



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 Response to the First Round of Information Requests  
Concerning the Environmental Assessment of the Tamerlane Ventures  
Inc's Pine Pilot Project**

Dear Mr. MacDonald:

Enclosed please find INAC's responses to Information Request Number IR0607-002-32, as issued by the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board on May 16, 2007.

If you have any questions about the Information Request, please contact Lionel Marcinkoski by phone at 669-2591 or via email at [marcinkoskil@inac-gc.ca](mailto:marcinkoskil@inac-gc.ca).

Yours sincerely,

David Livingstone  
Director, Renewable Resources and Environment

Encl. 2 Maps

c.c.: INAC Working Group

**Responses to Round One Information Requests  
Tamerlane Ventures Inc's Pine Point Pilot Project  
Environment Assessment 0607-002**

**IR #0607-002-32:** Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC)

**Reference:** TOR Section K-4a-Cumulative Effects  
(Status of Historic Pine Point mining area)

**Preamble**

From the outset of this EA, public concerns about the status of the lands where the historic Pine Point lead-zinc mining activities occurred. Some clarity on the legal, usage and environmental status of these lands would be valuable to many parties.

In addition, cumulative effects of previous Pine Point mining activities along with other industrial developments and the proposed PPPP are under consideration in this EA. Any information that Indian and Northern Affairs Canada can provide about whether historic mining had impacts on water quality, in particular, would be valuable.

**Requests**

1. Provide an update on the status, ownership/landholding, required monitoring activities and any future plans, for the historic Pine Point mining area. The area to be considered is the portion of the Regional Study Area for this EA that is east of the Buffalo River, plus any other areas that INAC considers relevant.
2. Considering the information already on the public record for this EA, please identify any additional relevant information that would assist in the determination of whether the historic Pine Point mine is contributing or has contributed to cumulative adverse impacts on local/regional water quality.

**INAC Response #1:**

Land in the old Pine Point town site and the mill areas were transferred to the Government of the Northwest Territories under a Block Land Transfer and remains under the jurisdiction of the Territorial Government, U16-1OIC (BLT) GNWT. Two exceptions to the Block Land Transfer are the Pine Point Airfield, which is reserved and maintained by the Department of Transport Canada, and Indian and Northern Affairs Lot 24 Industrial Park Forestry Warehouse. All of the remaining affected areas (roads, pits, waste dumps, etc.) which were leased during the time of mining operations have been returned back to the federal government. Attached are two maps outlining transferred lands and leases.

A majority of the Tailings Pond is leased to Teck Cominco under Surface Lease UI6-9L (MINE) Cominco Ltd. Teck Cominco manages the tailings pond site under a Type B Water Licence, N1I2-0035, which expires on June 30, 2007. Activities covered under the water licence include treatment and discharge of precipitation water which accumulates within the tailings pond, managing the tailings containment area, managing disposal of wastes from the tailings pond and sampling at monitoring stations in the tailings pond as well as between the tailings pond and Great Slave Lake. INAC conducts regular inspections at the site. Teck Cominco has applied for a renewal of the water licence and has requested a 10 year term; the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board is managing the renewal process (application number MV2006L2-0013).

The Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board public registry website contains the following reports:

- Teck Cominco- 2006 Annual Water Licence Report, submitted April 11, 2007
- Two – Indian Affairs and Northern Development Inspection Reports, dated September 8, 2006 and October 17, 2006
- Teck Cominco- 2006 Geotechnical Inspection Report for Water Licence N1L2-0035, submitted October 17, 2006

Additional documents are available at the MVLWB office in Yellowknife.

Indian and Northern Affairs Canada are unaware of any future plans for the historic Pine Point mining area. Teck Cominco is required to continue the monitoring and management activities described above until the MVLWB issues a final release.

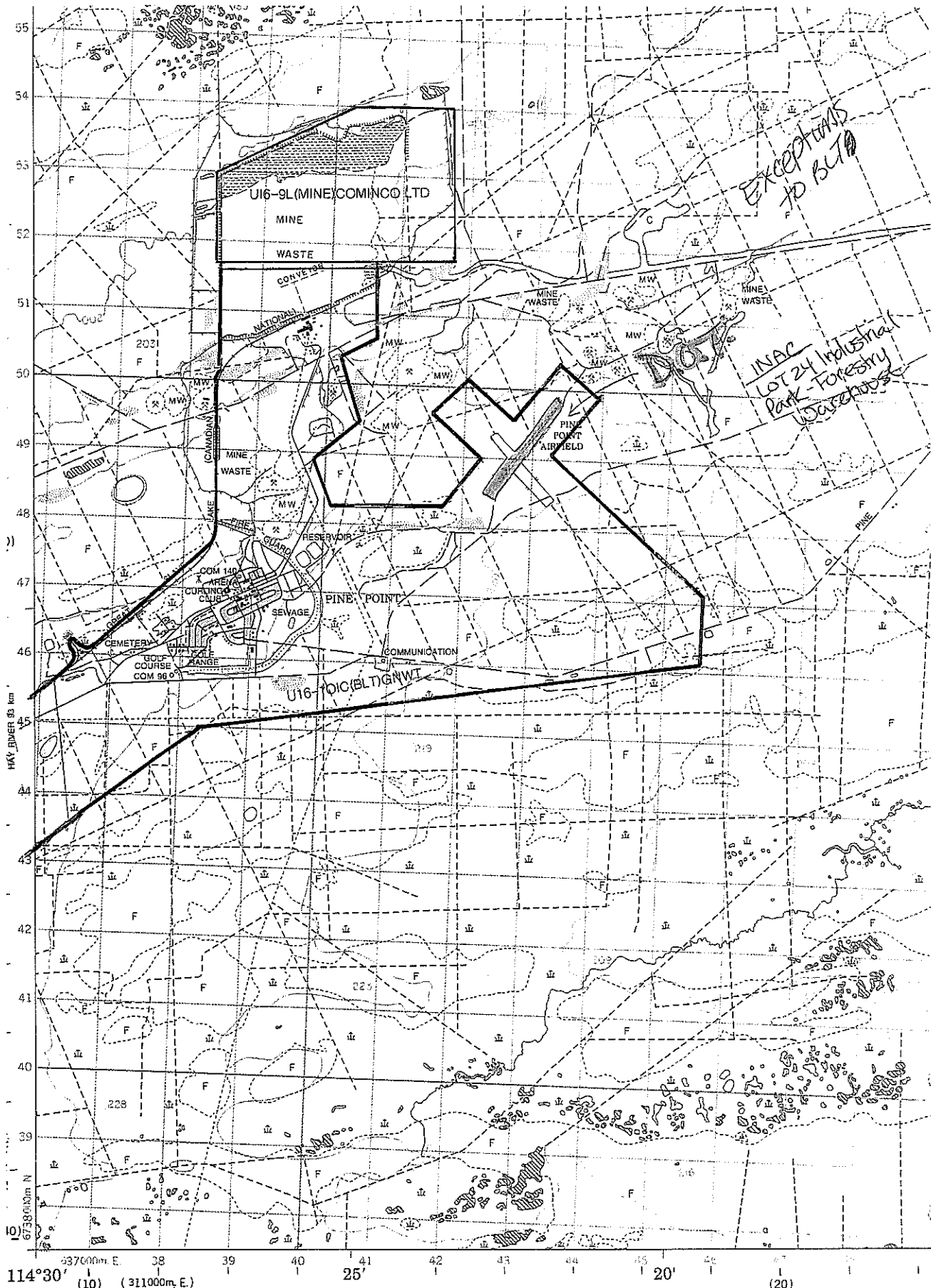
#### **INAC Response #2:**

The following two regional environmental impact studies were completed as evaluations on past mining activities to assess impacts to water, sediment, and fish in the Pine Point/Fort Resolution areas, in the 1990's:

1. Fort Resolution Fish Monitoring 1992-1993 commissioned by INAC's Water Resources Division, completed November 1997, and
2. Metal studies of water, sediments, and fish from the Resolution Bay area of Great Slave Lake, Studies related to the decommissioned Pine Point Mine, by M.S. Evans, National Hydrology Research Institute (NHRI), Saskatoon, SK, and July 1998.

These reports are available from INAC's Water Resources Division in Yellowknife NT. The conclusions from both reports essentially find no measurable impacts from the impact of mining operations on the water, sediment, or fish in Great Slave Lake.

Since the Pine Point Mine closed monitoring records for stations referenced in the water licence have not shown any significant trends or changes in parameters to the local and regional water quality.



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ELEVATIONS IN METRES ABOVE MEAN SEA LEVEL  
 CONTOUR INTERVAL ..... 10 METRES

NORTH AMERICAN DATUM 1927  
 TRANSVERSE MERCATOR PROJECTION

INFORMATION CONCERNING BENCH MARKS AND HORIZONTAL SURVEY MONUMENTS CAN BE OBTAINED FROM GEODETIC SURVEY, SURVEYS AND MAPPING BRANCH, OTTAWA.

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