



Crown-Indigenous Relations
and Northern Affairs Canada

Relations Couronne-Autochtones
et Affaires du Nord Canada

Water Resources Division
Resource Management Directorate
Nunavut Regional Office
P.O. Box 100
Iqaluit, NU, X0A 0H0

Your file - Votre référence
2BE-STO1520

July 8, 2020

Our file - Notre référence
CIDM#1286680

Robin Ikkutisluk
Administrative Coordinator
Nunavut Water Board
P.O. Box 119
Gjoa Haven, NU, X0B 1J0
sent via email: licensing@nwb-oen.ca

**Re: Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada Comments on
Aston Bay Holdings Inc. Renewal Application for the Aston Bay Property,
Storm Project, Licence No. 2BE-STO1520.**

Dear Ms. Ikkutisluk,

Thank you for your June 9, 2020 invitation for technical review comments on the above referenced application. The Water Resources Division of Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC) examined the application and the results of our review are provided in the enclosed memorandum for the Nunavut Water Board's consideration.

Comments have been provided pursuant to CIRNAC's mandated responsibilities under the *Nunavut Waters and Nunavut Surface Rights Tribunal Act* and the *Department of Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Act*. If there are any questions or concerns, please contact Richard Bingley at (867) 975-4556 or by e-mail at richard.bingley2@canada.ca, or Godwin Okonkwo at (867) 975-4550 or godwin.okonkwo@canada.ca.

Sincerely,

Sarah Forté
Water Management Specialist

Canada

Technical Review Memorandum

To: Richard Dwyer, Manager of Licensing, Nunavut Water Board

From: Richard Bingley, Impact Assessment Coordinator, Impact Assessment Division, CIRNAC

Date: July 8, 2020

Re: Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada's comments on Aston Bay Holdings Inc.'s renewal application for water licence #2BE-STO1520 for the Storm Project

Region: ☐ Kitikmeot ☐ Kivalliq ☒ Qikiqtani

A. BACKGROUND

On May 28, 2020, the Nunavut Water Board provided notification of Aston Bay Holdings Inc.'s (Aston) submission of a renewal application for their Type B water licence 2BE-STO1520 for the use of water and deposit on the Storm Project.

Aston is proposing a drilling program involving use of up to 10 m³/day from Aston River for camp activities, and 289 m³/day from viable lakes and streams close to yet to be determined drill locations on a property located on northern end of Somerset Island, in the Qikiqtani region, approximately 112 km south of Resolute Bay.

Proposed drilling will be conducted during the spring and/or summer months and would be run out of the camp at approximately 73°39'23" N latitude and 94°27'07" W longitude, with a 40 person crew. The drill program would run for approximately 1-2 weeks with a small diamond drill transported by helicopter.

No work was done in the 2019 year of the current licence. The renewal application is new and all plans are deemed to be effective as of June 2020. The licence application requests a term of 10 years.

B. RESULTS OF REVIEW

Below are Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC) comments and recommendations for the Board's consideration:

1. Security Estimate

The Security Estimate provided by Aston indicates the estimate is based on 20,000 liters of fuel stored on site. Table 2, Inventory of fuels to be stored at the Storm Camp during operations, of the Fuel management Plan, lists a total of 425 drums of various hydrocarbons to be stored on site. At 205 liters per drum, this indicates that the total fuel to be stored on site is up to 87,125 liters. This estimate could be underestimating the security for the site reclamation costs.

Recommendation:

CIRNAC recommends that Aston use the greatest anticipated reclamation cost for the requested duration of the licence in future security estimates.

C. REFERENCES

Aston Bay Holdings Inc, Emergency Response Plan for The Aston Bay Property, June 2020

Aston Bay Holdings Inc, Fuel Management Plan for The Aston Bay Property, June 2020

Aston Bay Holdings Inc, Aston Bay Project Reclamation Estimate, April 2020

Aston Bay Holdings Inc, Renewal Application to the Nunavut Water Board, May 2020