



Indian and Northern Affairs Canada
 Affaires indiennes et du Nord Canada
 P.O. Box 1500
 Yellowknife, NT X1A 2R3

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Controller	<u>[Signature]</u>
File -	<u>1598</u>

Your file Votre référence

February 4, 1994

Our file Notre référence
 N1L3-1598

Mr. Dave Nickerson
 Chairman
 NWT Water Board
 9th Floor
 Precambrian Building
 P.O. Box 1500
 YELLOWKNIFE, NT X1A 2R3



Dear Mr. Nickerson:

**RE: GER-MAC CONTRACTING LTD. - MON PROPERTY
 - LEVEL 1 ENVIRONMENTAL SCREENING (TYPE "B" LICENCE)**

I am pleased to inform you that pursuant to the Environmental Assessment and Review Process Guidelines Order (1984), Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) has conducted an environmental screening of the company's planned changes to their Mon Property operations at Discovery Lake project as described in the industrial Water Licence amendment application submitted to the Northwest Territories Water Board on December 14, 1993.

The project proposal was reviewed by Water Resources Division's interagency, Environmental Screening Committee. Based upon the comments and advice received, it is INAC's recommendation that the potentially adverse effects and/or public concerns are mitigable with known technology and the project can proceed through the regulatory process. Please note that the overall project was screened in 1992, but was reviewed again due to the nature of the changes requested in the amendment application. If the Board concurs, please sign the attached screening summary form, and advise the applicant, and return copies to Water Resources Division for its records.

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Should you require further information, please do not hesitate to contact me at 920-8238. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Kevin McDonnell
Head, Regulatory Approvals
Water Resources Division

Enc.

cc: D. Livingstone, Director, NR&E
Yellowknife District

GC/ec/earp/1598/earp-b.wb

LEVEL 1 ENVIRONMENTAL SCREENING OF THE GER-MAC LTD. AMENDMENT
APPLICATION (LICENCE N1L3-1598)

NOTE: the original project application was screened in 1992, so that limited outside consultation was conducted on this amendment, which will be reviewed on its technical merits by TAC.

Agencies contacted:

Water Resources Division
EP/Environment Canada
Fisheries and Oceans
Environment and Conservation Division
NAP- Yellowknife District
Yellowknives Dene Band

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MITIGATION AND MONITORING

The application and accompanying EBA report listed several plans and suggestions which will not be repeated here. These will be debated by TAC at its upcoming meeting on the project.

OTHER COMMENTS: (SOME OF THESE ARE IN THE ABOVE REPORTS AS WELL)

- construction of a seepage collection ditch and /or sump on the pond's downstream end.
- if a pond liner is to be used, then put in a better quality one, eg geosynthetic.
- no decanting provisions or option should be allowed, if total containment is planned for.
- additional baseline data collection may be needed, but clarification as to what has been done already should be ascertained.
- the contingency plan and A & R plan should be updated , eg to cover off provisions for handling tailings line breaks. An O & M plan may be appropriate as well.

MONITORING;

Germac and EBA have suggested several ideas-to be reviewed by TAC.(ones below may be included)

- Other suggestions include: regular visual inspections of the dykes and freeboard for potential seepage, overtopping etc
- monitor transportation of tailings to the pond and their placement, ie beaching.
- monitor for minewater (not expected).
- monthly water quality sampling for pH, ammonia, suspended solids in open water; plus a trace metals scan and bioassay.
- additional ARD tests particularly if additional ore bodies are found.
- some overall form of monitoring to ensure total containment option is /will work here.

Feb.02 1994.

**LEVEL I SCREENING DECISION SUMMARY
(TYPE "B" WATER LICENCE)**

PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

Applicant: GER-MAC CONTRACTING LTD.

Licence Application: _____ Renewal: _____ Amendment: X Other: _____
 Present Licence Number: NILB-1598
 Date of Application: 14/12/1993 Proposed Date of Undertaking: 15/02/1994
 Submission Title: INDUSTRIAL WATER LICENCE AMENDMENT
 Location: MDN Property, DISCOVERY LAKE 60 km N. of YELLOWKNIFE
 Project Description: The company is requesting approval to construct & operate a surface tailings pond (previously disposed of underground) at their underground gold mine. Total containment is planned. The original application/project was screened in 1992.

SCREENING CRITERIA

Component	Summary of Impact				Significant Information Deficiencies ¹	
	None/Negligible	Minor	Mitigable	Major	Major	Minor
Bio-Physical						
Plants/Animals	X					
Fish Habitat/Utilization		X	X			X
Water Quality	X		X			
Hydrologic Regime	X					
Soils	X					
Groundwater						
Surfacewater						
Air Quality	X					
Socio-Economic						
Public Concerns	X					
Land/Water Use	X					
Resource Users	X					
Employment (+)	X					
Land Claims	X					
Others						
Consequence of Accidents	X		X			
Public Health/Safety	X					
Cultural	X					

Comments: Germac is working with CANMET/EMR on development of a generic Tailings Disposal concept. While there are concerns to be worked out, the project should proceed.

Benefits of Undertaking: Operation of a Tailings pond will extend season for ore processing, reduce spill problems; ensure mineral continuity/mineability with exploration

LEVEL I SCREENING RECOMMENDATION

- Automatic exclusion, project proceeds through regulatory process.
- No significant adverse effects or identified public concerns, project proceeds through regulatory process.
- Potentially adverse effects and/or public concerns may be mitigated with known technology, project proceeds through regulatory process.
- Project proceeds through regulatory process with conditions (Attached).
- Potential adverse impacts or further study required or significant public concern; recommend referral to DIAND Level II screening.
- Project on Comprehensive Study list; automatic referral to Level II.

Prepared by: Greg Cook ^{WJ} Feb. 01, 1994
 Signature Water Resources Division Date

Approved by: Dave Nickerson 23rd Feb 1994
 Signature Chairman, Date
 Northwest Territories Water Board

¹ Major information deficiencies are those that will require further indepth study at Level II. Minor information deficiencies are those that are acceptable for Level I screening to proceed.