Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board

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November 5, 2026

File: MV2026L8-0004
MV2026X0008

Mark Cliffe-Phillips
Mackenzie Valley Review Board
200 Scotia Centre
Box 938, 5102-50th Avenue
Yellowknife NT X1A 2N7

Sent by email

Dear Mark Cliffe-Phillips,

Re: Cantung Mine Closure and Reclamation Project – Notice of Preliminary Screening Determination –Applications for Land Use Permit and Water Licence – Miscellaneous – Cantung Mine, NT

The Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board (Board) met on October 29, 2026, and considered the Application Package from North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. (NATCL) for Land Use Permit (Permit) MV2026X0008 and Water Licence (Licence) MV2026L8-0004 for the Cantung Mine Closure and Reclamation Project (Project) in accordance with the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act* (MVRMA).

The Board conducted a preliminary screening based on the public record for the proceeding. Based on the evidence provided, the Board is satisfied the screening has been completed according to section 125 of the MVRMA and has decided **to refer** the Project to environmental assessment. The Board's Preliminary Screening Determination and Reasons for Decision, as required by section 121 of the MVRMA, is attached.

Please contact Adrian Paradis via email or at (867) 766-7457 with any questions or concerns regarding this letter.

Yours sincerely,

Tanya MacIntosh
Chair, Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board

BCC'd to: NATCL/Cantung ORS Distribution List
Todd Martin, NATCL
Marianna Lee, NATCL
Sharleen Hamm, Consultant to NATCL

Attached: Preliminary Screening Determination and Reasons for Decision

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Preliminary Screening Determination and Reasons for Decision

Water Licence and Land Use Permit Applications	
File Number	MV2026L8-0004 MV2026X0008
Company	North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd.
Project	Cantung Mine Closure and Reclamation Project
Location	Cantung Mine, NT
Activity	Miscellaneous
Date of Decision	October 29, 2026

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1.0 Decision

In accordance with subsection 124(1) of the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act* (MVRMA), the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board (MVLWB or Board) met on October 29, 2026, to make a preliminary screening determination on the Applications from North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. (Applicant)(NATCL) for Land Use Permit MV2026X0008 (Permit)[1] and Water Licence MV2026L8-0004 (Licence)[2] for the Cantung Mine Closure and Reclamation Project (Project).

The Board has decided to refer the proposed Project to the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (the Review Board) for Environmental Assessment (EA) because it is the Board's opinion that the proposed Project might have a significant adverse impact on the environment and might be a cause of public concern.

The Board's determinations, including reasons for its decisions, are detailed in sections 4.0.

[1] See MVLWB Online Registry www.mvlwb.com for NATCL - Type A Permit App - Application Form - Apr 8_26.
[2] See MVLWB Online Registry for NATCL - Type A Licence App - Updated Application Form - Jul 24_26.

2.0 List of Defined Terms and Acronyms

ACM	asbestos-containing materials
ADKFN	Acho Dene Koe First Nation
AEMP	Aquatic Effects Monitoring Program
AIA	Archaeological Impact Assessment
Applicant	North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd.
Applications	The complete application package submitted by the Applicant for Water Licence MV2026L8-0004 and Land Use Permit MV2026X0008.
ARD	Acid Rock Drainage
CCME	Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment
CIRNAC	Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada
COPC	chemicals of potential concern
CRP	Closure and Reclamation Plan
CWG	Communities Working Group
DCFN	Dehcho First Nation
DFO	Fisheries and Oceans Canada
DQOs	Discharge Quality Objectives
EA	Environmental Assessment
ECCC	Environment and Climate Change Canada
FCRP	Final Closure and Reclamation Plan
GNWT	Government of the Northwest Territories
GNWT-ECC	Government of the Northwest Territories – Environment and Climate Change
HHERA	Human Health and Ecological Risk Assessment
IR	Information Request
Inspector	An Inspector designated under subsection 84(1) of the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act*
LFN	Liard First Nation
Licence	Water Licence
LKFN	Łíídlı́ı́ Kų́ę́ First Nation
LWB	Land and Water Board
ML	metal leaching
MVLUR	Mackenzie Valley Land Use Regulations
MVLWB or Board	Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board
MVRMA	*Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act*
Minister	Minister of Northern and Arctic Affairs
NAG	non-acid generating
NATCL	North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd.
NDDB	Nahɔą Dehé Dene Band
NRR	Nahanni Range Road
NWT	Northwest Territories
ORS	Online Review System (www.new.onlinereviewsystem.ca)

Party	As per the LWB *Rules of Procedure*, an applicant, a person, or an organization participating in the regulatory proceeding for the Applications.
PC	Parks Canada
Permit	Land Use Permit
Project	Cantung Mine Closure and Reclamation Project, which is the proposed development (as defined in Part 5 of the MVRMA).[3]
QEP	Qualified Environmental Professional
Review Board	Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board
SSRC	Site-Specific Remediation Criteria
SNP	Surveillance Network Program
Standard Licence Conditions	LWB *Standard Water Licence Conditions Template*
Standard Permit Conditions	LWB *Standard Land Use Permit Conditions Template*
TCA	Tailings Containment Area

3.0 Background and Scope of Screening

Overview of Applications

On April 8, 2026, the Applicant submitted applications for a new Licence MV2026L8-0004 and new Permit MV2026X0008 (the Applications). The Applications are to conduct closure and reclamation activities at the Cantung Mine. These activities are located in a federal area within the Dehcho Region.

The Applications describe the proposed closure and reclamation activities of the following components at Cantung Mine:

- Site-Wide Components (including contaminated soils and hazardous materials)
- Underground Mine Workings
- Open Pits
- Waste Rock and Borrow (existing and new borrow/quarry areas)
- Tailings Containment Areas (TCAs) (including the new containment area upgradient of TCA 4) and Flat River Floodplain Tailings
- Buildings and Infrastructure (including new and existing landfills)
- Water Management

The Applications are supported by a Final Closure and Reclamation Plan (FCRP),[4] various management and monitoring plans, and several supporting technical documents.[5] The Applicant proposed a start date of

[3] "development" is defined in Part 5 of the MVRMA as:
"any undertaking, or any part or extension of an undertaking, that is carried out on land or water and includes an acquisition of lands pursuant to the *Historic Sites and Monuments Act* and measures carried out by a department or agency of government leading to the establishment of a park subject to the *Canada National Parks Act* or the establishment of a park under a territorial law."
[4] See MVLWB Online Registry for NATCL - Type A Licence and Permit App - FCRP V1.0 - Apr 8_26.
[5] See MVLWB Online Registry for MV2026L8-0004; MV2026X0008.

April 2028 and indicated that closure activities would take two years, followed by a proposed ten-year post-closure monitoring period.[6]

Engagement for Applications

An Engagement Summary and Log[7] and Engagement Plan[8] were included in the Applications. The Applicant noted they engaged with the following Parties:

- Acho Dene Koe First Nation (ADKFN)
- Dehcho First Nation
- Fort Simpson Métis Local 52
- Kaska Dena Council
- Liard First Nation (LFN)
- Łíídlı́ı́ Kų́ ę́ First Nation (LKFN)
- Nahɔą Dehé Dene Band (NDDB)
- Ross River Dena Council

The Applicant's Engagement Summary[9] indicates that engagement occurred with most Parties from February 6, 2017, to January 29, 2026, except with ADKFN, who were engaged from April 9, 2019, to March 23, 2026, and the Kaska Dena Council who were engaged from February 6, 2017, to May 2023 (when the Kaska Dena Council dissolved). The Applicant indicated for all Parties that "There were no issues requiring resolution."

The Applicant's Engagement Log[10] indicates that engagement occurred bilaterally with Parties as well as through a Communities Working Group (CWG), through emails, letters, and meetings. NATCL's Engagement Plan – Version 4.0 indicates that the CWG is comprised of one or more representatives from each of the Indigenous Groups listed above.[11] The Log shows that five closure workshops were held with the CWG on the following dates: August 1-2, 2023; December 6, 2023; May 2, 2024; October 18, 2024; and January 29, 2026. The closure planning workshops are described further in NATCL's Summary of Post-Closure Land and Water Use Perspectives appended to the Post-Closure Land and Water Use Plan that was submitted with the Applications.[12]

[6] See MVLWB Online Registry for NATCL - Type A Permit App - Application Form - Apr 8_26; NATCL - Type A Licence App - Updated Application Form - Jul 24_26.
[7] See MVLWB Online Registry for NATCL - Type A Licence and Permit App - Engagement Summary and Log - Apr 8_26.
[8] See MVLWB Online Registry for NATCL - Type A Permit App - Application Form - Apr 8_26 Table 1. Closure Application Components (existing version approved under Licence MV2023L2-0006).
[9] See MVLWB Online Registry for NATCL - Type A Licence and Permit App - Engagement Summary and Log - Apr 8_26.
[10] *Ibid*.
[11] See MVLWB Online Registry for NATCL - Engagement Plan V4.0 - Jan 27_26.
[12] See MVLWB Online Registry for NATCL - Type A Licence and Permit App - Post-Closure Land and Water Plan - Mar 8_26 Appendix A Summary of Post-Closure Land and Water Use Perspective pages 14-15.

How the Applicant Incorporated Traditional Knowledge

The Applicant stated the following in the Applications:[13]

> Historically, Indigenous Partners were not consulted on Mine activities. Closure and reclamation planning engagement with Indigenous Partners has been critical to supporting closure planning that reflects Indigenous rights, priorities, and knowledge systems, including the incorporation of Traditional and cultural knowledge into decision-making. NATC has undertaken engagement not only to share information, but to build relationships, foster trust, and create space for dialogue that meaningfully informs closure goals, principles, objectives, criteria, and options. Where available, Traditional Knowledge has been integrated into closure planning to guide closure objectives, post-closure land and water use, preferred closure option selection, and surface design.

NATCL included a Post-Closure Land and Water Use Plan with the Applications. The stated purpose of the Plan is "to describe how post-closure land and water use values and priorities, informed by engagement with Indigenous Partners and other stakeholders, are considered alongside Project component constraints."[14]

The Summary of Post-Closure Land and Water Use Perspectives appended to the Post-Closure Land and Water Use Plan indicates that "Traditional Land Use studies and surveys have been completed by NDDB and LKFN," specifically:[15]

- Cantung Mine Area – Nahanni Butte Band Land Use Survey – 2018/2019 (NDDB, 2019)
- Dene Knowledge, Land Use, and Occupancy Study for the Cantung and Mactung Projects (LKFN, 2021)

The Applicant explained that the Traditional Land Use studies and other input received from Indigenous Parties were used to summarize the historical Indigenous Land and Water Uses.[16] Visions for post-closure land and water use were also summarized based on the input received from Indigenous Parties, focusing on the following topics:[17]

- traditional uses and Project area access
- protection and enhancement of water resources and environmental safety
- socio-economic, industrial, and tourism opportunities

[13] See MVLWB Online Registry for NATCL - Type A Licence and Permit App - Project Description Impact Assessment - May 28_26 page 7; NATCL - Type A Licence and Permit App - FCRP V1.0 - Apr 8_26 page 13.
[14] See MVLWB Online Registry for NATCL - Type A Licence and Permit App - Post-Closure Land and Water Plan - Mar 8_26 page 2.
[15] See MVLWB Online Registry for NATCL - Type A Licence and Permit App - Post-Closure Land and Water Plan - Mar 8_26 Appendix A Summary of Post-Closure Land and Water Use Perspective page 15.
[16] See MVLWB Online Registry for NATCL - Type A Licence and Permit App - Post-Closure Land and Water Plan - Mar 8_26 Appendix A Summary of Post-Closure Land and Water Use Perspective pages 18-20.
[17] See MVLWB Online Registry for NATCL - Type A Licence and Permit App - Post-Closure Land and Water Plan - Mar 8_26 Appendix A Summary of Post-Closure Land and Water Use Perspective pages 20-23.

The Applicant indicated that the insights from Indigenous Partners guided "the closure design, the land and water capabilities for the Project area, and aspirations for post-closure land tenure and leasing."

Regulatory History of Cantung Mine

Mining at Cantung Mine began in 1962. The mine closed in 1986 and re-opened in 2001 under the management of North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. (NATCL). On February 1, 2002, NATCL applied to the Board for a Licence (MV2002L2-0019)[18] to replace the previous Licence N3L2-0004. The Board conducted a preliminary screening and referred the application for Licence MV2002L2-0019 to EA.[19] Although NATCL's judicial review of the Board's preliminary screening decision was initially dismissed, the Court of Appeal later ruled that section 157.1 of the MVRMA grandfathers undertakings licensed before June 22, 1984, rather than individual licences issued before that date.[20] Therefore, the application proceeded to the water licensing stage without an EA.

Since Licence MV2002L2-0019 was issued by the Board on November 29, 2003, the Board has conducted several preliminary screenings on applications made by NATCL, associated with the following authorizations: Licence MV2002L2-0019 and Permits MV2014D0012;[21] MV2009Q0049;[22] MV2010C0055;[23] MV2012S0011;[24] MV2012C0014;[25] MV2014C0015;[26] MV2019S0009;[27] and MV2026D0002.[28] These screenings were necessary as the applications included significant project alterations that were not exempt from screening pursuant to section 157.1 of the MVRMA.

When NATCL submitted renewal applications for the site in 2023 and 2026, however, the Board determined that Part 5 of the MVRMA did not apply pursuant to section 157.1 of the MVRMA. As a result, no preliminary screening was conducted on the applications for Licence MV2023L2-0006[29] and MV2026L2-0006, respectively.[30]

Since November 2015, the Cantung Mine has been under care and maintenance and is managed by Alvarez & Marsal Canada Inc., the Monitor appointed under the British Columbia Court proceedings under the *Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act*. NATCL submitted the Applications currently before the Board in order to transition from care and maintenance to closure and reclamation. NATCL submitted the

[18] See MVLWB Online Registry for MV2002L2-0019.
[19] See MVLWB Online Registry for MV2002L2-0019 – NATCL – Preliminary Screening – Jul_03.
[20] *Ibid*.
[21] See MVLWB Online Registry for MV2002L2-0019 MV2014D0012 - NATCL – Preliminary Screening Determination – Aug 13_14; MV2002L2-0019 MV2014D0012 – NATCL Amendment and New LUP – Preliminary Screening – Mar 2_15.
[22] See MVLWB Online Registry for MV2009Q0049 – NATCL – Application – Preliminary Screening Report – Apr 1_10.
[23] See MVLWB Online Registry for MV2010C0055 – NATCL – Application – Preliminary Screening Report – May 27_11.
[24] See MVLWB Online Registry for MV2012S0011 – NATCL – Application – Preliminary Screening Report – Jun 7_12.
[25] See MVLWB Online Registry for MV2012C0014 – NATCL – Application – Preliminary Screening Report – Jun 20_12.
[26] See MVLWB Online Registry for MV2014C0015 – NATCL – Preliminary Screening Report – Jul 3_14.
[27] See MVLWB Online Registry for MV2019S0009 – NATCL – Issuance – Preliminary Screening Report – Jun 6_19.
[28] See MVLWB Online Registry for NACTL – Notification – Preliminary Screening Determination – Jun 2_26.
[29] See MVLWB Online Registry for NATCL – Notification - Preliminary Screening Determination and RFD - Oct 6_23.
[30] See MVLWB Online Registry for NATCL – Type A Water Licence Renewal – Notification - Preliminary Screening Determination - Aug22_26.

renewal applications noted above to ensure care and maintenance activities can continue at the site until the Board has made a decision on the Applications for closure and reclamation.

In accordance with paragraph 125(1)(a) of the MVRMA, the Board must conduct a preliminary screening of the proposed Project to determine and report to the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (Review Board) whether, in its opinion, the proposed Project might have a significant adverse impact on the environment or might be a cause of public concern. The details of the Board's analysis are set out in section 4.0 below.

3.1 Scope of Screening

Under section 157.1 of the MVRMA, Part 5 of the MVRMA does not apply to licences or permits for projects that were previously licensed and/or permitted prior to June 22, 1984, and do not include abandonment, decommissioning, or significant alterations of the project. In the Applications, NATCL indicated that the scope of the Applications are abandonment, decommissioning, or other significant alterations of the project that should be subject to preliminary screening.[31]

Figure 2, Project Area and Land Tenure, in the Applications shows the Project area, which is located on federal lands.[32] In its Project Description and Impact Assessment, NATCL outlined the "Local Study Area" for the impact assessment as being the area set back about 2 km from the edge of the Project site, with the "Regional Study Area" generally being bound by the Flat River watershed.[33]

The Applicant has proposed the following activities for the Project:[34]

- use of equipment, vehicles, and machinery
- use and storage of fuel
- withdrawal of up to 300 m^3/day of water from the Flat River for domestic uses and dust suppression
- construction, operation, and maintenance of a camp, including use of a Sewage Treatment Plant
    - discharge of treated sewage effluent to TCA 4
- discharging mine water to the receiving environment
- construction and maintenance of a passive water management system, including ditches, settling ponds, and pools to collect, convey, and/or treat, and passively discharge runoff, mine water, wastewater, and non-contact water into the receiving water
- maintenance, operation, and closure of the existing landfill
- construction, maintenance, operation, and closure of a new landfill upgradient of TCA 4
- demolition of buildings and infrastructure, including fuel and reagent storage areas

[31] See MVLWB Online Registry for NATCL - Type A Permit App - Application Form - Apr 8_26 Cover Letter page 3; NATCL - Type A Licence App - Application Form – Apr 8_26 Cover Letter page 3.
[32] See MVLWB Online Registry for NATCL - Type A Licence and Permit App - Project Maps - Apr 8_26 Figure 2.
[33] See MVLWB Online Registry for NATCL - Type A Licence and Permit App - Project Description Impact Assessment - May 28_26 pages 20-22.
[34] See MVLWB Online Registry for NATCL - Type A Licence and Permit App - Project Description Impact Assessment - May 28_26; NATCL - Type A Licence and Permit App - FCRP V1.0 - Apr 8_26.

    - limited disposal of domestic and industrial waste in the existing non-hazardous waste landfill, with the remaining inert demolition debris disposed of in the new landfill cell upgradient of TCA 4
    - disposal of asbestos-containing materials (ACM) onsite in a segregated containment area of the new landfill cell upgradient of TCA 4
    - hazardous materials to be transported off site for disposal
- removal of contaminated soil and sediment
    - backfilling excavations with clean granular fill
    - disposal of contaminated soil and sediment on TCA 3-5 prior to the facilities being capped
- borrow and quarry operations for granular and rock material, with grading and contouring proposed for final excavations
- use and storage of explosives for borrow and quarry operations
- relocation of Waste Rock Piles #1, #2, and #4 to TCA 3-5 prior to the facilities being capped
- construction and maintenance of a TCA cell upgradient of TCA 4
    - excavation and disposal of tailings from TCA 1 and 2 into new cell upgradient of TCA 4
- construction and maintenance of the TCAs
    - capping and grading TCA 3-5 and the cell upgradient of TCA 4 for final closure
- stabilizing the Flat River mainstem
    - reinforcing mainstem with riprap rock to limit erosion
    - stabilizing the Flat River Floodplain Tailings through a combination of fine fill and riprap armouring placed along the channel embankments
- backfilling remaining mine openings to prevent access to underground workings
- decommissioning on-site roads, remove bridges and culverts
- construction of a berm across the access road to PUG Open Pit and Waste Rock Pile #3 to block access
- retaining airstrip as a remote asset
- surface preparation and grading at the end of the closure construction phase
- associated closure and reclamation activities and post-closure monitoring

3.2 Public Record and Regulatory Proceeding

To assist the Board in its preliminary screening determination for the Project, the Board distributed the Applications for public review on June 12, 2026, inviting reviewers to provide comments and recommendations on the Applications and the preliminary screening (e.g., on impacts and mitigation measures) using the Online Review System (ORS). A draft work plan was also distributed for public review using the ORS on June 12, 2026.

Comments on the draft work plan were due June 26, 2026, with responses from the Applicant due July 8, 2026. The Board received comments and recommendations from: NDDB; LFN; Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) Environment and Climate Change (ECC); GNWT Health and Social Services; Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC); Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO); and Crown-

Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC) – Yellowknife Inspector.[35] Board staff also submitted comments and questions for the purposes of clarification. The comments from LFN included a letter directed to the Board.[36] Board staff responded to LFN's letter on July 17, 2026.[37]

Board staff sent Information Requests (IRs) to NATCL on July 17, 2026.[38] NATCL responded on August 17, 2026.[39]

Comments on the Applications were due July 24, 2026. On July 13, 2026, the review comment period was extended until August 24, 2026, based on an extension request from LKFN.[40] Responses from the Applicant were due October 13, 2026. The Board received comments and recommendations from: NDDB; LFN; LKFN; GNWT-ECC; ECCC; DFO; Parks Canada and CIRNAC – Yellowknife Inspector.[41] Both LFN and NDDB also included letters with specific recommendation for the Board's screening determination.[42] In response to several comments, NATCL indicated that a technical memorandum is being prepared, to be provide prior to the start of the Technical Session.[43] The Board used the evidence provided by the October 13, 2026, response deadline for the preliminary screening determination.

Since LKFN's extension request was granted, the Board is satisfied that a reasonable period of notice was given to affected communities and First Nations, as required by subsection 63(2) of the MVRMA.

Pursuant to section 27, paragraphs (a) and (b) of the *Dehcho First Nations (DCFN) Interim Measures Agreement*,[44] the Board has determined that written notice was given to the DCFN, and that a reasonable period of time was allowed for DCFN to make representations with respect to the Applications.

3.3 Nahanni Range Road

NATCL's Applications briefly mentioned use of the Nahanni Range Road (NRR) for overland access to the Cantung Mine.[45] During the proceeding, LFN raised concerns about transboundary and transregional impacts of the Applicant's proposed use of the NRR for the Project, including impacts related to increased

[35] See MVLWB Online Review System for North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. – Cantung Mine Closure and Reclamation Project – Draft Work Plan and Type of Undertaking – Jun 12_26.
[36] See MVLWB Online Registry for NATCL - Type A Licence and Permit App - LFN Letter - Jun 26_26.
[37] See MVLWB Online Registry for NATCL - Board Staff Response to LFN - Draft Work Plan Comments - Jul 17_26.
[38] See MVLWB Online Registry for NATCL - Type A Licence and Permit App - Information Requests - Jul 17_26.
[39] See MVLWB Online Registry for NATCL - Type A Licence and Permit App - Jul 17 Information Request Response - Aug 17_26.
[40] See MVLWB Online Registry for NATCL - Type A Licence and Permit App - LKFN Extension Request - Jul 13_26.
[41] See MVLWB Online Review System for North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. – Cantung Mine Closure and Reclamation Project – Type A Licence and Permit Applications – Jun 12_26.
[42] See MVLWB Online Review System for North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. – Cantung Mine Closure and Reclamation Project – Type A Licence and Permit Applications – Jun 12_26 LFN comment 1 (Letter); NDDB comment 1 (Letter).
[43] See MVLWB Online Review System for North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. – Cantung Mine Closure and Reclamation Project – Type A Licence and Permit Applications – Jun 12_26 Responses to LKFN 12, 18, 20-22; GNWT-ECC 7-9, 12-13; ECCC 5; MVLWB 79, 83, 85-88.
[44] See MVLWB Land Claims, IMAs, and Land Use Plans webpage to access the *Dehcho First Nations Interim Measures Agreement*.
[45] See MVLWB Online Registry for NATCL - Type A Licence and Permit App - Project Description Impact Assessment - May 28_26 page 2; NATCL - Type A Licence and Permit App - FCRP V1.0 - Apr 8_26 page 34.

traffic volumes, peak periods, workforce transportation, and quantities and destinations of materials and wastes.[46] In NATCL's August 17, 2026, response to IRs, the Applicant clarified the following:[47]

- NATCL's proposed maintenance and use of the NRR for closure does not require impact assessment or additional authorizations in the Northwest Territories or Yukon because it is a public road.
- The use of the NRR for closure, including cumulative effects, would not differ from the current use during care and maintenance.
- NATCL's maintenance work on the NRR is conducted under agreements with the Government of Yukon and the Government of Canada, and will not include construction of new roadway, road widening, or the installation of new culverts or water training structures.
- NATCL will not close or remediate the NRR as part of the Project.

For the reasons listed above, NATCL concluded that the use and maintenance of the NRR should not make the Applications transboundary. NATCL later noted that, "Road conditions existing at the start of final closure are reasonably expected to be sufficient for safe, efficient remediation-related travel."[48]

Based on the information provided in NATCL's IR Response and a review of the applicable regulations, the Board agrees with NATCL that the use and maintenance of NRR does not require authorizations in the Northwest Territories (NWT) or the Yukon because it is a public highway. The public section of the NRR within the Board's jurisdiction does not require a land use permit because the NRR meets the definition of "road" in the Mackenzie Valley Land Use Regulations (MVLUR).[49] A water licence is also not required because the use and maintenance activities do not exceed the licensing criteria in the Mackenzie Valley Federal Areas Waters Regulations[50] and the Waters Regulations.[51]

While LFN has argued that NATCL's use and maintenance of the public portion of the NRR is part of the proposed Project and crosses into both the NWT and the Yukon, these activities are not included in NATCL's Applications and, as noted above, do not require Board authorizations. As a result, the Board has not considered the Applications as transboundary for the following reasons:

- The Project area identified in NATCL's Applications,[52] including the short access road section (<2 km) of the NRR, and the proposed Project activities and potential impacts described in the Applications are located entirely in the Dehcho region of the Northwest Territories.

[46] See MVLWB Online Review System for North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. – Cantung Mine Closure and Reclamation Project – Draft Work Plan and Type of Undertaking – Jun 12_26 LFN comments 1-2, 5; North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. – Cantung Mine Closure and Reclamation Project – Type A Licence and Permit Applications – Jun 12_26 LFN comment 1.
[47] See MVLWB Online Registry for NATCL - Type A Licence and Permit App - Jul 17 Information Request Response - Aug 17_26.
[48] See MVLWB Online Review System for North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. – Cantung Mine Closure and Reclamation Project – Type A Licence and Permit Applications – Jun 12_26 LFN comment 1 (Letter).
[49] MVLUR, s 4(a)(v); s (a)(v).
[50] MVFAWR, Schedule VIII.
[51] Waters Regulations, Schedule H.
[52] See MVLWB Online Review System for NATCL - Type A Licence and Permit App - Project Maps - Apr 8_26 Figure 2.

- Previous authorizations for the Cantung Mine have not been identified as transboundary, and the proposed Project does not include new areas.

Additionally, the Board notes that NATCL's described use of the public portion of the NRR in the NWT, which NATCL has noted meets the definition of a 'highway' in the *Motor Vehicles Act*,[53] is exempt from preliminary screening based on section 13 of Schedule 1 of the Exemption List Regulations.[54] In the Yukon, the NRR is a public road as defined in the Assessable Activities, Exceptions and Executive Committee Projects Regulations, and NATCL's use of the NRR does not entail construction, modification, or decommissioning of the NRR, or other activities that require assessment.

These exemptions are not linked to the volume or type of traffic, and no activities beyond use or maintenance are contemplated on either the NWT or the Yukon sections of the NRR. Therefore, the Board has not considered NATCL's proposed use and maintenance of the NRR further in its preliminary screening determination or these Reasons for Decision.

4.0 Potential Impacts and Proposed Mitigations

Subsection 125(1) of the MVRMA sets out the 'Might Test' to determine whether a project should be referred to the Review Board for an EA. The provision states that if a proposed development "might have a significant adverse impact on the environment or might be a cause of public concern," the preliminary screener shall "…refer the proposal to the Review Board for an environmental assessment." "Impact on the environment" is defined broadly in section 111 of the MVRMA as: "any effect on land, water, air or any other component of the environment, as well as on wildlife harvesting, and includes any effect on the social and cultural environment or on heritage resources."

Section 4.1 below details the Board's consideration of whether the Project might have a significant adverse effect on the environment, and section 4.2 details the Board's consideration of the potential for public concern. These sections are supported by Appendix A, which summarizes:

- the potential impacts of the proposed Project;
- the concerns that were identified during the regulatory proceeding and how the Applicant addressed those concerns;
- the proposed and potential mitigations for the potential impacts; and
- the Board's analysis of the potential impacts and proposed mitigations.

[53] See MVLWB Online Registry for NATCL - Type A Licence and Permit App - Jul 17 Information Request Response - Aug 17_26. p. 5.
[54] Exemption List Regulations, Schedule 1, s 13.

4.1 Consideration of Potential Impacts

To determine whether to refer the Project to EA, the Board has evaluated whether NATCL's proposed closure activities might have a significant adverse impact on the environment. The Board also considered the cumulative impacts of the proposed and past activities at the Cantung Mine. Due to uncertainties regarding the most appropriate closure option for the Floodplain Tailings and NATCL's proposal to stabilize the Tailings in place, and the potential impacts of the Project to the receiving water, the Board concludes that the proposed Project might have a significant adverse impact on the environment.

While the Board's consideration of all the identified potential impacts and mitigations is set out in Appendix A, more detailed consideration of the following specific issues is set out below in subsections 4.1.1 to 4.1.3:

- impacts of the existing Cantung Mine
- stabilization of the Floodplain Tailings
- water management and proposed Discharge Quality Objectives (DQOs) for the mine water

4.1.1 Impacts of the Existing Cantung Mine

To consider the cumulative impacts, the Board has considered the current and on-going impacts of the existing Cantung Mine site. With respect to the Floodplain Tailings in particular, the Board notes that ECCC enforcement is working with NATCL to address impacts from the Floodplain Tailings and ensure the Cantung Mine is compliant with the *Fisheries Act*.[55]

Based on Parties' concerns, the Board concludes there may be existing significant adverse impacts at the Cantung Mine. The Board included a high-level summary of these existing adverse impacts below.

Floodplain Tailings[56]

- **Active Acid Rock Drainage (ARD)/Metal Leaching (ML)**: The Floodplain Tailings are carbonate-depleted, oxidized, acidic, and actively leaching metals into the Flat River.
- **Acutely-toxic ponded water**: Federal inspections determined that standing water trapped within depressions in the Floodplain Tailings was acutely lethal to aquatic life (*Daphnia magna* and Rainbow Trout).
- **Contaminant transport in seepage**: The surface and subsurface seepage from the Floodplain Tailings create contaminant transport to groundwater and the Flat River.

[55] See MVLWB Online Registry for NATCL - ECCC Inspection Summary - Fisheries Act Direction - Dec 22_25.
[56] See MVLWB Online Review System for North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. – Cantung Mine Closure and Reclamation Project – Type A Licence and Permit Applications – Jun 12_26 LKFN comments 1-2; GNWT-ECC 2; see MVLWB Online Registry for NATCL - Type A Licence and Permit App - Supporting 6 - Tailings Factsheet 1 - Apr 8_26; NATCL - Type A Licence and Permit App - FCRP V1.0 - Apr 8_26.

TCAs 1-5[57]

- **Groundwater contamination**: The uncovered TCAs 1-5 are potentially acid generating. Precipitation can transport metals from these uncovered tailings to groundwater and to the Flat River.
- **Contaminant transport in wind-blown tailings**: The exposed tailings on the surfaces of TCA 3-5 are susceptible to wind erosion, resulting in transport and deposition of fine tailing dust into the receiving environment.
- **Structural risk of the TCAs**: Extreme flood events create ongoing risk to the structural stability of the TCAs because they sit very close to the Flat River.

Passive Mine Water Discharge[58]

- **Elevated parameters of concern in effluent:** The mine water from the flooded underground working has been passively flowing to the Flat River since 2015, and it has elevated concentrations of major ions and metals.

4.1.2 Potential Impacts of Stabilizing the Floodplain Tailings in Place

NATCL has proposed to stabilize the historical Flat River Floodplain Tailings in place through riprap bank armouring, mounding, and spot revegetation, and based on the evidence from the proceeding to date, the Board is of the opinion that this proposed closure activity might have significant adverse impacts.

NATCL's FCRP indicates that remediating the Floodplain Tailings in place results in residual risk,[59] and Parties have expressed that this residual risk may not be acceptable. The Review Board's *Guidelines for Preliminary Screeners*[60] notes that "Significant adverse impacts are those that would be unacceptable if they are not avoided or reduced, and include ecological, social, economic, and cultural impacts." Although the Board notes that what is acceptable has not been defined for the Project yet, the Board is of the opinion that the residual risks and/or impacts of remediating the Floodplain Tailings in place might exceed that threshold.

During the public review of the Applications, NDDB, GNWT-ECC, Parks Canada, ECCC, and Board staff asked for further details about NATCL's approach to closing the Floodplain Tailings.[61] NDDB supported the

[57] See MVLWB Online Registry for NATCL - Type A Licence and Permit App - Supporting 10 - FMEA Part 1 - Apr 8_26; NATCL - Type A Licence and Permit App - FCRP V1.0 - Apr 8_26; see MVLWB Online Review System for North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. – Cantung Mine Closure and Reclamation Project – Type A Licence and Permit Applications – Jun 12_26 GNWT-ECC comment 2; NDDB 1.
[58] see MVLWB Online Registry for NATCL - Type A Licence App - Water and Wastewater Management Plan - Version 1 - Jun 2_26.; NATCL - Type A Licence App - Technical Memo - Mine Water Characterization - Jun 2_26; NATCL - Type A Licence and Permit App - FCRP V1.0 - Apr 8_26
[59] see MVLWB Online Registry for NATCL - Type A Licence and Permit App - FCRP V1.0 - Apr 8_26 page 88.
[60] See Mackenzie Valley Review Board website for Guideline for preliminary screeners page 36.
[61] See MVLWB Online Review System for North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. – Cantung Mine Closure and Reclamation Project – Type A Licence and Permit Applications – Jun 12_26 NDDB comment 6; GNWT-ECC 4, 17; PC 5, 10; ECCC 7-8; MVLWB 54-59; 63-67.

reclamation approach, as opposed to excavating and re-constructing the river channel.[62] LFN and LKFN argued that NATCL should remove tailings from the floodplain.[63] Both LFN and LKFN attached technical memorandums supporting their positions.[64]

The Board finds that the proposed closure option might pose a significant adverse impact on the environment because, as detailed further below, the proposed closure design for the Floodplain Tailings raises the following concerns:

- It has not thoroughly considered the dynamic nature of the Flat River.
- It might not adequately reduce effects to groundwater or effectively prevent tailings from oxidizing.
- It might result in adverse effects to the aquatic life and habitat.
- It might impact wildlife from spot revegetation.

The Board notes that, in response to comments, NATCL committed to developing a Construction Environmental Management Plan for the closure construction phase to address topics such as mitigation measures for potential impacts to wildlife and fish and fish habitat, erosion and sediment controls, constructability assessments, contingency measures, and long-term performance assumptions.[65] NATCL also proposed an Adaptive Management Plan to guide future long-term monitoring post-closure. NATCL suggested that this Plan could include the identification of performance indicators, monitoring parameters, action thresholds, triggers, and contingency and response measures that build upon the criteria listed in the FCRP.[66]

The Board agrees that the Construction Environmental Management Plan could effectively identify and mitigate short-term impacts resulting from implementing the closure activities. Parties' concerns, however, indicate significant uncertainties about the expected effectiveness and durability of the proposed closure option that should not be deferred to post-closure monitoring and adaptive management. Similarly, while some Parties expressed a preference for removal of the tailings, NATCL has not provided an evaluation of this option, so there is limited evidence about the potential impacts of this option and how these two options compare. Due to these outstanding uncertainties, it is unclear whether the potential impacts can be mitigated to an acceptable degree through the available Board processes and mechanisms.

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[62] See MVLWB Online Review System for North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. – Cantung Mine Closure and Reclamation Project – Type A Licence and Permit Applications – Jun 12_26 NDDB comment 6.
[63] See MVLWB Online Review System for North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. – Cantung Mine Closure and Reclamation Project – Type A Licence and Permit Applications – Jun 12_26 LKFN comment 2 (Fluvial Geomorphology Review Of Flat River Floodplain Tailings); LFN 2 (Supporting Technical Memorandum).
[64] *Ibid*.
[65] See MVLWB Online Review System for North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. – Cantung Mine Closure and Reclamation Project – Type A Licence and Permit Applications – Jun 12_26 Responses to LKFN 15; GNWT-ECC 26; CIRNAC Inspector 11, 13.
[66] See MVLWB Online Review System for North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. – Cantung Mine Closure and Reclamation Project – Type A Licence and Permit Applications – Jun 12_26 Responses to NDDB 7, 9-10; LKFN 7, 9, 11, 15-16, 24; ECCC 3; DFO 3; GNWT-ECC 11, 14-17; CIRNAC Inspector 11-13; 15-17; 22-23; MVLWB 30, 42, 44, 52, 53, 91, 95.

Considering The Dynamic Nature of the Flat River

Regarding the proposed Floodplain Tailings closure activity, the Board is uncertain whether NATCL adequately assessed the risk of potential failure of stabilization armouring due to the Flat River dynamics (e.g., high-velocity flow, flooding, ice plucking, beaver dams, ice jams, and new channel diverting flow). During the proceeding, LFN, LKFN, and GNWT-ECC all questioned whether NATCL's proposal to place armouring considered the dynamic nature of the Flat River. In response, NATCL stated that it considers those risks to be unlikely, and justified remediating the Floodplain Tailings for the following reasons:[67]

- The Floodplain Tailings have remained in place for over 50 years.
- Various studies have shown they do not pose significant environmental risk.
- The design of the armouring will consider probable maximum flood and climate change projections.
- The orange staining on the Floodplain Tailings is a result of geochemical neutralizing, not active acid generation.
- The reclaimed Floodplain Tailings would be physically safe to traverse for traditional activities if the cover is not excavated or disturbed.

LFN's technical memorandum argued that armouring the mainstem of the Flat River would[68]

- remove the river's capacity to adjust laterally;
- cause sediment at the river bottom to mobilize (scour);
- carve the channel deeper (incision);
- lower the local water table; and
- expose saturated tailings to oxygen.

Similarly, LKFN is of the opinion that placing armouring along a fixed channel alignment does not adequately account for how the Flat River will likely shift and evolve over time.[69] Moreover, LKFN's technical memorandum notes the following:[70]

- Over the long term or during extreme events, the Flat River may reroute and establish a new channel that bypasses the armoured sections. This could expose the Floodplain Tailings to river flow and potential for sediment to mobilize.
- Seasonal ice jams and large woody debris could change how water flows, and trigger erosion or rerouting. This could amplify the risk of tailings mobilizing.

[67] See MVLWB Online Review System for North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. – Cantung Mine Closure and Reclamation Project – Type A Licence and Permit Applications – Jun 12_26 Responses to LKFN 2, MVLWB 57, ECCC 7.
[68] See MVLWB Online Review System for North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. – Cantung Mine Closure and Reclamation Project – Type A Licence and Permit Applications – Jun 12_26 LFN comment 2.
[69] See MVLWB Online Review System for North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. – Cantung Mine Closure and Reclamation Project – Type A Licence and Permit Applications – Jun 12_26 LKFN comment 2.
[70] *Ibid*.

GNWT-ECC identified that the presence of oxbows and meanders along the watercourse indicates the Flat River may not be static. GNWT-ECC also requested that NATCL consider the following factors:[71]

- the presence of beaver activity in the region, and associated erosion potential if ongoing beaver activity alters local flow; and
- variable water levels in the current system and increased flow as climate change exacerbates glacial melt within the watershed.

If the armouring on the Floodplain Tailings fails due to the above factors, the Flat River could carry fine tailings downstream. NATCL considers the consequence to be moderate if the armouring fails because, while a large volume of tailings could flow downstream, NATCL considers the impacts to be reversible once the flow of the Flat River slows down following an increased flow event and noted that the Flat River has a high buffering capacity.[72]

In response to Parties' concerns about the dynamic nature of the Flat River, NATCL indicated that "detailed studies are underway to inform detailed engineering design", including:[73]

- development of the probable maximum flood (PMF) for the Flat River;
- incorporation of climate change scenarios into hydrotechnical evaluations that drive closure option design criteria;
- review and update of earlier scour analysis conducted within the Flat River; and
- the potential for beaver dams to affect flow within the Flat River and floodplain.

NATCL's response did not directly address Parties' concerns about the dynamic nature of the Flat River, instead deferring detailed mitigation measures for the proposed Floodplain Tailings closure option to future engineering design. Therefore, the Board is of the opinion that significant unresolved uncertainties remain about the effectiveness and durability of the proposed closure option.

Potential Impacts on Groundwater and Surface Water

Although NATCL argues that the orange staining on the Floodplain Tailings is a sign of geochemical neutralization, not active acid-generation, the Board is uncertain if the risk to groundwater quality and water quality in the Flat River is acceptable or can be mitigated to an acceptable level. The Board notes the following evidence from the proceeding:

- Parties are concerned that placing the riprap will only mitigate the surface bank erosion, but will not prevent[74]

[71] See MVLWB Online Review System for North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. – Cantung Mine Closure and Reclamation Project – Type A Licence and Permit Applications – Jun 12_26 GNWT-ECC comment 4.
[72] See MVLWB Online Review System for North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. – Cantung Mine Closure and Reclamation Project – Type A Licence and Permit Applications – Jun 12_26 updated Failure Mode Effects Analysis (page 27).
[73] See MVLWB Online Review System for North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. – Cantung Mine Closure and Reclamation Project – Type A Licence and Permit Applications – Jun 12_26 GNWT-ECC comment 4.
[74] See MVLWB Online Review System for North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. – Cantung Mine Closure and Reclamation Project – Type A Licence and Permit Applications – Jun 12_26 LKFN comment 2.

- tailings from oxidizing; or
- contaminants from releasing through porewater, seepage, and groundwater.

- Parties identified results and conclusions from the 2025 ECCC *Fisheries Act* Direction:
  - LKFN pointed out that the results from groundwater wells 4-27-9 and 4-27-16 indicate that tailings are actively leaching into the alluvial system.[75]
  - Both LFN and LKFN highlighted that the results found standing water in the Floodplain Tailings to be acutely toxic for aquatic life.[76]

NATCL indicated in response to comments that it planned to respond to these concerns with a technical memorandum, covering topics including surface water and groundwater impacts for the Project.[77] NATCL provided the technical memorandum on October 27, 2026,[78] but this information was not received in time for Parties or the Board to review it before the Board made its preliminary screening determination. Similar to other noted potential impacts associated with closure of the Floodplain Tailings, however, the Board notes that the outstanding uncertainties about the expected effectiveness and durability of the proposed closure option result in uncertainties about the potential impacts on groundwater and surface water quality.

Potential Impacts on Aquatic Life and Habitat

The Board is also uncertain if the risk to aquatic life is acceptable or can be mitigated to an acceptable level.[79] Based on the evidence, identified and potentially unacceptable risks include:

- **Impacts to culturally-significant fish species**: LFN is of the opinion that removing the Floodplain Tailings is the only option that would provide quality habitat for fish species culturally significant to Kaska (e.g., arctic grayling, bull trout, and northern pike). This is because these species require the whole riverscape, and not only the active channel.[80]
- **Disruption of fish habitat and traditional use**: LKFN is of the opinion that armouring the Floodplain Tailings in place could disconnect the river from its natural floodplain. This would disrupt habitat functions such as nutrient cycling, creating side channels, and woody debris input. LFN and LKFN both believe removing the Floodplain Tailings and restoring the natural floodplain would result in a functional and healthy fish habitat. This is important for protecting LKFN's traditional use.[81]

[75] See MVLWB Online Review System for North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. – Cantung Mine Closure and Reclamation Project – Type A Licence and Permit Applications – Jun 12_26 LKFN comment 1 (Fluvial Geomorphology Review Of Flat River Floodplain Tailings), 2.
[76] See MVLWB Online Registry for NATCL - ECCC Inspection Summary - Fisheries Act Direction - Dec 22_25.
[77] See MVLWB Online Review System for North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. – Cantung Mine Closure and Reclamation Project – Type A Licence and Permit Applications – Jun 12_26 Responses to LKFN 12, 18, 20-22; ECCC 5; GNWT-ECC 7-9, 12, 13, MVLWB 79, 83, 85-88.
[78] See MVLWB Online Registry for NATCL - Type A Licence and Permit App - Water Quality Memo - Oct 27_26.
[79] See MVLWB Online Review System for North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. – Cantung Mine Closure and Reclamation Project – Type A Licence and Permit Applications – Jun 12_26 Responses to GNWT-ECC 9; ECCC 2; DFO 3.
[80] See MVLWB Online Review System for North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. – Cantung Mine Closure and Reclamation Project – Type A Licence and Permit Applications – Jun 12_26 LFN comment 2.
[81] See MVLWB Online Review System for North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. – Cantung Mine Closure and Reclamation Project – Type A Licence and Permit Applications – Jun 12_26 LKFN comment 2.

- **Impacts to fish populations:** LKFN is also concerned that if the bank armouring fails from the movement and floodings of the river, it would impact fish populations:[82]
    - Arctic grayling and bull trout are highly sensitive to sedimentation.
    - Sand grain size sediment could fill the riverbed, which is important to incubating eggs, benthic invertebrates, and juvenile fish.

NATCL did not address these concerns directly during the proceeding but agreed to develop a Construction Environmental Management Plan and an Adaptive Management Plan.[83]

The Board agrees that the Construction Environmental Management Plan could provide a mechanism to identify and mitigate short-term impacts on fish and fish habitat resulting from implementing the closure activities. As noted above, however, Parties' concerns indicate significant uncertainties about the expected effectiveness and durability of the proposed closure option. Due to these uncertainties, is unclear whether the long-term potential impacts on fish and fish habitat can be mitigated to an acceptable degree through post-closure monitoring and adaptive management.

Potential Impacts on Wildlife

The Board is uncertain if the potential impacts to wildlife are acceptable or can be mitigated to an acceptable level. NATCL did not submit a Wildlife Management and Monitoring Plan since it is not required on federal lands,[84] but the Board notes that GNWT-ECC identified the following risks to wildlife:[85]

- Spot revegetating and not placing soil cover on the Floodplain Tailings would attract wildlife receptors (e.g., small and burrowing mammals, birds).
- The Human Health and Ecological Risk Assessment (HHERA) did not consider the potential ecological uses after NATCL spot revegetates the Floodplain Tailings.

NATCL did not address these concerns directly during the proceeding but agreed to include additional information in a Construction Environmental Management Plan and an Adaptive Management Plan.[86]

The Board agrees that the Construction Environmental Management Plan could provide a mechanism to identify and mitigate short-term impacts on wildlife resulting from implementing the closure activities. As noted above, however, Parties' concerns indicate significant uncertainties about the expected effectiveness and durability of the proposed closure option. Due to these uncertainties, is unclear whether

[82] *Ibid*.
[83] See MVLWB Online Review System for North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. – Cantung Mine Closure and Reclamation Project – Type A Licence and Permit Applications – Jun 12_26 Responses to GNWT-ECC 26; CIRNAC Inspector 11.
[84] See MVLWB Online Review System for North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. – Cantung Mine Closure and Reclamation Project – Type A Licence and Permit Applications – Jun 12_26 Responses to GNWT-ECC 25-26.
[85] See MVLWB Online Review System for North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. – Cantung Mine Closure and Reclamation Project – Type A Licence and Permit Applications – Jun 12_26 Responses to GNWT-ECC 25.
[86] See MVLWB Online Review System for North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. – Cantung Mine Closure and Reclamation Project – Type A Licence and Permit Applications – Jun 12_26 Responses to GNWT-ECC 26; CIRNAC Inspector 11.

the long-term potential impacts on wildlife can be mitigated to an acceptable degree through post-closure monitoring and adaptive management.

4.1.3 Potential Impacts of Water Management

To mitigate impacts to the receiving water, NATCL proposed DQOs as a screening tool for the mine water flowing passively from the underground mine into the Flat River.

Although NATCL insists the mine water is not a "waste" because the Flat River can dilute the mine water,[87] based on the review comments and responses on the Applications, NATCL has not provided sufficient evidence to convince the Board the risk to water quality is acceptable or can be mitigated to an acceptable level.[88] In the Board's opinion, the evidence indicates that the proposed water management could cause significant adverse impact to the receiving water: [89]

- **Effluent could be acutely toxic:** NATCL proposed DQOs, instead of effluent quality criteria, to manage the mine water.
  - The proposed DQOs for some parameters exceed acute aquatic-life guidelines.
  - The calculations of the DQOs rely on average flow, instead of low flow. In other words, the proposed DQOs may not be protective when the Flat River is at low flow.
  - The discharge of potentially acutely-toxic mine-water violates the *Fisheries Act*.

- **Mixing zone will be large:** NATCL proposed a mixing zone that extends three kilometers downstream.
  - In a mixing zone, concentrations of some water quality parameters may not be protective of aquatic life.
  - The proposed mixing zone is larger than the recommended mixing zone in the LWB/GNWT *Guidelines for Effluent Mixing Zones*.[90]

- **Tungsten criteria not proposed**: NATCL did not propose water quality objectives or DQOs for tungsten.
  - LKFN identified that tungsten concentrations are 10 times higher downstream of the mine, and the Flat River's alkalinity cannot remediate tungsten.[91]

Additionally, the Board notes that the proposed in-place stabilization of the Floodplain Tailings may not address the seepage of ARD/ML into the Flat River (see section 4.1.2 above).

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[87] See MVLWB Online Review System for North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. – Cantung Mine Closure and Reclamation Project – Type A Licence and Permit Applications – Jun 12_26 MVLWB comment 81.
[88] See MVLWB Online Review System for North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. – Cantung Mine Closure and Reclamation Project – Type A Licence and Permit Applications – Jun 12_26 LKFN comments 20-22; ECCC 5; GNWT-ECC 12-13; MVLWB 86-88.
[89] See MVLWB Online Review System for North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. – Cantung Mine Closure and Reclamation Project – Type A Licence and Permit Applications – Jun 12_26 LKFN comment 1 (Letter); GNWT-ECC 2.
[90] See the MVLWB Policies and Resources webpage to access the LWB/GNWT Guidelines for Effluent Mixing Zones.
[91] See MVLWB Online Review System for North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. – Cantung Mine Closure and Reclamation Project – Type A Licence and Permit Applications – Jun 12_26 LKFN comment 10.

4.2 Consideration of Public Concern

In addition to considering the potential impacts of the Project, the Board considered whether the Project might be a cause of public concern. The Board has determined that the Project might be a cause of public concern based on submissions from LFN and LKFN, as discussed further below.

During the public review of the Applications, LFN directed a letter to the Board that requested the Applications be referred to the Review Board for EA because LFN does not believe that the regulatory process, on its own, is "sufficient to resolve the significant and interconnected issues that remain."[92] LFN specifically discussed the following in more detail in the letter:

- a longstanding expectation of environmental assessment
- LFN Lands' closure objectives, Kaska rights, and reconciliation
- governance, Crown responsibility, and financial assurance
- Nahanni Range Road, transboundary effects, and cumulative effects
- Flat River Floodplain Tailings and restoration
- long-term performance, monitoring, adaptive management, and stewardship
- socioeconomic effects and LFN Lands participation

Throughout the letter, LFN reiterated the importance of allowing for the resumption of Kaska rights, including the "use of the mountains, river, creeks, forests and the associated exercise of Kaska rights that those lands and waters once supported." LFN is of the opinion "that EA is the most appropriate process for considering the complexity of the Project as a whole" and that an EA is "likely the most expeditious way to develop remedies and move to a final closure plan while avoiding flawed or irreversible decisions made without adequate consideration."

NATCL provided a letter in response to LFN's letter that discussed the various concerns raised.[93] NATCL indicated that it shares LFN's interest in responsibly closing the Cantung Mine in a timely manner, and that NATCL:

> …undertook years of engagement on closure planning aspects, and afforded Indigenous partners multiple opportunities to meet bilaterally and/or collaboratively as part of the Communities Working Group, to review documents, participate in analyses, share perspectives and provide input into the closure planning process, including updates to closure objectives. NATCL developed alternative closure options for the various components of the site and received input from varying perspectives and multiple groups to date, which have informed the preferred closure options presented in the Final Closure and Reclamation Plan.

[92] See MVLWB Online Review System for North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. – Cantung Mine Closure and Reclamation Project – Type A Licence and Permit Applications – Jun 12_26 LFN comment 1 (Letter).
[93] See MVLWB Online Review System for North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. – Cantung Mine Closure and Reclamation Project – Type A Licence and Permit Applications – Jun 12_26 Response (Letter) to LFN comment 1.

Regarding LFN's recommendation that the Project be referred to EA, NATCL concluded that the Board must ultimately make this decision "based on the evidence before it in the proceeding."

NDDB, on the other hand, submitted a letter to the Board recommending that the Project not be referred to EA.[94] NDDB noted that the Nation is the first community directly downstream of Cantung Mine, and that "the status of the remediation of Cantung Mine is of critical interest to the community." NDDB indicated historic and continued use of the "lands and resources in and around Cantung and along the Flat River for traditional purposes" and that the lands and resources "are of environmental, cultural, economic, and spiritual importance to the NDDB." NDDB subsequently urged the Board not to refer the Project to EA for the following reasons:

- The reclamation of Cantung is an urgent need for the community, land, Nahanni National Park Reserve, and the pursuit of traditional and other land uses at the site.
- Waiting additional years for a CRP beyond the current eleven years since the mine ceased operations is too long, particularly given the tailings dams within 10 metres of the Flat River that flows into the community. NDDB believes an EA would "only add further years of delay and uncertainty to the closure process."
- The Board's review process and conditions in the Licence can address NDDB's outstanding questions.
- The Project is not a mining project that creates new impacts, and the past and current impacts of the mine site are well understood and do not require assessment.
- The closure activities proposed by NATCL are technically sound (there are no unproven new activities), and the resulting impact on the environment and community would be positive.

NDDB further recommended "that all stakeholders respect the community's decision-making authority regarding NDDB Traditional Territory." NATCL responded that "NATC appreciates NDDB's submission."[95]

The Board notes that LKFN also submitted a letter to the Board on August 24, 2026.[96] While LKFN's letter was silent on the topic of preliminary screening or EA for the Project, LKFN indicated that overall, their comments highlight:[97]

> …severe technical deficiencies in the proposed Final Closure and Reclamation Plan relating to the closure of the Tailings Containment Areas and the management of the historical Flat River tailings. These issues require revised closure approaches supported by adequate technical documentation.

[94] See MVLWB Online Review System for North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. – Cantung Mine Closure and Reclamation Project – Type A Licence and Permit Applications – Jun 12_26 NDDB comment 1 (Letter).
[95] See MVLWB Online Review System for North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. – Cantung Mine Closure and Reclamation Project – Type A Licence and Permit Applications – Jun 12_26 Response to NDDB 1.
[96] See MVLWB Online Review System for North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. – Cantung Mine Closure and Reclamation Project – Type A Licence and Permit Applications – Jun 12_26 LKFN comment 1 (Letter).
[97] *Ibid*.

LKFN subsequently argued that the closure activity proposed by NATCL for the Floodplain Tailings "utterly fails to achieve the Indigenous post-closure land use vision identified through engagement" and that this activity "does not achieve a visibly and measurably clean river corridor and therefore continues to affect community confidence and full exercise of Treaty and Aboriginal rights."[98]

In response to LKFN's letter, NATCL recognized that "there are differing opinions on how best to close aspects of the Cantung Mine" but concluded the proposed closure activity for the Floodplain Tailings continues to be reclamation in place.[99] NATCL further discussed the proposed closure activities for the Floodplain Tailings and TCAs, including the following details:

- The Floodplain Tailings have been in place for over 50 years, and various studies prove that they do not represent a significant risk to the environment.
- All tailings facilities have the same level of compatibility with partial traditional use (i.e., the Floodplain Tailings, TCAs, and those in the upgradient cell are considered safe to traverse, but not compatible with use or activities that could compromise containment, like disturbing an engineered cap).

Strength of Claim for Indigenous Rights

In a letter sent to the Board on June 26, 2026, LFN requested the following:[100]

> …the Board clarify the extent to which it considers the strength of claim for Indigenous rights, or a determination of whether a First Nation or Indigenous group is more affected by the Cantung Mine than others in fulfilling the Board's mandate.

Board staff responded to LFN's letter on July 17, 2026,[101] explaining that the Board does not have a formulaic or one-size fits-all approach to considering strength of claim, and that the Board's consideration and assessment regarding strength of claim will depend on the circumstances of each case, and the evidence put before the Board. Board staff's letter also explained that while the Board itself does not have an independent constitutional duty to consult, the Board understands that the Crown (i.e., the Government of Canada and Government of the Northwest Territories) may rely on the Board's process to discharge the Crown's duty and, in some cases, the Board must assess the adequacy of Crown consultation prior to making a final decision. Where the Board undertakes an assessment of Crown consultation, this may include consideration of the strength of claim as one relevant factor to the degree of consultation required.

The Board notes the different opinions put forth by NDDB and LFN regarding the need for an EA for the Project. The preliminary screening decision before the Board is about whether the Project *might* result in

[98] See MVLWB Online Review System for North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. – Cantung Mine Closure and Reclamation Project – Type A Licence and Permit Applications – Jun 12_26 LKFN comment 2.
[99] See MVLWB Online Review System for North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. – Cantung Mine Closure and Reclamation Project – Type A Licence and Permit Applications – Jun 12_26 Response to LKFN 2.
[100] See MVLWB Online Registry for NATCL - Type A Licence and Permit App - LFN Letter - Jun 26_26.
[101] See MVLWB Online Registry for NATCL - Board Staff Response to LFN - Draft Work Plan Comments - Jul 17_26.

a significant adverse impact on the environment or *might* be a cause of public concern. This decision before the Board is not a final decision on the Applications, which could require an assessment of Crown consultation. Therefore, the Board considered the evidence from LFN, NDDB, and LKFN alike.

4.2.1 Public Concern Raised

Based on the comments received from LFN and LKFN, the Board has determined that there is evidence to suggest the Project might be a cause of public concern.

LFN and LKFN's August 24, 2026, letters to the Board include discussion of public concern, and LFN in particular makes convincing arguments for why an EA is appropriate for the Project.[102] Below the Board highlights the concerns raised in LFN and LKFN's letters, including reasons why these concerns warrant further assessment by the Review Board.

Status of the Closure and Reclamation Plan

NATCL has included a FCRP with the Applications that includes a developed set of closure goals, objectives, and activities; however, because the Cantung site has never undergone a modern EA, LFN raises the point that "what successful closure should achieve" remains unresolved at this point "when a near-final closure plan appears to already be before the Board."

Regarding the various Project effects discussed by LFN in their August 24, 2026, LFN argued an EA is needed to comprehensively define successful closure as the foundation for more specific closure planning and decision-making. LFN observed the following:[103]

> Fragmenting those matters among separate licences, later plans, procurement decisions, or other government processes risks missing the relationships among the effects and the closure decisions that create them.

In response to LFN's letter, NATCL argued that impact assessment under the MVRMA (which includes preliminary screenings) must include a consideration of a project as a whole.[104] However, NATCL pointed out that subsequent authorizations through various authorities and government processes, and the submission of plans and other documents following issuance of an authorization are typical. NATCL pointed to the Board's Standard Licence Conditions as an example, given the list of items such as reports, plans, and notifications pursuant to standard water licence terms and conditions.

The Project in this case is entirely a closure project, and the Board notes that NATCL has not recently submitted a Closure and Reclamation Plan (CRP) to the Board for the Cantung Mine under previous

[102] See MVLWB Online Review System for North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. – Cantung Mine Closure and Reclamation Project – Type A Licence and Permit Applications – Jun 12_26 LFN comment 1 (Letter).
[103] See MVLWB Online Review System for North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. – Cantung Mine Closure and Reclamation Project – Type A Licence and Permit Applications – Jun 12_26 LFN comment 1 (Letter).
[104] See MVLWB Online Review System for North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. – Cantung Mine Closure and Reclamation Project – Type A Licence and Permit Applications – Jun 12_26 Response (Letter) to LFN comment 1 (Letter).

authorizations, instead asking for several extensions to this requirement under Licence MV2015L2-0003.[105] The Board notes that it agreed to the numerous extensions to the CRP requirement while NATCL transitioned to care and maintenance and the site being managed by a court-appointed Monitor. However, the Board's preference is for closure plans to develop iteratively over the life of a mine, with input from all interested Parties under the Board's review process, consistent with the LWB *Guidelines for Closure and Reclamation of Advanced Mineral Exploration and Mining Sites in the Northwest Territories*.

The Board acknowledges NATCL's efforts to finalize a CRP based on engagement with the Working Group, which included participation by NDDB, LKFN, and LFN. As discussed more extensively in section 4.1 above, however, the evidence before the Board suggests that Parties are not in agreement with all closure activities presented, and this underlies their broader concerns. The Board provides the following examples related to the proposed Floodplain Tailings closure activity, which is a central component of the CRP:

- LKFN stated that "LKFN's concerns regarding the historical floodplain tailings have been raised consistently throughout the closure planning process" [106] and insisted that "CIRNAC [the Applicant] revise the selected closure strategy (and the entire FCRP accordingly)", and "the Board require this change if CIRNAC does not adopt it voluntarily."[107] LKFN further indicated that the proposed closure activity could impact LKFN's unrestricted traditional use, including the safety of traditional foods.[108]
- LFN questioned "whether a tailings-confined and substantially altered river corridor should be accepted as the permanent closure conditions where meaningful restoration may remain practicable" and argued the approach "…would profoundly interfere with the resumption of Kaska Indigenous rights – LFN citizens' most important closure objective."[109]

NATCL's response to LKFN about the proposed closure activity for the Floodplain Tailings indicated that NATCL would not reconsider the closure activity presented in the FCRP.[110]

While the Board's process supports the collaborative development of a CRP, including overarching closure goals, given the noted fundamental differences of opinion, the uncertainty regarding whether the closure goal has been established, and what the most appropriate closure option is for a central site component, the Board is of the opinion that these matters are a source of public concern and would be more efficiently and comprehensively addressed by the Review Board in an EA, instead of by the Board during the licensing and permitting proceeding, and/or post-issuance. The Board believes that a collaborative EA process led

[105] See MVLWB Online Registry for NATCL - CM Plan and IRCP - Board Directive - Sep8-16; NATCL - Approval - ICRP Submission Deferral - Apr30_20; NATCL - Approval ICRP and CM Plan - Dec10-18; NATCL - Approval - ICRP Submission Deferral - May7-20; NATCL - Approval - Submission Deferral - Mar30_22; NATCL - Approval - Various Plan Submission Extension - Oct 5_23.
[106] See MVLWB Online Review System for North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. – Cantung Mine Closure and Reclamation Project – Type A Licence and Permit Applications – Jun 12_26 LKFN comment 1 (Letter).
[107] See MVLWB Online Review System for North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. – Cantung Mine Closure and Reclamation Project – Type A Licence and Permit Applications – Jun 12_26 LKFN comment 2.
[108] *Ibid*.
[109] See MVLWB Online Review System for North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. – Cantung Mine Closure and Reclamation Project – Type A Licence and Permit Applications – Jun 12_26 LFN comment 1 (Letter).
[110] See MVLWB Online Review System for North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. – Cantung Mine Closure and Reclamation Project – Type A Licence and Permit Applications – Jun 12_26 Response to LKFN 2.

by the Review Board could result in greater resolution on the entire contents of the FCRP, including the closure goal, principles, objectives, options, selected closure activities, and criteria.

LFN Lands' Closure Objectives

In relation to its concerns about the status of the CRP, LFN further discusses that LFN Lands has been refining community-informed remediation and closure objectives for abandoned-mine work in Kaska territory that were not available in finalized form when NATCL was developing the FCRP, so the FCRP was not informed by these objectives.[111] LFN argues that the incorporation of the Kaska objectives directly relates to reconciliation, given Canada's direct role in funding and planning the Project.

NATCL's response to LFN's letter did not discuss the incorporation of the Kaska closure objectives.[112]

The Board acknowledges that NATCL could not incorporate the Kaska objectives while drafting the FCRP given LFN's indication that the objectives were still under development. However, because NATCL has not recently submitted a CRP through a Board process, as discussed above, the Board was not aware of LFN Lands' ongoing work and was not, therefore, able to provide any direction to NATCL about the incorporation of the Kaska closure objectives. This issue further supports the Board's conclusion that the status of the closure goals and CRP for the Project is a potential source of public concern.

Governance, Crown Responsibility, Financial Assurance, Monitoring, Adaptive Management

LFN reiterated concerns previously expressed to the Board about the inappropriate role of NATCL as the Applicant for the Project.[113] This included a discussion about topics such as future Project funding, decision-making authority, and responsibility for the site, including durability of closure commitments, monitoring, long-term performance, and adaptive management responses at the site. LFN asked, "Who is responsible for upholding the honour of the Crown…?" and urged the Board to have confidence that any changes in corporate or Crown arrangements at the site would not reduce the ability to manage potential long-term residual risks.

In response to LFN's letter, NATCL explained that the entity will "continue to hold the authorizations and be responsible for site remediation, monitoring and care and maintenance" and that NATCL will apply to assign any authorizations through the process outlined in the MVRMA if "a different entity intends to hold and be responsible for the authorizations"[114] in the future.

[111] See MVLWB Online Review System for North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. – Cantung Mine Closure and Reclamation Project – Type A Licence and Permit Applications – Jun 12_26 LFN comment 1 (Letter).
[112] See MVLWB Online Review System for North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. – Cantung Mine Closure and Reclamation Project – Type A Licence and Permit Applications – Jun 12_26 Response (Letter) to LFN 1.
[113] See MVLWB Online Review System for North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. – Cantung Mine Closure and Reclamation Project – Type A Licence and Permit Applications – Jun 12_26 LFN comment 1 (Letter).
[114] See MVLWB Online Review System for North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. – Cantung Mine Closure and Reclamation Project – Type A Licence and Permit Applications – Jun 12_26 Response (Letter) to LFN 1.

This topic has been discussed previously by the Board in decisions about the Applications for Licence MV2023L2-0001[115] and Licence MV2023L2-0006.[116] As described in the Board's November 6, 2024, Reasons for Decision, the arrangement between NATCL and Canada regarding funding of the Cantung site is pursuant to a Court order and outside either the Board or Review Board's jurisdiction.[117]

While the identity of the Applicant is not a matter that either board can direct, regardless of the Applicant's identity, the Board will have to ensure that the Applicant's financial responsibility is adequate to complete the Project prior to issuing the Licence.[118] The Board can also set management, monitoring, and adaptive response requirements in the licence and permit. The Board understands, however, that the Review Board can consider a broader range of issues in the scoping phase of an EA, including social, economic, and cultural issues.[119] LFN's concerns related to the Applicant's identity are linked to the other concerns discussed in this section, which the Board believes may be more appropriately addressed by the Review Board during an EA.

Socioeconomic Effects

LFN discussed socioeconomic effects, both positive and negative, associated with the Project, including:[120]

- opportunities including the creation of multi-year employment, contracting, training, monitoring, procurement, and stewardship opportunities; and
- potential adverse effects related to construction, transportation, worker movements, access, and use of the NRR.

LFN requested meaningful participation in the opportunities listed above, including "a substantive role in environmental and cultural monitoring, adaptive management, and long-term stewardship."[121] LFN went on to discuss broader socioeconomic and cultural effects of closure, including the following:

- effects on land and natural resource use
- access
- community well-being
- cultural use
- distribution of these burdens

[115] See MVLWB Online Registry for NATCL - Board Decision - Licensing Criteria - Nov6_24 pages 22-23.
[116] See MVLWB Online Registry for NATCL – Issuance - Type A Water Licence - Feb 1_24 pages 13-14.
[117] See MVLWB Online Registry for NATCL - Board Decision - Licensing Criteria - Nov6_24 pages 22-23.
[118] See paragraph 72.03(5)(d) of the MVRMA.
[119] See Mackenzie Valley Review Board website for Environmental Impact Assessment Guidelines page 28.
[120] See MVLWB Online Review System for North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. – Cantung Mine Closure and Reclamation Project – Type A Licence and Permit Applications – Jun 12_26 LFN comment 1 (Letter).
[121] *Ibid*.

LFN believes that "these issues overlap with the NRR, transboundary effects, the selected closure outcomes, and long-term governance. They should be assessed together rather than deferred entirely to later procurement or management processes."[122]

In response to LFN's letter, NATCL stated the following:[123]

> NATCL looks forward to the meaningful participation in implementation, including advance information on work packages, procurement schedules, qualifications and training needs, and fair opportunities for Indigenous partner businesses and workers to prepare for and compete for closure-related work, which may also include monitoring and adaptive management.

While NATCL appears open to working with LFN on these issues, and as noted by LFN, these concerns are tied to the development of the FCRP and may evolve along with the FCRP, the Board has limited authority to provide direction on socioeconomic impacts and mitigations associated with the Project.

As discussed earlier in section 3.3, the Board has not considered the NRR in its screening determination, however, in the Board's opinion, the identified socioeconomic issues might still be a source of public concern with respect to the Project (as described in the Applications) when considered together with the concerns regarding the CRP and potential environmental impacts. Because the Review Board has the ability to scope social, economic, and cultural issues more broadly as previously noted, the Board believes that the socioeconomic effects of the Project should be considered as part of an EA.

Nahɔą Dehé Dene Band's Concerns

The Board acknowledges NDDB's arguments about the need for timely closure of the Cantung Mine site and about the nature of the Project, which is not a mining project creating new impacts. In the Board's opinion, however, neither the regulatory proceeding nor an EA proceeding offers a definitive timeline for resolving the outstanding issues.

Given the fundamental concerns expressed by other Parties about the FCRP and the potential impacts of NATCL's proposed closure activities (e.g., impacts to the receiving water), it is unclear how long it could take for NATCL's FCRP to be approved by the Board after the Licence and Permit are issued. Further, advancement of the FCRP post-issuance may ultimately require revision to other plans or amendment to the Licence and/or Permit, which could cause a regulatory burden post-issuance. Conceivably, an EA process could potentially result in earlier consensus among Parties on the various topics of concern raised about the Applications because of the Review Board's broader jurisdiction. This could expediate the regulatory proceeding and the implementation of the FCRP.

[122] See MVLWB Online Review System for North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. – Cantung Mine Closure and Reclamation Project – Type A Licence and Permit Applications – Jun 12_26 LFN comment 1 (Letter).
[123] See MVLWB Online Review System for North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. – Cantung Mine Closure and Reclamation Project – Type A Licence and Permit Applications – Jun 12_26 Response (Letter) to LFN comment 1.

In the interim, the Board recently issued Permit MV2026D0002 that authorizes NATCL to continue conducting activities related to care and maintenance, including necessary risk reduction work in the Floodplain Tailings.[124] The site is also regulated by the Board under Licence MV2023L2-0006,[125] which NATCL applied to renew on June 18, 2026 (renewal Licence MV2026L2-0006).[126]

5.0 Conclusion

The Board has reviewed all the evidence received during the regulatory process with respect to the preliminary screening of the proposed Project. Based on the evidence, the Board is of the opinion that there might be significant adverse impact to the environment from the Project related to the proposed Floodplain Tailings closure option and the proposed water management. The evidence that Parties submitted to the Board also indicates that outstanding uncertainties about the closure vision for the site, the lack of agreement on proposed closure activities, and the potential environmental and socioeconomic impacts associated with the Project may be a source of public concern. As a result, it is the Board's opinion that the proposed Project might have a significant adverse impact on the environment and might be a cause of public concern, as set out in paragraph 125(1)(a) of the MVRMA. The Board has, therefore, decided to refer the Project to the Review Board for Environmental Assessment in accordance with paragraph 125(1)(b) of the MVRMA.

SIGNATURE

November 5, 2026



Tanya MacIntosh, Chair
Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board

Date

[124] See MVLWB Online Registry for MV2026D0002.
[125] See MVLWB Online Registry for MV2023L2-0006.
[126] See MVLWB Online Registry for MV2026L2-0006.

Appendix A: Potential Impacts and Proposed Mitigations for the Proposed Project

Potential Impact	Activity	Proposed Mitigations *Description of measures to reduce potential impacts, including consideration of cumulative impacts and climate change.*	Potential Mitigation *Existing LWB Standard Land Use Permit Conditions Template and Standard Water Licence Conditions[127] that can mitigate potential impacts*	Board Analysis and Determination
Destabilization/ erosion	Stabilization of the Floodplain Tailings (armouring of Flat River channel and spot-treatment within floodplain) Settlement following excavation (soil removal and backfilling, adit backfilling) Borrow and quarry operations Use and storage of explosives Construct, maintain, and closure of the TCAs and a cell upgradient of TCA 4	• The Applicant proposed the following mitigations in the Applications[129] and in response to review comments: *Stabilization of the Floodplain Tailings* ○ Erosion and sediment control plan would be implemented; the work area isolated from flowing water or work would occur in dry conditions where possible; and select areas with exposed tailings within the floodplain would be capped and revegetated in a way that prevents erosion as per engineered design.[130] ○ Armouring of the Flat River channel through the Floodplain Tailings would reduce the potential for tailings resuspension and mobilization. Capped areas within the floodplain would be mounded and graded to limit erosion and settlement and promote positive drainage, avoiding water ponding. The design would consider armour stone sizing that is resistant to mobilization under design flow conditions, use of filter layers or geotextiles that will prevent the exposure, resuspension, or migration of the underlying floodplain tailings[131] as well as the expected design life of the floodplain armouring, erosion and river migration analyses, and estimates of future channel migration.[132] ○ To mitigate geomorphic fluvial risks from placing fixed riprap armouring on the Floodplain Tailings,[133] NATCL would incorporate hydraulic analysis, scour analysis, riprap sizing calculations, and channel stability assessments into	***PERMIT CONDITIONS*** ○ USE APPROVED EQUIPMENT ○ PROGRESIVE EROSION CONTROL ○ REPAIR EROSION ○ OFF-ROAD VEHICLE TRAVEL ○ PREVENTION OF RUTTING ○ SUSPEND OVERLAND TRAVEL ○ VEHICLE MOVEMENT FREEZE-UP ***LICENCE CONDITIONS*** ○ PRECAUTION TO PROTECT ENVIRONMENT ○ OBJECTIVE – WASTE AND WATER MANAGEMENT ○ EROSION CONTROL	Based on the described mitigations and the evidence from the proceeding to date, it is the Board's opinion that destabilization/erosion resulting from the proposed closure activity for the Floodplain Tailings might be a significant adverse impact on the environment and might be a cause of public concern. Due to outstanding uncertainties about the closure goals and activities, and the proposed closure option for the Floodplain Tailings in particular, it is unclear whether the potential impact can be mitigated to an acceptable degree through the proposed mitigations and the Board's licence and permit conditions. This is discussed further in section 4.1.2.

[127] See the MVLWB Policies and Resources webpage to access the LWB *Standard Water Licence Conditions Template* and LWB *Standard Land Use Permit Conditions Template*.
[129] See MVLWB Online Registry for NATCL - Type A Licence and Permit App - Project Description Impact Assessment - May 28_26.
[130] See MVLWB Online Review System for North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. – Cantung Mine Closure and Reclamation Project – Type A Licence and Permit Applications – Jun 12_26 Response to CIRNAC 14.
[131] See MVLWB Online Review System for North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. – Cantung Mine Closure and Reclamation Project – Type A Licence and Permit Applications – Jun 12_26 Response to MVLWB 57.
[132] See MVLWB Online Review System for North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. – Cantung Mine Closure and Reclamation Project – Type A Licence and Permit Applications – Jun 12_26 Response to GNWT-ECC 17.
[133] See MVLWB Online Review System for North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. – Cantung Mine Closure and Reclamation Project – Type A Licence and Permit Applications – Jun 12_26 LKFN comment 2 (Fluvial Geomorphology Review of Flat River Floodplain Tailings); LFN comment 2 (Supporting Technical Memorandum).

Potential Impact	Activity	Proposed Mitigations *Description of measures to reduce potential impacts, including consideration of cumulative impacts and climate change.*	Potential Mitigation *Existing LWB Standard Land Use Permit Conditions Template and Standard Water Licence Conditions[127] that can mitigate potential impacts*	Board Analysis and Determination
	Demolition of buildings Culvert removal Surface preparation and grading at the end of the closure construction phase Risk of destabilizing TCA 1 and 2 by proposing to excavate them[128]	detailed design. [134] The scour analysis would be reviewed and updated following development of the probable maximum flood for the Flat River (the design event being used in the detailed engineering design).[135] The revised scour assessment would be used as input to a broader sediment transport model for the Flat River.[136] ○ Mitigation measures would be designed in accordance with established codes and procedures to accommodate design flows to prevent downstream transport of tailings.[137] ○ Specific construction methods that are a component of detailed design that could reduce erosion include: use of low ground pressure equipment for material placement; construction of local site access road or embankment to reach armouring locations; geosynthetics to stabilize access routes; construction completion during periods of low flow; and construction completion when the ground is frozen to facilitate access.[138] ○ To mitigate the risk of proposed armouring eroding due to increased glacial melt from climate change,[139] NATCL will incorporate climate change scenarios (including the potential for glacial melt) into hydrotechnical evaluations that drive closure option design criteria and update the scour analysis.[140] Detailed engineering design for bank protection would include climate change considerations.[141]	○ EROSION AND SEDIMENTATION MANAGEMENT PLAN ○ CLOSURE AND RECLAMATION PLAN – FINAL ○ INDEPENDENT TAILINGS REVIEW PANEL OR INDEPENDENT ENGINEER ○ DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION PLAN ○ DESIGN DRAWINGS ○ OBJECTIVE – CONSTRUCTION ○ DAMS – GENERAL ○ ENGINEERED STRUCTURES – GENERAL ○ CONSTRUCT AS DESIGNED – ENGINEERED STRUCTURE	

[128] See MVLWB Online Review System for North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. – Cantung Mine Closure and Reclamation Project – Type A Licence and Permit Applications – Jun 12_26 LKFN comment 3.
[134] See MVLWB Online Review System for North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. – Cantung Mine Closure and Reclamation Project – Type A Licence and Permit Applications – Jun 12_26 Response to MVLWB 56.
[135] See MVLWB Online Review System for North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. – Cantung Mine Closure and Reclamation Project – Type A Licence and Permit Applications – Jun 12_26 Response to MVLWB 64.
[136] See MVLWB Online Review System for North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. – Cantung Mine Closure and Reclamation Project – Type A Licence and Permit Applications – Jun 12_26 Response to MVLWB 66.
[137] See MVLWB Online Review System for North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. – Cantung Mine Closure and Reclamation Project – Type A Licence and Permit Applications – Jun 12_26 Response to MVLWB 62.
[138] See MVLWB Online Review System for North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. – Cantung Mine Closure and Reclamation Project – Type A Licence and Permit Applications – Jun 12_26 Response to MVLWB 54.
[139] See MVLWB Online Review System for North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. – Cantung Mine Closure and Reclamation Project – Type A Licence and Permit Applications – Jun 12_26 GNWT-ECC comment 2 (Trace Memo).
[140] See MVLWB Online Review System for North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. – Cantung Mine Closure and Reclamation Project – Type A Licence and Permit Applications – Jun 12_26 Response to GNWT-ECC 4.
[141] See MVLWB Online Review System for North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. – Cantung Mine Closure and Reclamation Project – Type A Licence and Permit Applications – Jun 12_26 Responses to CIRNAC 14; MVLWB 66.

Potential Impact	Activity	**Proposed Mitigations** *Description of measures to reduce potential impacts, including consideration of cumulative impacts and climate change.*	**Potential Mitigation** *Existing LWB Standard Land Use Permit Conditions Template and Standard Water Licence Conditions[127] that can mitigate potential impacts*	**Board Analysis and Determination**
		○ The potential for beaver dams to affect flows within the Flat River and floodplain[142] (either through a blockage or release) has been included in an updated failure modes and effects analysis conducted for the Floodplain Tailings closure option – this would be included as a consideration as detailed engineering designs for closure options progress.[143] ○ Adaptive Management Plan would be developed for the Floodplain Tailings stabilization work, including performance criteria, triggers, and responses, to be implemented during post-closure monitoring.[144] *Remaining Activities* ○ Excavations backfilled with clean granular fill, compacted, and mounded to avoid settlement. ○ General grading to promote drainage and avoid run-on water accumulation. ○ Implement erosion and sediment control plan during construction and operation. ○ Quarry closure and reclamation including scarification and grading of slopes and quarry floor to limit erosion and promote positive drainage. ○ Adit backfilling to be reviewed by a Geotechnical Engineer, with adaptive management as required. ○ A Quarry Management Plan to be followed for quarrying, and a qualified blasting contractor responsible for quarry development, with Qualified Professional oversight during and after blasting. ○ TCA 3 and 4 embankments re-sloped to increase stability and limit erosion. ○ Toe of TCA 4 moved away from the Flat River to reduce erosion potential during high flow/flood events. ○ Cap over TCA 3-4 and cell upgradient of TCA 4 mounded, graded, and compacted to limit settlement, promote positive drainage, and avoid water pooling from run-on water accumulation/snowmelt. Cap constructed out of		

[142] See MVLWB Online Review System for North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. – Cantung Mine Closure and Reclamation Project – Type A Licence and Permit Applications – Jun 12_26 GNWT-ECC comment 2 (Trace Memo).
[143] See MVLWB Online Review System for North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. – Cantung Mine Closure and Reclamation Project – Type A Licence and Permit Applications – Jun 12_26 Response to GNWT-ECC 4.
[144] See MVLWB Online Review System for North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. – Cantung Mine Closure and Reclamation Project – Type A Licence and Permit Applications – Jun 12_26 Response to GNWT-ECC 17.

Potential Impact	Activity	Proposed Mitigations *Description of measures to reduce potential impacts, including consideration of cumulative impacts and climate change.*	Potential Mitigation *Existing LWB Standard Land Use Permit Conditions Template and Standard Water Licence Conditions[127] that can mitigate potential impacts*	Board Analysis and Determination
		coarser rock material that is more resistant to erosion. The cap will also reduce tailings erosion from water and wind.[145] ○ Building basements cut below grade and backfilled with clean fill, compacted, and mounded to limit settlement and run-on water accumulation. ○ Deep culvert and stormwater conveyance system grouted, with surface flows rerouted according to a site water conveyance design. There would be general site grading to promote positive drainage and limit water ponding. ○ The cell upgradient of TCA 4 to be in an area first used as a quarry (re-use of a disturbed area). ○ Scarify/roughen surfaces when areas are no longer needed to support closure activities to limit erosion, promote positive drainage, and encourage natural revegetation. ○ Risk of TCA 4 eroding from river erosion processes, channel migration potential, and long-term floodplain evolution [146] could be addressed with armouring that is proposed along the access corridor embankment that leads to the floodplain.[147] ○ NATCL would address short-term construction risks associated with tailings relocation, including disturbance of acid-generating material, sediment release, and dewatering. This could include established standard construction best management practices, such as isolation, dewatering, sediment-control, water-treatment, and staged-construction methods.[148]		
Changes in surface water quality	Stabilization of Floodplain Tailings (armouring of Flat River channel and spot-	● The Applicant proposed the following mitigations in the Applications[154] and in response to review comments: *Stabilization of the Floodplain Tailings*	***PERMIT CONDITIONS*** ○ CAMP SETBACK ○ QUARRY SETBACK	Based on the described mitigations and the evidence from the proceeding to date, it is the Board's opinion that changes in surface water

[145] See MVLWB Online Review System for North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. – Cantung Mine Closure and Reclamation Project – Type A Licence and Permit Applications – Jun 12_26 Response to MVLWB 51.
[146] See MVLWB Online Review System for North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. – Cantung Mine Closure and Reclamation Project – Type A Licence and Permit Applications – Jun 12_26 LKFN comment 2 (Fluvial Geomorphology Review Of Flat River Floodplain Tailings); LFN 2 (Supporting Technical Memorandum).
[147] See MVLWB Online Review System for North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. – Cantung Mine Closure and Reclamation Project – Type A Licence and Permit Applications – Jun 12_26 Response to GNWT-ECC 21.
[148] See MVLWB Online Review System for North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. – Cantung Mine Closure and Reclamation Project – Type A Licence and Permit Applications – Jun 12_26 Response to LKFN 3.
[154] See MVLWB Online Registry for NATCL - Type A Licence and Permit App - Project Description Impact Assessment - May 28_26.

Potential Impact	Activity	Proposed Mitigations *Description of measures to reduce potential impacts, including consideration of cumulative impacts and climate change.*	Potential Mitigation *Existing LWB Standard Land Use Permit Conditions Template and Standard Water Licence Conditions[127] that can mitigate potential impacts*	Board Analysis and Determination
	treatment within floodplain) Use of equipment, vehicles, and machinery (accidental spills) Use and storage of fuel Construction, operation, and maintenance of a camp (accidental spills, including of treated sewage effluent) All closure activities – erosion and sedimentation potential Reclamation of TCA 1 and 2 footprint Excavation and disposal of contaminated soils, waste rock, tailings from TCA 1 and 2 Retention of Waste Rock Pile #3 on site	○ Work would be conducted in low water conditions and work areas isolated, where feasible; construction monitoring by a Qualified Environmental Professional (QEP) would occur; exposed tailings along channel banks armoured to protect against ARD/ML production, which would reduce potential for long-term erosion and particle mobilization during high flow events; exposed tailings within the floodplain capped and revegetated in accordance with FCRP and related engineering design. *Remaining Activities* ○ Follow Project Spill Contingency Plan, including use of appropriately sized spill kits in vehicles and work areas, proper materials storage and handling. ○ Workers trained in spill response procedures including prompt clean up before spills reach surface water. ○ Camp located within existing footprint, well away from watercourses and/or the high-water mark. ○ Materials stored >30 m away from watercourses and/or high-water mark. ○ Wastewater managed in accordance with the Waste Management Plan. ○ Conduct vehicles and refueling and maintenance in designated areas away from flowing water. ○ Mobile equipment will be in good operating condition and maintained to manufacturer's specifications. ○ Best practices for sediment and erosion control will be implemented during construction, including management of stockpiled embankment material (from TCA 1 and 2), and for stabilization of the Floodplain Tailings. ○ Final site grading to promote positive drainage and direct overland flow to broader site conveyance network. ○ Settling ponds incorporated into design to manage suspended sediment production. ○ Monitoring and reporting in accordance with water licence. ○ Work conducted in low water conditions to extent feasible. ○ Work areas in water are isolated where feasible.	○ USE APPROVED EQUIPMENT ○ EXCAVATION AND EMBANKMENTS ○ EQUIPMENT: WATERCOURSE BUFFER ○ EXCAVATION SETBACK ○ CHEMICALS ○ WASTE CHEMICAL DISPOSAL ○ WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN ○ REPAIR LEAKS ○ FUEL STORAGE SETBACK ○ FUEL CACHE SECONDARY CONTAINMENT ○ SECONDARY CONTAINMENT – REFUELING ○ FUEL CONTAINMENT ○ MAXIMUM FUEL ON SITE ○ SPILL CONTINGENCY PLAN ○ SPILL RESPONSE ○ DRIP TRAYS ○ CLEAN UP SPILLS ○ CLOSURE AND RECLAMATION PLAN ○ FINAL CLEANUP AND RESTORATION	quality resulting from the proposed closure activities might be a significant adverse impact on the environment and might be a cause of public concern. It is not clear to the Board from concerns raised from Parties whether the proposed closure activities for the Floodplain Tailings and passive water management system are appropriate to prevent adverse impacts to the receiving water (Flat River). While short-term potential impacts to surface water from implementing closure activities can be mitigated through the Applicant's proposed mitigations, including a Construction Environmental Management Plan, and licence and permit conditions, due to outstanding uncertainties about the closure goals and activities, it is unclear whether potential impacts to receiving water can be mitigated to an acceptable degree through the proposed mitigations and the Board's licence and permit conditions. This is discussed further in sections 4.1.2 and 4.1.3.

Potential Impact	Activity	Proposed Mitigations *Description of measures to reduce potential impacts, including consideration of cumulative impacts and climate change.*	Potential Mitigation *Existing LWB Standard Land Use Permit Conditions Template and Standard Water Licence Conditions[127] that can mitigate potential impacts*	Board Analysis and Determination
	Pooling/ponding of water following closure activities Operation, maintenance, and closure of active and new landfills Mine water discharge ARD/ML generation associated with the movement of tailings, waste rock Construction of infrastructure (cell upgradient of TCA 4, passive water management system) Borrow and quarry operations Use and storage of explosives Closure of TCA 3, 4, and 5, and cell upgradient of TCA	○ Footprint surface of TCA 1 and 2 will be revegetated following excavation and transport of tailings, limiting erosion potential. ○ Handling and transport of contaminated soils includes containment to reduce potential spread to surrounding areas; soil excavation extents based on FCRP and HHERA with field verification; excavations backfilled with clean, locally sourced material, compacted, and mounded to allow for settlement; construction monitoring would occur by a QEP; disposal of material on TCAs and upgradient cell consolidates contamination. ○ Waste Rock Pile #3 (downslope of the Open Pit) has been on surface for decades and is physically stable. It is considered low risk to the receiving environment as it is located away from sources of surface water. If leachate were to become impacted by ARD in the long-term from leaving Waste Rock Pile #3 in place, the impacts could be managed through the water in the workings that is already part of the site water management plan.[155] ○ Excavations will be managed to avoid accumulation of water (including from rainfall or snowfall), sediment and erosion control practices would be implemented during closure construction activities. ○ Only non-hazardous waste disposed into landfills; both landfills would be covered at closure to limit infiltration and promote positive drainage; disposal of ACM in the new landfill will follow acceptable practice; waste placement in the landfills would be overseen by a QEP; landfill operation in accordance with a landfill management plan. ○ Potential contaminants from mine operations removed from underground workings; DQOs developed based on extensive dataset; mine water expected to continue meeting guideline values; plunge pools and settling ponds incorporated into mine discharge and broader water conveyance through site designed to manage potential sediment production; monitoring and reporting would be in accordance with the water licence.	***LICENCE CONDITIONS*** ○ PRECAUTION TO PROTECT ENVIRONMENT ○ COMPLY WITH SURVEILLANCE NETWORK PROGRAM ○ OBJECTIVE – WASTE AND WATER MANAGEMENT ○ WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN ○ WATER AND WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN ○ EXPLOSIVES MANAGEMENT PLAN ○ CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL – GEOCHEMICAL CRITERIA ○ GEOCHEMICAL RECORDS ○ GEOCHEMICAL CHARACTERIZATION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN ○ OBJECTIVE – CONSTRUCTION ○ DAMS – GENERAL ○ ENGINEERED STRUCTURES – GENERAL	

[155] See MVLWB Online Review System for North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. – Cantung Mine Closure and Reclamation Project – Type A Licence and Permit Applications – Jun 12_26 Response to GNWT-ECC 3.

Potential Impact	Activity	Proposed Mitigations *Description of measures to reduce potential impacts, including consideration of cumulative impacts and climate change.*	Potential Mitigation *Existing LWB Standard Land Use Permit Conditions Template and Standard Water Licence Conditions[127] that can mitigate potential impacts*	Board Analysis and Determination
	4, including potential for ARD/ML generation[149] Post-closure monitoring – unforeseen events[150] Leave Waste Rock Pile #3 in place[151] Soil contamination remaining after closure[152] Risk of destabilizing TCA 1 and 2 by proposing to excavate them[153]	○ To mitigate impacts associated with ARD/ML generation: tailings-impacted water contained/collected for disposal in accordance with appropriate management plan; only inert Non-Acid Generating (NAG) rock used in construction; construction monitoring by QEP. ○ The thick deposition of TCAs 3-5 and the placement of the engineering closure cap will limit the amount of oxygen that that would encounter potentially reactive tailings materials. Because diffusion depths are on the order of a few meters or less, most of the tailings deposit will have no potential for oxygen exposure and risk for ARD/ML that could impact water quality.[156] ○ Non-hazardous waste only disposed into cell upgradient of TCA 4; the cell would be covered to limit infiltration and promote positive drainage; disposal of ACM will follow accepted practice; waste placement would be overseen by a Qualified Professional; landfill operation at the cell would occur in accordance with a landfill management plan; the facility would be located away from surface water. ○ Quarry areas would be closed by regrading slopes to limit erosion; quarry footprints would be graded to promote drainage and avoid ponding; surfaces would be prepared to encourage natural revegetation. ○ For closure of TCA 3, 4, and 5 and cell upgradient of TCA 4: exposed tailings surfaces would be capped and TCA 4 closed in accordance with FCRP and engineering design. ○ NATCL proposes an Adaptive Management Plan to guide future long-term monitoring as part of the post-closure phase. This Plan could include performance indicators, monitoring parameters, action thresholds, triggers,	○ DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION PLAN ○ DESIGN DRAWINGS ○ CONSTRUCT AS DESIGNED – ENGINEERED STRUCTURES ○ SPILL CONTINGENCY PLAN ○ REPORT SPILLS ○ SPILL PREVENTION AND RESPONSE EQUIPMENT ○ CLEAN UP SPILLS ○ CLOSURE AND RECLAMATION PLAN – FINAL	

[149] See MVLWB Online Review System for North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. – Cantung Mine Closure and Reclamation Project – Type A Licence and Permit Applications – Jun 12_26 GNWT-ECC comment 16.
[150] See MVLWB Online Review System for North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. – Cantung Mine Closure and Reclamation Project – Type A Licence and Permit Applications – Jun 12_26 NDDB comment 9.
[151] See MVLWB Online Review System for North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. – Cantung Mine Closure and Reclamation Project – Type A Licence and Permit Applications – Jun 12_26 GNWT-ECC comment 3.
[152] See MVLWB Online Review System for North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. – Cantung Mine Closure and Reclamation Project – Type A Licence and Permit Applications – Jun 12_26 GNWT-ECC comment 6.
[153] See MVLWB Online Review System for North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. – Cantung Mine Closure and Reclamation Project – Type A Licence and Permit Applications – Jun 12_26 LKFN comment 3.
[156] See MVLWB Online Review System for North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. – Cantung Mine Closure and Reclamation Project – Type A Licence and Permit Applications – Jun 12_26 Response to GNWT-ECC 16.

Potential Impact	Activity	Proposed Mitigations *Description of measures to reduce potential impacts, including consideration of cumulative impacts and climate change.*	Potential Mitigation *Existing LWB Standard Land Use Permit Conditions Template and Standard Water Licence Conditions[127] that can mitigate potential impacts*	Board Analysis and Determination
		and contingency and response measures that build upon the criteria in the FCRP.[157] ○ The proposed Site-Specific Remedial Criteria (SSRC) values were developed to be protective of the receiving environment.[158] Confirmatory sampling results would be compared to Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME) soil quality standards for metals not retained as COPC, and the SSRC values in the FCRP for metals retained as COPCs and other metals detected in soil samples.[159] ○ NATCL would address short-term construction risks associated with tailings relocation, including disturbance of acid-generating material, sediment release, dewatering, and temporary effects on water quality and fish habitat. This could include established standard construction best management practices, such as isolation, dewatering, sediment-control, water-treatment, and staged-construction methods.[160]		
Changes in groundwater quality	Use of equipment, vehicles, and machinery (accidental spills) Use and storage of fuel Construction, operation, and maintenance of a camp (accidental spills, including of treated sewage effluent)	● The Applicant proposed the following mitigations in the Applications[163] and in response to review comments: *Stabilization of the Floodplain Tailings* ○ Armouring of Flat River channel through Floodplain Tailings reduces the potential for tailings resuspension and mobilization; select areas within the floodplain would be capped and graded to limit erosion and settlement and to promote positive drainage, avoiding water ponding. ○ Based on the monitoring well installation logs, groundwater does not interact with tailings.[164] *Remaining Activities*	***PERMIT CONDITIONS*** ○ USE APPROVED EQUIPMENT ○ CHEMICALS ○ WASTE CHEMICAL DISPOSAL ○ WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN ○ REPAIR LEAKS	Based on the described mitigations and the evidence from the proceeding to date, it is the Board's opinion that changes in groundwater quality resulting from the proposed closure activities might be a significant adverse impact on the environment and might be a cause of public concern. It is not clear whether the proposed closure activity for the Floodplain Tailings is appropriate to prevent long-term adverse impacts to the groundwater.

[157] See MVLWB Online Review System for North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. – Cantung Mine Closure and Reclamation Project – Type A Licence and Permit Applications – Jun 12_26 Responses to NDDB 9, GNWT-ECC 11.
[158] See MVLWB Online Review System for North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. – Cantung Mine Closure and Reclamation Project – Type A Licence and Permit Applications – Jun 12_26 Response to GNWT-ECC 6.
[159] See MVLWB Online Review System for North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. – Cantung Mine Closure and Reclamation Project – Type A Licence and Permit Applications – Jun 12_26 Response to MVLWB 30.
[160] See MVLWB Online Review System for North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. – Cantung Mine Closure and Reclamation Project – Type A Licence and Permit Applications – Jun 12_26 Response to LKFN 3.
[163] See MVLWB Online Registry for NATCL - Type A Licence and Permit App - Project Description Impact Assessment - May 28_26.
[164] See MVLWB Online Review System for North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. – Cantung Mine Closure and Reclamation Project – Type A Licence and Permit Applications – Jun 12_26 Response to LKFN 3.

Potential Impact	Activity	Proposed Mitigations *Description of measures to reduce potential impacts, including consideration of cumulative impacts and climate change.*	Potential Mitigation *Existing LWB Standard Land Use Permit Conditions Template and Standard Water Licence Conditions[127] that can mitigate potential impacts*	Board Analysis and Determination
	Excavation and disposal of contaminated soils, waste rock, tailings from TCA 1 and 2 Stabilization of Floodplain Tailings (armouring of Flat River channel and spot-treatment within floodplain) Operation, maintenance, and closure of the existing landfill Construction, maintenance, operation, and closure of the new landfill upgradient of TCA 4 Leave Waste Rock Pile #3 in place[161]	○ Follow Project Spill Contingency Plan, including use of appropriately sized spill kits in vehicles and work areas, proper materials storage and handling. ○ Workers trained in spill response procedures. ○ Wastewater managed in accordance with the Waste Management Plan. ○ Conduct vehicles and refueling and maintenance in designated areas. ○ Mobile equipment will be in good operating condition and maintained to manufacturer's specifications. ○ Soil excavation extents based on FCRP and HHERA with field verification; excavations backfilled with clean, locally sourced material; construction monitoring would occur by a QEP; placement of material on TCA 3-5 (prior to capping) consolidates contamination. ○ Only non-hazardous waste disposed into landfills; both landfills would be covered at closure to limit infiltration and promote positive drainage; disposal of ACM in the new landfill will follow acceptable practice; waste placement in the landfills would be overseen by a QEP; landfill operation in accordance with a landfill management plan. ○ Regular groundwater monitoring will continue during closure and post-closure to allow for the identification of potential interactions of groundwater with residual contamination, if present.[165] ○ NATCL proposes an Adaptive Management Plan to guide future long-term monitoring as part of the post-closure phase. This Plan could include performance indicators, monitoring parameters, action thresholds, triggers, and contingency and response measures that build upon the criteria in the FCRP. [166] The Plan would include groundwater monitoring and responses to conditions that could be attributed to contaminants from the tailings draining into the Flat River.[167]	○ FUEL CACHE SECONDARY CONTAINMNET ○ SECONDARY CONTAINMENT – REFUELING ○ FUEL CONTAINMENT ○ MAXIMUM FUEL ON SITE ○ SPILL CONTINGENCY PLAN ○ SPILL RESPONSE ○ DRIP TRAYS ○ CLEAN UP SPILLS ○ CLOSURE AND RECLAMATION PLAN ○ FINAL CLEANUP AND RESTORATION ***LICENCE CONDITIONS*** ○ PRECAUTION TO PROTECT ENVIRONMENT ○ COMPLY WITH SURVEILLANCE NETWORK PROGRAM ○ OBJECTIVE – WASTE AND WATER MANAGEMENT ○ WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN	While short-term impacts to groundwater from implementing closure activities can be mitigated through the Applicant's proposed mitigations, including a Construction Environmental Management Plan, and licence and permit conditions, due to outstanding uncertainties about the closure goals and activities, and the proposed closure option for the Floodplain Tailings in particular, it is unclear whether long-term potential impacts to groundwater can be mitigated to an acceptable degree through the proposed mitigation and the Board's licence and permit conditions. This is discussed further in section 4.1.2.

[161] See MVLWB Online Review System for North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. – Cantung Mine Closure and Reclamation Project – Type A Licence and Permit Applications – Jun 12_26 GNWT-ECC comment 3.
[165] See MVLWB Online Review System for North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. – Cantung Mine Closure and Reclamation Project – Type A Licence and Permit Applications – Jun 12_26 Response to CIRNAC 15.
[166] See MVLWB Online Review System for North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. – Cantung Mine Closure and Reclamation Project – Type A Licence and Permit Applications – Jun 12_26 Response to NDDB 9.
[167] See MVLWB Online Review System for North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. – Cantung Mine Closure and Reclamation Project – Type A Licence and Permit Applications – Jun 12_26 Response to ECCC 3.

Potential Impact	Activity	**Proposed Mitigations** *Description of measures to reduce potential impacts, including consideration of cumulative impacts and climate change.*	**Potential Mitigation** *Existing LWB Standard Land Use Permit Conditions Template and Standard Water Licence Conditions[127] that can mitigate potential impacts*	**Board Analysis and Determination**
	Construct and maintain the TCAs[162]	○ The current Surveillance Network Program (SNP) results from below and near the TCA facilities does not suggest impacts to the groundwater system.[168]	○ WATER AND WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN ○ OBJECTIVE – CONSTRUCTION ○ DAMS – GENERAL ○ ENGINEERED STRUCTURES – GENERAL ○ DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION PLAN ○ DESIGN DRAWINGS ○ CONSTRUCT AS DESIGNED – ENGINEERED STRUCTURES ○ SPILL CONTINGENCY PLAN ○ REPORT SPILLS ○ SPILL PREVENTION AND RESPONSE EQUIPMENT ○ CLEAN UP SPILLS ○ CLOSURE AND RECLAMATION PLAN – FINAL	
Drainage pattern changes	Unplanned flow from underground mine workings to surface	● The Applicant proposed the following mitigations in the Applications:[169] ○ Discharge locations from mine adits are consistent with historic discharge locations.	***PERMIT CONDITIONS*** ○ NATURAL DRAINAGE ***LICENCE CONDITIONS***	Based on the described mitigations and the evidence from the proceeding to date, it is the Board's opinion that drainage changes resulting from the proposed activities might be a

[162] See MVLWB Online Review System for North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. – Cantung Mine Closure and Reclamation Project – Type A Licence and Permit Applications – Jun 12_26 ECCC comment 3.
[168] *Ibid*.
[169] See MVLWB Online Registry for NATCL - Type A Licence and Permit App - Project Description Impact Assessment - May 28_26.

Potential Impact	Activity	Proposed Mitigations *Description of measures to reduce potential impacts, including consideration of cumulative impacts and climate change.*	Potential Mitigation *Existing LWB Standard Land Use Permit Conditions Template and Standard Water Licence Conditions[127] that can mitigate potential impacts*	Board Analysis and Determination
	Unplanned flow/alternate flow paths to broader site-wide water conveyance Stabilization of Floodplain Tailings (armouring of Flat River channel) Water management (general)	○ Adit closures implemented in accordance with FCRP and engineering design. ○ Engineering design considerations include freezing, underground collapse, and energy dissipation in plunge pools near adit discharge locations. ○ Hydraulic analysis factored into engineering designs such as settling pond/ditch sizing. ○ Implement engineering design for water management in accordance with FCRP and engineering designs. ○ Engineering design considerations for ditch sizing, larger flow events. ○ Bridge and culvert removal will facilitate flow (removes potential for blockages). ○ Construction monitoring by QEP including flow during construction work. ○ Channel engineering for the stabilization of the Floodplain Tailings implemented in accordance with FCRP and engineering design; downstream flows are maintained; work is conducted in low water conditions to the extent feasible; work areas isolated as needed; work carried out in accordance with DFO advice, as applicable; construction monitoring by QEP. ○ Final water management and conveyance constructed in accordance with FCRP and engineering design. ○ Engineered designs avoid alteration of existing natural watercourses/drainages and routes water through site to reconnect with the Flat River.	○ WATER AND WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN ○ DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION PLAN ○ DESIGN DRAWINGS CLOUSRE AND RECLAMATION PLAN – FINAL	significant adverse impact on the environment and might be a cause of public concern. The natural drainage patterns on site have already been impacted by historic activities, but the closure activities may result in new short and long-term drainage pattern changes. While short-term potential impacts can be mitigated through the Applicant's proposed mitigations, including the development of a Construction Environmental Management Plan and the Board's licence and permit conditions, due to outstanding uncertainties about the closure goals and activities for the site, and the proposed closure option for the Floodplain Tailings in particular, it is unclear to the Board whether the proposed mitigations and the Board's licence and permit conditions can mitigate the long-term potential impact to an acceptable level.
Climate change considerations	Water management (general) General closure option selection (for the TCAs, Floodplain Tailings, reclamation covers,	• The Applicant proposed the following mitigations in the Applications[171] and in response to review comments: ○ Climate change considerations have been incorporated into the engineering design of the general water conveyance network through the site; larger ditch and settling pond sizing included to accommodate larger/more extreme events. ○ Hydrologic conditions will be revised as part of detailed design to account for the Probable Maximum Flood, which is the design event being applied.[172] The	***LICENCE CONDITIONS*** ○ OBJECTIVE – CONSTRUCTION ○ ENGINEERED STRUCTURES – GENERAL ○ DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION PLAN	Based on the described mitigations and the evidence from the proceeding to date, it is the Board's opinion that the effects of climate change on the proposed closure activities might result in a significant adverse impact on the environment and might be a cause of public concern. Due the outstanding uncertainties

[171] See MVLWB Online Registry for NATCL - Type A Licence and Permit App - Project Description Impact Assessment - May 28_26.
[172] See MVLWB Online Review System for North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. – Cantung Mine Closure and Reclamation Project – Type A Licence and Permit Applications – Jun 12_26 Response to MVLWB 67.

Potential Impact	Activity	Proposed Mitigations *Description of measures to reduce potential impacts, including consideration of cumulative impacts and climate change.*	Potential Mitigation *Existing LWB Standard Land Use Permit Conditions Template and Standard Water Licence Conditions[127] that can mitigate potential impacts*	Board Analysis and Determination
	drainage systems, setbacks, other engineered features)[170]	Coupled Model Intercomparison Project 6 scenario will be included as part of the detailed design task to refine hydrologic conditions and the anticipated performance of closure designs.[173] ○ Regarding how impacts from climate change were considered for closure option selection (including predicted changes and effects of temperature, precipitation, snowfall/rainfall ratios, peak runoff, and extreme precipitation events at site) - designs for critical infrastructure as presented in the FCRP considered an estimated value for the Probable Maximum Flood as well as Canadian Dam Association guidelines,[174] both of which provide sufficient robustness to support the current stage of engineering design. Increases to design flows, temperature, and other potential climate change-related effects are expected to be in the order of 20-30% and are not expected to affect the proposed closure designs or intended function of infrastructure over the long-term. An Adaptive Management Plan will be developed to support long-term monitoring that would include performance triggers.	○ DESIGN DRAWINGS ○ CONSTRUCT AS DESIGNED – ENGINEERED STRUCTURES	about the closure goals and closure activities, it is unclear to the Board if it is appropriate for the Applicant to wait until engineering design is advanced to incorporate climate change considerations.
Soil Contamination	Use of equipment, vehicles, and machinery (accidental spills) Use and storage of fuel Construction, operation, and maintenance of a camp (accidental spills, including of treated sewage effluent)	• The Applicant proposed the following mitigations in the Applications[176] and in response to review comments: ○ Follow Project Spill Contingency Plan, including use of appropriately sized spill kits in vehicles and work areas, proper materials storage and handling. ○ Workers trained in spill response procedures. ○ Wastewater managed in accordance with the Waste Management Plan. ○ Conduct vehicles and refueling and maintenance in designated areas. ○ Mobile equipment will be in good operating condition and maintained to manufacturer's specifications. ○ Handling and transport of contaminated soils includes containment to reduce potential spread to surrounding areas.	***PERMIT CONDITIONS*** ○ USE APPROVED EQUIPMENT ○ CHEMICALS ○ WASTE CHEMICAL DISPOSAL ○ WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN ○ REPAIR LEAKS	Based on the described mitigations and the evidence from the proceeding to date, it is the Board's opinion that soil contamination resulting from the proposed activities might be a significant adverse impact on the environment and might be a cause of public concern. Due to outstanding uncertainties about the proposed closures goals and activities, it is unclear to the Board whether the proposed

[170] See MVLWB Online Review System for North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. – Cantung Mine Closure and Reclamation Project – Type A Licence and Permit Applications – Jun 12_26 GNWT-ECC comment 15.
[173] See MVLWB Online Review System for North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. – Cantung Mine Closure and Reclamation Project – Type A Licence and Permit Applications – Jun 12_26 Responses to MVLWB 67; GNWT-ECC 15.
[174] See MVLWB Online Review System for North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. – Cantung Mine Closure and Reclamation Project – Type A Licence and Permit Applications – Jun 12_26 Response to GNWT-ECC 15.
[176] See MVLWB Online Registry for NATCL - Type A Licence and Permit App - Project Description Impact Assessment - May 28_26.

Potential Impact	Activity	**Proposed Mitigations** *Description of measures to reduce potential impacts, including consideration of cumulative impacts and climate change.*	**Potential Mitigation** *Existing LWB Standard Land Use Permit Conditions Template and Standard Water Licence Conditions[127] that can mitigate potential impacts*	**Board Analysis and Determination**
	Use and storage of explosives Demolition of buildings and infrastructure, including fuel and reagent storage areas Excavating, and transporting, and disposing contaminated soil at the Upgradient Cell or TCAs Soil contamination remaining after closure[175]	○ Soil excavation extents based on FCRP and HHERA with field verification. ○ Depositing metal and petroleum hydrocarbon contaminated soil into the engineered Upgradient Cell or TCAs 3-5. ○ Excavations backfilled with clean, locally sourced material; construction monitoring would occur by a QEP. ○ Non-ACM hazardous materials removed from site - handling, including transport and disposal managed by certified waste transporter and receiver. ○ Implement and report on environmental monitoring and adaptive management (if necessary) in accordance with approved regulatory conditions. ○ NATCL proposes an Adaptive Management Plan to guide future long-term monitoring as part of the post-closure phase. This Plan could include performance indicators, monitoring parameters, action thresholds, triggers, and contingency and response measures that build upon the criteria in the FCRP.[177] ○ The proposed SSRC values were developed to be protective of the receiving environment; soils remaining in place will be below the SSRC values and are not expected to pose a risk to either human or ecological receptors.[178] Confirmatory sampling results would be compared to CCME soil quality standards for metals not retained as Chemicals of Potential Concern (COPC), and the SSRC values in the FCRP for metals retained as COPCs and other metals detected in soil samples.[179] ○ If confirmatory sampling indicates during demolition and soil excavation that additional soil volumes need to be disposed, the TCAs can accommodate additional soil volumes.[180]	○ FUEL CACHE SECONDARY CONTAINMENT ○ SECONDARY CONTAINMENT – REFUELING ○ FUEL CONTAINMENT ○ MAXIMUM FUEL ON SITE ○ SPILL CONTINGENCY PLAN ○ SPILL RESPONSE ○ DRIP TRAYS ○ CLEAN UP SPILLS ○ CLOSURE AND RECLAMATION PLAN ○ FINAL CLEANUP AND RESTORATION ***LICENCE CONDITIONS*** ○ PRECAUTION TO PROTECT ENVIRONMENT ○ COMPLY WITH SURVEILLANCE NETWORK PROGRAM	mitigations and the Board's licence and permit conditions can mitigate this potential impact to an acceptable level. It is unclear to the Board if the SSRC values for metals in soil proposed by NATCL in the FCRP are protective enough, and the potential impact involves soil contamination that could remain on site in perpetuity.

[175] See MVLWB Online Review System for North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. – Cantung Mine Closure and Reclamation Project – Type A Licence and Permit Applications – Jun 12_26 GNWT-ECC comment 6.
[177] See MVLWB Online Review System for North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. – Cantung Mine Closure and Reclamation Project – Type A Licence and Permit Applications – Jun 12_26 Response to NDDB 9.
[178] See MVLWB Online Review System for North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. – Cantung Mine Closure and Reclamation Project – Type A Licence and Permit Applications – Jun 12_26 Responses to GNWT-ECC 6; MVLWB 32.
[179] See MVLWB Online Review System for North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. – Cantung Mine Closure and Reclamation Project – Type A Licence and Permit Applications – Jun 12_26 Response to MVLWB 30.
[180] See MVLWB Online Review System for North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. – Cantung Mine Closure and Reclamation Project – Type A Licence and Permit Applications – Jun 12_26 GNWT-ECC comment 20.

Potential Impact	Activity	Proposed Mitigations *Description of measures to reduce potential impacts, including consideration of cumulative impacts and climate change.*	Potential Mitigation *Existing LWB Standard Land Use Permit Conditions Template and Standard Water Licence Conditions[127] that can mitigate potential impacts*	Board Analysis and Determination
			○ OBJECTIVE – WASTE AND WATER MANAGEMENT ○ WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN ○ SPILL CONTINGENCY PLAN ○ REPORT SPILLS ○ SPILL PREVENTION AND REPSONSE EQUIPMENT ○ CLEAN UP SPILLS ○ CLOSURE AND RECLAMATION PLAN – FINAL	
Increased human health hazard and risk	Use of equipment, vehicles, and machinery Excavation and disposal of contaminated soils, waste rock, tailings from TCA 1 and 2 Exposure to hazardous materials Construction of settling ponds Mine water discharge	● The Applicant proposed the following mitigations in the Applications[181] and in response to review comments: ○ Adherence to posted speed limits. ○ Drive to conditions and exercise caution. ○ Designated drivers would be trained in company procedures only. ○ Soil excavation extents based on FCRP and HHERA with field verification. ○ Use of appropriate Personal Protective Equipment and Health and Safety protocols during materials handling. ○ Worker Health and Safety protocols for hazardous materials handling will be followed. ○ ACM disposed of on-site in accordance with FCRP and engineering design. ○ Hazardous materials abatement carried out prior to building demolition. ○ Co-mingled hazardous and non-hazardous waste that cannot be safely or economically separated will be treated as hazardous waste for disposal off-site.	***PERMIT CONDITIONS*** ○ WASTE MANAGMENET PLAN ○ CLOSURE AND RECLAMATION PLAN ***LICENCE CONDITIONS*** ○ PRECAUTION TO PROTECT ENVIRONMENT ○ COMPLY WITH SURVEILLANCE NETWORK PROGRAM ○ OBJECTIVE – WASTE AND WATER MANAGEMENT ○ WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN	Based on the described mitigations and the evidence from the proceeding to date, it is the Board's opinion that increased human hazard and risk resulting from the proposed activities might be a significant adverse impact on the environment and might be a cause of public concern. Due to outstanding uncertainties about the closure goals and activities, it is unclear to the Board whether the proposed mitigations and the Board's licence and permit conditions can mitigate this potential impact to an acceptable level. It is unclear to the Board if the SSRC values for metals in soil proposed by NATCL in

[181] See MVLWB Online Registry for NATCL - Type A Licence and Permit App - Project Description Impact Assessment - May 28_26.

Potential Impact	Activity	Proposed Mitigations *Description of measures to reduce potential impacts, including consideration of cumulative impacts and climate change.*	Potential Mitigation *Existing LWB Standard Land Use Permit Conditions Template and Standard Water Licence Conditions[127] that can mitigate potential impacts*	Board Analysis and Determination
	Backfilling of mine adits Road decommissioning and installation of berm to block access to PUG Open Pit and Waste Rock Pil #3 Closure of TCA 3, 4, and 5, and cell upgradient of TCA 4 Floodplain Tailings Stabilization Building demolition Operation and closure of active and new landfills Contamination remaining after closure	○ Considerations to avoid human entrapment incorporated into engineering design for settlement ponds (e.g., gentle slopes to facilitate escape). ○ Considering mine water discharge, the FCRP and HHERA will be followed regarding potential wildlife exposure risks; DQOs are established based on an extensive dataset; water is expected to continue meeting guideline values. ○ Access to the underground mine will be permanently removed; closure of mine openings implemented in accordance with the FCRP, Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission approval, and engineering designs. ○ Access to the Open Pit will be permanently removed by road decommissioning and installation of a berm in accordance with the FCRP, Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission approval, and engineering design. ○ Exposed tailings surfaces (Floodplain Tailings and TCA 3-5) capped in accordance with the FCRP and engineering designs – reduces potential dust production from tailings surfaces. ○ Building demolition and disposal in accordance with FCRP and engineering designs. ○ Non-hazardous waste only would be disposed of in the on-site landfills; facilities would be covered to limit infiltration and promote positive drainage; disposal of ACM will follow accepted best practice; waste placement overseen by a Qualified Professional; landfill operation in accordance with a landfill management plan; landfill cover system at closure designed to limit infiltration. ○ Contaminated soil, tailings, waste rock removed from surface and disposed of in accordance with the FCRP. ○ The proposed SSRC values were developed to be protective of the receiving environment and for post-closure land uses, and activities; soils remaining in place will be below the SSRC values and are not expected to pose a risk to human receptors. Confirmatory sampling results would be compared to CCME soil quality standards for metals not retained as COPC, and the SSRC values in	○ WATER AND WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN ○ OBJECTIVE – CONSTRUCTION ○ ENGINEERED STRUCTURES – GENERAL ○ DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION PLAN ○ DESIGN DRAWINGS ○ CONSTRUCT AS DESIGNED – ENGINEERED STRUCTURES CLOSURE AND RECLAMATION PLAN – FINAL	the FCRP are protective enough for human health, and soil contamination could remain at site in perpetuity.

Potential Impact	Activity	Proposed Mitigations *Description of measures to reduce potential impacts, including consideration of cumulative impacts and climate change.*	Potential Mitigation *Existing LWB Standard Land Use Permit Conditions Template and Standard Water Licence Conditions[127] that can mitigate potential impacts*	Board Analysis and Determination
		the FCRP for metals retained as COPCs and other metals detected in soil samples.[182]		
Effects on wildlife health and aquatic life (toxins, metals, etc.)	Borrow and quarry operations Use and storage of explosives Excavation and disposal of contaminated waste rock, tailings from TCA 1 and 2 Mine water discharge Sediment and soil contamination remaining after closure[183]	• The Applicant proposed the following mitigations in the Applications[184] and in response to review comments: ○ Handling and transport of includes containment to reduce potential spread to surrounding areas; soil excavation extents based on FCRP and HHERA with field verification; excavations backfilled with clean, locally sourced material; construction monitoring would occur by a QEP. ○ Considering mine water discharge, the FCRP and HHERA will be followed regarding potential wildlife exposure risks; DQOs are established based on an extensive dataset; water is expected to continue meeting guideline values. ○ Contaminated soil, tailings, and waste rock would be removed from surface and disposed of in accordance with the FCRP. ○ The proposed SSRC values were developed to be protective of the receiving environment; soils remaining in place will be below the SSRC values and are not expected to post a risk to ecological receptors.[185] Confirmatory sampling results would be compared to CCME soil quality standards for metals not retained as COPC, and the SSRC values in the FCRP for metals retained as COPCs and other metals detected in soil samples.[186] ○ Results from five cycles of the Environmental Effects Monitoring did not find negative effects to the aquatic environment, including in the exposure area downstream of the mine in the Flat River; consequently, numeric closure criteria for sediments along the Flat River are not necessary.[187]	***PERMIT CONDITIONS*** ○ QUARRY SETBACK ○ EXCAVATION SETBACK ○ WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN ○ SPILL CONTINGENCY PLAN ○ CLOSURE AND RECLAMATION PLAN ○ FINAL CLEANUP AND RESTORATION ***LICENCE CONDITIONS*** ○ PRECAUTION TO PROTECT ENVIRONMENT ○ COMPLY WITH SURVEILLANCE NETWORK PROGRAM ○ OBJECTIVE – WASTE AND WATER MANAGEMENT ○ WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN	Based on the described mitigations and the evidence from the proceeding to date, it is the Board's opinion that effects on wildlife health and aquatic life resulting from the proposed activities might be a significant adverse impact on the environment and might be a cause of public concern. While short-term potential impacts can be mitigated through the Applicant's proposed mitigations, including the development of a Construction Environmental Management Plan and the Board's licence and permit conditions, due to outstanding uncertainties about the closure goals and activities for the site, and the proposed closure option for the Floodplain Tailings in particular, it is unclear to the Board whether the proposed mitigations and the Board's licence and permit conditions can mitigate the long-term potential impact to an acceptable level. This is discussed further in

[182] See MVLWB Online Review System for North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. – Cantung Mine Closure and Reclamation Project – Type A Licence and Permit Applications – Jun 12_26 Response to GNWT-ECC 6.
[183] See MVLWB Online Review System for North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. – Cantung Mine Closure and Reclamation Project – Type A Licence and Permit Applications – Jun 12_26 GNWT-ECC comments 5-6.
[184] See MVLWB Online Registry for NATCL - Type A Licence and Permit App - Project Description Impact Assessment - May 28_26.
[185] See MVLWB Online Review System for North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. – Cantung Mine Closure and Reclamation Project – Type A Licence and Permit Applications – Jun 12_26 Responses to GNWT 6; MVLWB 32.
[186] See MVLWB Online Review System for North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. – Cantung Mine Closure and Reclamation Project – Type A Licence and Permit Applications – Jun 12_26 Response to MVLWB 30.
[187] See MVLWB Online Review System for North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. – Cantung Mine Closure and Reclamation Project – Type A Licence and Permit Applications – Jun 12_26 Response to GNWT-ECC 5.

Potential Impact	Activity	**Proposed Mitigations** *Description of measures to reduce potential impacts, including consideration of cumulative impacts and climate change.*	**Potential Mitigation** *Existing LWB Standard Land Use Permit Conditions Template and Standard Water Licence Conditions[127] that can mitigate potential impacts*	**Board Analysis and Determination**
		○ Monitoring for potential adverse effects on the aquatic environment will be completed as part of construction monitoring (~2 year duration), through the SNP, and pursuant to the proposed Adaptive Management Plan.[188]	○ WATER AND WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN ○ EXPLOSIVES MANAGEMENT PLAN ○ CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL – GEOCHEMICAL CRITERIA ○ GEOCHEMICAL RECORDS ○ GEOCHEMICAL CHARACTERIZATION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN ○ OBJECTIVE – CONSTRUCTION ○ DAMS – GENERAL ○ ENGINEERED STRUCTURES – GENERAL ○ DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION PLAN ○ DESIGN DRAWINGS ○ CONSTRUCT AS DESIGNED – ENGINEERED STRUCTURES ○ SPILL CONTINGENCY PLAN ○ OBJECTIVE – AEMP ○ AEMP DESIGN PLAN	section 4.1.2 (Potential Impacts on Aquatic Life and Habitat, and Potential Impacts on Wildlife).

[188] See MVLWB Online Review System for North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. – Cantung Mine Closure and Reclamation Project – Type A Licence and Permit Applications – Jun 12_26 Response to DFO 3.

Potential Impact	Activity	Proposed Mitigations *Description of measures to reduce potential impacts, including consideration of cumulative impacts and climate change.*	Potential Mitigation *Existing LWB Standard Land Use Permit Conditions Template and Standard Water Licence Conditions[127] that can mitigate potential impacts*	Board Analysis and Determination
			○ CLOSURE AND RECLAMATION PLAN – FINAL	
Temporary change in habitat quality (wildlife and aquatic) *Creation of wildlife habitat[189]*	Stabilization of Floodplain Tailings (armouring of Flat River channel) Revegetation[190]	● The Applicant proposed the following mitigations in the Applications[191] and in response to review comments: ○ Best practices for sediment and erosion control will be implemented during construction. ○ Fish passage in Flat River will be maintained. ○ Plans for spot treatment within the Floodplain Tailings, including targeted post-reclamation wildlife habitat, will be incorporated into the proposed Adaptive Management Plan.[192] ○ Plans for revegetation of select Project components, including the excavated areas of TCA 1 and 2 and spot treatment within the Floodplain Tailings including targeted post-reclamation wildlife habitat will be incorporated into the proposed Adaptive Management Plan.[193] ○ NATCL proposes an Adaptive Management Plan to guide future long-term monitoring as part of the post-closure phase. This Plan could include performance indicators, monitoring parameters, action thresholds, triggers, contingency measures, and performance assessment requirements for vegetation can be included as part of the Plan, which can be applied to support evaluations of habitat.[194]	***PERMIT CONDITIONS*** ○ HABITAT DAMAGE ○ CLOSURE AND RECLAMATION PLAN ***LICENCE CONDITIONS*** ○ DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION PLAN ○ DESIGN DRAWINGS ○ EROSION AND SEDIMENTATION MANAGEMENT PLAN ○ OBJECTIVE – AEMP ○ AEMP DESIGN PLAN ○ CLOSURE AND RECLAMATION PLAN – FINAL	Based on the described mitigations and the evidence from the proceeding to date, it is the Board's opinion that habitat changes resulting from the proposed activities might be a significant adverse impact on the environment and might be a cause of public concern. While short-term potential impacts can be mitigated through the Applicant's proposed mitigations, including the development of a Construction Environmental Management Plan and the Board's licence and permit conditions, due to outstanding uncertainties about the closure goals and activities for the site, and the proposed closure option for the Floodplain Tailings in particular, it is unclear to the Board whether the proposed mitigations and the Board's licence and permit conditions can mitigate the long-term potential impact to an

[189] See MVLWB Online Review System for North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. – Cantung Mine Closure and Reclamation Project – Type A Licence and Permit Applications – Jun 12_26 NDDB comment 10.
[190] See MVLWB Online Review System for North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. – Cantung Mine Closure and Reclamation Project – Type A Licence and Permit Applications – Jun 12_26 NDDB comment 10; CIRNAC Inspector 17, 23; LKFN 7.
[191] See MVLWB Online Registry for NATCL - Type A Licence and Permit App - Project Description Impact Assessment - May 28_26.
[192] See MVLWB Online Review System for North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. – Cantung Mine Closure and Reclamation Project – Type A Licence and Permit Applications – Jun 12_26 Response to NDDB 7.
[193] *Ibid*.
[194] See MVLWB Online Review System for North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. – Cantung Mine Closure and Reclamation Project – Type A Licence and Permit Applications – Jun 12_26 Responses to NDDB 10; CIRNAC Inspector 17, 23; LKFN 9.

Potential Impact	Activity	Proposed Mitigations *Description of measures to reduce potential impacts, including consideration of cumulative impacts and climate change.*	Potential Mitigation *Existing LWB Standard Land Use Permit Conditions Template and Standard Water Licence Conditions[127] that can mitigate potential impacts*	Board Analysis and Determination
		○ Wildlife management and mitigation measures will be addressed in the Construction Environmental Management Plan.[195] ○ NATCL will follow DFO advice and *Fisheries Act* Authorizations for any in-water works to protect fish habitat, including climate change considerations.[196]		acceptable level. This is discussed further in section 4.1.2 (Potential Impacts on Aquatic Life and Habitat, and Potential Impacts on Wildlife).
Direct loss or removal of (terrestrial) wildlife habitat, dens, or nests	Construction of a camp Construction of infrastructure (cell upgradient of TCA 4, camp) Borrow and quarry operations Stabilization of Floodplain Tailings (armouring of Flat River channel and spot-treatment within floodplain)	● The Applicant proposed the following mitigations in the Applications[197] and in response to review comments: ○ Size of new infrastructure would be limited, where possible. ○ Limit operation to areas of pre-existing disturbance where possible (the cell upgradient of TCA 4 to be in an area first used as a quarry). ○ QEP to conduct pre-clearing surveys for nests, other wildlife features prior to construction. ○ Activities conducted outside key, sensitive lifecycle stages, where possible. ○ Active nests, if present, will be avoided where possible and in accordance with ECCC guidance. ○ Extend of vegetation disturbance will be limited, where possible. ○ Stripping and grubbing only as required. ○ Salvage and stockpiling of soils/vegetation mat/vegetation for reuse in later reclamation activities where possible ○ Wildlife management and mitigation measures will be addressed in the Construction Environmental Management Plan.[198]	***PERMIT CONDITIONS*** ○ CAMP SETBACK ○ HABITAT DAMAGE ○ SAVE AND PLACE ORGANIC SOIL ○ NATURAL VEGETATION/ACTIVE REVEGETATION ○ CLOUSRE AND RECLAMATION PLAN ○ FINAL CLEANUP AND RESTORATION ***LICENCE CONDITIONS*** ○ CLOSURE AND RECLAMATION PLAN – FINAL	Based on the described mitigations and the evidence from the proceeding to date, it is the Board's opinion that habitat loss from the proposed activities might be a significant adverse impact on the environment and might be a cause of public concern. While short-term potential impacts can be mitigated through the Applicant's proposed mitigations, including the development of a Construction Environmental Management Plan and the Board's licence and permit conditions, due to outstanding uncertainties about the closure goals and activities for the site, and the proposed closure option for the Floodplain Tailings in particular, it is unclear to the Board whether the proposed mitigations and the Board's licence and permit conditions can mitigate the long-term potential impact to an

[195] See MVLWB Online Review System for North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. – Cantung Mine Closure and Reclamation Project – Type A Licence and Permit Applications – Jun 12_26 Responses to GNWT-ECC 26; CIRNAC Inspector 11.
[196] See MVLWB Online Review System for North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. – Cantung Mine Closure and Reclamation Project – Type A Licence and Permit Applications – Jun 12_26 Responses to DFO 5, LKFN 14-17.
[197] See MVLWB Online Registry for NATCL - Type A Licence and Permit App - Project Description Impact Assessment - May 28_26.
[198] See MVLWB Online Review System for North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. – Cantung Mine Closure and Reclamation Project – Type A Licence and Permit Applications – Jun 12_26 Responses to GNWT-ECC 26, CIRNAC Inspector 11.

Potential Impact	Activity	Proposed Mitigations *Description of measures to reduce potential impacts, including consideration of cumulative impacts and climate change.*	Potential Mitigation *Existing LWB Standard Land Use Permit Conditions Template and Standard Water Licence Conditions[127] that can mitigate potential impacts*	Board Analysis and Determination
				acceptable level. This is discussed further in section 4.1.2 (Potential Impacts on Wildlife).
Disturbance of key lifecycle stages (wildlife and aquatic): breeding, feeding, nesting, staging, spawning, and incubation[199]	Construction of a camp Construction of infrastructure (cell upgradient of TCA 4, camp) Borrow and quarry operations Stabilization of Floodplain Tailings Building demolition	• The Applicant proposed the following mitigations in the Applications and in response to comments:[200] ○ Activities will be limited to areas of pre-existing disturbance where possible. ○ QEP to conduct pre-clearing surveys for nests, other wildlife features. ○ Activities conducted outside key, sensitive lifecycle stages, where possible. ○ Active nests, if present, will be avoided where possible in accordance with ECCC guidance. ○ Extent of vegetation disturbance will be limited, where possible. ○ Maintain granular slope faces for borrow and quarries to avoid nesting by bank swallows; QEP to do regular sweeps of exposed faces. ○ Demolition during nesting seasons would be avoided to the extent feasible; QEP to carry out nest surveys in advance of building removal (where possible given building access and safety restrictions). ○ Active nests, if present, will be avoided where possible and in accordance with ECCC guidance. ○ Wildlife management and mitigation measures will be addressed in the Construction Environmental Management Plan.[201] ○ NATCL will respect the Northwest Territories in-water works restricted activity timing windows or work with DFO to determine the most appropriate course of action to protect fish and fish habitat.[202]	***PERMIT CONDITIONS*** ○ CAMP SETBACK ○ EXCAVATION AND EMBANKMENTS ○ MINIMIZE AREA CLEARED ***LICENCE CONDITIONS*** ○ OBJECTIVE – AEMP ○ AEMP DESIGN PLAN	Based on the described mitigations and the evidence from the proceeding to date, it is the Board's opinion that disturbances to lifecycle stages from the proposed activities might be a significant adverse impact on the environment and might be a cause of public concern. While short-term potential impacts can be mitigated through the Applicant's proposed mitigations, including the development of a Construction Environmental Management Plan and the Board's licence and permit conditions, due to outstanding uncertainties about the closure goals and activities for the site, and the proposed closure option for the Floodplain Tailings in particular, it is unclear to the Board whether the proposed mitigations and the Board's licence and permit conditions can mitigate the long-term potential impact to an acceptable level. This is discussed further in section 4.1.2 (Potential Impacts on Aquatic Life and Habitat, and Potential Impacts on Wildlife).

[199] See MVLWB Online Review System for North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. – Cantung Mine Closure and Reclamation Project – Type A Licence and Permit Applications – Jun 12_26 DFO comment 2.
[200] See MVLWB Online Registry for NATCL - Type A Licence and Permit App - Project Description Impact Assessment - May 28_26.
[201] See MVLWB Online Review System for North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. – Cantung Mine Closure and Reclamation Project – Type A Licence and Permit Applications – Jun 12_26 Responses to GNWT-ECC 26; CIRNAC Inspector 11.
[202] See MVLWB Online Review System for North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. – Cantung Mine Closure and Reclamation Project – Type A Licence and Permit Applications – Jun 12_26 Response to DFO 2.

Potential Impact	Activity	Proposed Mitigations *Description of measures to reduce potential impacts, including consideration of cumulative impacts and climate change.*	Potential Mitigation *Existing LWB Standard Land Use Permit Conditions Template and Standard Water Licence Conditions[127] that can mitigate potential impacts*	Board Analysis and Determination
Inability to support vegetation	Construct a cell upgradient of TCA 4 Borrow and quarry operations Reclamation of TCA 1 and 2 footprint Stabilization of the Floodplain Tailings Surface preparation and grading at the end of the closure construction phase Revegetation for closure[203]	● The Applicant proposed the following mitigations in the Applications[204] and in response to review comments: ○ Limit size of new infrastructure. ○ The cell upgradient of TCA 4 to be in an area first used as a quarry (re-use of a disturbed area). ○ Quarry closure and reclamation including preparation of remaining slopes (slopes, floor) to encourage natural revegetation. ○ Stockpiled overburden, if present, would be replaced. ○ Vegetation, if present, would be salvaged and replanted. ○ Reclamation of the TCA 1 and 2 footprint would include stockpiling embankment material to be used in preparation of surface for replanting. ○ Select areas in the Floodplain Tailings with exposed tailings would be capped and revegetated, improving the ability to support vegetation. ○ Scarify/roughen surfaces when areas are no longer needed to support closure activities to limit erosion, promote positive drainage, and encourage natural revegetation. ○ NATCL proposes an Adaptive Management Plan to guide future long-term monitoring as part of the post-closure phase. This Plan could include performance indicators, monitoring parameters, action thresholds, triggers, and performance assessment requirements for revegetation can be included as part of this Plan and can build upon the criteria in the FCRP.[205]	***PERMIT CONDITIONS*** ○ MINIMIZE AREA CLEARED ○ NATURAL VEGETATION/ACTIVE REVEGETATION ○ CLOSURE AND RECLAMATION PLAN ○ FINAL CLEANUP AND RESTORATION ***LICENCE CONDITIONS*** ○ CLOSURE AND RECLAMATION PLAN – FINAL	Based on the described mitigations and the evidence from the proceeding to date, it is the Board's opinion that inability to support vegetation resulting from the proposed activities might be a significant adverse impact on the environment and might be a cause of public concern. While NATCL has proposed an Adaptive Management Plan that could guide future long-term monitoring for revegetation, NATCL has not included closure objectives and criteria specific to vegetation.[206] Due to outstanding uncertainties about the closure goals and activities for the site, and the proposed closure option for the Floodplain Tailings in particular, it is unclear to the Board whether the proposed mitigations and the Board's licence and permit conditions can mitigate this potential impact to an acceptable level.

[203] See MVLWB Online Review System for North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. – Cantung Mine Closure and Reclamation Project – Type A Licence and Permit Applications – Jun 12_26 NDDB comment 10; CIRNAC 23.
[204] *Ibid*.
[205] See MVLWB Online Review System for North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. – Cantung Mine Closure and Reclamation Project – Type A Licence and Permit Applications – Jun 12_26 Responses to NDDB 9; CIRNAC 23; LKFN 7, 9.
[206] See MVLWB Online Review System for North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. – Cantung Mine Closure and Reclamation Project – Type A Licence and Permit Applications – Jun 12_26 NDDB comment 10.

Potential Impact	Activity	Proposed Mitigations *Description of measures to reduce potential impacts, including consideration of cumulative impacts and climate change.*	Potential Mitigation *Existing LWB Standard Land Use Permit Conditions Template and Standard Water Licence Conditions[127] that can mitigate potential impacts*	Board Analysis and Determination
Fragmentation of wildlife corridor *Migration routes* *Changes to migratory movement patterns*	General site reclamation activities Revegetation for closure[207]	• The Applicant proposed the following mitigations in the Applications[208] and in response to review comments: ○ General reclamation of site in accordance with FCRP and engineering designs. ○ NATCL proposes an Adaptive Management Plan to guide future long-term monitoring as part of the post-closure phase. This Plan could include performance indicators, monitoring parameters, action thresholds, triggers, contingency measures, and performance assessment requirements for vegetation can be included as part of the Plan, which can be applied to support evaluations of wildlife movements and connectivity.[209]	***PERMIT CONDITIONS*** ○ HABITAT DAMAGE ○ SAVE AND PLACE ORGANIC SOIL ○ NATURAL VEGETATION/ACTIVE REVEGETATION ○ CLOSURE AND RECLAMATION PLAN ○ FINAL CLEANUP AND RESTORATION ***LICENCE CONDITIONS*** ○ OBJECTIVE – CONSTRUCTION ○ ENGINEERED STRUCTURES – GENERAL ○ DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION PLAN ○ DESIGN DRAWINGS ○ CONSTRUCT AS DESIGNED – ENGINEERED STRUCTURES ○ CLOSURE AND RECLAMATION PLAN – FINAL	Based on the described mitigations and the evidence from the proceeding to date, it is the Board's opinion that impacts on wildlife migration from the proposed activities might be a significant adverse impact on the environment and might be a cause of public concern. NACTL did not submit a Wildlife Management Plan, nor did it address these potential impacts in the FCRP, but it did commit to submitting a Construction Environmental Management Plan. While short-term potential impacts can be mitigated through the Applicant's proposed mitigations, including the development of a Construction Environmental Management Plan and the Board's licence and permit conditions, due to outstanding uncertainties about the closure goals and activities for the site, and the proposed closure option for the Floodplain Tailings in particular, it is unclear to the Board whether the proposed mitigations and the Board's licence and permit conditions can mitigate the long-term potential impact to an acceptable level.

[207] *Ibid*.
[208] See MVLWB Online Registry for NATCL - Type A Licence and Permit App - Project Description Impact Assessment - May 28_26.
[209] See MVLWB Online Review System for North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. – Cantung Mine Closure and Reclamation Project – Type A Licence and Permit Applications – Jun 12_26 NDDB comment 10; CIRNAC 17, 22

Potential Impact	Activity	Proposed Mitigations *Description of measures to reduce potential impacts, including consideration of cumulative impacts and climate change.*	Potential Mitigation *Existing LWB Standard Land Use Permit Conditions Template and Standard Water Licence Conditions[127] that can mitigate potential impacts*	Board Analysis and Determination
Economic opportunity or losses (employment, training, contracting, monitoring, procurement, stewardship opportunities, worker movements/transportation/access of site)	Retention of airstrip General site reclamation period and post-closure monitoring period[210]	● The Applicant proposed the following mitigations in the Applications[211] and in response to review comments: ○ Airstrip remaining in place may provide for new economic opportunities ○ General reclamation of site in accordance with FCRP and engineering designs ○ NATCL will develop workforce projections alongside its detailed design. The workforce is planned to peak at 50 persons on site during closure construction and be compromised of skilled trades, engineering oversight, construction management, environmental monitors, construction labour, and camp operations.[212] ○ During care and maintenance and in recent years NATCL has had a substantial northern and Indigenous workforce with employment opportunities provided first to impacted communities. NATCL will endeavor to maintain this at a minimum during closure.[213] ○ NATCL committed to including advance information on work packages, procurement schedules, qualifications and training needs, and fair opportunities for Indigenous businesses and workers to prepare for and compete for closure-related work, which may also include monitoring and adaptive management.[214]	***PERMIT CONDITIONS*** ○ ENGAGEMENT PLAN ***LICENCE CONDITIONS*** ○ ENGAGEMENT PLAN	Based on the described mitigations, and the evidence from the proceeding to date, it is the Board's opinion that socioeconomic impacts might be a cause of public concern. LFN stated concerns with the Project, including effects on land and natural resource use; access; community well-being; cultural use; and the distribution of these burdens.[215] The Board agrees that these potential impacts should be assessed together during an EA, as discussed further in section 4.2.1.

[210] See MVLWB Online Review System for North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. – Cantung Mine Closure and Reclamation Project – Type A Licence and Permit Applications – Jun 12_26 NDDB comment 11.
[211] See MVLWB Online Registry for NATCL - Type A Licence and Permit App - Project Description Impact Assessment - May 28_26.
[212] See MVLWB Online Review System for North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. – Cantung Mine Closure and Reclamation Project – Type A Licence and Permit Applications – Jun 12_26 Response to NDDB 11.
[213] *Ibid*.
[214] See MVLWB Online Review System for North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. – Cantung Mine Closure and Reclamation Project – Type A Licence and Permit Applications – Jun 12_26 Response (Letter) to LFN 1.
[215] See MVLWB Online Review System for North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. – Cantung Mine Closure and Reclamation Project – Type A Licence and Permit Applications – Jun 12_26 LFN comment 1 (Letter).

Potential Impact	Activity	Proposed Mitigations *Description of measures to reduce potential impacts, including consideration of cumulative impacts and climate change.*	Potential Mitigation *Existing LWB Standard Land Use Permit Conditions Template and Standard Water Licence Conditions[127] that can mitigate potential impacts*	Board Analysis and Determination
Temporary effects on traditional land use, subsistence, and harvesting rights *Changes to or loss of traditional lifestyle* *Impairment of the traditional uses of the land or water*	Building demolition General site reclamation, including the proposed closure activities for the Floodplain Tailings and TCAs[216]	• The Applicant proposed the following mitigations in the Applications[217] and in response to review comments: ○ Building demolition and disposal in accordance with FCRP and engineering design. ○ General reclamation of site in accordance with FCRP and engineering design. ○ Descriptions of how reclamation treatments are consistent with the Post-Closure Land and Water Use Plan will be included as part of the proposed Adaptive Management Plan.[218] ○ All tailings facilities following closure would have partial compatibility with traditional use: all tailings would be considered safe to traverse but are not compatible with use or activities that could compromise containment (i.e., disturb the engineered cap).[219]	***PERMIT CONDITIONS*** ○ ENGAGEMENT PLAN ○ CLOSURE AND RECLAMATION PLAN ***LICENCE CONDITIONS*** ○ IDENTIFY TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE ○ INCORPORATE SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION AND TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE ○ ENGAGEMENT PLAN ○ CLOSURE AND RECLAMATION PLAN – FINAL	Based on the described mitigations and the evidence from the proceeding to date, it is the Board's opinion that effects on traditional use resulting from the proposed activities might be a cause of public concern. Due to outstanding uncertainties about the closure goals and activities for the site, and the proposed closure option for the Floodplain Tailings in particular, it is unclear to the Board whether the concerns expressed by Parties regarding these potential impacts can be addressed, as discussed further in section 4.2.1.
Soil compaction	Use of equipment, vehicles, and machinery Construction of infrastructure (cell upgradient of TCA 4, passive water management system)	• The Applicant proposed the following mitigations in the Applications:[220] ○ Limit operation to areas of pre-existing disturbance where possible. ○ Scarify/roughen surfaces when areas are no longer needed to support closure activities to limit erosion, promote positive drainage, and encourage natural revegetation. ○ Use rig mats when working within Floodplain Tailings as appropriate, to limit gouging and rutting.	***PERMIT CONDITIONS*** ○ USE APPROVED EQUIPMENT ○ OFF-ROAD VEHICLE TRAVEL ○ VEHICLE MOVEMENT FREEZE-UP ○ HABITAT DAMAGE	Based on the described mitigations and the evidence from the proceeding to date, it is the Board's opinion that soil compaction resulting from the proposed activities will not be a significant adverse impact on the environment and will not be a cause of public concern. The impact is primarily expected to be localized within the Project area, and the duration of the impact will be limited to the closure period.

[216] See MVLWB Online Review System for North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. – Cantung Mine Closure and Reclamation Project – Type A Licence and Permit Applications – Jun 12_26 LKFN comment 2.
[217] See MVLWB Online Registry for NATCL - Type A Licence and Permit App - Project Description Impact Assessment - May 28_26.
[218] See MVLWB Online Review System for North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. – Cantung Mine Closure and Reclamation Project – Type A Licence and Permit Applications – Jun 12_26 Response to NDDB 7.
[219] See MVLWB Online Review System for North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. – Cantung Mine Closure and Reclamation Project – Type A Licence and Permit Applications – Jun 12_26 Response to LKFN 2.
[220] See MVLWB Online Registry for NATCL - Type A Licence and Permit App - Project Description Impact Assessment - May 28_26.

Potential Impact	Activity	Proposed Mitigations *Description of measures to reduce potential impacts, including consideration of cumulative impacts and climate change.*	Potential Mitigation *Existing LWB Standard Land Use Permit Conditions Template and Standard Water Licence Conditions[127] that can mitigate potential impacts*	Board Analysis and Determination
	Borrow and quarry operations Stabilization of the Floodplain Tailings (armouring of Flat River channel and spot-treatment within floodplain) Surface preparation and grading at the end of the closure construction phase		○ CLOSURE AND RECLAMATION PLAN ○ FINAL CLEANUP AND RESTORATION ***LICENCE CONDITIONS*** ○ PRECAUTION TO PROTECT ENVIRONMENT ○ CLOSURE AND RECALAMTION PLAN – FINAL	Further, this potential impact can be mitigated through the Applicant's proposed mitigations, including the development of a Construction Environmental Management Plan, and the Board's licence and permit conditions, including the requirement for an FCRP.
Change in soil structure	Remove contaminated soil and sediment Construct a cell upgradient of TCA 4 Borrow and quarry operations	● The Applicant proposed the following mitigations in the Applications:[221] ○ Strip and stockpile overburden in areas of new development for reuse in reclamation. ○ Backfill excavations with clean granular fill.	***PERMIT CONDITIONS*** ○ SAVE AND PLACE ORGANIC SOIL ○ CLOSURE AND RECLAMATION PLAN ○ FINAL CLEANUP AND RESTORATION ***LICENCE CONDITIONS*** ○ CLOSURE AND RECLAMATION PLAN – FINAL	Based on the described mitigations and the evidence from the proceeding to date, it is the Board's opinion that changes in soil structure resulting from the proposed activities will not be a significant adverse impact on the environment and will not be a cause of public concern. The impact is localized within the Project area, and it can be mitigated through the Applicant's proposed mitigations, including the development of a Construction Environmental Management Plan, and the Board's licence and permit conditions, including the requirement for an FCRP.

[221] See MVLWB Online Registry for NATCL - Type A Licence and Permit App - Project Description Impact Assessment - May 28_26.

Potential Impact	Activity	**Proposed Mitigations** *Description of measures to reduce potential impacts, including consideration of cumulative impacts and climate change.*	**Potential Mitigation** *Existing LWB Standard Land Use Permit Conditions Template and Standard Water Licence Conditions[127] that can mitigate potential impacts*	**Board Analysis and Determination**
Changes in topography	Construct a cell upgradient of TCA 4 Excavate and dispose of tailings from TCA 1 and 2 into new cell upgradient of TCA 4 Borrow and quarry operations Backfill mine openings	● The Applicant proposed the following mitigations in the Applications[222] and in response to review comments: ○ Limit size of new infrastructure. ○ The cell upgradient of TCA 4 to be in an area first used as a quarry (re-use of a disturbed area). ○ Facility closure and reclamation would include sloping embankments and remaining faces to blend with surrounding landscape. ○ The specific plan for reclamation of the excavated TCA 1 and 2 area will be described as detailed engineering design progresses. This would include surface contours, slopes, elevations, water management features, and final surface materials.[223] ○ Quarry surfaces roughened to encourage natural revegetation. ○ Adits would be backfilled with locally sourced material and graded to blend with the surrounding landscape, in accordance with the FCRP and engineering design.	***PERMIT CONDITIONS*** ○ MINIMIZE AREA CLEARED ○ NATURAL VEGETATION/ACTIVE REVEGETATION ○ CLOSURE AND RECLAMATION PLAN ○ FINAL CLEANUP AND RESTORATION ***LICENCE CONDITIONS*** ○ ENGINEERED STRUCTURES – GENERAL ○ DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION PLAN ○ DESIGN DRAWINGS ○ CONSTRUCT AS DESIGNED – ENGINEERED STRUCTURES ○ CLOSURE AND RECLAMATION PLAN – FINAL	Based on the described mitigations and the evidence from the proceeding to date, it is the Board's opinion that changes in topography resulting from the proposed activities will not be a significant adverse impact on the environment and will not be a cause of public concern. The impact is localized within the Project area, the topography is already disturbed, and the closure activities will restore the area in the context of the surrounding landscape. Further, the potential impact can be mitigated through the Applicant's proposed mitigations and the Board's licence and permit conditions, including the requirement for an FCRP.
Infiltration changes	Reclamation of TCA 1 and 2 footprint Construct and maintain the TCAs and a cell upgradient of TCA 4	● The Applicant proposed the following mitigations in the Applications:[224] ○ Removal of tailings from TCA 1 and 2 from the surface shortens the infiltration path of rainfall/snowmelt to groundwater. ○ Surface preparation and revegetation of the TCA 1 and 2 footprint would improve ability for water to infiltrate groundwater.	***PERMIT CONDITIONS*** ○ NATURAL VEGETATION/ACTIVE REVEGETATION ○ CLOSURE AND RECLAMATION PLAN	Based on the described mitigations and the evidence from the proceeding to date, it is the Board's opinion that infiltration changes resulting from the proposed activities will not be a significant adverse impact on the environment and will not be a cause of public

[222] See MVLWB Online Registry for NATCL - Type A Licence and Permit App - Project Description Impact Assessment - May 28_26.
[223] See MVLWB Online Review System for North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. – Cantung Mine Closure and Reclamation Project – Type A Licence and Permit Applications – Jun 12_26 Response to NDDB 7.
[224] See MVLWB Online Registry for NATCL - Type A Licence and Permit App - Project Description Impact Assessment - May 28_26.

Potential Impact	Activity	**Proposed Mitigations** *Description of measures to reduce potential impacts, including consideration of cumulative impacts and climate change.*	**Potential Mitigation** *Existing LWB Standard Land Use Permit Conditions Template and Standard Water Licence Conditions[127] that can mitigate potential impacts*	**Board Analysis and Determination**
	Surface preparation and grading at the end of the closure construction phase	○ Placement of cap over TCAs and upgradient cell can reduce infiltration to groundwater. ○ Scarify/roughen surfaces when areas are no longer needed to support closure activities to limit erosion, promote positive drainage, and encourage natural revegetation.	***LICENCE CONDITIONS*** ○ PRECAUTION TO PROTECT ENVIRONMENT ○ OBJECTIVE – WASTE AND WATER MANAGEMENT ○ WATER AND WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN ○ OBJECTIVE – CONSTRUCTION ○ DAMS – GENERAL ○ ENGINEERED STRUCTURES – GENERAL ○ DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION PLAN ○ DESIGN DRAWINGS ○ CONSTRUCT AS DESIGNED – ENGINEERED STRUCTURES ○ CLOSURE AND RECLAMATION PLAN – FINAL	concern. The impact is localized within the Project area, and remediation work is intended to restore more natural drainage patterns where possible, and limit infiltration where necessary to reduce impacts to groundwater quality. Further, this potential impact can be mitigated through the Applicant's proposed mitigations, including the development of a Construction Environmental Management Plan, and the Board's licence and permit conditions, including the requirement for an FCRP.

Potential Impact	Activity	Proposed Mitigations *Description of measures to reduce potential impacts, including consideration of cumulative impacts and climate change.*	Potential Mitigation *Existing LWB Standard Land Use Permit Conditions Template and Standard Water Licence Conditions[127] that can mitigate potential impacts*	Board Analysis and Determination
Water flow or level changes (permanent, temporary, seasonal)	Use of water for camp operation, equipment requirements, and dust suppression	• The Applicant proposed the following mitigations in the Applications[225] and in response to review comments: ○ Water withdrawal in accordance with water licence limits. ○ The most recent DFO guidance will be used regarding water withdrawal from fish-bearing waters.[226] ○ NATCL would confirm that water withdrawals will not result in reducing flows at any time, as part of detailed engineering design.[227] ○ Flat River flow can be monitored as part of the SNP.[228]	***LICENCE CONDITIONS*** ○ COMPLY WITH SURVEILLANCE NETWORK PROGRAM ○ WATER SOURCE AND MAXIMUM VOLUME ○ MAXIMUM WATER WITHDRAWAL – LOTIC WATER SOURCES ○ MAXIMUM UNDER-ICE WATER WITHDRWAL VOLUME	Based on the described mitigations and the evidence from the proceeding to date, it is the Board's opinion that water flow or level changes resulting from the proposed activities will not be a significant adverse impact on the environment and will not be a cause of public concern. This potential impact will be temporary and can be mitigated through the Applicant's proposed mitigations and the Board's licence and permit conditions.
Changes in air quality	Use of equipment, vehicles, and machinery (dust generation) Borrow and quarry operations – blasting, crushing, screening (dust generation) Stabilization of Floodplain Tailings (armouring of Flat River channel and spot-	• The Applicant proposed the following mitigations in the Applications[229]: ○ Use of dust suppressant (water or suitable chemical alterative) where required. ○ Adherence to speed limits to reduce dust production. ○ Activities stopped/avoided during periods of high winds. ○ To mitigate impacts associated with stabilization of the Floodplain Tailings: amount of vegetation removed/grubbed during site preparation for channel armouring will be limited, where possible, to reduce dust production; exposed tailings capped and revegetated in accordance with FCRP and related engineering design.	***PERMIT CONDITIONS*** ○ CLOSURE AND RECLAMATION PLAN ***LICENCE CONDITIONS*** ○ CLOSURE AND RECLAMATION PLAN – FINAL	Based on the described mitigations and the evidence from the proceeding to date, it is the Board's opinion that changes in air quality resulting from the proposed activities will not be a significant adverse impact on the environment and will not be a cause of public concern. The impact is localized within the Project area, and the duration of the impact will predominantly be limited to the closure period. This potential impact can also be mitigated through the Applicant's proposed mitigations, including the development of a Construction Environmental Management Plan, and the

[225] See MVLWB Online Registry for NATCL - Type A Licence and Permit App - Project Description Impact Assessment - May 28_26.
[226] See MVLWB Online Review System for North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. – Cantung Mine Closure and Reclamation Project – Type A Licence and Permit Applications – Jun 12_26 Response to DFO 2.
[227] *Ibid*.
[228] *Ibid*.
[229] See MVLWB Online Registry for NATCL - Type A Licence and Permit App - Project Description Impact Assessment - May 28_26.

Potential Impact	Activity	Proposed Mitigations *Description of measures to reduce potential impacts, including consideration of cumulative impacts and climate change.*	Potential Mitigation *Existing LWB Standard Land Use Permit Conditions Template and Standard Water Licence Conditions[127] that can mitigate potential impacts*	Board Analysis and Determination
	treatment within floodplain) Closure of TCA 3, 4, and 5, and cell upgradient of TCA 4			Board's licence and permit conditions, including the requirement for an FCRP.
Increased greenhouse gases	Use of equipment, vehicles, and machinery	• The Applicant proposed the following mitigations in the Applications[230]: ○ Mobile equipment will be in good operating condition and maintained to manufacturer's specifications. ○ Small workforce limits number of vehicles in operation. ○ Efficient planning and implementation of site activities to limit vehicle traffic and travel distances.	***PERMIT CONDITIONS*** ○ USE APPROVED EQUIPMENT	Based on the described mitigations and the evidence from the proceeding to date, it is the Board's opinion that increased greenhouse gases resulting from the proposed activities will not be a significant adverse impact on the environment and will not be a cause of public concern. The duration of the impact will predominantly be limited to the closure period, and it can be mitigated through the Applicant's proposed mitigations, including the development of a Construction Environmental Management Plan.
Direct loss of vegetation	Construction of infrastructure (cell upgradient of TCA 4) Borrow and quarry operations Stabilization of Floodplain Tailings (armouring of Flat River channel and spot-	• The Applicant proposed the following mitigations in the Applications[231] and in response to review comments: ○ Limit size of new infrastructure, where possible. ○ The cell upgradient of TCA 4 to be in an area first used as a quarry (re-use of a disturbed area). ○ Stripping and grubbing only as required. ○ Salvage and stockpiling of soils/vegetative mat/vegetation for reuse and later reclamation activities where possible. ○ To mitigate impacts associated with stabilization of the Floodplain Tailings: amount of vegetation removed/grubbed during site preparation for channel	***PERMIT CONDITIONS*** ○ MINIMIZE AREA CLEARED ○ NATURAL VEGETATION/ACTIVE REVEGETATION ○ CLOSURE AND RECLAMATION PLAN ○ FINAL CLEANUP AND RESTORATION ***LICENCE CONDITIONS***	Based on the described mitigations and the evidence from the proceeding to date, it is the Board's opinion that direct loss of vegetation resulting from the proposed activities will not be a significant adverse impact on the environment and will not be a cause of public concern. The impact is localized to the Project site, and it can be mitigated through the Applicant's proposed mitigations and the

[230] See MVLWB Online Registry for NATCL - Type A Licence and Permit App - Project Description Impact Assessment - May 28_26.
[231] *Ibid*.

Potential Impact	Activity	Proposed Mitigations *Description of measures to reduce potential impacts, including consideration of cumulative impacts and climate change.*	Potential Mitigation *Existing LWB Standard Land Use Permit Conditions Template and Standard Water Licence Conditions[127] that can mitigate potential impacts*	Board Analysis and Determination
	treatment within floodplain) Reclamation of TCA 1 and 2 footprint	armouring will be limited, where possible; use of rig mats when working within floodplain, as appropriate to limit vegetation disturbance; exposed tailings within floodplain capped and revegetated in accordance with FCRP and related engineering design. ○ Plant material salvaged from embankments of TCA 1 and 2 will be replanted. ○ Plans for revegetation of the excavated areas of TCA 1 and 2 and spot treatment within the Floodplain Tailings, including vegetation prescriptions will be incorporated into the proposed Adaptive Management Plan.[232]	○ CLOSURE AND RECLAMATION PLAN – FINAL	Board's licence and permit conditions, including the requirement for an FCRP.
Introduction of non-native (invasive) species	Use of equipment, vehicles, and machinery	● The Applicant proposed the following mitigations in the Applications[233] and in response to review comments: ○ Equipment and vehicles arriving to site will be clean and free of dirt, soil, and mud. ○ An invasive plant species management protocol can be prepared for inclusion in the Construction Environmental Management Plan.[234]	***PERMIT CONDITIONS*** ○ USE APPROVED EQUIPMENT	Based on the described mitigations and the evidence from the proceeding to date, it is the Board's opinion that introduction of invasive species resulting from the proposed activities will not be a significant adverse impact on the environment and will not be a cause of public concern. This potential impact can be mitigated through the Applicant's proposed mitigations, including the development of a Construction Environmental Management Plan.
Effects on plant health (dust, metals, toxins)	Use of equipment, vehicles, and machinery (dust generation)	● The Applicant proposed the following mitigations in the Applications:[235] ○ Use of dust suppressant (water or suitable chemical alterative) where required. ○ Adherence to speed limits to reduce dust production. ○ Activities stopped/avoided during periods of high winds.	***PERMIT CONDITIONS*** ○ USE APPROVED EQUIPMENT	Based on the described mitigations and the evidence from the proceeding to date, it is the Board's opinion that effects on plant health resulting from the proposed activities will not be a significant adverse impact on the environment and will not be a cause of public concern. This potential impact can be mitigated through the Applicant's proposed mitigations,

[232] See MVLWB Online Review System for North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. – Cantung Mine Closure and Reclamation Project – Type A Licence and Permit Applications – Jun 12_26 Response to NDDB 7.
[233] See MVLWB Online Registry for NATCL - Type A Licence and Permit App - Project Description Impact Assessment - May 28_26.
[234] See MVLWB Online Review System for North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. – Cantung Mine Closure and Reclamation Project – Type A Licence and Permit Applications – Jun 12_26 Response to LKFN 9.
[235] See MVLWB Online Registry for NATCL - Type A Licence and Permit App - Project Description Impact Assessment - May 28_26.

Potential Impact	Activity	Proposed Mitigations *Description of measures to reduce potential impacts, including consideration of cumulative impacts and climate change.*	Potential Mitigation *Existing LWB Standard Land Use Permit Conditions Template and Standard Water Licence Conditions[127] that can mitigate potential impacts*	Board Analysis and Determination
				including the development of a Construction Environmental Management Plan.
Increased risk of fire	Use of equipment, vehicles, and machinery Human presence at site	• The Applicant proposed the following mitigations in the Applications:[236] ○ Modify or limit work and use of wildlife deterrents (bear bangers) during periods of forest fire potential. ○ Smoking in designated areas only. ○ Maintenance of appropriate fire suppression equipment at work sites and in camp. ○ Follow emergency plan policies and procedures.	***PERMIT CONDITIONS*** ○ BRUSH DISPOSAL/TIME ○ FIRE-FIGHTING EQUIPMENT	Based on the described mitigations and the evidence from the proceeding to date, it is the Board's opinion that increased risk of fire resulting from the proposed activities will not be a significant adverse impact on the environment and will not be a cause of public concern. This potential impact can be mitigated through the Applicant's proposed mitigations and the Board's permit conditions.
Compaction of vegetation	Construction of a camp Construction of infrastructure (cell upgradient of TCA 4) Borrow and quarry operations Stabilization of Floodplain Tailings (armouring of Flat River channel and spot-treatment within floodplain)	• The Applicant proposed the following mitigations in the Applications[237]: ○ Operations will be limited to areas of pre-existing disturbances where possible. ○ To mitigate impacts associated with stabilization of the Floodplain Tailings: amount of vegetation removed/grubbed during site preparation for channel armouring will be limited, where possible; use of rig mats when working within floodplain, as appropriate to limit vegetation disturbance.	***PERMIT CONDITIONS*** ○ CAMP SETBACK ○ NATURAL VEGETATION/ACTIVE REVEGETATION ○ CLOSURE AND RECLAMATION PLAN ○ FINAL CLEANUP AND RESTORATION ***LICENCE CONDITIONS*** ○ OBJECTIVE – CONSTRUCTION ○ DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION PLAN ○ DESIGN DRAWINGS	Based on the described mitigations and the evidence from the proceeding to date, it is the Board's opinion that compaction of vegetation resulting from the proposed activities will not be a significant adverse impact on the environment and will not be a cause of public concern. The impact is localized within the Project area, and the duration of the impact will be limited to the closure period. This potential impact can also be mitigated through the Applicant's proposed mitigations, including the development of a Construction Environmental Management Plan, and the Board's licence and permit conditions.

[236] See MVLWB Online Registry for NATCL - Type A Licence and Permit App - Project Description Impact Assessment - May 28_26.
[237] *Ibid*.

Potential Impact	Activity	Proposed Mitigations *Description of measures to reduce potential impacts, including consideration of cumulative impacts and climate change.*	Potential Mitigation *Existing LWB Standard Land Use Permit Conditions Template and Standard Water Licence Conditions[127] that can mitigate potential impacts*	Board Analysis and Determination
Direct injury or mortality to wildlife	Use of equipment, vehicles, and machinery Construction of infrastructure (settling ponds) Backfilling of mine adits Building demolition	• The Applicant proposed the following mitigations in the Applications:[238] ○ Adherence to posted speed limits. ○ Vehicles to stay within pre-existing disturbance areas, where possible. ○ Drive to conditions and exercise caution. ○ Avoid landing aircraft when wildlife is present. ○ Use of wildlife deterrents (noise, bear bangers). ○ Engineering designs of settling ponds include measures to avoid wildlife entrapment (e.g., gentle slopes to facilitate escape). ○ Mine adits backfilled in accordance with FCRP and engineering designs. ○ Building demolition and disposal in accordance with FCRP and engineering designs.	***PERMIT CONDITIONS*** ○ CLOSURE AND RECLAMATION PLAN ***LICENCE CONDITIONS*** ○ OBJECTIVE – CONSTRUCTION ○ ENGINEERED STRUCTURES – GENERAL ○ DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION PLAN ○ DESIGN DRAWINGS ○ CONSTRUCT AS DESIGNED – ENGINEERED STRUCTURES ○ CLOSURE AND RECLAMATION PLAN – FINAL	Based on the described mitigations and the evidence from the proceeding to date, it is the Board's opinion that direct injury or mortality to wildlife resulting from the proposed activities will not be a significant adverse impact on the environment and will not be a cause of public concern. This potential impact can be mitigated through the Applicant's proposed mitigations, including the development of a Construction Environmental Management Plan, and the Board's licence and permit conditions, including the requirement for an FCRP.

[238] See MVLWB Online Registry for NATCL - Type A Licence and Permit App - Project Description Impact Assessment - May 28_26.

Potential Impact	Activity	**Proposed Mitigations** *Description of measures to reduce potential impacts, including consideration of cumulative impacts and climate change.*	**Potential Mitigation** *Existing LWB Standard Land Use Permit Conditions Template and Standard Water Licence Conditions*[127] *that can mitigate potential impacts*	**Board Analysis and Determination**
Human-wildlife conflicts	Human presence from general site reclamation, including operation of a camp	● The Applicant proposed the following mitigations in the Applications: [239] ○ Camp structures will be arranged to prevent wildlife entrapment. ○ Garbage and waste will be managed in accordance with the Waste Management Plan. ○ Food will be stored securely. ○ Perishable food will not be left on site when camp is not operating. ○ External openings will be covered/blocked (e.g., vents, decks) to deter wildlife access. ○ Perimeter fencing will be erected around camp. ○ Use of wildlife deterrents (noise, bear bangers), where required.	***PERMIT CONDITIONS*** ○ WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN ***LICENCE CONDITIONS*** ○ WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN	Based on the described mitigations and the evidence from the proceeding to date, it is the Board's opinion that human-wildlife conflicts resulting from the proposed activities will not be a significant adverse impact on the environment and will not be a cause of public concern. This potential impact will be limited to the duration of the closure period and can be mitigated through the Applicant's proposed mitigations and the Board's licence and permit conditions.
Direct injury or mortality to fish	Use of water for camp operation, equipment requirements, and dust suppression Stabilization of Floodplain Tailings (armouring of Flat River channel) Construct a cell upgradient of TCA 4 Borrow and quarry operations	● The Applicant proposed the following mitigations in the Applications[242] and in response to review comments: ○ DFO guidance will be followed for use of fish screens on water intake structures. ○ To mitigate impacts associated with stabilization of the Floodplain Tailings: work will be carried out in dry or low water conditions where possible; work areas will be isolated where possible; fish scare techniques will be used prior to rock placement; work will be carried out in accordance with DFO advice. ○ Blasting adjacent to fish-bearing watercourses to be avoided to the extent feasible. ○ Fish scare techniques will be used prior to blasting, if possible. ○ Work will be carried out in accordance with DFO advice. ○ NATCL would follow DFO *Fisheries Act* Authorizations for any in-water works to protect fish, including climate change considerations.[243]	***LICENCE CONDITIONS*** ○ WATER INTAKE SCREEN ○ WATER INTAKE LOCATION – AUTHORIZATION ○ EXPLOSIVES MANAGEMENT PLAN	Based on the described mitigations and the evidence from the proceeding to date, it is the Board's opinion that direct injury of mortality to fish resulting from the proposed activities will not be a significant adverse impact on the environment and will not be a cause of public concern. This potential impact will be limited to the duration of the closure period and can be mitigated through the Applicant's proposed mitigations, including abiding by the *Fisheries Act* and the development of a Construction Environmental Management Plan, and the Board's licence and permit conditions.

[239] See MVLWB Online Registry for NATCL - Type A Licence and Permit App - Project Description Impact Assessment - May 28_26.
[242] *Ibid*.
[243] See MVLWB Online Review System for North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. – Cantung Mine Closure and Reclamation Project – Type A Licence and Permit Applications – Jun 12_26 Responses to DFO 5; LKFN 14-17.

Potential Impact	Activity	Proposed Mitigations *Description of measures to reduce potential impacts, including consideration of cumulative impacts and climate change.*	Potential Mitigation *Existing LWB Standard Land Use Permit Conditions Template and Standard Water Licence Conditions[127] that can mitigate potential impacts*	Board Analysis and Determination
	Use and storage of explosives Mine road breach at the lower reaches of Sardine Creek[240] Closure activities for TCA 1-4[241]	○ Mine road breach at the lower reaches of Sardine Creek would include fish barriers at closure to prevent fish passage to the upper reaches of the creek.[244]		
Changes to or loss of heritage resource	Construct a cell upgradient of TCA 4 Borrow and quarry operations	● The Applicant proposed the following mitigations in the Applications:[245] ○ Archaeological assessment will be carried out in advance of activities in previously undisturbed areas. ○ Sites found will be reported and mitigated in accordance with appropriate archaeological advice.	***PERMIT CONDITIONS*** ○ ARCHAEOLOGICAL BUFFER ○ SITE DISTURBANCE ○ SITE DISCOVERY AND NOTIFICATION ○ ARCHEOLOGICAL OVERVIEW ○ ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (AIA) – HIGH POTENTIAL ○ AIA	Based on the described mitigations and the evidence from the proceeding to date, it is the Board's opinion that the effects on heritage resource resulting from the proposed activities will not be a significant adverse impact on the environment and will not be a cause of public concern. This potential impact can be mitigated through the Applicant's proposed mitigations and the Board's permit conditions.
Impairment of the recreational uses of the land or water	Use of water for camp operation, equipment requirements, and dust suppression	● The Applicant proposed the following mitigations in the Applications:[246] ○ Regarding water navigability: navigable waters self-assessment will be undertaken; water intake structures will comply with navigation protection;	***PERMIT CONDITIONS*** ○ CLOSURE AND RECLAMATION PLAN ***LICENCE CONDITIONS***	Based on the described mitigations and the evidence from the proceeding to date, it is the Board's opinion that the impairment of the recreational uses of the land and water from

[240] See MVLWB Online Review System for North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. – Cantung Mine Closure and Reclamation Project – Type A Licence and Permit Applications – Jun 12_26 DFO comment 7.
[241] See MVLWB Online Review System for North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. – Cantung Mine Closure and Reclamation Project – Type A Licence and Permit Applications – Jun 12_26 DFO comment 8.
[244] See MVLWB Online Review System for North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. – Cantung Mine Closure and Reclamation Project – Type A Licence and Permit Applications – Jun 12_26 Response to DFO 7.
[245] See MVLWB Online Registry for NATCL - Type A Licence and Permit App - Project Description Impact Assessment - May 28_26.
[246] See MVLWB Online Registry for NATCL - Type A Licence and Permit App - Project Description Impact Assessment - May 28_26.

Potential Impact	Activity	Proposed Mitigations *Description of measures to reduce potential impacts, including consideration of cumulative impacts and climate change.*	Potential Mitigation *Existing LWB Standard Land Use Permit Conditions Template and Standard Water Licence Conditions[127] that can mitigate potential impacts*	Board Analysis and Determination
	Building demolition General site reclamation	notice and signage installed during construction, as applicable, so water remains safely navigable. ○ Building demolition and disposal in accordance with FCRP and engineering designs. ○ General reclamation of site in accordance with FCRP and engineering designs.	○ CLOSURE AND RECLAMATION PLAN – FINAL	the proposed activities will not be a significant adverse impact on the environment and will not be a cause of public concern. The impact is localized within the Project area, which is a remote location in the Northwest Territories. The site has already been impacted by historic activities, and while impacts might increase during the implementation of closure activities, the remediation of the site will ultimately decrease this impact. Further, this potential impact can be mitigated through the Applicant's proposed mitigations and the Board's licence and permit conditions, including the requirement for an FCRP.
Impairment of the aesthetic quality of the land or water	Construct a cell upgradient of TCA 4 Borrow and quarry operations Stabilization of the Floodplain Tailings (armouring of Flat River channel and spot-treatment within floodplain) General site reclamation	● The Applicant proposed the following mitigations in the Applications:[247] ○ Limit size of new infrastructure, where possible. ○ Use of existing disturbance areas, where possible (upgradient cell to be in an area first used as a quarry). ○ Stripping and grubbing only as required. ○ Salvage and stockpile soils/vegetative mat/vegetation for reuse in later reclamation activities where possible. ○ Embankments and quarry faces would be sloped/graded at closure to blend with surrounding landscape. ○ Quarry surfaces will be prepared to encourage natural revegetation. ○ Stabilization of Floodplain Tailings in accordance with FCRP and engineering design. ○ General reclamation of site in accordance with FCRP and engineering designs.	***PERMIT CONDITIONS*** ○ EXCAVATIONS AND EMBANKMENTS ○ SAVE AND PLACE ORGANIC SOIL ○ NATURAL VEGETATION/ACTIVE REVEGETATION ○ CLOSURE AND RECLAMATION PLAN ***LICENCE CONDITIONS*** ○ DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION PLAN ○ DESIGN DRAWINGS	Based on the described mitigations and the evidence from the proceeding to date, it is the Board's opinion that the impairment of the aesthetic quality of the land and water from the proposed activities will not be a significant adverse impact on the environment and will not be a cause of public concern. The impact is localized within the Project area, which is a remote location in the Northwest Territories. The site has already been impacted by historic activities, and while impacts might increase during the implementation of closure activities, the remediation of the site will ultimately decrease this impact. Further, this potential impact can be mitigated through the Applicant's

[247] See MVLWB Online Registry for NATCL - Type A Licence and Permit App - Project Description Impact Assessment - May 28_26.

Potential Impact	Activity	**Proposed Mitigations** *Description of measures to reduce potential impacts, including consideration of cumulative impacts and climate change.*	**Potential Mitigation** *Existing LWB Standard Land Use Permit Conditions Template and Standard Water Licence Conditions[127] that can mitigate potential impacts*	**Board Analysis and Determination**
		○ Construction of cell upgradient of TCA 4 incorporates footprint of former quarry site and is in the vicinity of TCA 3, 4, and 5 so would consolidate the landform remaining post-closure.	○ CONSTRUCT AS DESIGNED – ENGINEERED STRUCTURES ○ CLOSURE AND RECLAMATION PLAN – FINAL	proposed mitigations and the Board's licence and permit conditions, including the requirement for an FCRP.