



June 23, 2021

Ms. Jacqueline Ho  
Regulatory Specialist  
Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board  
7<sup>th</sup> Floor, 4922 48<sup>th</sup> Street  
YELLOWKNIFE NT X1A 2P6

Dear Ms. Ho;

**Undertakings from Public Hearing  
Pine Point Mining Limited – Confirmation and Exploration Program  
GNWT Response to Undertaking #1**

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The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) provides the following response to Undertaking #1, requested by the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board (MVLWB) on June 18, 2021 related to the Pine Point Mining Limited - Type A Water Licence (MV2020L8-0012) and Type A Land Use Permit (MV2020C0017) applications for their Confirmation and Exploration Program (the Program)

**Undertaking #1 for GNWT**

**Regarding the use of pit water for dust control, Pine Point Mining Limited (PPML) has indicated that the 2013 GNWT Guidelines for Dust Suppression will be followed. In Section 3 of the GNWT Guidelines for Dust Suppression, it states that projects that have not been approved by the Environment Division must undergo an assessment before being approved for use as a dust suppressant.**

**GNWT has agreed to clarify whether PPML is required to seek approval from the Environment Division for the use of pit water for dust suppression. If approval is required, GNWT will describe that approvals process including timelines and indicate what implications such approval requirements might have for Water Licence conditions related to dust suppression.**

The GNWT notes that all use of waters and deposits of wastes related to the Program will be regulated under the Type A Water Licence upon issuance. As such, it is our position that the use of pit water as a dust suppressant will be authorized under the water licence and therefore approval under the *Environmental Protection Act* is not required.

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As the use of pit water as a dust suppressant will be solely regulated under the water licence, conditions should be included in the water licence as appropriate to manage this discharge. The GNWT is of the understanding that PPML is already proposing that pit water will be sampled and that these sample results will be provided to the Board and/or Inspector for approval prior to water transfers. This should be included as a component of a surveillance network program. It may be appropriate for PPML to include a request to use specific pits for dust suppressant use and receive concurrent approvals.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Mr. Rick Walbourne, Manager, Water Regulatory and Assessment, at [Rick Walbourne@gov.nt.ca](mailto:Rick.Walbourne@gov.nt.ca) or 867-767-9234 ext. 53113.

Sincerely,



Nathen Richea  
Director  
Water Monitoring and Management  
Environment and Natural Resources