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July 4, 2002

To: Phyllis Beaulieu  
A/Licensing Administrator  
Nunavut Water Board  
Gjoa Haven, NU

Nunavut Water Board  
Gjoa Haven, NU

**Re: Exploratory Drilling for Mineral Deposits**  
**NIRB: 02EN091      NWB: NWB2BUR**

Enclosed is the completed NIRB Screening Decision Report on a water use and waste disposal associated with mineral exploration in the Kugluktuk area.

NIRB has screened this application for eco-systemic and socio-economic impacts of the proposal.

NIRB's indication to the Minister is: 12.4.4 (a) the proposal may be processed without a review under Part 5 or 6; NIRB may recommend specific terms and conditions to be attached to any approval, reflecting the primary objectives set out in Section 12.2.5;

Please contact me at (867) 983-2593 if you have any questions about the Screening Decision Report.

Yours truly,

5

**Gladys Joudrey**  
Environmental Assessment Officer  
Nunavut Impact Review Board

Nunavut Impact Review Board

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020704NW B2 BUR NIRB Screening - LAE



**Reasons for Decision:**

NIRB's decision is based on specific considerations that reflect the primary objectives of the Land Claims Agreement. Our considerations in making this decision included:

- the impact of drilling activities on the ecosystem;
- disposal of drill cuttings and waste water;
- impact to water quality, aquatic habitat and wildlife and fish populations from chemicals, drill waste, drill fluids and potential fuel spills;
- storage and disposal of chemicals, fuel, garbage, sewage, and gray water, and impact of these on the ecosystem;
- the impact of noise from drilling activities and their disturbance to wildlife and traditional users of area;
- the impact of campsite and equipment on terrain;
- the impact of exploration activities on archaeological sites or cultural landmarks in the area; and
- clean up/restoration of the camp site and drilling locations upon abandonment.

**Terms and Conditions:**

That the terms and conditions attached to this screening report will apply.

**Drill Sites**

1. The Licensee shall not conduct any land based drilling within thirty (30) metres of the normal high water mark of a water body.
2. The Licensee shall conduct any the lake-based winter drilling, in accordance with the Interim Guidelines for On-Ice drilling.
3. The Licensee shall ensure that all drill cuttings are removed from ice surfaces.
4. The Licensee shall not use drilling muds or additives in connection with drill holes unless they are re-circulated or contained such that they do not enter the water, or are certified to be non-toxic.
5. The Licensee shall ensure that any drill cuttings and waste water that cannot be re-circulated be disposed of in a properly constructed sump or an appropriate natural depression that does not drain into a waterbody.
6. The Licensee shall ensure that drilling wastes do not enter any water body. The use of biodegradable, salt free drill additives is encouraged over non-biodegradable types.
7. The Licensee shall not establish any stockpiles within thirty (30) metres of the normal high water mark of a water body.
8. The Licensee shall ensure that the release of total suspended solids in the receiving environment shall be in compliance with *Guidelines for Total Suspended Solids* contained in the *Canadian Council of Ministers for the Environment's (CCME) Canadian Water Quality Guidelines, Chapter 3 - Freshwater Aquatic Life* (i.e. 10mg/L for lakes with background level under 100mg/L, or 10% for those above 100mg/L).

9. The Licensee shall ensure that the sump/depression capacity is sufficient to accommodate the volume of waste water and any fines that are produced so that there will be no additional impacts.
10. The Licensee shall not locate any sump within thirty (30) metres of the normal high water mark of any water body.
11. The Licensee shall not deposit nor permit the deposit of slash, debris or sediment into any waterbody. These materials shall be disposed of above the high water mark in such a fashion that they do not enter the water.
12. The Licensee shall ensure that disturbance of vegetation from deposit of drill fluids/cuttings is restricted to the area of the sump and the ground prepared for revegetation upon abandonment.
13. The Licensee shall, where flowing water from bore holes is encountered, plug, the bore hole in such a manner as to permanently prevent any further outflow of water. The occurrence shall be reported to the Nunavut Water Board and Land Use Inspector within 48 hours.
14. If the drilling requires water in sufficient volume that the source waterbody may be drawn down details must be submitted (volume required, size of waterbody, etc.) to DFO-FHM for review. DFO-FHM does not recommend the use of streams as a water source.

### **Water**

15. The Licensee shall ensure that all water intake hoses are equipped with a screen with an appropriate mesh size to ensure that there is no entrapment of fish.

### **Fuel and Chemical Storage**

16. The Licensee shall ensure that fuel storage containers are not located within thirty (30) metres of the ordinary high water mark of any body of water.
17. The Licensee shall ensure that any chemicals, fuels or wastes associated with the project do not spread to the surrounding lands or enter into any water body.
18. Fuel storage shall either be equipped with secondary containment and other hazardous materials should be located in such a manner as to prevent their release into the environment.
19. The Licensee shall take all reasonable precautions to prevent the possibility of migration of spilled petroleum fuel or chemicals over the ground surface.
20. The Licensee shall examine all fuel and chemical storage containers daily for leaks. All leaks should be prepared immediately.
21. The Licensee shall seal all container outlets except the outlet currently in use.
22. The Licensee shall mark all fuel containers with the Licensee's name.
23. The Licensee shall dispose of all combustible waste petroleum products by incineration and removal from the site.
24. The Licensee shall ensure all activities, including maintenance procedures and refueling, should be controlled to prevent the entry of petroleum products or other deleterious substances into the water.

25. The Licensee shall have an approved emergency response and spill contingency plans in place prior to the commencement of the operation.
26. The Licensee shall immediately report all spills of petroleum and hazardous chemicals to the twenty-four (24) hour spill report line at (867) 920-8130.

### **Waste Disposal**

27. The Licensee shall not discharge or deposit any refuse substances or other waste materials in any body of water, or on the banks thereof, which will impair the quality of the waters of the natural environment.
28. The Licensee, prior to the discharge of fluids from any sump, shall carry out an analysis of the fluid in a manner prescribed by the NWB.
29. The Licensee shall treat greywater and sewage according to the terms and conditions outlined in the NWB approval.
30. The Licensee shall backfill and recontour all sumps to match the natural environment prior to the expiry date of the license.
31. The Licensee shall incinerate all combustible and food wastes daily.
32. The Licensee shall keep all garbage and debris in a covered metal container until disposed of.
33. The Licensee shall ensure that all wastes generated through the course of the operation are backhauled and disposed of in an approved dumpsite.
34. The Licensee shall deposit all scrap metal, discarded machinery and parts, barrels and kegs, at an approved disposal site.

### **Wildlife**

35. The Licensee shall ensure that there is no damage to wildlife habitat in conducting this operation.
36. The Licensee shall not feed wildlife.
37. The Licensee shall use the latest bear detection and deterrent techniques to minimize man-bear interactions and shall report any Man-Bear Interactions to the nearest Renewable Resource Officer.
38. The Licensee shall ensure that the drill sites avoid known environmentally sensitive areas (denning, nesting etc.) by a minimum of 250 metres.
39. The Licensee shall not locate any operation so as to block or cause substantial diversion to migration of caribou.
40. The Licensee shall cease activities that may interfere with migration or calving, such as airborne geophysics surveys or movement of equipment, drilling activities until the caribou and their calves have vacated the area.
41. The Licensee shall not conduct any activity associated with the land use operation during critical periods of wildlife cycles (eg. caribou migration, calving, fish spawning or raptor nesting).
42. That the Licensee shall ensure that there is no hunting by employees of the company or any contractors hired.

43. That the Licensee remove any carcasses along the roadway to prevent attraction by scavengers, preventing further road kills.
44. The Licensee shall ensure that aircraft pilots adhere to recommended flight altitudes of greater than 300 m above ground level as to not disturb wildlife. Raptor nesting sites and concentrations of nesting or molting waterfowl should be avoided by aircraft at all times.
45. The Licensee shall ensure compliance with Section 36 of the Fisheries Act which requires that no person shall deposit or permit the deposit of a deleterious substance on any type in water frequented by fish or in any place under any conditions where the deleterious substance may enter such a water body.
46. The harmful alteration, disruption or destruction of fish habitat is prohibited under Section 35 of the Fisheries Act. No construction or disturbance of any stream/lake bed or banks of any definable watercourse is permitted unless authorized by DFO.
47. The Licensee shall not detonate explosives within fifteen (15) metres of any body of water which is not completely frozen to the bottom.

### **Environmental**

48. The Licensee shall ensure that the land use area is kept clean and tidy at all times.
49. The Licensee shall prepare the site in such a manner as to prevent rutting of the ground surface.
50. The Licensee shall not do anything that will cause erosion of the banks of any body of water on or adjacent to the land and shall provide necessary controls to prevent such erosion.
51. The Licensee shall be required to undertake any corrective measures in the event of any damage to the land or water as a result of the Licensee's operation.
52. The Licensee shall not remove any material from below the ordinary high water mark of any waterbody.
53. The Licensee shall adopt such measures as required to control erosion by surface disturbance. Sediment and erosion control measures should be implemented prior to, and maintained during the work to prevent sediment entry into the water during a spring thaw.
54. The Licensee shall not move any equipment or vehicles unless the ground surface is in a state capable of fully supporting the equipment or vehicles without rutting or gouging.
55. The Licensee shall suspend overland travel of equipment or vehicles if rutting occurs.
56. The Licensee shall not use any material other than water in the construction of ice bridges. Winter lake/stream crossings should be located to minimize approach grades. Cutting or filling of crossing approaches below the normal high water mark will require review and approval by DFO.
57. The Licensee shall remove all snow fills from stream crossings prior to spring break up
58. The Licensee shall not allow any ice bridge to hinder the flow of water of any stream.

### **Structure & Storage Facilities**

59. The Licensee shall not erect structures or store material on the surface ice of lakes or streams.

60. The Licensee shall locate all structures and storage facilities on gravel, sand or other durable land.

#### **Archaeological Sites**

61. The Licensee shall follow all terms and conditions for the protection and restoration of archaeological resources as outlined by the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youths (CLEY) in attached letter.

#### **Reclamation**

62. The Licensee shall remove all scrap metal, discarded machinery and parts, barrels and kegs, buildings and building material upon abandonment.
63. The Licensee shall complete all clean-up and restoration of the lands used prior to the expiry date of the permit.
64. The Licensee shall undertake ongoing restoration for any land or improvements which are no longer required for the Licensee's operation on the land.
65. The Licensee shall plug or cap all bore holes and cut off any drill casings that remain above ground to ground level upon abandonment of the operation.

**Other Recommendations**

1. NIRB would like to encourage the proponent to hire local people and services, to the extent possible.
2. NIRB strongly advises proponents to consult with local residents regarding their activities in the region, and do community consultation on the project to keep the communities informed.
3. Any amendment requests deemed by NIRB to be outside the original scope of the project will be considered a new project.
4. The Environmental Protection Branch (EPB), Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO), Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB), and the Nunavut Water Board (NWB) should be advised of any material changes to plans or operating conditions associated with the project.

**Validity of Land Claims Agreement****Section 2.12.2**

Where there is any inconsistency or conflict between any federal, territorial and local government laws, and the Agreement, the Agreement shall prevail to the extent of the inconsistency or conflict.

Dated July 4/04 at Arviat, N.I.

  
Elizabeth Copland, Chairperson



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FAX NO. 867/38185

P. 02



Environmental Protection Branch  
 5204 - 50<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
 Suite 301  
 Yellowknife, NT X1A 1B2  
 Fax: 867-874-8185

18 June, 2002

Our File 4703 001

David Salcuja  
 Environmental Assessment Officer  
 Nunavut Impact Review Board  
 PO Box 2379  
 Cambridge Bay, NU X0R 0C0

Fax: (867) 983-2594

Phyllis Beaulieu  
 Acting Licensing Administrator  
 Nunavut Water Board  
 Gjoa Haven, Nunavut

Fax: (867) 360-6369

**Re: NIRB 02EN091 - Exploratory Drilling for Mineral Deposit - Alex McPherson - Platinex Inc., near Kugluktuk, NU.**

**NWB2BUR - Burnt Creek Area Project.**

On behalf of Environment Canada (EC), I have reviewed the above noted land use permit application, NIRB 02EN025 and water licence application, NWB2BUR to conduct mineral exploration near Kugluktuk, NU. The comments provided for the above application have been made under Section 36 of the *Fisheries Act*, the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act (CEPA)* and the *Migratory Birds Convention Act (MBCA)*.

Alex McPherson with Platinex Inc. is proposing to conduct mineral exploration in the Melville Creek area. Proposed activities include geological mapping, geophysical surveys, and diamond drilling.

**Comments and Recommendations**

The proponent neglected to:

- state that "all spills" are to be documented and reported to the NWT 24 Hour Spill Line at (867) 920-8130
- provide an adequate spill contingency plan outlining a clear path of response
- indicate if spill kits are to be used at camp, fuel caches and drill sites
- indicate if drill additives are to be used during the program
- provide a detailed description and map of proposed work such as:
  - \* drilling activities;
  - \* land area to be affected by proposed works;
  - \* number of holes and the location of holes in relation to water
  - \* land or ice-based drilling.
- provide a map indicating the locations of camp in relation to water
- include the estimated volume of proposed sumps for camp and drilling activities
- provide a map indicating the locations of all land-based sumps in relation to water
- include location of fuel storage in relation to water for aircraft, camps and drilling uses

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

JUN-18-02 TUE 01:24 PM ENV CANADA

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P. 03

- The proponent shall ensure that drill cuttings, chemicals, fuel or wastes associated with the project do not enter waters frequented by fish. All sumps, spill basins and fuel caches should be located in such a manner that the contents do not enter a waterbody.
- EC encourages proponents, to use a secondary containment rather than relying on, "natural depressions", when storing barrelled fuel at a location. Self supporting insta-berms are available from various suppliers within Canada.
- Toxic drilling additives or muds shall not be used in connection with holes drilled through lake ice, unless they are re-circulated or contained such that they do not enter the water.
- For "on-ice" drilling, return water released to the lake must be non-toxic, and not result in an increase in total suspended solids in the immediate receiving waters of the lake above the Canadian Council of Ministers for the Environment Guidelines for the Protection of Freshwater Aquatic Life (i.e. 10mg/L for lakes with background levels under 100 mg/L, or 10% for those above 100mg/L).
- provide to my attention coordinates in degrees, minutes and seconds for camp, fuel caches and drill sites.
- 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.
- If artesian flow is encountered, drill holes shall be plugged and permanently sealed immediately.
- Environment Canada recommends the use of an approved incinerator.
- The permittee shall not erect camps or store material on the surface ice of streams or lakes.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at (867) 669-4744 or ron.bujold@ec.gc.ca with any questions or comments.

Yours truly,



Ron Bujold  
Environmental Assessment Technician

cc: Steve Harbicht (Head, Assessment & Monitoring, EPB)  
Paula Pacholek (Coordinator, A&M, EPB)



Fisheries and Oceans  
Canada

Pêches et Océans  
Canada

Coast Guard

Garde côtière

Central & Arctic Region

Région du Centre et de l'Arctique

201 N. Front Street, Suite 703  
Sarnia, Ontario  
N7T 8B1

Your file Votre référence

Our file Notre référence  
1675-9-9

June 10, 2002

Gladys Joudrey  
Nunavut Impact Review Board  
PO Box 2379  
Cambridge Bay, NT X0E 0C0



Dear Madam:

Thank you for your submission with regard to NIRB # 02EN091, Exploratory Drilling for Mineral Deposits, Alex McPherson, Kitikmeot Region, Nunavut.

The information will be reviewed by this office and our response will be forwarded to DFO Fish Habitat in Iqaluit. They in turn will prepare a Departmental response encompassing both the Navigable Waters Protection Act and the Fisheries Act.

Yours truly,

Barry Putt  
A/Inspections Supervisor  
Navigable Waters Protection

BP/kab

cc: FHM

Canada



May 30 2002

David Sateana  
Environmental Assessment Officer Trainee  
NIRB - Cambridge Bay

**Exploratory Drilling for Mineral Deposits - Platinex Inc.**

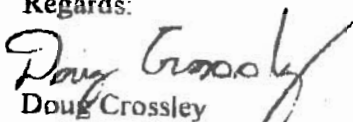
This seems to be generally a pretty simple and basic early exploration application. Normally there shouldn't be too many issues of concern as long as routine operating procedures are followed. I would suggest though that the proponent be fully briefed and perhaps this should be followed through with a written summary of instructions on the procedures of acceptable operations for a camp of this size and with the proposed intent.

It seems to me judging from the state of the application, this proponent does not have a lot of Northern experience. His drill crew Sub Contractors (Major Midwest Drilling) do; so very likely they will ensure proper operating conditions for the camp; however a briefing for the applicant would assist in creating awareness of the appropriate conditions of operation for this company. It is very important the applicant is aware of the need to regularly backhaul non-combustible material so as to avoid a build-up of "Junk" which can quickly become unmanageable and ultimately costly to comply with license needs.

The extent of the period being considered with this application should be clarified as well. If it is one year only; then there are applicant requirements for additional site restoration over an operating length of say two years or more. The applicant might also be encouraged to contact the Kugluktuk Economic Development Manager (867-982-4471 - Sandy Buchan) to determine the availability of Kugluktuk resources including potential supply of camp materials, available labour expertise and the local availability of float planes at the time they would require them. This will also provide a potential Buy-In opportunity for the applicant with the nearby community.

The applicant should also identify a source for their drinking water as some of the small lakes in this area might have questionable water quality if required for domestic purposes. The Kugluktuk HTO should be able to advise on a suitable Drinking Water source in the vicinity of their proposed camp.

Regards:

  
Doug Crossley  
CG&T - Cambridge Bay

T-718 P.03/12 F-348

Project Title: Exploratory Drilling for Mineral Deposits  
Proponent: Alex McPherson  
Location: Kitikmeot Region  
Comments Due By: June 18, 2002 NIRB #: 02EN091

Indicate your concerns about the project proposal below:

no concerns	traditional uses of land
water quality	hunting harvesting activities
terrain	community involvement and consultation
air quality	local development in the area
wildlife and their habitat	tourism in the area
marine mammals and their habitat	human health issues
birds and their habitat	other: _____
fish and their habitat	_____
heritage resources in area	_____

Please describe the concerns indicated above:

Do you have any suggestions or recommendations for this application?

Ensure Applicant is fully Aware of required  
Camp Operational Procedures

Do you support the project proposal? Yes ☒ No ☐ Any additional comments?

Contact Kugluktuk E.D. Manager to determine  
availability of Local resources.

Name of person commenting: Doug Erassley of Cambridge Bay  
Position: Special Advisor Organization: C.G.S.T.  
Signature: Doug Erassley Date: May 30 / 02

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FAX NO. 867 978 8039

P. 08

Fisheries  
and OceansPôchoc  
et OcéansFish Habitat Management  
P.O. Box 000  
Iqaluit, Nunavut  
X0A 0H0

Your file: Votre référence

071N091

Our file: Notre référence

June 3, 2002

Alex McPherson  
Platinex Inc.  
391-56 St.  
Delta, B.C.  
V4L 1Z4  
Fax: (604) 943-0177**RE: NIRH File # 021N091, Exploratory Drilling near Kugluktuk, Nunavut.**

Dear Mr. McPherson:

This letter is to advise that The Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Fish Habitat Management (DFO-FHM) received the project proposal, submitted by the Nunavut Impact Review Board for exploratory drilling near the community of Kugluktuk. The proposed project length is June 2002 through to September 2002. During this time, land based drilling for copper will be conducted. DFO-FHM's assessment takes into consideration primarily fish and fish habitat related concerns. I have reviewed the plans for the proposed work.

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*. The following mitigation measures, along with mitigation measures indicated in the project proposal, are intended to prevent any potentially harmful impacts to fish and fish habitat:

- If artesian flow is encountered, drill holes should be plugged and permanently sealed upon completion of the project.
- All disturbed areas should be stabilized and re-vegetated as required, upon completion of work, and restored to a pre-disturbed state.
- No material should be left on the ice when there is potential for that material to enter the water (i.e. spring break-up).
- If the drilling requires water in sufficient volume that the source waterbody may be drawn down please submit details (volume required, size of waterbody, etc.) to DFO-FHM for review. DFO-FHM does not recommend the use of streams as a water source.
- All water intakes should be properly screened to prevent the entrainment of fish. Refer to the *Freshwater Intake End-of-Pipe Fish Screen Guideline* (DFO 1995), available on request.

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P. 09

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.

- Sediment and erosion control measures should be implemented prior to, and maintained during the work to prevent sediment entry into the water during a spring thaw.
- All plans for proposed stream crossings or work conducted below the high water mark adjacent to the banks of streams and lakes require prior approval by DFO-HM.
- All wastes, drill cuttings, sewage containments, and fuel caches should 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.
- Drill cuttings should be disposed of in a sump such that they do not enter any water body. The use of biodegradable, salt free drill additives is encouraged over non-biodegradable types.
- All activities, including maintenance procedures and refuelling, should be controlled to prevent the entry of petroleum products or other deleterious substances into the water.
- All spills of oil, fuel, or other deleterious material should be reported immediately to the 24-Hour Spill Line at (867) 920-8130.

If the proposed work is carried out as described in the plans provided to DFO-HM 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.

If you have any questions concerning the mitigation measures or should there be any changes to the proposed work, please contact me at (867) 979-8007 or by fax at (867) 979-8039.

Jordan DeGroot  
Area Habitat Biologist

**Canada**

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FAX NO. 867 978 8038

P. 10

Fish Habitat Management  
Department of Fisheries and Oceans- Eastern Arctic Area

c.c. Gladys Joudrey-Nunavut Impact Review Board  
Rita Becker-Licensing Administrator, NWB  
Ineelee Norbeck- A/C&P Field Supervisor

Canada



### COMMENT FORM FOR NIRB SCREENINGS

The Nunavut Impact Review Board has a mandate to protect the integrity of the ecosystem for the existing and future residents of Nunavut. In order to assess the environmental and socio-economic impacts of the project proposals, NIRB would like to hear your concerns, comments and suggestions about the following project application:

<b>Project Title:</b> <u>Exploratory Drilling for Mineral Deposits</u>	
<b>Proponent:</b> <u>Alex McPherson</u>	
<b>Location:</b> <u>Kitikmeot Region</u>	
<b>Comments Due By:</b> <u>June 18, 2002</u>	<b>NIRB #:</b> <u>02EN091</u>

<b>Indicate your concerns about the project proposal below:</b>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No concerns	traditional uses of land
<input type="checkbox"/> water quality	Inuit harvesting activities
<input type="checkbox"/> terrain	community involvement and consultation
<input type="checkbox"/> air quality	local development in the area
<input type="checkbox"/> wildlife and their habitat	tourism in the area
<input type="checkbox"/> marine mammals and their habitat	human health issues
<input type="checkbox"/> birds and their habitat	other: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fish and their habitat	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> heritage resources in area	_____

**Please describe the concerns indicated above:**

**Do you have any suggestions or recommendations for this application?**  
~~Do you have any suggestions or recommendations for this application?~~ As stated in application, drill cuttings/drill water must go into sumps greater than 30m from any water bodies - the same applies to grey water + sewage. These conditions will be duplicated in the land use permit.

**Do you support the project proposal?** Yes ☒ No ☐ Any additional comments?

<b>Name of person commenting:</b> <u>Ram Smith</u>	<b>of</b> _____
<b>Position:</b> <u>Water Resources</u>	<b>Organization:</b> <u>DIAND</u>
<b>Signature:</b> <u>Ram Smith</u>	<b>Date:</b> <u>June 13/02</u>