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EC file: 4703 001 128
NWB file: 2BE-PBP1115

Phyllis Beaulieu
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Nunavut Water Board
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Via email: licensing@nunavutwaterboard.org

RE: 120628 2BE-PBP1115 Amendment Application

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*.

Northquest Ltd. is proposing to amend water license 2BE-PBP1115 for their Pistol Bay Project to allow for an increase in water use. Drill water use is proposed to increase from 85 m³ to 120 m³ per day. This increase of permitted water use will allow for diamond drilling at a new location during summer 2012. Although the camp will be increased in size by the addition of three tents, camp water use will remain at a permitted 1.0 m³ per day. This is the second request for an increase in water use; the initial permitted water use amount for drilling was 50 m³ per day.

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

- EC does not foresee any major issues with the increased water use as long as there are proper measures in place to cope with the increase in waste water. The proponent states in the amendment application that "The water will still be filtered by moss and sand before finding its way to the same or other water bodies". With respect to drilling, will additional sumps be created or do the current sumps have enough capacity to deal with the increased waste water? Should additional sumps be needed, are there enough suitable locations available?
- EC reminds the proponent that all sumps are to be located a sufficient distance from the high water mark of any water body and that they are constructed such that the contents do not migrate out from the sump.

Comments previously submitted on behalf of EC regarding water license 2BE-PBP would still apply. If there are any additional proposed changes to the 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)