



Aboriginal Affairs and
Northern Development Canada

Affaires autochtones et
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MVEIRB File Number: EA 0809-004

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Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board
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VIA EMAIL: chubert@reviewboard.ca

Re: Closing Comments – Fortune Minerals Limited – NICO Project – EA0809-004

The Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (Review Board) requested written closing arguments from parties prior to the closure of the public record for EA0809-004. Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development (AANDC) provides this submission in response to the Review Board's request.

With the exception of one recommendation on Site Specific Water Quality Objectives (SSWQOs), AANDC's recommendations presented by in our June 15, 2012 Technical Report and at the public hearings held on August 27 and 29 to 31, 2012 remain as stated. AANDC has not received any concerns from the Developer or other parties to the Environmental Assessment (EA) in regards to these recommendations and as such, respectfully submits that these recommendations be placed as measures within the Review Board's report of EA.

In response to information contained within the report entitled Asi Edee T'seda Dile: Tlicho Nation Traditional Knowledge and Use Study (TK Report) submitted by the Tlicho Government on September 15, 2012 and in the Traditional Knowledge presentation provided by the Tlicho Government on October 11, 2012, AANDC has revised one recommendation. TK information provided by the Tlicho Government identified an area of important traditional use that AANDC had not previously considered. Datoti, or Burke Lake, was noted as having significant cultural and subsistence value, and was recommended for protection for all uses by the Tlicho Government.

AANDC supports the Tlicho Governments recommendation regarding Burke Lake and has revised Recommendation #1 in our June 15, 2012 technical intervention to read as follows:

RECOMMENDATION #1

AANDC recommends that the Report of EA should include narrative statements that describe the level of protection to be afforded to the aquatic receiving environment downstream of the Initial Dilution Zone. These statements could include:

- ***Water quality changes due to mining activities will not significantly affect benthic macro-invertebrate and plankton abundance, taxonomic richness or diversity.***
- ***Water quality changes due to mining activities will not significantly alter fish abundance or diversity or fish consumption at current levels.***
- ***Water quality changes due to mining activities will not negatively affect areas utilized as traditional drinking water sources.***
- ***Water quality changes due to mining activities will not significantly affect mammals or wildfowl using the area as a drinking water, food source or habitat, or the current ability for people to harvest these animals.***
- ***Water quality in Burke Lake will protect all traditional uses.***
- ***Water quality in the Marian River remains unchanged.***

This submission concludes AANDC's technical input to the Review Board on EA0809-004, for the proposed NICO Project. AANDC hopes that the information provided will be useful to the Review Board during its decision-making process. If you have any questions about this closing statement, please do not hesitate to contact myself at (867) 669-2657 or Nathen.Richea@aandc-aadnc.gc.ca or Mr. Paul Green at (867) 669-2402 or Paul.Green@aandc-aadnc.gc.ca.

Sincerely,



Nathen Richea
A/Manager
Water Resources Division