



**Environment Environnement
Canada Canada**

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18 June, 2002

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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:

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EXT.	Our File 4703 001

NWB2BUR

020618 NWB2BUR EC Comments - ILAE

- 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)