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January 29, 2021

Files: W2020X0005 and W2020L8-0003

To all Parties,

**Re: Information Requests Resulting from Kwetjɔ̀ɔ̀à (Rayrock) Technical Session – Type A Water Licence and Type A Land Use Permit Applications (W2020L8-0003 and W2020X-0005)**

The Wek'èezhì Land and Water Board (WLWB) would like to thank all Parties who participated in the Technical Session from January 26-28, 2021, to discuss Crown-Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada – Contaminants and Remediation Division (CIRNAC-CARD) Type A Water Licence (W2020L8-0003) and Type A Land Use Permit (W2020X-0005) Applications for the Rayrock Project. The session was beneficial in helping to identify and clarify issues raised by Parties in the review of the Licence and Permit Applications and has contributed to a better understanding of the information on the record.

There were several requests for specific information made by Parties during the Technical Session. In an effort to ensure the necessary level of evidence is on the record so Parties can make informed submissions to the Board and allow the Board to make an informed decision, the WLWB is requesting the following information from the identified parties no later than February 10, 2021.

**IR #1 for CIRNAC-CARD:**

To provide calculations of an incremental dose associated with Radon inhalation for Rayrock site.

**IR #2 for Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC):**

To provide additional historical meteorological data, if available, and technical advice on precipitation and flood risk modelling that may be relevant to the Rayrock site.

**IR #3 for CIRNAC-CARD:**

To provide further details on the proposed point of compliance at which effluent quality criteria (EQC) will be met prior to Discharge from the water treatment plant(s) (e.g., holding tank prior to Discharge) and how non-compliant water would be controlled/managed.

**IR #4 for CIRNAC-CARD:**

To identify and describe whether there are potential in-water construction activities related to Discharge (e.g., installation of a diffuser in Sherman Lake), and propose associated EQC for any in-water construction activities, or provide rationale for why EQC specific to in-water construction activities are not needed.

**IR #5 for CIRNAC-CARD:**

(A) To describe the feasibility of monitoring seepage and/or runoff of the adit, Tailings Containment Area covers, the CDF, and waste rock and soil left in place in the vegetated areas that may contain leached metals.

(B) Describe what management options would be available to CIRNAC regarding seepage/runoff management, if effects were identified in the Receiving Environment (i.e., at proposed SNP stations to monitor for potential effects of runoff/seepage).

**IR #6 for CIRNAC-CARD:**

To propose which submission(s) to the Board will contain the proposed geochemical criteria.

**IR #7 for CIRNAC-CARD**

To identify all Engineered Structures that would be constructed as part of the Project and existing Engineered Structures that would require repairs. Engineered Structures are defined in the Boards' [Standard Water Licence Conditions](#) and have associated conditions which may be included (e.g., Part E Conditions 4, 10, 11, 12, 13, 16, 17; Part F, Condition 10).

**IR #8 for CIRNAC-CARD**

To propose an update to Appendix C Table C1 of the Closure and Reclamation Plan/Remedial Action Plan for Rayrock Remediation Project Closure Objectives and Criteria that proposes measurable criteria that will be used to evaluate success of remediation activities in accordance with the Boards' [Closure Guidelines](#).

**IR #9 for CIRNAC-CARD**

To provide a description of the closure and reclamation of the additional operational infrastructure associated with the remediation project (e.g., water treatment plants, incinerator, sumps, camp, etc.,).

**IR #10 for CIRNAC-CARD**

To propose the submission by which CIRNAC will propose the details of construction monitoring to the Board. The timeline for this submission should be identified in IR #17.

**IR #11 for CIRNAC-CARD**

To provide an update to Table 6-3 of the Closure and Reclamation Plan/Remedial Action Plan, by adding a column to identify how/when (e.g., via a Board submission) uncertainties will be resolved or addressed.

**IR #12 for CIRNAC-CARD**

(A) To provide a Table that outlines all proposed effluent quality criteria (EQC) and the proposed SNP stations at which they will apply. Noting that this should include EQC to apply to potential Discharge of camp wastewater.

(B) To provide rationale, in consideration of the process outlined in Figure 3 of [MVLWB/GNWT Guidelines for Effluent Mixing Zones \(2017\)](#), for selection of EQC parameters, including how remediation activities (e.g., blasting and water treatment) were considered. In addition, propose EQC for the following parameters: aluminum, fluoride, iron, lead, manganese, nitrate, radionuclides identified as COPC (Uranium-238, Thorium-230, Radium-226, Lead-210, Polonium-210), total suspended solids (TSS), and zinc; or provide rationale for why EQC are not needed.

(C) To propose maximum grab EQC, or provide rationale for why it is not necessary. CIRNAC is to describe the associated timelines for CIRNAC-CARD to respond to an EQC exceedance.

**IR #13 for CIRNAC-CARD**

To provide an updated proposed SNP (Annex A of proposed licence conditions) that clarifies discrepancies with the application and pg. 64 of the submitted AEMP, identifies the point(s) of compliance, and provides clarity on which parameters are proposed to be sampled at different frequencies.

**IR #14 for CIRNAC-CARD**

To provide a discussion of the anticipated variability of pH, hardness, and dissolved organic carbon (DOC) in the receiving water body(ies); and the appropriateness of including CCME equations to calculate EQC for relevant parameters or lookup tables presenting discrete calculated values directly in the water licence.

**IR #15 for CIRNAC-CARD**

To provide the following information related to the water sources to be used if construction of the Tłjchq winter road is required:

- a. A finalized list of water sources, including name, type (e.g., lake, river) of watercourse, location of the water bodies and coordinates;
- b. The available capacity of each proposed source;
- c. Maximum volume and rate of water use (cubic meters per day or year);
- d. Comparison of the total water volume requested for use against the total water volume available; and
- e. Any available information on other water uses from the source(s).

**IR #16 for CIRNAC-CARD**

(A) To provide a table which outlines all intended submissions of Plans to the Board. This table should at minimum include: the proposed timeline for submission, factors affecting timing of submission, when CARD needs to be able to use the Plan, and a list of topics covered in each Plan (e.g., blasting details and protocols could be included in a Quarry Management Plan, etc.).

(B) CIRNAC has defined Progressive reclamation as “remedial activities that occur before, and that are excluded from, the remediation contract to be awarded in the Autumn of 2021”. To provide clarity on the plans applicable to identified “progressive reclamation” activities, and confirmation that all “progressive reclamation” activities are within the scope of Permit W2015X0006.

In order to ensure the regulatory process proceeds efficiently, we ask that Parties endeavor to submit the requested information as soon as possible to allow Parties to begin preparing their interventions. As per the Work Plan,<sup>1</sup> all information requested must be submitted by February 10, 2021.

All information regarding this Water Licence and Land Use Permit applications proceeding will be posted on the WLWB’s [Online Registry](#). If you have any questions, please contact Ryan Fequet at [rfequet@wlwb.ca](mailto:rfequet@wlwb.ca) or 867-765-4589.

Sincerely,



Ryan Fequet,  
Executive Director, WLWB

BCC to: Rayrock Distribution List

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<sup>1</sup> See WLWB Online Registry ([www.wlwb.ca](http://www.wlwb.ca)) for [Rayrock – Work Plan – Nov 27 20](#)