



Transport Canada Transports
Canada Canada

Environmental Affairs, Programs
P.O. Box 8550
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Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3C 0P6

Your File	Votre référence
MVEIRB 1011-001	
Our file	Notre référence
7075-70-2-50	
8200-2011-600186	

March 12, 2013

Simon Toogood
Environmental Assessment Officer
Mackenzie Valley Review Board
200 Scotia Centre
Box 938, 5102-50th Ave
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2N7
Sent via e-mail to: stoogood@reviewboard.ca

RE: Avalon Rare Metals Inc., Thor Lake Rare Earth Element Project Final Submission – Transport Canada

Transport Canada is pleased to provide this letter as the Final Submission for the Avalon Rare Metals Inc., Thor Lake Rare Earth Element Project to the Mackenzie Valley Review Board. Transport Canada is responsible for transportation policies and programs and seeks to promote an integrated transportation system that is safe, secure, efficient, sustainable and environmentally responsible.

Transport Canada's involvement in the environmental assessment has focused on a review of the installation of a water intake, installation of a stream crossing, construction of seasonal docking facilities and barging activities. Transport Canada has informed Avalon Rare Metals Inc. that a Proclamation of Exemption by the Governor in Council (GIC) under section 23 of the *Navigable Waters Protection Act (NWPA)* is required for the depositing and storage of mine tailings in Ring Lake, Buck Lake and Ball Lake.

Transport Canada regulates navigation and shipping activities through the *Navigable Waters Protection Act* and the *Canada Shipping Act, 2001*. It recognizes that other federal agencies and departments, such as Fisheries and Oceans Canada, the Canadian Coast Guard and Environment Canada, have distinct but interrelated responsibilities for the management of marine transportation safety and environmental protection in Canadian waters. In the event of a pollution incident, Transport Canada works with these federal agencies and other organizations such as the RCMP to investigate and, if warranted, initiate prosecutions against offenders.

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Transport Canada will be able to fully assess potential impacts to navigation and potential navigational safety hazards after design plans have been finalized and applications have been submitted for approval under the *NWPA*.

Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact Chris Aguirre via email at christopher.aguirre@tc.gc.ca or by phone at (204) 984-2615.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Harvey Nikkel". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end of the last name.

Harvey Nikkel
Regional Director, Programs
Prairie and Northern Region