



Environment Canada  
Environnement Canada

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August 6, 2001

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Public Re

Our file: 4704-004

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**Re: Comments on Application Water License NWB2TAH - Major General Resources Ltd. - Campsite and Diamond Drilling, Tahoe Lake, Kitimeot, NU.**

On behalf of Environment Canada (EC), I have reviewed the above noted water license NWB2TAH. The comments provided for the above water license have been made under Section 36 of the *Fisheries Act*, the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act (CEPA)* and the *Migratory Birds Convention Act (MBCA)*.

Major General Resources Ltd. has proposed to conduct exploratory airborne and ground geophysical surveying as well as till sampling via small open pits for diamonds in the Tahoe Lake area. The proposed work will conduct 20 drill holes and coincide with 20 small trenches 1mx5mx2m deep that will be conducted July 15, 2001 through to July 15, 2003. The camp will be one permanent camp plus a temporary camp site still to be proposed. A total of twenty people will be involved throughout the scheduled summer months of work.

#### Comments and Recommendations

In sections 7 of the water license application and section 20 of the supplementary questionnaire states that a tank may be used to collect drill water in order to allow particulate matter to settle out. Environment Canada has no problems with the proposed option however questions how will the particulate matter collected within the tank be disposed of? Environment Canada recommends that the drill water and particulate matters be disposed of in a properly designed sump not located near water.

The proponent neglected to:

- provide a list of all hazardous materials that may be used during the program;
- indicate that "all" spills must be reported to the NWT 24 hour spill line (867-920-8130);
- provide design details and volumes for all sumps (drilling activities, and camp uses);
- provide locations of all land based sumps relation to water;
- provide further details as to the locations of the drill holes in relation to water;
- indicate if drill additives are to be used during the program;
- indicate on a map the location of campsites in relation to water.

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

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

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available from various suppliers within Canada.

- 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. Yellowknife 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](mailto:lawrence.ignace@ec.gc.ca).

Yours truly,



Lawrence Ignace  
Environmental Assessment Specialist

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