



Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada  
Contaminants and Remediation Directorate  
4923 – 52nd St. The Gallery Building  
P.O. Box 1500  
Yellowknife NT X1A 2R3

November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2015

Ms. Sabrina Sturman, Regulatory Specialist  
Sahtu Land and Water Board  
Box 1  
Fort Good Hope, NT X0E 0W0

**RE: Great Bear Lake Mine Sites  
Water Licence S15L8-001  
Project Status Update and Water Monitoring Plan Extension Request to  
March 31' 2017**

---

Dear Ms. Sabrina Sturman:

Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC) – Contaminants and Remediation Directorate's (CARD) requests an extension to the submission deadline for the updated Water Quality Monitoring Program as per Part E, Item 1 of the Water Licence S15L8-001 for the Great Bear Lake Remediation Program.

Due to a change in our Northern Contaminated Sites Program approach we are reevaluating the scope of the Remediation of the site.

In the interim, CARD has been carrying out risk management activities to address the residual product within drums on site. Between 2014 and 2015, drums containing product at Sawmill Bay were containerized and removed from site, and several drums containing product were placed in secondary containment at Terra Mine and El Bonanza Mine. Plans are underway to establish a contract to implement a product removal program for all drums. These activities are described in the report, *Sawmill Bay Drum Removal Program* (SENEC, 2014), submitted to the board submitted to the board as part of the Land Use Permit Extension Request dated May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

In addition to the product removal program to be implemented in 2016, CARD is currently evaluating options to address other high risk environmental and human health and safety site issues while the entire remediation project is under indefinite delay. By the end of 2015/16, CARD plans to have developed a "Site Stabilization Plan" for implementation between 2017 and 2020.

Given the fact that the scope of the project is currently being re-evaluated, CARD requests an extension to the submission deadline for the Updated Water Quality Monitoring Plan as per Section E, Item 1 of the Water Licence S09L8-001. CARD

suggests a revised deliverable date of March 31, 2017 to allow for development of the Site Stabilization Plan and potential development of a Risk Management Plan and associated Long Term Monitoring Plans.

For site activities planned for 2016, CARD will follow the current construction monitoring plan as proposed in the *Long-Term Monitoring Program and State of the Environment and Construction Monitoring Plans* (SENES, 2009). For the Silverbear sites, El Bonanza, and Contact Lake Mines, construction baseline water quality monitoring will be performed as per the schedule for Active (monthly) and In-Active Sites (annual) and at those sampling locations outlined within the plan. Also, as per the Construction Monitoring Plan, activity monitoring will be conducted as required near the vicinity of construction activities. For the Sawmill Bay site, water monitoring will also follow the monitoring schedule for construction baseline monitoring (in-active) and locations will be selected as outlined in the *Sawmill Bay Remedial Action Plan* (FRANZ, 2010). CARD will provide full details of the sampling plan for the 2016 field season to the SLWB for review prior to commencing with site activities.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact myself or Alison Heslep at (867) 669-2769 or by e-mail at [Alison.Heslep@aandc-aadnc.gc.ca](mailto:Alison.Heslep@aandc-aadnc.gc.ca).

Respectfully submitted,



Julie Ward  
Project Manager  
Contaminants and Remediation Directorate (AANDC)  
(867) 669-2418  
[Julie.Ward@aandc.gc.ca](mailto:Julie.Ward@aandc.gc.ca)

cc: Carey Ogilvie, Senior Manager – AANDC-CARD