



7th Floor - 4922 48th Street
PO Box 2130, Yellowknife NT X1A 2P6

Tel: 867-669-0506 Fax: 867-873-6610
www.mvlwb.com

April 25, 2025

File: MV2024C0035

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: Halo-Yuri Project – Notice of Preliminary Screening Determination – Application for Land Use Permit– Mineral Exploration, Akaitcho Area NT

The Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board (Board) met on April 17, 2025 and considered the Application Package from Trinex Lithium Ltd. for Land Use Permit (Permit) MV2024C0035 for the Halo-Yuri 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 **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 MV2024C0035 on **Tuesday, May 6, 2025**

The Board and staff look forward to continued communications throughout the pause period. Please contact Kathy Racher via [email](#) or at (867) 766-7457 with any questions or concerns regarding this letter.

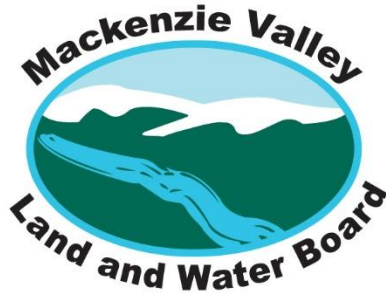
Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tanya MacIntosh". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the beginning.

Tanya MacIntosh
Chair, Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board

BCC'd to: Akaitcho Distribution List
Cath Wetherley – Trinex Lithium Ltd.

Attached: Preliminary Screening Determination and Reasons for Decision



7th Floor - 4922 48th Street
 PO Box 2130, Yellowknife NT X1A 2P6

Tel: 867-669-0506 Fax: 867-873-6610
www.mvlwb.com

Preliminary Screening Determination and Reasons for Decision

Land Use Permit Application	
File Number	MV2024C0035
Company	Trinex Lithium Ltd.
Project	Halo – Yuri Project
Location	East of the Tibbit to Contwoyto Winter Road, NT
Activity	Mineral Exploration
Date of Decision	April 17, 2025

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 April 17, 2025 to make a preliminary screening determination on the Application from Trinex Lithium Ltd. (Trinex) (Applicant) for Land Use Permit MV2024C0035 (Permit)¹ for the Halo-Yuri Project (Project).²

The Board has decided not to refer the proposed Project to the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (the Review Board) for Environmental Assessment 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.

¹See MVLWB Online Registry www.mvlwb.com for Trinex – [Permit Application – Jan30 25](#)

² The Project is the Halo-Yuri 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.”

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	Trinex Lithium Ltd.
Application	The complete application package submitted by the Applicant for Land Use Permit MV2024C0035
Board	Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board
CRP	Closure and Reclamation Plan
GNWT	Government of the Northwest Territories
GNWT-ECC	Government of the Northwest Territories – Environment and Climate Change
MVLWB	Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board
MVRMA	Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act
Minister	Minister of the Government of the Northwest Territories – Environment and Climate Change
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.
Project	Halo-Yuri 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
Standard Permit Conditions	LWB Standard Land Use Permit Conditions Template
TG	Tłı̨chǫ Government
TK	Traditional Knowledge
WMP	Waste Management Plan

3.0 Background and Scope of Screening

On November 22, 2024, Trinex submitted an application for a mineral exploration program just east of the Tibbit to Contwoyto Winter Road. On November 24, 2024, the application was deemed incomplete with additional information being submitted January 31, 2025. The Application was then deemed complete and distributed on February 7, 2025 with comments and recommendations due February 27, 2025. Responses were due on March 5, 2025, however on March 6, 2025, Trinex requested additional time to provide responses to comments. On March 20, 2025, the Board utilized section 22.2.b of the Mackenzie Valley Land Use Regulations, to allow Trinex additional time to respond to comments. On March 21, 2025, Trinex provided responses to the comments and recommendations put forward by the reviewers.

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.”

An Engagement Record and Engagement Plan were included in the Application. Trinex noted they engaged with the following Parties:

- Yellowknives Dene First Nation
- Akaitcho Interim Measures Office
- Lutselk'e Dene First Nation
- Deninu K'ue First Nation
- Tłıchǫ Government
- North Slave Metis Alliance
- NWT Metis Nation

As Trinex has two projects, engagement commenced in October of 2023 and was the main focus for the initial engagement. As project plans solidified for the second project (Halo-Yuri Project) the focus of engagement shifted to include the new project. Engagement concluded on December 9, 2024.

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 Scope of Screening:

Trinex submitted an Application for mineral exploration just east of MacKay Lake. The exploration program includes surface sampling, geological mapping and drilling programs. The initial drilling program will take place during the winter months when the ice and snow will support the weight of equipment, vehicles and machines. Overland portages will be built to prevent rutting and gouging of the ground surface. Additional exploration will be planned after results from the initial phase have been received. This additional drilling may take place in the winter, summer or fall as determined by the availability of contractors and site conditions. A helicopter assisted program would be necessary during summer due to the multitude of water bodies in the area, and clearing would likely be restricted to drill sites only. If additional access trails and overland movement of drill rigs and vehicles between drill sites was necessary clearing would be kept to a minimum and trails would not be permanent.

Camp use will be seasonal, with accommodation for up to 24 personnel. The number of people on site at any one time will vary. Camp will be constructed using non-permanent structures, including a combination of insulated tents, tent frames and plywood constructed cabins. Water use for the camp is estimated to be 1 cubic metre per day. Camp grey water will be deposited in a sump.

Winter access from the camp site to the Gahcho Kue spur road during the winter months. Water for drilling will be drawn from local water sources. Water use will be below the 99m³/day. Water will be sourced from Reid Lake, Margaret Lake and/or other lakes within the Mineral Claims. It is estimated that each drill rig (up to two will be used as required) will use up to 40m³ of water per 24 hour period.

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 Permit for public review on February 7, 2025, 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). Comments were due February 27, 2025, with responses from the Applicant due March 5, 2025. The Board received comments and recommendations from Environment and Climate Change Canada, Northwest Territory Metis Nation, GNWT-ECC (Inspector), GNWT-ECE-Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, GNWT-ECC-Environmental Regulatory Analyst (attached).⁴

Since there were no requests to extend the reviewer comment deadline, 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 Schedule 4.1 of [Northwest Territory Métis Nation \(NWTMN\) Interim Measures Agreement](#),⁵ the Board determined that written notice was given to the NWTMN and that a reasonable period of time was allowed for NWTMN to make representations with respect to the Application.

Pursuant to subsection 1.6, paragraphs (a) and (b) of the [Akaitcho Territory Dene First Nations \(ATDFN\) Interim Measures Agreement](#),⁶ the Board determined that written notice was given to the ATDFN and that a reasonable period of time was allowed for ATDFN to make representations with respect to the Application.

The Board is also satisfied that notice of the Application was provided to the Ghotelnene K'odtjneh Dene (formerly Manitoba Denesuline) and that a reasonable period of time was provided for the Ghotelnene K'odtjneh Dene to make representations to the Board in accordance with section 63 of the [MVRMA](#).

The Board is also satisfied that notice of the Application was provided to the Saskatchewan Denesuline and that a reasonable period of time was provided for the Saskatchewan Denesuline 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;

⁴ See MVLWB Online Registry for [Trinex – Application Review Summary Table – Apr24_25](#).

⁵ See MVLWB Land Claims, IMAs, and Land Use Plans webpage to access the [Northwest Territory Métis Nation Interim Measures Agreement](#).

⁶ See MVLWB Land Claims, IMAs, and Land Use Plans webpage to access the [Akaitcho Territory Dene First Nations Interim Measures Agreement](#).

- 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
Abiotic Components – Land – Soil Contamination	Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Applicant proposed the following mitigations in the Application. Spill Contingency Management Plan will be implemented in the event of any unplanned release. Every effort will be made to avoid contamination of soil. Fuel supplies will be stored in an impermeable berm. • The Board has standard permit conditions that are typically used to mitigate the identified potential impacts. These standard conditions include:⁷ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Repair Leaks ○ Fuel Cache Secondary Containment ○ Secondary Containment – Refueling ○ Fuel 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 will not be a cause of public concern.

⁷ See the MVLWB Policies and Resources webpage to access the LWB [Standard Land Use Permit Conditions Template](#).

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
Abiotic Components – Land – Soil Compaction	Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Applicant proposed the following mitigations in the Application. Disturbed sites will be scarified as required and monitored for revegetation. All disturbed land be returned as close to the original condition as possible. If topsoil is removed it will be retained to spread over the site post disturbance. Vehicle movements will be kept to a minimum over undisturbed ground. • The Board has standard permit conditions that are typically used to mitigate the identified potential impacts. These standard conditions include:⁸ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Permafrost Protection ○ Natural Drainage ○ Repair Erosion ○ Progressive Erosion Control ○ Off Road Vehicle Travel ○ Prevention of Rutting ○ Suspend Overland Travel ○ Vehicle Movement Freeze-up ○ Stream Banks ○ Minimize Area Cleared ○ Final Cleanup and Restoration ○ Pre-Construction Profiles ○ Final Cleanup and Restoration ○ 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 will not be a cause of public concern.

⁸ See the MVLWB Policies and Resources webpage to access the LWB [Standard Land Use Permit Conditions Template](#).

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
Abiotic Components – Land – Destabilization/ Erosion	Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Applicant proposed the following mitigations in the Application. Ground disturbance will be kept to a minimum and if required recontouring of surfaces will take place in order for the land to return to its natural state. Any area of likely erosion will be monitored and remediated as required. Each drill casing will be cut off and sealed to ensure level ground. Sumps will be backfilled and natural land surface restored to limit potential erosion. • The Board has standard permit conditions that are typically used to mitigate the identified potential impacts. These standard conditions include:⁹ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mineral Exploration Drill Casings ○ Progressive Erosion Control ○ Reclaim Non-Oil and Gas Sumps ○ Pre-Construction Profiles ○ 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 will not be a cause of public concern.
Abiotic Component – Land – Change in soil structure	Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Applicant notes that there will be no significant change in soil structure. • The Board has standard permit conditions that are typically used to mitigate the identified potential impacts. These standard conditions include but are not limited to:¹⁰ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Parallel Watercourse Setback ○ Parallel Roads ○ Winter Roads ○ Permafrost Protection ○ Natural Drainage 	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 will not be a cause of public concern.

⁹ See the MVLWB Policies and Resources webpage to access the LWB [Standard Land Use Permit Conditions Template](#).

¹⁰ See the MVLWB Policies and Resources webpage to access the LWB [Standard Land Use Permit Conditions Template](#).

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
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Progressive Erosion Control ○ Off-Road Vehicle Travel ○ Prevention of Rutting ○ Suspend Overland Travel 	
Abiotic Component – Land – Inability to support vegetation	Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Application noted that there will be no impact on the ability of the disturbed land to support vegetation growth. • The Board has standard permit conditions that are typically used to mitigate the identified potential impacts. These standard conditions include but are not limited to:¹¹ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Pre-Construction Profiles ○ Final Cleanup and Restoration ○ 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 will not be a cause of public concern.
Abiotic Component – Water – Groundwater – Water Table Alteration	Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Applicant proposed the following mitigations in the Application. Drillholes are not expected to impact on the water table but if flowing water is encountered at the borehole, the borehole will be plugged to permanently prevent and further outflow of water, as required by the Land Use Permit. • The Board has standard permit conditions that are typically used to mitigate the identified potential impacts. These standard conditions include but are not limited to:¹² <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Flowing Artesian Well 	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 will not be a cause of public concern.

¹¹ See the MVLWB Policies and Resources webpage to access the LWB [Standard Land Use Permit Conditions Template](#).

¹² See the MVLWB Policies and Resources webpage to access the LWB [Standard Land Use Permit Conditions Template](#).

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
Abiotic Component – Water – Groundwater – Infiltration Changes	Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Applicant notes that no changes to water infiltration is expected. • The Board has standard permit conditions that are typically used to mitigate the identified potential impacts. These standard conditions include but are not limited to:¹³ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 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 	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 will not be a cause of public concern.
Abiotic Component – Water – Groundwater – Change in water quality	Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Applicant proposed the following mitigations in the Application. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avoid drill sites, include sumps within 100m of a natural water course. Attend to spills immediately as per the Spill Contingency Plan • The Board has standard permit conditions that are typically used to mitigate the identified potential impacts. These standard conditions include but are not limited to:¹⁴ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Repair Leaks ○ Fuel Storage Setback ○ Fuel Cache Secondary Containment ○ Secondary Containment – Refueling ○ Fuel Containment ○ Fuel on Land ○ Seal Outlet ○ Spill Contingency 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 will not be a cause of public concern.

¹³ See the MVLWB Policies and Resources webpage to access the LWB [Standard Land Use Permit Conditions Template](#).

¹⁴ See the MVLWB Policies and Resources webpage to access the LWB [Standard Land Use Permit Conditions Template](#).

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
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Spill Response ○ Drip Trays ○ Clean Up Spills ○ Report Spills 	
<p>Abiotic Component – Permafrost – Loss or change in extent</p> <p>Changes in seasonal fluctuations</p> <p>Change in persistence</p>	Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Applicant proposed the following mitigations in the Application. As project activities will be limited to the camp and drill sites, limited impacts to permafrost are anticipated. To reduce impacts, excavation of the insulating vegetation layer will be limited to only that as required for temporary camp foundations. • The Board has standard permit conditions that are typically used to mitigate the identified potential impacts. These standard conditions include but are not limited to:¹⁵ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Permafrost Protection ○ Off Road Vehicle Travel ○ Prevention of Rutting ○ Suspend Overland Travel ○ Vehicle Movement Freeze Up 	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 will not be a cause of public concern.
<p>Abiotic Component – Surface Water – Water flow or level change (permanent, temporary, seasonal)</p>	Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Applicant proposed the following mitigations in the Application. Avoid drill sites (including sumps) within 100m of a natural water course. Provide drainage channels if required during a drilling program. Remediate to pre-disturbance conditions. Water use less than 99m³ per day. • The Board has standard permit conditions that are typically used to mitigate the identified potential impacts. These standard conditions 	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 will not be a cause of public concern.

¹⁵ See the MVLWB Policies and Resources webpage to access the LWB [Standard Land Use Permit Conditions Template](#).

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
		include but are not limited to: ¹⁶ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Drilling/Adit Setback ○ Sump Setback ○ Drilling Newar Water or on Ice ○ Drilling Waste ○ Drill Waste Disposal ○ Drilling Waste Containment ○ Reclaim Non-Oil and Gas Sumps ○ Sewage Disposal Sump Set Pack ○ Sewage Disposal Plan 	
Abiotic Component – Surface Water – Changes in Water Quality – Wetland impairment	Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Applicant proposed the following mitigations in the Application. Avoid drill sites (including sumps) within 100m of a natural water course. Store fuel in appropriate containers. Fuel supplies will be stored in an impermeable berm. Attend to spills immediately as per the Spill Contingency Plan. • The Board has standard permit conditions that are typically used to mitigate the identified potential impacts. These standard conditions include but are not limited to:¹⁷ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Repair Leaks ○ Fuel Storage Setback ○ Fuel Cache Secondary Containment ○ Secondary Containment – Refueling ○ Fuel Containment ○ Fuel on Land ○ Seal Outlet 	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 will not be a cause of public concern.

¹⁶ See the MVLWB Policies and Resources webpage to access the LWB [Standard Land Use Permit Conditions Template](#).

¹⁷ See the MVLWB Policies and Resources webpage to access the LWB [Standard Land Use Permit Conditions Template](#).

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
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Spill Contingency Plan ○ Drill Trays ○ Clean Up Spills ○ Report Spills 	
Abiotic Component – Air – Changes in Air Quality – Harm to living things – Increased greenhouse gasses	Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Applicant proposed the following mitigations in the Application. Conduct routine maintenance on equipment and use low emissions vehicles when possible. Routine maintenance on vehicles, generators and engines 	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 will not be a cause of public concern.
Biotic Components – Vegetation – Direct Loss of Vegetation	Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Applicant proposed the following mitigations in the Application. Limit clearing and move sites if required. Very limited clearing is expected as the project is located on the barren lands. Vegetation clearing will be limited to temporary camp foundations (if required at all) Remediate site to allow for vegetation regrowth as required. • The Board has standard permit conditions that are typically used to mitigate the identified potential impacts. These standard conditions include but are not limited to:¹⁸ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Location of Activities ○ Progressive Erosion Control ○ Reclaim Non-Oil and Gas Sumps ○ Pre-Construction Profiles ○ Progressive Reclamation 	

¹⁸ See the MVLWB Policies and Resources webpage to access the LWB [Standard Land Use Permit Conditions Template](#).

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
Biotic Components – Introduction of Non-native (invasive) species	Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Applicant proposed the following mitigations in the Application. Ensure all machinery is cleaned prior to mobilization to site. 	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 will not be a cause of public concern.
Biotic Components – Vegetation – Effects on Plant Health (dust, metals, toxins)	Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Applicant proposed the following mitigations in the Application. Ensure drill rids have appropriate measures in place to reduce dust release while drilling. Limit extent of drill water discharge, use of sumps as required. 	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 will not be a cause of public concern.
Biotic Components – Vegetation – Increased risk of fire	Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Applicant proposed the following mitigations in the Application. Keep drill sites clean and tidy by following Waste Management Plan. Ensure machinery is checked daily to identify any faults and that these are rectified prior to commencing operations. Ensure adequate fire suppression supplies at drill site and camp facilities. Temporarily suspend operations if conditions are to dry. • The Board has standard permit conditions that are typically used to mitigate the identified potential impacts. These standard conditions include but are not limited to:¹⁹ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Waste Management Plan ○ Fire-Fighting Equipment 	

¹⁹ See the MVLWB Policies and Resources webpage to access the LWB [Standard Land Use Permit Conditions Template](#).

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
Biotic Components – Vegetation – Compaction of vegetation	Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Applicant proposed the following mitigations in the Application. Ensure machinery and equipment remains on cleared or naturally clear areas and durable surfaces to avoid additional affects on natural vegetation. Drill will operation from a snow pad or on crips to limit ground disturbance. 	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 will not be a cause of public concern.
Biotic Components – Terrestrial Wildlife Habitat – Direct loss or removal of habitat, dens or nests	Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Applicant proposed the following mitigations in the Application. Direct and indirect effects to wildlife habitat will be avoided by minimizing vegetation and soil disturbance and operating seasonally. Sites will be visually assessed prior to clearing in order to minimize destruction of habitat, dens or nests. Special attention will be paid to minimize disturbance of and impact on species at risk in the area including Barren-ground Caribou, Grizzly Bear, Wolverine, Harris’s Sparrow, Lesser Yellowlegs, Red-necked Phalarope, Rusty Blackbird and Short-eared Owl. • The Board has standard permit conditions that are typically used to mitigate the identified potential impacts. These standard conditions include but are not limited to:²⁰ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Habitat Damage ○ Migratory Bird Nest Disturbance 	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 will not be a cause of public concern.
Biotic Components – Terrestrial Habitat – Direct injury or mortality	Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Applicant proposed the following mitigations in the Application. Limit/avoid interaction with wildlife. Suspend program if required. Give animals right of way when spotted. • The Board has standard permit conditions that are typically used to mitigate the identified potential impacts. These standard conditions 	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 will not be a cause of public concern.

²⁰ See the MVLWB Policies and Resources webpage to access the LWB [Standard Land Use Permit Conditions Template](#).

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
		include but are not limited to: ²¹ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Habitat Damage ○ Caribou Disturbance 	
Biotic Components – Terrestrial Habitat – Effect on wildlife health (toxins, metals, etc.)	Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Applicant proposed the following mitigations in the Application. Maintain a clean and tidy site during and after the program. Ensure all potentially harmful substances are not able to be compromised and that food and all waste is inaccessible – ie implement Waste Management Plan and ensure attractants are sealed in animal proof containers. Ensure that dust and water discharge during the drilling process is limited. Ensure sumps have a spot of egress. On completion of the program leave the site clean and tidy. • The Board has standard permit conditions that are typically used to mitigate the identified potential impacts. These standard conditions include but are not limited to:²² <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Waste Management Plan ○ Garbage Container ○ Final Cleanup and Restoration 	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 will not be a cause of public concern.
Biotic Components – Terrestrial Habitat – Human wildlife conflict	Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Applicant proposed the following mitigations in the Application. Implement Waste Management Plan to keep work area free of garbage so as not to attract animals to the site. Ensure attractants are sealed in animal proof containers. Employees will be provided with wildlife awareness training and are prohibited from interaction with wildlife. To help limit human wildlife conflicts drill rigs or any other machinery will be shut down and programs suspended, when there is a know 	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 will not be a cause of public concern.

²¹ See the MVLWB Policies and Resources webpage to access the LWB [Standard Land Use Permit Conditions Template](#).

²² See the MVLWB Policies and Resources webpage to access the LWB [Standard Land Use Permit Conditions Template](#).

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
		<p>wildlife within 500m, including Caribou and all large ungulates including Moose, Bison and/or Muskoxen. Wildlife sightings at camp will be reported for follow up.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Board has standard permit conditions that are typically used to mitigate the identified potential impacts. These standard conditions include but are not limited to:²³ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Habitat Damage ○ Caribou Disturbance ○ Waste Management Plan ○ Garbage Container ○ Final Cleanup and Restoration 	
Biotic Components – Terrestrial Habitat – Other	Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Applicant proposed the following mitigations in the Application. Water withdrawal for drill and camp use will be limited to below 99m3/day. Intake hoses will be fitted with mesh screens to reduce potential impacts to fish. 	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 will not be a cause of public concern.
Cultural Components – Wildlife Harvesting – Loss or reduction in game species populations		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Applicant proposed the following mitigations in the Application. As described in the Wildlife Management and Monitoring Plan and Terrestrial Wildlife Habitat section of this table, drilling will be avoided in the spring migration period (May) for Bathurst caribou and camp staff will be prohibited from harvesting. • The Board has standard permit conditions that are typically used to mitigate the identified potential impacts. These standard conditions include but are not limited to:²⁴ 	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 will not be a cause of public concern.

²³ See the MVLWB Policies and Resources webpage to access the LWB [Standard Land Use Permit Conditions Template](#).

²⁴ See the MVLWB Policies and Resources webpage to access the LWB [Standard Land Use Permit Conditions Template](#).

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
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Habitat Damage ○ Caribou Disturbance 	
Cultural Components – Social and Economic Well-being – Increased human health hazard and risk	Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Applicant proposed the following mitigations in the Application. Project activities will occur in a remote area with limited access to emergency services. A medic will be stationed at camp 	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 will not be a cause of public concern.
Cultural Components – Social and Economic Well-being – Economic opportunities or losses	Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Applicant proposed the following mitigations in the Application. Increased employment opportunities. Trinex will endeavour to provide a board range of employment opportunities, including business contract opportunities to the local workforce and companies throughout the duration of the Land Use Permit 	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 will not be a cause of public concern.
Cultural Components - Other	Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Applicant proposed the following mitigations in the Application. Baseline noise readings will be taken prior to drilling, during drilling, and after drilling is completed. Mitigation proposed for the noise generated includes using only up to two drills at any one time. Noise will be closely monitoring to ensure limited disturbance to wildlife and surroundings. High level helicopter flying policy will be implemented, with no-fly zone below 1,000 feet except in designated landing zones near machinery being operated. Flights will be kept to a minimum. 	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 will not be a cause of public concern.

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 or 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 environmental assessment by Monday, May 5, 2025, the Board can issue the Permit on Tuesday, May 6, 2025.

SIGNATURE



Tanya MacIntosh, Chair
Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board

April 25, 2025

Date