk, Baffin, NU.

On behalf of Environment Canada (EC), I have reviewed the above noted water license NWB2NAD0101- NIRB01ER101. The following recommendations have been made in regards to Environment Canada mandated responsibilities for the enforcement of the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act* (CEPA), section 36 of the *Fisheries Act*, the *Canadian Wildlife Act*, and the *Migratory Birds Convention Act*.

BHP Diamonds Inc. have proposed to construct a 25 person camp near Nadlaurjuk Lake. The camp will serve as the base in order to carry out the drilling and air-borne geo-physical program over a 3 month period beginning July, 2002 and completing September, 2002. All exploration activities will have helicopter support however all-terrain vehicles will also be used.

Comments and Recommendations

The proponent neglected to:

- include the estimated volume of proposed sump for camp and drilling activities;
- include locations for all fuel caches in relation to water for aircraft, and camps uses.

The *Canadian Environmental Protection Act* is in the final stages of the assessment of CaCl as a toxic substance. It is recommended during on land based drilling, that sump closure measures include documentation of effects on vegetation for holes which used CaCl as an additive. The proponent must ensure that such sumps are a sufficient distance from water to avoid runoff into streams or lakes.

The following conditions should be applied throughout all phases of the project.

- The proponent shall ensure that any chemicals, fuel or wastes associated with the proposed project do not enter waters frequented by fish.
- EC encourages proponents, when storing barrelled fuel at a location, to use a secondary containment rather than relying on "natural depressions". Self supporting insta-birms are available from various suppliers within Canada.

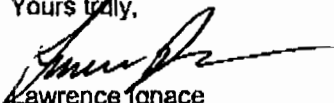
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- No disturbance of the bed or banks of any definable watercourse is permitted. Special efforts must be made to avoid bed and bank disturbance during the spring.
- Ensure the treatment of hazardous and solid wastes at an appropriate disposal facility ie. Iqaluit or Rankin Inlet;
- Environment Canada recommends the use of an approved incinerator.

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 lawrence.ignace@ec.gc.ca.

Yours truly,



Lawrence Ignace
Environmental Assessment Specialist

cc: (Paula Pacholek, Northern Environmental Assessment Coordinator, Yellowknife)