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June 26, 2005

Our file: 4703 001

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Via Facsimile

RE: NIRB 05EN088 – Trix Minerals Corp. – Mountain Lake Project

On behalf of Environment Canada (EC), I have reviewed the information submitted with the above-mentioned application. The following specialist advice has been provided pursuant to Environment Canada's mandated responsibilities for the enforcement of the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act*, Section 36(3) of the *Fisheries Act*, the *Migratory Birds Convention Act*, and the *Species at Risk Act*.

Trix Minerals Corp. is proposing to conduct a mineral exploration program in the West Kitikmeot region of Nunavut. The proposed program consists of airborne geophysics, detailed ground geophysical surveys and soil surveys. While drilling is not anticipated until 2006, it could begin late 2005.

Environment Canada recommends that the following conditions be applied throughout all stages of the project:

- Trix Minerals Corp. has stated that "Should any drilling be done during the course of the exploration program, all drilling additives/muds/spent oils and lubricants will be contained and returned to the campsite for shipment (via air) south to Yellowknife to facilities capable of their proper disposal." Environment Canada would like to commend Trix Minerals for this commitment to remove all drilling muds from the drill location for proper disposal.
- The proponent shall not deposit, nor permit the deposit of any fuel, drill cuttings, chemicals, waste or sediment into any water body. According to the Fisheries Act, Section 36(3), the deposition of deleterious substances of any type in water frequented by fish, or in any place under any conditions where the deleterious substance, or any other deleterious substance that results from the deposit of the deleterious substance, may enter any such water, is prohibited.
- If drilling is conducted under this permit, drilling additives or muds shall not be used in connection with holes drilled through lake ice unless they are re-circulated or contained such that they do not enter the water, or demonstrated to be non-toxic.
- If any on-ice drilling is conducted, return water released must be non-toxic, and not result in an increase in total suspended solids in the immediate receiving waters above the Canadian Council of Ministers for the Environment Guidelines for the Protection of Freshwater Aquatic Life (i.e. 10mg/L for lakes with background levels under 100 mg/L, or 10% for those above 100mg/L).
- Any land based drilling that is conducted should not occur within 30 m of the high water

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Excluded from the Access to Information Act



- mark of any water body.
- If drilling is conducted and an artesian flow is encountered, the drill hole shall be immediately plugged and permanently sealed.
- The proponent shall not store materials on the surface ice of lakes or streams, except that which is for immediate use.
- Environment Canada recommends the use of an approved incinerator for the disposal of combustible camp wastes.
- All fuel caches shall be located above the high water mark of any water body. Further, EC recommends the use of secondary containment, such as self-supporting insta-berms, when storing barreled fuel on location rather than relying on natural depressions.
- The proponent shall ensure that any non-combustible waste is disposed of appropriately at an approved facility.
- The proponent shall ensure that any hazardous materials, including waste oil, receive proper treatment and disposal at an approved facility.
- Sumps created for the disposal of camp sewage and greywater shall be located above the high water mark of any water body and in such a manner as to prevent the contents from entering any water body frequented by fish. Further, all sumps shall be backfilled upon completion of the field season and contoured to match the surrounding landscape.
- **All spills** are to be documented and reported to the 24 hour Spill Line at (867) 920-8130.
- Environment Canada recommends that all activities be conducted outside the migratory bird breeding season, which extends from approximately June 1-July 15. These dates are approximate, and if active nests (i.e., nests containing eggs or young) are encountered outside of these dates, the proponent should avoid the area until nesting is complete (i.e., the young have left the nest). Paragraph 6(a) of the *Migratory Birds Regulations* state that no one shall disturb or destroy the nests or eggs of migratory birds.

If there are any changes in the proposed project, EC should be notified, as further review may be necessary. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or comments with regards to the foregoing at (867) 975-4639 or by email at colette.spagnuolo@ec.gc.ca.

Yours truly,



Colette Spagnuolo

Environmental Assessment / Contaminated Sites Specialist

cc: (Stephen Harblcht, Head, Assessment and Monitoring, Environment Canada, Yellowknife)