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March 23, 2025

File: MV2020L8-0012

William Liu
Pine Point Mining Limited
1100 Avenue des Canadian-de-Montreal, Bureau 300
Montreal QC H3B 2S2

Sent by email

Dear William Liu,

Re: Water Management Plan - Version 1.5 – Not Approved – Pine Point Mining Limited – Miscellaneous, Pine Point, NT

The Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board (Board) met on March 20, 2025 and considered the Water Management Plan (WMP), Version 1.5¹ submitted by Pine Point Mining Limited (PPML) on January 27, 2025 as required by Water Licence (Licence) MV2020L8-0012 the Board's direction in its October 28, 2024 Decision Letter.²

The Board has not approved the WMP Version 1.5 because more justification is needed for why compatibility tests and monitoring will not be conducted for dry constructed ditches during hydrogeological testing. The Board supports PPML's proposed ditch infiltration test to prove that constructed ditches have low infiltration rates. The Board hereby requires PPML to detail the ditch infiltration test methods in a revised Water Management Plan. The Board will consider PPML's use of dry constructed ditches for hydrogeological testing after reviewing the ditch infiltration test results and any requirements for compatibility testing and monitoring.

Based on the review comments and recommendation on the WMP Version 1.5, the Board directs PPML to update the Water Management Plan to specifically:

- a. Clarify monitoring in the Plan that applies to dry ditches (if any), including, but not limited to:

¹ See MVLWB Online Registry (www.mvlwb.com) for [PPML – Water Management Plan – Version 1.5 – Feb 5 25](#)

² See MVLWB Online Registry for [PPML – Water Management Plan – V1.4 – Revisions Required – Oct28 24](#)

- (i) Reflecting that existing or new monitoring wells will not be used to detect changes to groundwater quality when dry ditches are used (Section 3.5)³; and
 - (j) Clarifying that Appendix B Protocol 2 (Seepage Evaluation Testing and Monitoring) does not apply to dry ditches⁴
- b. Include details of the ditch infiltration test, including the method of the test (i.e., how the data will be collected, analyzed, and reported)
 - c. Note that PPML will seek approval of using dry ditches to conduct hydrogeological testing after the results from the ditch infiltration test are available

The Board requires that PPML submit the revised Water Management Plan by **April 30, 2025**. If there is new information related to impacts and mitigation of the ditch infiltration test, the **WMP Version 2.0** will be distributed for public review prior to Board consideration. If the information and methods are already described in the WMP Version 1.5, PPML can submit a **WMP Version 1.6** and reference the section where the method is described, and confirmation of conformity by Board staff will be conducted. PPML should include a concordance table in the next submission to indicate where each Board directive has been addressed.

The Board also directs PPML to submit the results of the constructed ditch infiltration test in the Annual Report following the test. Following this, PPML could submit an updated WMP to seek the Board's approval to use dry ditches for hydrogeological testing without conducting compatibility testing.

As per Part B, Condition 10, REVISIONS in the Licence, PPML may not use dry ditches for hydrogeological testing until the Board approves this activity.

Please direct questions or concerns regarding this letter to Kathy Racher via [email](#).

Yours sincerely,



Tanya MacIntosh
Chair, Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board

BCC'd to: PPML Distribution List
Veronica Chisolm – Pine Point Mining Ltd.
Wendy Bidwell – Inspector – GNWT-ECC
Josh Gauthier – Inspector – GNWT-ECC

³ See MVLWB Online Review System (<https://new.onlinereviewsystem.ca/>) for [Pine Point – Confirmation and Exploration Program Water Management Plan – Version 1.5](#) MVLWB-1

⁴ See MVLWB Online Review System for [Pine Point – Confirmation and Exploration Program Water Management Plan – Version 1.5](#) MVLWB-4