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August 28, 2026

File: W2026C0003

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: Monument Diamond Project – Notice of Preliminary Screening Determination – Renewal Application for Land Use Permit – Mineral Exploration – Lac de Gras, NT

The Wek'èezhìi Land and Water Board (Board) met on August 27, 2026 and considered the Application Packages from Equity Metals Corporation (Equity) for Land Use Permit (Permit) W2026C0003 for the Monument Diamond Project at Lac de Gras, 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 changes to the Project to environmental assessment. The Board's Preliminary Screening Determination and Reasons for Decision, as required by section 121 of the MVRMA, are attached.

If the Board does not receive notice of referral to environmental assessment, it can proceed with issuance of Permit W2026C0003 on **Monday, September 7, 2026**.

The Board and staff look forward to continued communications throughout the pause period. Please contact Ryan Fequet via [email](#) or at (867) 765-4589 with any questions or concerns regarding this letter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mason Mantla', with a stylized, cursive script.

Mason Mantla
Chair, Wek'èezhìi Land and Water Board

BCC'd to: Wek'èezhìi Distribution List
 Robert MacDonald, Equity Metals Corporation

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	W2026C0003
Company	Equity Metals Corporation
Project	Monument Diamond Project
Location	Lac de Gras, NT
Activity	Mineral Exploration
Date of Decision	August 27, 2026

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 August 27, 2026, to make a preliminary screening determination on the renewal Application from Equity Metals Corporation (Equity)(Applicant) for Land Use Permit W2026C0003 (Permit)¹ for the Monument Diamond Project in the Lac de Gras area, NT (Project).²

The Board has determined that some Project activities and/or areas are exempt from preliminary screening, because they were previously screened. The Applicant has proposed new Project activities, however, and the Board has decided not to refer the proposed changes to the Project to the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (the Review Board) for Environmental Assessment because,

¹See WLWB Online Registry [www.wlwb.ca] for [Monument Diamond – LUP Application – Jul 6 26](#).

² The Project is the Monument Diamond Project, which is the proposed development, where “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.”

based on the evidence, it is the Board’s opinion that the proposed changes to the 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](#).

2.0 List of Defined Terms and Acronyms

Applicant	Equity Metals Corporation
Application	The complete application package submitted by the Applicant for Land Use Permit W2026C0003.
Board	Wek’èezhìi Land and Water Board
CRP	Closure and Reclamation Plan
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 65(1) of the Waters Act
LWBs	Land and Water Boards of the Mackenzie Valley
MVRMA	Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act
Minister	Minister of the Government of the Northwest Territories – Environment and Climate Change
OHWM	Ordinary High-Water Mark
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 Applications.
Permit	Land Use Permit W2026C0003
Project	Monument Diamond Project, which is the proposed development (as defined in Part 5 of the MVRMA). ³
Review Board	Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board
SCP	Spill Contingency Plan
SNP	Surveillance Network Program
Standard Permit Conditions	LWB Standard Land Use Permit Conditions Template
TG	Tłıchǫ Government
TK	Traditional Knowledge
WLWB or Board	Wek’èezhìi Land and Water Board
WMP	Waste Management Plan

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.”

3.0 Background and Scope of Screening

The Monument Diamond Project is for mineral exploration including use of a camp, diamond drilling including large diameter RC drilling, winter road construction and maintenance, use of explosives, establishment of a petroleum fuel storage facility, use of vehicles and machines, and the use of equipment for trenching in the Lac de Gras area, NT. Exploration is seasonal from January to May (sometimes June), and July to September. The Board conducted a preliminary screening for this Project on August 22, 2019. The current Permit (W2019C0002) is set to expire on September 1, 2026. Equity Metals Corporation submitted the renewal application (W2026C0003) on July 6, 2026.

The Application include proposed changes to the Project. Under Part 1, Schedule 1, section 2.1 of the Exemption List Regulations to the [MVRMA](#), project areas and activities that have already been subject to Part 5 of the MVRMA are exempt from preliminary screening. The new Project activities require screening by the Board in accordance with subsection 124(1) of the MVRMA.

The Application did not include abandonment, decommissioning, or significant alterations to the Project.

In accordance with paragraph 125(1)(a) of the [MVRMA](#), the Board must conduct a preliminary screening of the proposed changes to the Project to determine and report to the Review Board whether, in its opinion, the proposed changes to the 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:

The previously screened areas and activities are described in the Board's August 22, 2019, Preliminary Screening Determination.⁴

The new activity that is being screened at this time is the increase in the volume of petroleum products that can be stored on site.

3.2 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 July 16, 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). On August 6, 2026, Board staff extended the review period to August 13, 2026, to allow Parties additional time to provide comments because the Applicant did not engage with all applicable Parties as per the approved Engagement Plan prior to submission of the Application. By August 13, 2026, the Board received comments and recommendations from: Yellowknives Dene First Nation (YKDFN), Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO), North Slave Métis Alliance (NSMA), Government of the Northwest Territories Education, Cultural Employment Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre (GNWT-ECE-PWNHC), Denínu Kúé First Nation (DKFN), Lutsel K'e Dene First Nation (LKDFN), Government of the Northwest Territories Environment and Climate Change (GNWT-ECC)-

⁴ See WLWB Online Registry for [New Nadina – Land Use Permit Application – Notification of Preliminary Screening Determination – Aug 22 19](#).

Inspector. Board staff also submitted comments and questions for the purposes of clarification. On August 17, 2026, the Applicant responded to the Parties' comments and recommendations.⁵

Since there were no further requests to extend the reviewer comment deadlines, 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 Tłıchq Government and that a reasonable period of time was provided for the Tłıchq Government 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 changes to the 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.

⁵ See WLWB Online Registry for [Equity Metals Corporation – Monument Diamond Project Land Use Permit Renewal Application – Jul 16, 26](#).

Table 1: Potential Impacts and Proposed Mitigations for the Proposed Changes to the 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 Contamination , Water Quality for groundwater and surface water	Transfer, storage, and use of petroleum products and/or chemicals	The maximum volume of fuel on site has increased to over 150,000 litres, this change would be outside of the original preliminary screening. • The Applicant proposed the following mitigations during the public review: ○ Impacts from increased fuel volumes include greater potential for soil contamination, changes in water quality (groundwater and surface water) and increased greenhouse gases. • The Board has standard permit conditions that are typically used to mitigate the identified potential impact. These standard conditions include: ○ DRILLING SETBACK ○ SUMP SETBACK ○ WINTER ROADS ○ STORAGE ON ICE ○ CLEAN WORK AREA ○ FLOWING ARTESIAN WELLS ○ EQUIPMENT: WATERCOURSE BUFFER ○ CHEMICALS ○ DRILLING NEAR WATER OR ON ICE ○ DRILLING WASTE ○ DRILLING WASTE DISPOSAL ○ DRILLING WASTE CONTAINMENT ○ RECLAIM NON-OIL AND GAS SUMPS ○ WASTE CHEMICAL DISPOSAL ○ WASTE PETROLEUM DISPOSAL ○ WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN	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	Transfer, storage, and use of petroleum products and/or chemicals	The maximum volume of fuel on site has increased to over 150,000 litres, this change would be outside of the original preliminary screening. • The Applicant proposed the following mitigations during the public review: ○ To reduce instances of contamination and mitigate impacts from spills, Equity will implement the approved Spill Contingency Plan, which details both means of preventing spills and spill response procedures. • The Board has standard permit conditions that are typically used to mitigate the identified potential impact. These standard conditions include: ○ REPAIR LEAKS ○ FUEL STORAGE SETBACK ○ FUEL CACHE SECONDARY CONTAINMENT ○ SECONDARY CONTAINMENT – REFUELING ○ FEUL CONTAINMENT ○ FUEL ON LAND ○ SEAL OUTLET ○ SPILL CONTINGENCY PLAN ○ SPILL RESPONSE ○ DRIP TRAYS ○ CLEAN UP SPILLS ○ REPORT SPILLS	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.
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Air Quality	Transfer, storage, and use of petroleum products and/or chemicals	The maximum volume of fuel on site has increased to over 150,000 litres, this change would be outside of the original preliminary screening. • The Applicant proposed the following mitigations during the public review: ○ To mitigate an increase in greenhouse gas emissions, Equity's contractor(s) will use energy efficient equipment and implement emissions reduction strategies (e.g., no idling) when possible. • The Board has standard permit conditions that are typically used to mitigate the identified potential impact. These standard conditions include: ○ SECONDARY CONTAINMENT – REFUELING ○ DRIP TRAYS ○ SAVE AND PLACE ORGANIC SOIL ○ NATURAL VEGETATION ○ PROGRESSIVE RECLAMATION	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.
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4.1 Consideration of Potential Impacts

Based on the potential impacts and proposed mitigations identified above in Table 1, the Board considered whether the changes to the Project might have a significant adverse impact on the environment. In general, impacts of the changes to the Project on the environment can be mitigated through the use of permit conditions of two general types:

- 1) conditions in the existing Permit, including requirements for management and monitoring plans, with revisions where necessary; and
- 2) new or unique conditions that may be needed to mitigate potential impacts of the changes to the Project that may not be addressed by the conditions in the existing Permit, and which may be from the Board's standard conditions list or 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 changes to the Project, the Board considered whether the changes to 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 previously completed a preliminary screening of the Project on August 22, 2019;⁶ however, the Application included proposed changes to the Project. Accordingly, the Board has determined that Project activities that have already been subject to Part 5 of the [MVRMA](#) are exempt from preliminary screening under Part 1, Schedule 1, section 2.1 of the Exemption List Regulations to the MVRMA. The Board has conducted a preliminary screening of the proposed changes to the Project.

The Board has reviewed all the evidence received during the regulatory process with respect to the Preliminary Screening of the proposed changes to the Project. Based on the evidence, it is the Board's opinion that the proposed changes to the Project will not have a significant adverse impact on the environment or be a cause of public concern, as set out in paragraph 125(1)(a) of the [MVRMA](#). The Board

⁶ See WLWB Online Registry for [New Nadina – Land Use Permit Application – Notification of Preliminary Screening Determination – Aug 22 19](#).

has therefore decided not to refer the proposed changes to the Project to Environmental Assessment. If the Board does not receive a notice of referral to environmental assessment by September 6, 2026, the Board can issue the Permit on September 7, 2026.

SIGNATURE



Mason Mantla, Chair
Wek'èezhìi Land and Water Board

August 27, 2026

Date