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February 16th, 2021

File: W2020L8-0003 and W2020X0005

Mr. Ryan Fequet
Executive Director
Wek'èezhii Land and Water Board
#1-4905 48th St., Yellowknife, NT X1A 3S3

Dear Mr. Fequet,

**Re: Rayrock Remediation Project
Response to Information Request #17 – Kwetı̄zàà (Rayrock) Technical Session**

Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC) Contaminants and Remediation Division (CARD) submitted a complete application to the Wek'èezhii Land and Water Board (WLWB) for a Type A Water Licence (W2020L8- 0003) and a Type A Land Use Permit (W2020X0005) on September 21st, 2020. Reviewers of the application and associated documents participated in a Technical Session, from January 26-28th, 2021, to identify and clarify issues raised by Parties in the review of the Licence and Permit Applications and to contribute 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 addition to the January 29, 2021 Information Request, the WLWB requested a response to the following:

IR #17: To confirm whether the applicant is considering a different location for the Containment Disposal Facility (CDF) from that which was initially proposed in its Applications. If so, please describe the new proposed location; describe how the change in location would change the project scope (e.g., scale and location of blasting activities); identify any potential impacts of these changes; and identify proposed mitigations. Please also specifically comment on the possible alternate options for Mill Lake (e.g., refilling) that CIRNAC-CARD may wish to have considered as part of this proceeding if the CDF were not to be located in the drained Mill Lake basin.

The location of the CDF has been proposed in the Remedial Action Plan (RAP) and Applications as being in the Mill Lake Basin, further defined here as the Mill Lake Drainage Basin. All precipitation onto the CDF will flow into the former Mill Lake, and will be directed through channels into Mill Creek. As presented in the RAP and Technical Session between January 26th and 28th, 2021, the precise location of the CDF within the Mill Lake Drainage Basin is still under review and consideration, and there is a strong possibility that the final configuration will differ from the design location to allow the best fit into the natural variations in the bedrock. It is important to note that the final location of the CDF will remain in the Mill Lake Drainage Basin. Details on the planned location will be provided in the CDF Design Plan, which will be submitted to the WLWB in accordance with the timelines communicated in IR #16.

As the footprint of the CDF has been developed, it was realized that blasting of the bedrock will be required up-gradient of Mill Lake to achieve sufficient area at the required grades. This resulted in the need for nitrogen compounds to be added to the Effluent Quality Criteria, as discussed in IR



#12A. The scale and location of the blasting will be described in the CDF Design Plan and Quarry Management Plan.

The current design and location of the CDF is based on Mill Lake remaining drained, as presented in the RAP and application. Maintaining the former Mill Lake in a drained state is a commitment made by CIRNAC to the Tłchq Elders in the Remedial Options workout in 2017, so all designs, plans and specifications have been developed toward this site layout. CIRNAC does not wish to have this alternate option considered as part of this WLWB proceeding.

If you require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours truly,

Ron Breadmore,
Project Manager, CIRNAC-CARD

cc: Andrew Richardson, Project Officer, CIRNAC-CARD
Rasel Hossain, Senior Manager, CIRNAC-CARD