

Environmental Protection Operations
Qimugjuk Building 969
PO Box 1870
Iqaluit, NU X0A 0H0
Tel: (867) 975-4631
Fax: (867) 975-4645

20 August 2012

EC file: 4703 001 095
NWB file: 2BE-QIL0712

Phyllis Beaulieu
Manager of Licensing
Nunavut Water Board
PO Box 119
Gjoa Haven, NU X0B 1J0

Via email: licensing@nunavutwaterboard.org

RE: 120720 2BE-QIL0712 Amendment Renewal Stornoway Diamond Corp. – Kivalliq Region

Environment Canada (EC) has reviewed the information submitted with the above-mentioned amendment application as submitted to the Nunavut Water Board (NWB). The following specialist advice has been provided pursuant to the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act 1999*, Section 36(3) of the *Fisheries Act*, the *Migratory Birds Convention Act*, and the *Species at Risk Act*.

Stornoway Diamond Corporation is proposing to amend and renew water license 2BE-QIL0712 to allow for a bulk samples program at their Qilalugak site, approximately 10 km from the community of Repulse Bay. Under the amendment and renewal, no water would be used in association with the new land use activity. The bulk sample would include extracting approximately 1 500 tonnes of material and activities are proposed to occur over six weeks during either July or August 2012 or 2013.

Based on a review of the amendment application, EC provides the following comments for the NWB's consideration:

General

- 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 deleterious substance that results from the deposit of the deleterious substance, may enter any such water, is prohibited.
- The Proponent must ensure that bulk sample activities do not result in the contamination of groundwater. Excavation and/or removal of material should only take place to within one metre of the high water mark above the ground water table. It is recommended that an undisturbed buffer zone of at least 30 metres be maintained between any bulk sample activities that may occur and the normal high water mark of any water body.

Waste Disposal

- The proponent states that waste (combustible, non-combustible, and hazardous) and empty barrels will be transported back to Repulse Bay for disposal. EC suggests that confirmation and authorization be obtained from the intended community landfill prior to shipment.
- If hazardous waste is transported out of Nunavut for disposal, under the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act* (CEPA 1999) and the *Interprovincial Movement of Hazardous Wastes Regulations*, the transportation of hazardous waste between territories requires that the proponent completes movement documents. The Government of Nunavut regulates waste in Nunavut and an approved movement document must be completed.

Spill Contingency Plan

- A spill kit, including shovels, barrels, absorbents, etc. should be readily available at all locations where fuel is being stored or transferred in order to provide immediate response in the event of a spill and should accommodate 110% of the capacity of the largest fuel storage container.
- Refuelling shall not take place below the high water mark of any water body and shall be done in such a manner as to prevent any hydrocarbons from entering any water body frequented by fish. EC recommends that drip pans, or other similar preventative measures, should be used when refuelling equipment.
- Spills are to be documented and reported to the NWT/NU 24 hour Spill Line at (867)920-8130. EC recommends that all releases of harmful substances, regardless of quantity, are immediately reported where the release:
 - is near or into a water body;
 - is near or into a designated sensitive environment or sensitive wildlife habitat;
 - poses an imminent threat to human health or safety; or,
 - poses an imminent threat to a listed species at risk or its critical habitat.

Comments previously submitted on behalf of EC regarding water license 2BE-QIL would still apply to this project. If there are any additional changes in the proposed project, EC should be notified, as further review may be necessary. Please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned with any questions or comments with regards to the foregoing at (867) 975-4631 or by email at Paula.C.Smith@ec.gc.ca.

Yours truly,



Paula C. Smith
Environmental Assessment Coordinator

cc: Carey Ogilvie (Head, Environmental Assessment-North, EPO, Yellowknife, NT)
Ron Bujold (Environmental Assessment Officer, EPO, Yellowknife, NT)