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June 9, 2025

File: W2025X0002

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: LPTN Reforestation Project – Notice of Preliminary Screening Determination – Application for Land Use Permit – Miscellaneous-Reforestation – Behchokò and James Lake area, NT

The Wek'èezhì Land and Water Board (Board) met on June 9, 2025, and considered the Application Package from Let's Plant Trees North Ltd. (LPTN) for Land Use Permit (Permit) W2025X0002 for the LPTN Reforestation Project in Behchokò and James Lake area, NT (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 **not 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.

If the Board does not receive notice of referral to environmental assessment, it can proceed with issuance of Permit W2025X0002 on **Friday, June 20, 2025**.

The Board and staff look forward to continued communications throughout the pause period. Please contact Anneli Jokela at (867) 765-4588 with any questions or concerns regarding this letter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mason Mantla', written in a cursive style.

Mason Mantla
Chair, Wek'èezhì Land and Water Board

BCC'd to: Wek'èezhì Distribution List
David Tonken, LPTN

Attached: Preliminary Screening Determination and Reasons for Decision



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Preliminary Screening Determination and Reasons for Decision

Land Use Permit Application	
File Number	W2025X0002
Company	Let's Plant Trees North Ltd.
Project	LPTN Reforestation Project
Location	Behchokò and James Lake area, NT
Activity	Miscellaneous (Reforestation)
Date of Decision	June 9, 2025

1.0 **Decision**

In accordance with subsection 124(1) of the [Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act](#) (MVRMA), the Wek'èezhì Land and Water Board (WLWB or Board) met on June 9, 2025 to make a preliminary screening determination on the Application from Let's Plant Trees North Ltd. (LPTN; Applicant) for Land Use Permit W2025X0002 (Permit)¹ for the LPTN Reforestation Project at Behchokò and James Lake area, NT (Project).

The Board has decided not to refer the proposed Project to the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (the Review Board) for Environmental Assessment (EA) because, based on the evidence, it is the Board's opinion that the proposed Project will not have a significant adverse impact on the environment or be a cause of public concern.

The Board's determination, including reasons for its decision, are detailed in sections [3.0](#) and [4.0](#).

¹ See WLWB Online Registry (www.wlwb.ca/) for [W2025X0002](#)

2.0 List of Defined Terms and Acronyms

Applicant	Let's Plant Trees North Ltd.
Application	The complete application package submitted by the Applicant for Land Use Permit W2025X0002.
Board	Wek'èezhìi Land and Water Board
EA	Environmental Assessment
GNWT	Government of the Northwest Territories
GNWT-ECC	Government of the Northwest Territories – Environment and Climate Change
Inspector	An Inspector designated under subsection 84(1) of the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act
LWBs	Land and Water Boards of the Mackenzie Valley
MVRMA	Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act
ORS	Online Review System (www.new.onlinereviewssystem.ca)
Party	As per the LWB Rules of Procedure , an applicant, a person, or an organization participating in the regulatory proceeding for the Application.
Permit	Land Use Permit W2025X0002
Project	LPTN Reforestation Project, which is the proposed development (as defined in Part 5 of the MVRMA) ² .
Review Board	Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board
Standard Permit Conditions	LWB Standard Land Use Permit Conditions Template
TG	Tłı̄chq̄ Government
TK	Traditional Knowledge
WLWB or Board	Wek'èezhìi Land and Water Board

3.0 Background and Scope of Screening

The Project is a collaborative tree planting initiative on Tłı̄chq̄ land, led by Let's Plant Trees North Ltd. (LPTN) in partnership with the Tłı̄chq̄ Government. The Project aims to plant 2,730,000 trees over a two-year period. The Project includes a proposed planting area near James Lake, NT of about 1,365 hectares/year, and a work camp near Behchokq̄ of about 4.33 hectares. Operations are planned to occur at the work camp between June 15th and September 15th of 2025 and 2026, with no activities to occur at the camp location outside of this period.

On April 16, 2025, LPTN submitted the Application for a new Type A Land Use Permit for the Project. The Application package included the completed Application Form as well as the following attachments:

- a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Tłı̄chq̄ Government, Tree Canada, and Let's Plant Trees Ltd.;

² "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."

- Landowner Agreement and a letter of support from the Community Government of Behchokq;
- A Waste Management Plan;
- Landfill and sewage authorizations from the appropriate municipal authorities;
- A Spill Contingency Plan;
- A Closure and Reclamation Plan; and
- An Engagement Plan and Engagement Record.

The Engagement Plan included in the Application package outlines the communication, consultation, and collaboration approach with Indigenous governments, communities, and other affected Parties throughout the life of the Project. The Engagement Record includes an Engagement Summary and Engagement Log of the pre-submission engagement completed prior to submission to the Board. The Engagement Log indicates that engagement with Indigenous and non-Indigenous Governments and Organizations took place starting in February 2022 until April 16, 2025. The Engagement Record describes that at a minimum, an email was sent to all affected Parties notifying them of the Project and that either engagement meetings were scheduled, or follow-up emails were sent.

As detailed in the Engagement Record, the Applicant indicated that it engaged Parties specifically on Traditional Knowledge (TK) to help determine locations targeted for tree planting.

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 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 Public Record and Regulatory Proceeding

To assist the Board in its preliminary screening determination for the Project, the Board distributed the Application and a draft Permit for public review on April 28, 2025, inviting reviewers to provide comments and recommendations on the Application and the preliminary screening (e.g., on impacts and mitigation measures) using the Online Review System (ORS). Comments were due May 19, 2025, with responses from the Applicant due May 26, 2025. A request was received before the comment deadline to extend the comment deadline from May 19 to May 20 and was granted. The Board received comments and recommendations from the Tłıchq Government (TG), the Government of the Northwest Territories, Department of Education, Culture and Employment – Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre (PWNHC), and the Government of the Northwest Territories, Department of Environment and Climate Change – Inspectors (GNWT-Inspectors).³ Board staff also submitted comments and questions for the purposes of clarification.

³ See WLWB Online Review System (ORS; www.new.onlinereviewsystem.ca) for [Let's Plant Trees North Ltd. - New Land Use Permit Application \(W2025X0002\)](#)

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](#).

The Board is also satisfied that notice of the Application was provided to the Tłıchǫ Government (TG) and that a reasonable period of time was provided for the TG to make representations to the Board in accordance with section 63 of the [MVRMA](#).

4.0 Potential Impacts and Proposed Mitigations

Table 1 below 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.

Table 1: Potential Impacts and Proposed Mitigations for the Proposed Project

Potential Impact	Activity	Proposed Mitigations <i>Description of measures to reduce potential impacts, including consideration of cumulative impacts and climate change.</i>	Board Analysis and Determination
Soil Compaction	Clearing of timber, brush, or vegetation mat; Stripping of overburden	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Applicant noted that equipment and foot traffic may compact soil, reducing infiltration and affecting plant growth and proposed the following mitigations in the Application: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Restrict vehicle access to designated trails and avoid operations during wet conditions. ○ Camp Site is a sand/gravel pit; stripping has already occurred. ● The Board has standard permit conditions that are typically used to mitigate the identified potential impact. These standard conditions include:⁴ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ PROGRESSIVE EROSION CONTROL ○ REPAIR EROSION ○ PREVENTION OF RUTTING ○ SUSPEND OVERLAND TRAVEL 	Based on the described mitigations, it is the Board’s opinion that the proposed activities will not have a significant adverse impact on the environment and will not be a cause of public concern.
Soil Contamination	On-site storage or disposal of wastes (domestic garbage, sewage, waste petroleum products, hazardous wastes, etc.); Transfer, storage, and use of petroleum products and/or chemicals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Applicant proposed the following mitigations in the Application: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Garbage removed every three days. ○ Sewage pumped and removed from portable toilets regularly and sent to municipal treatment centre. ○ Grey water collected in sump pit. ● The Applicant referred to mitigations contained in the Spill Contingency Plan: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Use of drip pans or other collection devices to contain drips or leaks from dispensing containers, equipment, and parked vehicles. ○ Immediately clean up and properly manage all small spills or leaks. ○ Periodically inspect equipment storage areas to ensure leaks or spills are not occurring. 	Based on the described mitigations, it is the Board’s opinion that the proposed activities will not have a significant adverse impact on the environment and will not be a cause of public concern.

⁴ See the WLWB Policies and Resources webpage to access the LWB [Standard Land Use Permit Conditions Template](#).

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Keep all work areas and hazardous product storage areas clean. ○ Routine maintenance and pre-work inspections for all equipment using fuel, oil, or hydraulic fluid. ○ Immediate repair or replacement of leaking equipment components. ○ Mandatory spill prevention and response training for all field personnel. ○ Regular refresher courses on fuel handling, storage, and emergency response. ○ Clear site-specific fueling procedures posted at fueling locations. ○ Spill kits stationed at key areas (trucks, refueling stations, camp equipment). ○ Weather-dependent handling protocols to prevent spills in wet or windy conditions. ● The Board has standard permit conditions that are typically used to mitigate the identified potential impact. These standard conditions include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ SUMP SETBACK ○ CLEAN WORK AREA ○ RECLAIM NON-OIL AND GAS SUMPS ○ WASTE CHEMICAL DISPOSAL ○ WASTE PETROLEUM DISPOSAL ○ NOTIFICATION OF SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL ○ WASTE MANAGEMENT ○ GARBAGE CONTAINER ○ SEWAGE DISPOSAL – PLAN ○ REPAIR LEAKS ○ FUEL CACHE SECONDARY CONTAINMENT ○ SECONDARY CONTAINMENT – REFUELING ○ FUEL CONTAINMENT ○ SEAL OUTLET ○ SPILL RESPONSE ○ DRIP TRAYS 	
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ CLEAN UP SPILLS 	
Changes in surface water quality	Soil disturbance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Applicant noted that soil disturbance can lead to increased erosion, particularly on slopes, and proposed the following mitigations in the Application: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Maintain 10 metre buffer zones around water bodies. ○ Use silt fences to mitigate runoff. ● The Board has standard permit conditions that are typically used to mitigate the identified potential impact. These standard conditions include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ PROGRESSIVE EROSION CONTROL ○ REPAIR EROSION ○ PREVENTION OF RUTTING 	Based on the described mitigations, it is the Board's opinion that the proposed activities will not have a significant adverse impact on the environment and will not be a cause of public concern.
Changes in groundwater quality	Transfer, storage, and use of petroleum products and/or chemicals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Applicant referred to mitigations contained in the Spill Contingency Plan: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Hazardous product containers must be in good condition and compatible with the materials stored within. ○ Secure containers appropriately during transportation. ○ When transferring chemicals from larger to smaller containers use a funnel. ○ Close hazardous product containers when not in use. ○ Use drip pans or other collection devices to contain drips or leaks from dispensing containers or equipment. ○ Immediately clean up and properly manage all small spills or leaks. ○ Periodically inspect equipment storage areas to ensure leaks or spills are not occurring. ○ Keep all work areas and hazardous product storage areas clean. ○ Routine maintenance and pre-work inspections for all equipment using fuel, oil, or hydraulic fluid. ○ Immediate repair or replacement of leaking equipment 	Based on the described mitigations, it is the Board's opinion that the proposed activities will not have a significant adverse impact on the environment and will not be a cause of public concern.

		<p>components.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Use of drip trays under parked equipment to catch minor leaks. ○ Mandatory spill prevention and response training for all field personnel. ○ Regular refresher courses on fuel handling, storage, and emergency response. ○ Clear site-specific fueling procedures posted at fueling locations. ○ Spill kits stationed at key areas (trucks, refueling stations, camp equipment). ○ Daily monitoring of fuel usage and storage levels to detect anomalies. ○ Weather-dependent handling protocols to prevent spills in wet or windy conditions. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Board has standard permit conditions that are typically used to mitigate the identified potential impact. These standard conditions include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ REPAIR LEAKS ○ FUEL STORAGE SETBACK ○ FUEL CACHE SECONDARY CONTAINMENT ○ SECONDARY CONTAINMENT - REFUELING ○ FUEL CONTAINMENT ○ SEAL OUTLET ○ SPILL RESPONSE ○ DRIP TRAYS ○ CLEAN UP SPILLS 	
Surface Water flow or level changes (permanent, temporary, seasonal); Drainage pattern	Withdrawal of water from a watercourse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Applicant noted that there is a risk of oil/fuel spill from the pump while pumping water from lake and proposed the following mitigations in the Application: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Pumps sit in spill catchment tray. ○ Pumps are placed back from the water source during refueling. ● The Board has standard permit conditions that are typically used to mitigate the identified potential impact. These standard conditions include: 	Based on the described mitigations, it is the Board's opinion that the proposed activities will not have a significant adverse impact on the environment and will not be a cause of public concern.

<p>changes; Temperature changes; Changes in surface water quality; Wetland impairment; Changes to aquatic habitat</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ SECONDARY CONTAINMENT - REFUELING ○ FUEL CONTAINMENT ○ SPILL CONTINGENCY PLAN ○ SPILL RESPONSE ○ DRIP TRAYS ○ CLEAN UP SPILLS 	
	Retaining, storing, or diverting water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Applicant noted that camp flooding and erosion may occur if the water tank leaked or due to an extreme rain event and proposed the following mitigations in the Application: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Water can be drained into grey water pit, using site topography. ● The Board has standard permit conditions that are typically used to mitigate the identified potential impact. These standard conditions include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ CAMP SETBACK ○ SUMP SETBACK ○ NATURAL DRAINAGE 	
	Transfer, storage, and use of petroleum products and/or chemicals near a watercourse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Applicant referred to mitigations contained in the Spill Contingency Plan. Examples of mitigations are described in sections above. ● The Board has standard permit conditions that are typically used to mitigate the identified potential impact. These standard conditions include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ CAMP SETBACK ○ SUMP SETBACK ○ REPAIR LEAKS ○ FUEL STORAGE SETBACK ○ FUEL CACHE SECONDARY CONTAINMENT ○ FUEL CONTAINMENT ○ SEAL OUTLET ○ SPILL CONTINGENCY PLAN ○ SPILL RESPONSE ○ CLEAN UP SPILLS 	

Changes in air quality; Harm to living things; Increased greenhouse gases	Burning of fossil fuels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Applicant noted that fuel combustion from vehicles and equipment contributes to GHG emissions and proposed the following mitigations in the Application: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Run equipment only when necessary, minimizing idling time. • The Board has standard permit conditions that are typically used to mitigate the identified potential impact. These standard conditions include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ USE APPROVED EQUIPMENT 	Based on the described mitigations, it is the Board’s opinion that the proposed activities will not have a significant adverse impact on the environment and will not be a cause of public concern.
	Increased road traffic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Applicant noted that increased road use produces more dust and health hazards and proposed the following mitigations in the Application: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Control speed on roads. ○ Water helicopter landing area for dust control. • The Board has standard permit conditions that are typically used to mitigate the identified potential impact. These standard conditions include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ USE APPROVED EQUIPMENT 	
Direct loss of vegetation; Loss of Species at Risk or maybe-at-risk plants; Change in species composition; Introduction of non-native (invasive) species; Effects on plant health (dust,	Pollutants from equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Applicant noted that airborne pollutants from equipment can settle on plants, reducing growth, and proposed the following mitigations in the Application: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Implement dust suppression. ○ Maintain buffer zones. ○ Reduce vehicle speed. • The Board has standard permit conditions that are typically used to mitigate the identified potential impact. These standard conditions include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ USE APPROVED EQUIPMENT 	Based on the described mitigations, it is the Board’s opinion that the proposed activities will not have a significant adverse impact on the environment and will not be a cause of public concern.
	Machinery and human activity; Increased road traffic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Applicant noted that machinery and human activity increase the risk of wildfires and proposed the following mitigations in the Application: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Follow fire prevention protocols. ○ Follow regional fire safety guidelines. 	

<p>metals, toxins); Increased risk of fire; Compaction of vegetation</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Maintain fire breaks. ○ Equip sites and crews with fire suppression tools. ○ Limit operations during high-risk periods. ● The Board has standard permit conditions that are typically used to mitigate the identified potential impact. These standard conditions include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ WASTE PETROLEUM DISPOSAL ○ HABITAT DAMAGE ○ BRUSH DISPOSAL/TIME ○ MINIMIZE AREA CLEARED 	
<p>Human-wildlife conflicts</p>	<p>Potential conflicts</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Applicant noted that waste and food attract wildlife, leading to potential conflicts and proposed the following mitigations in the Application: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Implement waste management plans. ○ Store food securely. ○ Educate workers on wildlife safety protocols. ● The Board has standard permit conditions that are typically used to mitigate the identified potential impact. These standard conditions include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ CLEAN WORK AREA ○ WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN 	<p>Based on the described mitigations, it is the Board’s opinion that the proposed activities will not have a significant adverse impact on the environment and will not be a cause of public concern.</p>
<p>Direct injury to wildlife or mortality; Disturbances to key lifecycle stages: breeding, feeding, nesting, staging; Effects on population</p>	<p>On-site storage or disposal of wastes (domestic garbage, sewage, waste petroleum products, drilling waste and hydraulic flowback fluids, hazardous wastes, etc.)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Applicant referred to mitigations detailed in the Waste Management Plan, including the following highlights: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Remove garbage every three days. ○ Pump sewage and remove from portable toilets regularly and send to municipal treatment centre. ○ Grey water collected in sump pit. ● The Board has standard permit conditions that are typically used to mitigate the identified potential impact. These standard conditions include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ CLEAN WORK AREA ○ WASTE CHEMICAL DISPOSAL 	<p>Based on the described mitigations, it is the Board’s opinion that the proposed activities will not have a significant adverse impact on the environment and will not be a cause of public concern.</p>

abundance; Change in species diversity; Effects on wildlife health (toxins, metals, etc.)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ WASTE PETROLEUM DISPOSAL ○ HABITAT DAMAGE ○ GARBAGE CONTAINER ○ SEWAGE DISPOSAL - PLAN 	
Other effects on aquatic habitat	Pumping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Applicant noted that pumping water can affect small fish and proposed the following mitigations in the Application: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Use fine mesh guard around intake hose. 	Based on the described mitigations, it is the Board's opinion that the proposed activities will not have a significant adverse impact on the environment and will not be a cause of public concern.
Loss or reduction in game species or populations; Effects on traditional land use, subsistence, and harvesting rights Change to or loss of cultural integrity; Change to or loss of traditional lifestyle; Change to or loss of heritage resources	Noise (use of heavy equipment, blasting, crushing, drilling);	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Applicant proposed the following mitigations in the Application: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Helicopter pilots will follow NWT/Transport Canada guidelines on helicopter use close to known caribou sightings. ● The Board has standard permit conditions that are typically used to mitigate the identified potential impact. These standard conditions include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ USE APPROVED EQUIPMENT 	Based on the described mitigations, it is the Board's opinion that the proposed activities will not have a significant adverse impact on the environment and will not be a cause of public concern.
	Withdrawal of water from a watercourse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Applicant proposed the following mitigations in the Application: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Water use per day of less than 5 cubic meters drawn from Russell Lake. 	
	Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Applicant noted the Project's proximity to "Spiritual/Annual Gathering Area" and impact local, cultural, and recreational activities and proposed the following mitigations in the Application: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ "Off limits" areas communicated to workers and noted in Project map. ○ Work with TG and Community Governments to plan around cultural events ● Further measures are proposed in the Engagement Plan: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ensure Indigenous leadership and Traditional Knowledge (TK) 	

		<p>guide all phases of Project development.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Incorporate feedback to enhance project design and mitigate potential impacts. ○ Support Tłchq capacity building and cultural knowledge transfer. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Board has standard permit conditions that are typically used to mitigate the identified potential impact. These standard conditions include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ ENGAGEMENT PLAN ○ ARCHEAOLGLOCAL BUFFER ○ SITE DISTURBANCE ○ SITE DISCOVERY AND NOTIFICATION ○ AIA – HIGH POTENTIAL 	
Increased human health hazard and risk	Noise (use of heavy equipment);	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Applicant proposed the following mitigations in the Application: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Provide personal protective equipment (PPE). ○ Limit operation near residential areas. ○ Limit helicopter flights to daylight hours. 	Based on the described mitigations, it is the Board’s opinion that the proposed activities will not have a significant adverse impact on the environment and will not be a cause of public concern.
	Operating in a remote location inaccessible or not easily accessible by emergency aid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Applicant proposed the following mitigations in the Application: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Spectrum Emergency Response Plan thoroughly revised to include remote access and helicopter rescue. ○ Implement safety training. ○ First aid trailer at camp site (Russel Lake). ○ Large portable tent containing food, water, and blankets doubling as a first aid room containing necessary supplies for treating a patient overnight (James Lake). ○ Shelter will also be equipped with pulaskis, shovels, and backpack pumps for fire suppression; a type 3 First Aid Kit, stretcher/basket/spine board, and oxygen for First Aid; and additional bear spray for wildlife deterrent. ○ Armed Bear Guards will be on site for dangerous wildlife protection. ○ Site supervisor will have satellite internet and satellite phone communication 	

	<p>On-site storage or disposal of wastes (domestic garbage, sewage, waste petroleum products, drilling waste and hydraulic flowback fluids, hazardous wastes, etc.)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Applicant referred to mitigations in the more detailed Spill Contingency Plan including the following highlights: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Remove garbage every three days. ○ Pump sewage and remove from portable toilets regularly, send to municipal treatment centre. ○ Collect grey water in sump pit. ● The Board has standard permit conditions that are typically used to mitigate the identified potential impact. These standard conditions include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ CLEAN WORK AREA ○ WASTE CHEMICAL DISPOSAL ○ WASTE PETROLEUM DISPOSAL ○ WASTE MANAGEMENT ○ GARBAGE CONTAINER ○ SEWAGE DISPOSAL - PLAN 	
<p>Economic opportunities or losses (employment, training)</p>	<p>The Project may create employment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Applicant noted that the Project may create employment but strain local resources and proposed the following mitigations in the Application: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Prioritize local hiring. ○ Offer training programs. ○ Support local businesses. ○ Have alternative supports outside of the community. ○ Local businesses being subcontracted as part of the team. 	<p>Based on the described mitigations, it is the Board's opinion that the proposed activities will not have a significant adverse impact on the environment and will not be a cause of public concern.</p>
<p>Impairment of the recreational or traditional uses of the land or water; Impairment of the aesthetic quality of the land or water</p>	<p>Withdrawal of water from a watercourse</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Applicant proposed the following mitigations in the Application: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Water use per day of less than 5 cubic meters drawn from Russell Lake. 	<p>Based on the described mitigations, it is the Board's opinion that the proposed activities will not have a significant adverse impact on the environment and will not be a cause of public concern.</p>

4.1 Consideration of Potential Impacts

Based on the potential impacts and proposed mitigations identified above in Table 1, the Board considered whether the Project might have a significant adverse impact on the environment. In general, impacts of the Project on the environment can be mitigated through the use of standard permit conditions and/or project-specific conditions established by the Board as per the LWB [Standard Process for Creating New Conditions](#). These conditions may include requirements for management and monitoring plans that provide detailed information regarding the implementation of mitigation measures and the evaluation of their effectiveness.

A draft Permit was circulated for review during the regulatory proceeding, and all Parties were given the opportunity to provide comments and recommendations on the draft conditions. In finalizing the conditions, the Board will consider all of the evidence provided through the regulatory proceeding.

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.

Based on the evidence provided during the regulatory proceeding, the Board did not identify any comments or issues that indicate that the Project is a cause of public concern.

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, it is the Board's opinion that the proposed Project will not have a significant adverse impact on the environment and will not be a cause of public concern, as set out in paragraph 125(1)(a) of the [MVRMA](#). The Board has therefore decided not to refer the proposed Project to Environmental Assessment. If the Board does not receive a notice of referral to EA by June 19, 2025, the Board can issue the Permit on June 20, 2025.

SIGNATURE



Mason Mantla, Chair
Wek'èezhìi Land and Water Board

June 9, 2025

Date