

Environment Canada
Prairie and Northern Region
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Sept. 15, 2006

Our File:

Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board
P.O. Box 938,
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2N7

By Email: pduxbury@mveirb.nt.ca

Attention: Patrick Duxbury

Re: EA0607-002 – Tamerlane Ventures Inc. – Pine Point Pilot Project – Comments on the Draft Terms of Reference (ToR) and Work Plan

On behalf of Environment Canada I have reviewed the draft Terms of Reference and Work Plan for the above Environmental Assessment, and offer the following comments for your consideration.

The ToR are very broad, and that is likely a reflection of the wide range of concerns expressed in the scoping sessions. EC's concern is that the main issues (i.e. those which will affect the determination of whether there will be a significant environmental impact) are going to be buried in lesser issues. EC suggests focusing the assessment more to the main issues, notably those listed on page 8 under "Expected Level of Effort" plus:

- the supporting corporate information (Section B),
- baseline description (parts of Section C),
- project alternatives (parts of Section E pertaining to water management and treatment, freeze curtain installation, wastewater disposal, and transportation),
- socio-economic aspects (relevant parts of Section H),
- discussion of water resources, wildlife and air (Section I),
- closure and reclamation (Section J),
- cumulative effects (with respect to the historic mine, most notably on wildlife) (Section K), and
- accidents and malfunctions (Section L).

In addition, we note that the references to describing an Adaptive Management Plan should be overarching and not limited to water management (Section I-1e, L 6) although this will be an important aspect. There is one specific comment on Section I-1; please remove item 12, as the MMER are not applicable to this project.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input into the ToR, and if you wish clarification on any of the foregoing comments, please do not hesitate to contact me at 669-4735 or by email at anne.wilson@ec.gc.ca.

Yours sincerely,
(Original signed by)

Anne Wilson
Water Pollution Specialist
Environmental Protection Operations Directorate

cc: Stephen Harbicht (Head, Environmental Assessment - North, Environment Canada,
Yellowknife)
Mike Fournier (Northern Assessment Co-ordinator, Environment Canada, Yellowknife)