

November 23rd, 2019

To whom it may concern,

Having fulfilled the role of rehabilitation engineer in charge of the Agrium Kapuskasing Phosphate Mine closure project for the past 6 years, it is my pleasure to provide a reference letter for Erocon, the vegetation contractor in charge of seeding. Following mine closure in 2013, Erocon was contracted in 2014 to perform the first phase of vegetation consisting of 200 hectares of disturbed mine waste. Initial 2014 work was fully warrantied at the owner's request with a supporting 5 year performance guarantee bond. The mine waste is non-toxic and consists of blast rock, till and clay. Despite the poor soil quality and the absence of organic content, Erocon was able to grow a dense grass cover without the need for capping. This resulted in a significant reduction in rehabilitation costs. Based on the success of the initial contract, Erocon was subsequently contracted for all further remaining seeding work at the mine for the subsequent years and completed a total of 389 hectares. The performance guarantee bond was dissolved in 2019 without any claims due to vegetation still performing very well. As multiple years worth of thick nitrogen fixing vegetation is composting, a layer of organics soil is now starting to build up all over the mine site.

While the vegetation growth and resulting cost reduction are impressive, Erocon's work ethics are also noteworthy. Every year, mobilization occurred well ahead of work start-up for the setup of well-organized temporary installations. The equipment is modern and well maintained. Erocon also added equipment to facilitate low ground pressure work and lime spreading. Erocon always complied with all company specific standards and did not encounter any injuries. The construction schedule was always met and the need for owner oversight was as low as it could be. The design consultant also complemented the quality of the work. Weather and ground conditions often proved to be more difficult than anticipated but Erocon never requested extras.

Please do not hesitate to contact me to further discuss this subject.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jean-Francois Philippe". The signature is written in a cursive style and is contained within a thin black rectangular border.

Jean-Francois Philippe, P. Eng. | Rehabilitation Engineer
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