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Your file - Votre référence
3BC-MIN

Our file - Notre référence
9545-1 / CIDM #96421

June 1, 2006

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Via Email

**Re: 3BC-MIN - Canada-Nunavut Geoscience Office and the Geological Survey of Canada
- Mingo Lake / Southwest Baffin Integrated Geosciences (SWBIG) Project - Licence
Application**

On behalf of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) I have reviewed the above-mentioned application. The following specialist advice has been provided pursuant to INAC's mandated responsibilities for the enforcement of the *Nunavut Waters and Nunavut Surface Rights Tribunal Act* (NW&NSRT), *Arctic Waters Pollution Prevention Act* (AWPPA), and the *Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development Act* (DIAND Act).

The Canada-Nunavut Geoscience Office and the Geological Survey of Canada are applying for a licence for water use and waste disposal associated with its Mingo Lake / Southwest Baffin Integrated Geosciences (SWBIG) Project. The proponent plans to conduct a regional scale bedrock mapping program in the Mingo Lake area of southwestern Baffin Island from June 23 to August 23, 2006 and requires a licence to support the domestic needs of project personnel. The objective of this project is to promote mineral exploration activity in a relatively populated portion of the Territory by enhancing the publicly available geosciences knowledge of the study area.

The proponent requests the use of 300 litres (0.3 m³) of freshwater on a daily basis from local sources. At any given time, there will be 22 project personnel on-site. A temporary camp supported by two helicopters will be established in two locations. In the first half of the field season, June 23 - July 28, the camp will be situated to the west of Mingo Lake and have a coordinate of 64°39'N, 72°27'W. The camp will then be moved to an area 10 km north of Cape Dorset for the remainder of the field season, July 28 - August 23, having a coordinate of 64°20'N, 76°32'W. A spill contingency plan was submitted with the licence application and the proponent will ensure that the camp sites will be returned to their original conditions before the end of the project's field program component.

INAC Comments

INAC recommends that the following comments be taken into consideration when reviewing this licence application.

SPILL CONTINGENCY / HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

- All fuel caches shall be located above the high water mark of any water body. Furthermore, INAC recommends the use of secondary containment, such as self-supporting insta-berms, when storing barreled fuel on location rather than relying on natural depressions.
- The proponent shall ensure that any hazardous materials, including waste oil, receive proper treatment and disposal at an approved treatment facility.
- INAC recommends that the project's Spill Contingency Plan be revised to include detailed response procedures for spills on land and water. The Plan should also include Material Safety Data Sheets for all hazardous materials used in this project.
- INAC recommends that the project's Spill Contingency Plan be reformatted into a stand-alone document. Copies of the Plan should be positioned at each spill response kit and at a common camp facility (e.g., kitchen).

CAMP AREAS

- All sumps shall be located at least 30 m above the high water mark of nearby water bodies. Furthermore, all sumps shall be backfilled and contoured to match the surrounding landscape prior to the end of the project's field program.
- INAC recommends that the ashes of burned combustible wastes be raked to removed non-combustible items (e.g., tinfoil and iron nails). Raked ashes should either be buried on-site or delivered to an approved disposal facility.

If there are any changes in the proposed project, INAC requests that it be notified, as further review may be necessary. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or comments with regards to the foregoing by telephone (867) 975-4555 or by email via abernethyd@inac-ainc.gc.ca.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

David W. Abernethy
Water Resources Coordinator

cc. Jim Rogers - Manager of Water Resources, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, Iqaluit