



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

National Marine Fisheries Service

P.O. Box 21668

Juneau, Alaska 99802-1668

October 12, 2004

Anne Currie
Project Assessment Director
British Columbia Environmental Assessment Office
P.O. Box 9426 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, B. C. V8W9V1

Re: Galore Creek Road Access
Alternatives Screening Report

Dear Ms. Currie:

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has reviewed the *Galore Creek Road Access Alternatives Screening* Report prepared by Rescan Environmental Services Ltd., for the SpectrumGold Inc. Galore Creek Project and offers the following comments. Our comments are based in part on our participation in the recent site visit organized by your office.

The screening report summarizes the options investigated to provide access to the Galore Creek Property in northwest British Columbia in the Liard Mining District. Seven access options were evaluated and screened. Of the seven options, two were selected for detailed evaluation. Both routes selected for further evaluation are connections to Highway #37 and the existing deepsea port in Stewart, British Columbia. These two routes are referred to as the Northern route and the Southern route. Agencies were asked to focus their review on the overall framework used arrive at the two access road options currently under consideration, and to confirm whether they are interested in participating in future discussions concerning access.

NMFS agrees that the framework used (nine key evaluation factors) to narrow the seven access options to two options is reasonable and the resulting two alternatives are reasonable. Additional evaluation factors should be used to compare the two remaining options. Environmental impacts and cumulative impacts need to be evaluated in as much detail as possible, including an assessment of environmental risks associated with the two routes.

NMFS would like to be notified of future discussions concerning access and will participate as much as other commitments and staff availability allow. If you have any questions regarding our comments please contact Cindy Hartmann at (907) 586-7585 or at cindy.hartmann@noaa.gov.

Sincerely,

James W. Balsiger
Administrator, Alaska Region



cc: Clem Pelletier, Rescan Environmental Services Ltd., Sixth Floor, 1111 West Hastings Street,
Vancouver, B.C. Canada V6E2J3
Bruce Halstead and Deborah Rudis, USFWS, Juneau
Pamela Bergmann, USDOJ, 1689 C. Street, Room 119, Anchorage, AK 99501-5126
Ed Fogels, Alaska DNR, OMPM, 550 West 7th Avenue, Suite 900D, Anchorage, AK 99501
Jim Cariello, ADNR, OHMP, Petersburg
Robert Erhardt, USDA Forest Service, Wrangell Ranger District
Lynn Brunsdon - lynn.brunsdon@gems8.gov.bc.ca
Bob Hart - bob.hart@gems4.gov.bc.ca