



Transport Canada Transports Canada

Environmental Affairs – Programs
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Your File Votre référence
EA1011-001
Our file Notre référence

January 12, 2011

Paul Mercredi
Environmental Assessment Officer
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board

Re: Information Request for Avalon Rare Metals Inc.'s Thor Lake Earth Metal Project (EA1011-001) – Transport Canada

Transport Canada (TC) – Environmental Affairs appreciates the opportunity to participate in the review of Avalon Rare Metals Inc.'s Thor Lake Earth Metal Project as requested by the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board in the December 16, 2011 posting. TC is responsible for transportation policies and programs that promote a safe transportation system, ensuring that they work effectively and in an integrated manner.

Our review consisted of the following documents:

- *Developer's Assessment Report for Avalon Rare Metals Inc.'s Thor Lake Rare Earth Element Project*

Transport Canada has conducted a cursory review of the project documents in accordance with our departmental mandate. Based on the information provided, Transport Canada is pleased to provide the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (MVEIRB) with our information requests for your considerations.

The proponent should make an application to the Navigable Waters Protection Office to obtain regulatory approval for all proposed works placed in, on, over, through or across navigable water under the *Navigable Waters Protection Act (NWPA)*, including but not limited to the construction of any water crossings and dock facilities.

Should you have any questions pertaining to these comments, please contact Christopher Aguirre via email at christopher.aguirre@tc.gc.ca or by telephone at (204) 984-2615.

Regards,

Christopher Aguirre
TC Environmental Officer

Cc : Doug Soloway - Superintendent Environmental Assessment Management Program (North)

Canada 

IR Number: TC_01
Source: Transport Canada
To: Avalon Rare Metals Inc.
Subject: Access Roads
DAR Section: 4.7.5.6, 4.8.5.5

Preamble:

The DAR has identified the upgrading of road infrastructure for the project site. Minimal information describing the improvements of the access roads and haul roads at the Nechalacho Mine Site, Flotation Plant site, and the Hydrometallurgical Plant site were provided.

Request:

In order for Transport to determine if any proposed/existing crossing may have an impact to navigation, please provide the following information regarding any proposed/existing crossing related to the project:

- i) Details to clarify what type of crossing will be installed and the associated structures that will be within the water.
- ii) Provide details of the proposed structure including plan and cross section drawings of the crossing with all dimensions including high/low water mark, and the height above the bed of the waterway.
- iii) If applicable, please provide any Photographs at the site of the crossing and surrounding area, and any preliminary drawings or engineered plans.

For the construction and installation of any culvert, please provide the following:

- i) A map identifying the culvert locations with the latitude/longitude coordinates.
- ii) Depth and width of the watercourse and number of culverts associated with those crossings.
- iii) If applicable, please provide any Photographs at the site of the culvert and surrounding area, and any preliminary drawings or engineered plans.

IR Number: TC_02
Source: Transport Canada
To: Avalon Rare Metals Inc.
Subject: Docks
DAR Section: 4.7.5.7, 4.8.5.6

Preamble:

Transport Canada has reviewed the description of the barging/docking facilities at the Nachalacho Mine, Flotation Plat site, and Hydrometallurgical Plant site. Figure 4.7-11 and Figure 4.8.8 does not provided sufficient details as to what structures will be placed within the high water level.

Request:

In order for Transport to determine if any proposed dock facilities may have an impact to navigation, please provide the following information:

- i) Provide details of the proposed structure including plan and cross section drawings of the crossing with all dimensions including high/low water mark, and the height above the bed of the waterway.
- ii) If applicable, please provide any Photographs at the site of the crossing and surrounding area, and any preliminary drawings or engineered plans.