



Energy, Mines and Resources  
Box 2703, Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2C6

File No: QML-0001

August 03, 2010

Mr. Stephen Quin  
President and CEO,  
Minto Explorations Ltd.  
Suite 900-999 West Hastings Street  
Vancouver, BC V6C 2W2

Dear Mr. Quin,

**Re: Approval of Geotechnical Design Proposed Reclamation Overburden Dump Expansion, Minto Mine**

Pursuant to Section 9.1.1 of Quartz Mining License QML-0001 (the "License"), you have submitted a plan (the "Plan") for the expansion of the Reclamation Overburden Dump (the "ROD") for the Chief's review and approval. This Plan was received by Energy Mines and Resources via e-mail on June 30, 2010. The Plan is described in the following two documents:

1. A letter from EBA Engineering Consultants Ltd. to Randall Thompson, dated June 29, 2010, entitled "Reclamation Overburden Dump Expansion Geotechnical Design."
2. A plan prepared by EBA Engineering Consultants Ltd. entitled "Geotechnical Design Proposed Reclamation Overburden Dump, Minto Mine", dated February 2008.

After review and consideration, I have determined that the above Plan is approved in its entirety, including the Construction Recommendations in Section 8 of the letter of June 29<sup>th</sup>, 2010 referenced above. This approval is given subject to the following conditions and/or clarifications.

Reclamation Overburden Dump terms and conditions:

1. Material deposited in the ROD shall consist only of non ice rich overburden material;
2. Ice rich overburden material encountered shall only be deposited in the approved Ice Rich Overburden dump. The licensee shall follow a sampling protocol to ensure that placement of ice rich overburden is not occurring in the ROD;

3. The volume of the material stored in the ROD shall not exceed 2.3 million cubic meters;
4. The ROD dump location is restricted to the area shown in Figure "ROD-E2" of the letter from EBA Engineering Consultants Ltd. to Randall Thompson, dated June 29, 2010 entitled "Reclamation Overburden Dump Expansion Geotechnical Design";
5. The facilities inspected annually, as required by Section 9.3.2 of QML-0001, will include the ROD;
6. Beginning in 2011, the annual inspection report, required pursuant to section 16.2 of QML-0001, should also include:
  - a. an assessment of the behavior of the dump slopes regarding the extent to which thawing and slumping if the dump faces is occurring and any remedial measures recommended, such as flattening sideslopes or constructing a waste rock shell in the area of instability;
  - b. an assessment of local surface water drainage around the ROD and measures to control ponding or erosion;
  - c. an assessment of the need to control run-on water through the ROD from upstream flows; and
  - d. the potential for static or dynamic liquefaction of the overburden material and remedial measures (such as waste rock confinement berm) that should be instituted;
7. Should a significant instability occur, documentation must be submitted to the Inspector, and no additional material should be added until the instability has been addressed to the Inspector's satisfaction;
8. Drainage control measures to reduce surface run-on water, ponding, and erosion must be implemented at all times during ROD construction and maintenance.
9. Re-use of the stockpiled reclamation overburden should be incorporated into the Licensee's Closure Plan when it is next updated. Final closure of the ROD itself should also be incorporated into the Closure Plan, including final ROD drainage measures;
10. If overburden material of low moisture content and/ or coarser grained is sourced during pit development it should be used within the exterior slope on the dump;
11. Construction should be completed with trafficability in mind. Waste rock roads may be required within the proposed ROD expansion limited to provide access for dumping.

This letter replaces the letter from the Chief of December 20, 2007 entitled "Temporary Approval for Reclamation Overburden Dump, Minto Mine" and the letter from the Chief of March 25, 2008 entitled "Approval of Geotechnical Design Proposed Reclamation Overburden Dump, Minto Mine".

Stephen Quin  
Page 3  
August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2010

I wish to remind you that all requirements of the License remain in effect.

For greater certainty, in reviewing and approving the submitted designs, I have relied upon the seal of the engineer who prepared the designs and neither I nor the Yukon Government makes any representations or warranties as to the sufficiency or adequacy of the plans or designs. Further, you are reminded that the approval of the Chief pertains only to the Chief's responsibilities under the *Quartz Mining Act* and that for greater certainty, nothing in this approval limits the applicable federal or territorial laws, including the *Occupational Health and Safety Act* and related regulations.

Where there is discrepancy between the Plan and the conditions of this approval, the conditions of this approval shall prevail.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me at (867) 667-3126.

Yours truly,



Robert Holmes,  
Director, Mineral Resources

cc. Chief Darin Isaac, Selkirk First Nation  
Fred Green, Land and Resource Director, Selkirk First Nation  
Steve Colp, Natural Resources Officer – Mining, Yukon  
Government  
Kevin McDonnell, Chief Water Resources