



Fisheries  
and Oceans

Pêches  
et Océans

Fish Habitat Management  
P.O. Box 358  
Iqaluit, Nunavut  
X0A 0H0

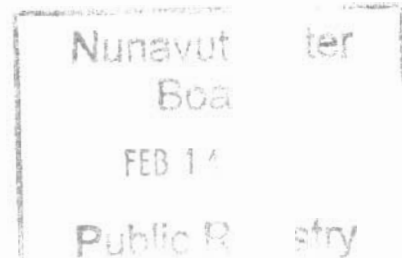
Your file / Votre référence

Our file / Notre référence

NU0031-00

February 6, 2003

Bernard Kahlert  
Project Manager, Major General Resources Ltd.  
Fax (604) 685-2814



**RE: Campsite and Diamond Drilling Tahoe Lake Area**

Dear Mr. Kahlert:

This letter is to advise that The Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Fish Habitat Management (DFO-FHM) received copies of your project description, water licence application, exploration/remote camp supplementary questionnaire, and application for land use permit for a campsite and diamond drilling operation in the Tahoe Lake area. These copies were submitted by the Nunavut Impact Review Board. It is my understanding that there is an existing permitted campsite roughly 50 km southeast of the work area but a request has been submitted to have a temporary campsite more central to the area of drilling. The operation appears to be proposed to straddle the Northwest Territories/Nunavut Territory border. I have reviewed the plans and have included the following comments.

Field operations in or near water may result in the harmful alteration, disruption or destruction of fish habitat, which is prohibited under Section 35 of the *Fisheries Act*. It appears that you have thoughtfully considered mitigation measures as set out in the project proposal. These and some other of the following mitigation measures, if incorporated into the project, are intended to prevent any potentially harmful impacts to fish and fish habitat:

- All disturbed areas should be stabilized upon completion of work, and restored to a pre-disturbed state. Ensure a proper clean-up of the campsite upon abandonment by backfilling and recontouring all pits to match the natural environment, properly disposing garbage and hazardous materials to an approved dumpsite, and avoiding the burial of any metal waste.
- Ensure that no structure and/or storage facilities are placed on surface ice of any water body and avoid disturbing the bed or banks of any nearby watercourse.

Depositing deleterious substances into fish bearing waters is prohibited as stated under Subsection 36(3) of the *Fisheries Act*. The following are additional measures to mitigate habitat disturbance or loss as well as the deposition of deleterious substances.

- All activities, including maintenance procedures and vehicular refuelling, should be controlled to prevent the entry of petroleum products, sediment, debris, rubble, or other deleterious substances into the water.

- All wastes, sewage containments and fuel caches must be located a minimum of thirty (30) metres from the normal high water mark of any water body and be sufficiently bermed or otherwise contained to ensure that these substances do not enter any water body.
- Have an extra fuel storage container on site equal to or bigger than the size of the largest fuel container. This container can be used to replace any existing container showing signs of leakage. Check for container leaks on a daily basis and prepare any visible leaks immediately.
- Ensure that approved emergency response and spill contingency plans are in place prior to commencement of operation and post these plans in a visible area where project staff can view them. Educate staff as to their responsibilities and conduct in regards to the contingency plans.
- All spills of oil, fuel, or other deleterious material should be reported immediately to the 24-Hour Spill Line at (867) 920-8130.

Section 30 of the *Fisheries Act* states that there is a need for screening on water intakes. Use mesh screenings no greater than 2 mm in diameter to protect fish from being sucked into water intake valves.

If the proposed work is carried out as described in the plans provided to DFO-FHIM and if the additional mitigation measures specified above are implemented, the proposed work will not be considered as contravening Subsection 35(1) of the *Fisheries Act* which reads:

*"No person shall carry on any work or undertaking that results in the harmful alteration, disruption or destruction of fish habitat."*

Therefore, an authorization under Subsection 35(2) of the *Fisheries Act* will not be necessary. If a harmful alteration, disruption or destruction of fish habitat and/or the deposition of deleterious substances into fish bearing waters occurs as a result of a change in the plans for the proposed works or failure to implement the additional mitigation measures specified above, prosecution under Subsection 35(1) and/or Subsection 36(3) of the *Fisheries Act* may be initiated.

Please note that this letter of advice will apply for the period of the Water Licence Permit and Application for Land Use Permit. If you have any questions concerning the mitigation measures or should there be any changes to the proposed work, please contact me at (867) 979-8011 or by fax at (867) 979-8039.



Jeff Wilson

Habitat Management Coordinator, Department of Fisheries and Oceans

c.c. Jorgen Komak, Environmental Technician NLRB (file 01YN075)  
 Paul Smith, Manager – Water Resources DIAND (file N2001J0021)  
 Rita Becker, Licensing Administrator NWB (file NWB2TAH)  
 Pete Cott, Habitat Management Biologist DFO-Inuvik