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June 13, 2007

Your file - Votre référence

MVEIRB File Number: EA0607-003

Our file - Notre référence

Alistair MacDonald
Environmental Assessment Officer
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board
P.O. BOX 938
YELLOWKNIFE NT, X1A 2N7

By FAX: 766-7074

Re: INAC's Response to the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (MVEIRB) request on Technical Meetings Topics Questionnaire for the Tamerlane Ventures EA, Pine Point Pilot Project

Dear Mr. MacDonald:

Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) are pleased to respond to the Review Board's request for suggestions for the proposed technical meetings for the Tamerlane Ventures Environmental Assessment.

INAC's suggested topics for the technical meetings are listed in Attachment 1. INAC suggests that the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board consider holding technical meetings with the MVEIRB staff, the developer and other participants in Yellowknife, followed by sessions in Hay River and/or other communities with representatives from Aboriginal Groups in attendance. Representatives of Aboriginal Groups may also wish to attend the Yellowknife sessions. INAC representatives would attend all sessions. We trust this suggestion will assist in ensuring that potential impacts of this development and technical issues can be fully assessed

If you have any questions about the Technical Meetings Topic Questionnaire, please contact Lionel Marcinkoski by phone at 669-2591 or via email at marcinkoskil@inac.gc.ca.

Yours sincerely,

David Livingstone
Director, Renewable Resources and Environment

cc. INAC –EA Working Group

Canada

Attachment 1
Technical Meeting Topics

After reviewing the Developer's Assessment Report for the Tamerlane Ventures PPPP, INAC has identified questions and deficiencies.

Topic: Infiltration Basin

Unanswered Questions:

No mention of containment for water and testing before discharge into the infiltration basin was identified. At the minimum, a secondary containment and monitoring plan must be in place before a release of water will be permitted into an infiltration basin. In addition an outline of how Tamerlane plans to monitor water quality and what contingency is in place in the event the water quality is non-compliant are not included in the report.

Additional Information:

Tamerlane must provide a detailed plan on the containment and treatment of effluent which is non-compliant under standard water license requirements. Predictions on water quality of the effluent and volumes are required in a technical report.

Topic: Groundwater

Unanswered Questions:

Page 36 of the Developers Assessment Report the report states a "two dimensional model was used as opposed to a three dimensional model because of the absence of recent piezometric data and analysis of current groundwater recharge meant that the results of any comprehensive groundwater model would be questionable for current conditions." Page 48 states that "The results of the groundwater analysis should be interpreted with caution as they are not representative of groundwater at greater depths." What are the relevant groundwater conditions in the area? Have any groundwater models been developed?

Additional Information:

Groundwater data should be taken at different depths, for quality and hydrology modeling purposes.

Topic: Freeze Curtain

Unanswered Questions:

The Developers Assessment Report does not present a contingency procedure in the event a failure of the freeze curtain occurs. A worst case scenario approach should be described with adequate contingency to mitigate such an event. Tamerlane has indicated in the report the potential failure of a freeze curtain event as a minimal possibility.

Additional Information:

Tamerlane should provide a detailed contingency procedure in the event of a failure of the freeze curtain.

Topic: Reclamation and Closure Plan

Unanswered Questions:

Specific details in the Closure and Reclamation plan should be included.

Additional Information:

Tamerlane should provide a detailed reclamation and closure plan for the mine site with details of reclamation for the proposed freeze curtain.

Indian and Northern Affairs Canada plans to have technical expertise available at the technical sessions to provide assistance and analysis on the above topics.