



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

April 23rd, 2010

File No: QML-0001

Mr. Stephen Quin,
President & CEO,
Minto Explorations Ltd.
Suite 900 – 999 West Hastings Street,
Vancouver, B.C.

Dear Mr. Quin:

**Re: Approval of Detailed Decommissioning and Reclamation Plan
Minto Project, Yukon Territory**

Pursuant to section 14.1 of the Quartz Mining License QML-0001 ("the license"), Minto Explorations Ltd ("MintoEx") submitted a closure plan, entitled "*Detailed Decommissioning and Reclamation Plan Minto Project, Yukon Territory, Revision 1, June 2007*" ("the 2007 DDRP"). This closure plan was approved on July 17, 2007 and became the approved closure plan for the Undertaking.

Subsequently, and pursuant to section 14.3 of the license, MintoEx submitted an update to the approved closure plan to me for review and approval. This document is entitled "*Minto Explorations Ltd, Minto Mine Yukon, Detailed Decommissioning and Reclamation Plan, Revision 2, September 2009*" ("the 2009 DDRP"). The document was received in my office on October 5, 2009.

Upon review of the 2009 DDRP, I have determined that it is approved and becomes the approved closure plan for the Undertaking, replacing the 2007 DDRP, except where noted in the conditions below, as required under Section 14.4 of the License.

Conditions of the Approval

The following are conditions of this approval:

1. The 2009 DDRP is approved subject to the understanding that several aspects of the 2009 DDRP need further examination. For purposes of this approval, the following conditions are to apply, and shall be reviewed upon the next submission of an updated closure plan:

- a. The main water storage dam is to be decommissioned, such that no water remains impounded and the Minto Creek channel is returned as closely as possible to the original alignment and elevation, in accordance with the plans described in Section 5.4 of the 2007 DDRP.
 - b. Four (4) years of active water treatment, prior to passive or non-treatment, are required.
 - c. A capillary break must be constructed over the entire dry stacked tailings facility as part of an engineered cover design.
2. The conditions stated in #1 above should be the basis of recommendations made to the Minister on required reclamation security.
 3. Sludge from the water treatment plant must be tested and a plan for ultimate disposal of such sludge included in the next submission of an updated closure plan.
 4. Trial cover plots, to examine cover design and re-vegetation, must be established on final grade dry stack tailings in 2010. These trials should include examining the need for a capillary break.
 5. A plan providing for closure designs of all water conveyance structures, including diversion ditches and pit entry and exit channels must be included in the next submission of an updated closure plan.
 6. The design and implementation of the reclamation research program described in Section 4.4 of the DDRP must include opportunities for Selkirk First Nation participation.

I remind you that Section 14.3 of the License requires the approved closure plan to be updated every two years and submitted for review and approval no later than every second anniversary of the start-up date, which in the case of the Minto Undertaking has been established as August 1, 2007.

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 these 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 all work undertaken in relation to the Detailed Decommissioning and Reclamation Plan must comply with the *Occupational Health and Safety Act* and related regulations.

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If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at
(867) 667-3126.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Robert Holmes".

Robert Holmes
Director, Mineral Resources

cc: Chief Darin Isaac, Selkirk First Nation
Kevin McDonnell, Director, Water Resources
Josef Hanrath, NRO Whitehorse