



Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC)

Public Hearing Presentation

Fortune Minerals Limited
NICO Project
MVEIRB EA0809-004

Behchoko, NWT
August 30, 2012





Overview of Concerns

Three main areas of concern discussed in AANDC
Technical Report:

1. Site Specific Water Quality Objectives
(SSWQOs)
2. Aquatic Effects Monitoring
3. Closure and Reclamation





Closure and Reclamation

- AANDC developed the Mine Site Reclamation Policy for the Northwest Territories in response to a number of instances where the Crown assumed environmental liability of a site due to insolvency and subsequent abandonment of a mining property.
- The Policy contains a number of principles, including:
 - Mining companies or their future owners should continue to be responsible for remediation of a site;
 - Reclamation security will be equal to the total outstanding reclamation liability; and
 - Mine sites should be returned to viable and self sustaining ecosystems compatible with a healthy environment and with human activities.





Closure and Reclamation

- AANDC has also developed the Mine Site Reclamation Guidelines as a companion document to the Reclamation Policy.
- A key concept of the Reclamation Guidelines is to:
 - “Design for Closure and Reclamation”
- The main intent of the Policy and Guidelines is:
 - “Ensuring that the site is left in a condition which will minimize or eliminate long-term care and maintenance requirements.”





Closure and Reclamation

- AANDC 's position is to eliminate the requirements for closure maintenance and monitoring as soon as possible once mining ceases. To do so for the NICO Project:
 - Active filling should occur following closure to address any potential issues with water quality in a reasonable time period following completion of mining.
 - Contingencies options should be developed to deal with pit water, if water quality has the potential to cause adverse effects during the post-closure period.
 - Work should be undertaking during regulatory phase and in the early years of mine operation to confirm parameters around active filling, including additional assessment and prediction of the potential pit water quality at closure.



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Closure and Reclamation

Recommendations:

AANDC recommends that active flooding of the open pit be the preferred closure scenario for the Fortune NICO Project, unless additional information collected during the operations phase of the project determines that the passive filling scenario provides significant advantages, beyond financial benefit, from a closure perspective.

AANDC recommends that a key element of the closure planning process, during operations, should be to identify and develop methods to eliminate the need for passive or active long-term treatment of water leaving the site post-closure.





Concluding Remarks

- The location of the proposed Fortune NICO Project is within an area currently used by the Tlicho people for traditional activities.
- Any effects of the proposed project during operation and post-closure should be limited such that they do not significantly impact the usage of this area by the Tlicho people.
- AANDC's recommendations relate to minimizing potential impacts of this proposed development both in magnitude (size) and temporal extent (time), with the goal of minimizing or eliminating impacts to traditional use of this area.



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Thank you.



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