



Dr Michael Ruane  
Managing Director  
Rewards Minerals Ltd  
PO Box 1104  
NEDLANDS WA 6909

Dear Dr Ruane

**Request for additional information  
Lake Disappointment Potash Project, WA**

Thank you for submitting a referral under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) concerning the above proposed action.

Our initial examination of your referral indicates that there is insufficient information to allow us to consider all the relevant issues.

The Department has received advice from Geoscience Australia that uranium occurs north of Lake Disappointment and therefore may occur in the lake sediments, groundwater and brine. The Department notes that the referral documentation does not provide data on heavy metal or uranium concentrations occurring within Lake Disappointment including the areas proposed for mining and abstraction.

Given Geoscience Australia's advice, the Department needs to consider whether the proposed action constitutes a nuclear action in accordance with section 22 of the EPBC Act; sections 2.01-2.03 of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Regulations 2000* (EPBC Regulations); and the *Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Regulations 1999*.

Your proposal could be considered to be a nuclear action as defined by the EPBC Act if it were to result in:

- the mining or milling uranium ore
- establishing or significantly modifying a large-scale disposal facility for radioactive waste
- decommissioning or rehabilitating a facility or area in which an activity described above has been undertaken

If material associated with and/or subject to mining and abstraction in Lake Disappointment is of a sufficient level of radioactivity (as defined in section 2.02 of the EPBC Regulations), your proposal may be considered a nuclear action.

Therefore, to assist the Department in determining whether the proposal is a nuclear action could you please provide the following further information:

- data on major and trace metal concentrations, including uranium and thorium, present in:
  - sediments, groundwater and brine within Lake Disappointment
  - material associated with the process of mining and abstraction in Lake Disappointment including but not limited to material:
    - produced for transport and sale
    - deposited in any proposed storage facility or waste dump
    - utilised for rehabilitation of the project site
- activity level of any radioisotopes to be disposed of
- half-life of the radioisotopes
- form of the radioisotopes
- quantity of radioisotopes handled
- a discussion of the potential for the proposed action to directly or indirectly impact matters of national environmental significance including listed migratory birds through:
  - mobilisation, bioavailability and toxicity of heavy metals (including uranium and thorium)
  - hydrogeochemical changes to lake sediments and waters during wet and dry episodes
  - generation of acid sulphate soils.

Please note, under subsection 520(4A) of the EPBC Act and the 5.19 of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Regulations 2000* your project is subject to cost recovery for the request to provide specific information. Further details on cost recovery are available on the Department's website at: <http://www.environment.gov.au/epbc/cost-recovery>.

An invoice for \$2544 is enclosed.

You may qualify for an exemption under section 520(4C)(e)(v) of the EPBC Act or apply under Schedule 1 5.21A of the EPBC Regulations for a waiver of the contingency fees.

An exemption/waiver from fees form is enclosed.

If you qualify for an exemption or would like to apply for a waiver, please return this form completed to me within 10 business days of the date of this letter. Further details regarding waivers and exemptions can be found on the Department's website at: <http://www.environment.gov.au/epbc/cost-recovery>.

Please note that the timing for us to make a decision on your referral stops on the date of this letter, and restarts once we have received satisfactory information and, if not exempt or waived, the invoice has been paid. In the event that the project is determined to be a controlled action, the timing for us to make a decision on an assessment approach also stops on the date of this letter.

If you have any questions about the process, please contact the project manager, Pablo Shopen, by email to [Pablo.Shopen@environment.gov.au](mailto:Pablo.Shopen@environment.gov.au), or telephone (02) 6274 2110 and quote the EPBC reference number shown at the beginning of this letter.

Yours sincerely



Declan O'Connor-Cox  
Acting Assistant Secretary  
Assessments (WA, SA, NT) and Air Branch

15 July 2016



## EXEMPTION/ WAIVER FORM

**(NOTE: COMPLETE FOR AN EXEMPTION, APPLY FOR A WAIVER OR ADVISE IF NOT APPLICABLE)**

### PERSON PROPOSING TO TAKE ACTION

1. Name and Title:
2. Organisation (if applicable):
3. EPBC Referral Number (if known):
4. ACN/ABN (if applicable):
5. Postal Address:
6. Telephone:
7. Email:
8. Name of designated proponent (if not the same person named at item 1 above and if applicable):
9. ACN/ABN of designated proponent (if not the same person named at item 1 above):

COMPLETE THIS SECTION ONLY IF YOU QUALIFY FOR EXEMPTION FROM THE FEE(S) THAT WOULD OTHERWISE BE PAYABLE.

I qualify for exemption from fees under section 520(4C)(e)(v) of the EPBC Act because I am:

- an individual; OR
- a small business entity (within the meaning given by section 328-110 (other than subsection 328-119(4)) of the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997*); OR

If you are small business entity you must provide the Date/Income Year that you became a small business entity: \_\_\_\_\_.

- not applicable.

**Note: You must advise the Department within 10 business days if you cease to be a small business entity. Failure to notify the Secretary of this is an offence punishable on conviction by a fine (regulation 5.23B(3) Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Regulations 2000 (Cth)).**

COMPLETE THIS SECTION ONLY IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO APPLY FOR A WAIVER

- I would like to apply for a waiver of full or partial fees under Schedule 1, 5.21A of the EPBC Regulations. Under sub regulation 5.21A(5), you must include information about the applicant (if not you) the grounds on which the waiver is sought and the reasons why it should be made (can attached additional information):  
\_\_\_\_\_ ; OR
- not applicable.

Declaration:

- I declare that to the best of my knowledge the information I have given on this form is complete, current and correct.
- I understand that giving false or misleading info is a serious offence.
- I agree to be the proponent for this action.
- I declare that I am not taking the action on behalf of or for the benefit of any other person or entity.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_