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May 16, 2025

File: MV2024X0022

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: White Cliff Minerals – Notice of Preliminary Screening Determination – Application for Land Use Permit – Miscellaneous – East and Southeast of Great Bear Lake, NT

The Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board (Board) met on May 16, 2025 and considered the Application Package from White Cliff Minerals for Land Use Permit (Permit) MV2024X0022 for the Sparkplug 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, are attached.

If the Board does not receive notice of referral to environmental assessment, it can proceed with issuance of Permit MV2024X0022 on **Tuesday, May 27, 2025**.

The Board and staff look forward to continued communications throughout the pause period. Please contact Kathy Racher via [email](#) or at (867) 766-7467 with any questions or concerns regarding this letter.

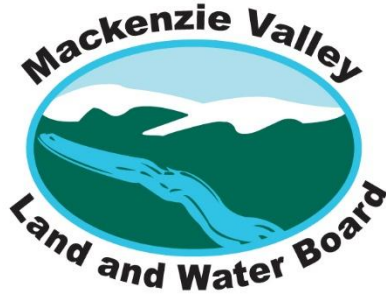
Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tanya MacIntosh". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tanya MacIntosh
Chair, Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board

BCC'd to: Sahtu Settlement Area – Deline District Distribution List
Wek'èezhìi Management Area Distribution List
Akaitcho Distribution List
Eric Sondergaard, White Cliff Minerals Ltd.

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	MV2024X0022
Company	White Cliff Minerals Ltd
Project	Sparkplug
Location	East and southeast shores of Great Bear Lake, NT
Activity	Miscellaneous
Date of Decision	May 16, 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 May 16, 2025 to make a preliminary screening determination on the Application from White Cliff Minerals Ltd. (WCM) (Applicant) for Land Use Permit MV2024X0022(Permit)¹ for the Sparkplug Project (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 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 determinations, including reasons for its decision, are detailed in sections [3.0](#) and [4.0](#).

¹See MVLWB Online Registry [www.mvlwb.com] for [WCM - Land Use Permit Application - Jun24_24](#)

2.0 List of Defined Terms and Acronyms

Applicant/Permittee	White Cliff Minerals Ltd. (WCM)
Application	The complete application package submitted by the Applicant for Land Use Permit MV2024X0022
CIRNAC	Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada
CNSC	Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission
CRP	Closure and Reclamation Plan
DFO	Fisheries and Oceans Canada
DGG	Déjłnë Got'ıñë Government
Distribution List	The list of individuals and organizations to whom materials from this regulatory proceeding were circulated. ²
Du K'ets'edi Conservation Zone (Sentinel Islands)	Zone 26, as described in the Sahtu Land Use Plan.
ECCC	Environment and Climate Change Canada
GNWT	Government of the Northwest Territories
GNWT-ECC	Government of the Northwest Territories – Environment and Climate Change
GNWT-PWNHC	Government of the Northwest Territories Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre
IR	Information request
Inspector	An Inspector designated under subsection 84(1) of the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act
LWBs	Land and Water Boards of the Mackenzie Valley
MVLUR	Mackenzie Valley Land Use Regulations
MVLWB or Board	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 and/or Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs, as the case may be.
ORS	Online Review System (https://new.onlinereviewssystem.ca/reviews)
Party	As per the LWB Rules of Procedure , an applicant, a person, or an organization participating in this regulatory process.
Permit	Land Use Permit MV2024X0022
Port Radium Site	The area licenced by CNSC to CIRNAC under Port Radium Waste Nuclear Substance Licence, WNSL- W5-3207.0/2-2026, that encompass 66°05'06.6"N 118°02'09.6"W (26.2 hectares)
Project	Sparkplug Project, the undertaking as described in Part A of the Permit.
Review Board	Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board
SCP	Spill Contingency Plan
SLUP	Sahtu Land Use Plan
Standard Permit Conditions	LWB Standard Land Use Permit Conditions Template
WCM	White Cliff Minerals Ltd.
WMP	Waste Management Plan

² To access the Distribution List, see the LWBs' Online Review System for [White Cliff Minerals Sparkplug Project – New Type A Land Use Permit Application](#)

3.0 Background and Scope of Screening

On June 24, 2024, the Applicant submitted an application for a new Permit MV2024X0022 (the Application).³ The Application is to conduct mineral exploration activities aimed at identifying and characterizing iron oxide, copper, and gold, but also other critical minerals deposits. Activities will occur east and southeast of Great Bear Lake, including along its shores and island - referred to as the Sparkplug Project (Project).

These activities are located within the Sahtu Dene and Métis Settlement Area, Wek'èezhii Resource Management Area, and asserted territory of the Akaitcho Dene First Nations.

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:

WCM originally requested an exemption from preliminary screening on the premise that the same activities have been previously permitted and conducted by Alberta Star Resources, Hunter Bay Resources, and DEMCo Ltd, including drilling, geophysics, and sampling.⁴ The Applicant included a references and hyperlinks to past preliminary screenings conducted for similar work in the same area.⁵ The Applicant also acknowledged that the proposed project area has been expanded due to the nature of how prospecting permits are awarded.⁶

Upon review of the material submitted to support an exemption from preliminary screening, it was not clear whether all the activities had been previously screened within the entirety of the Project area.⁷ Board staff also indicated it was not clear why the previously screened activities would not be considered cumulative impacts to those proposed as part of the Application. As a result, Board staff requested more information to support the request, or that the request to be exempt from preliminary screening requirements be withdrawn. The Applicant opted to withdraw its request to be exempt from preliminary screening.⁸

³ See MVLWB Online Registry for [WCM - Land Use Permit Application - Jun24 24](#)

⁴ See MVLWB Online Registry for [WCM - Land Use Permit Application - Incomplete Response Letter - July8 24](#), p. 3

⁵ See MVLWB Online Registry for [WCM - Land Use Permit Application - Screening Exemption Requestion - Additional Info - July8 24](#)

⁶ Ibid

⁷ See MVLWB Online Registry for [WCM - Land Use Permit Application - Incomplete Response Letter - July8 24](#), p. 9

⁸ See MVLWB Online Review System for [White Cliff Minerals Sparkplug Project - New Type A Land Use Permit Application](#), response to MVLWB 9 and 10.

New Areas and Activities

Spatial Extent

The geographic extent of the area included in the preliminary screening is identified in Figures 1-3 below. The spatial boundaries include the various mineral interests and travel routes used to access the site, including from Déllnę to the area near the Port Radium Site.

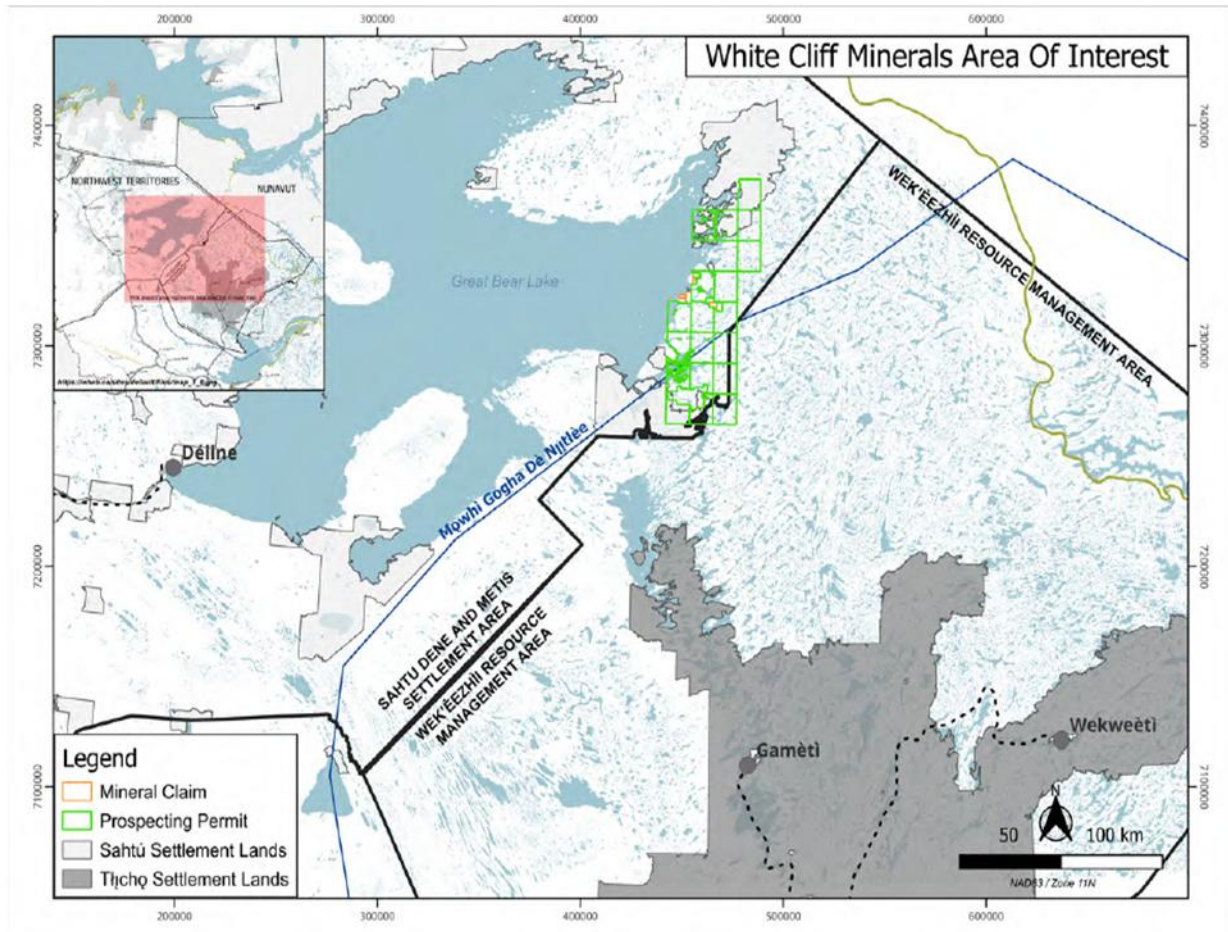


Figure 1: Project Area, Mineral Claims and Prospecting Permits

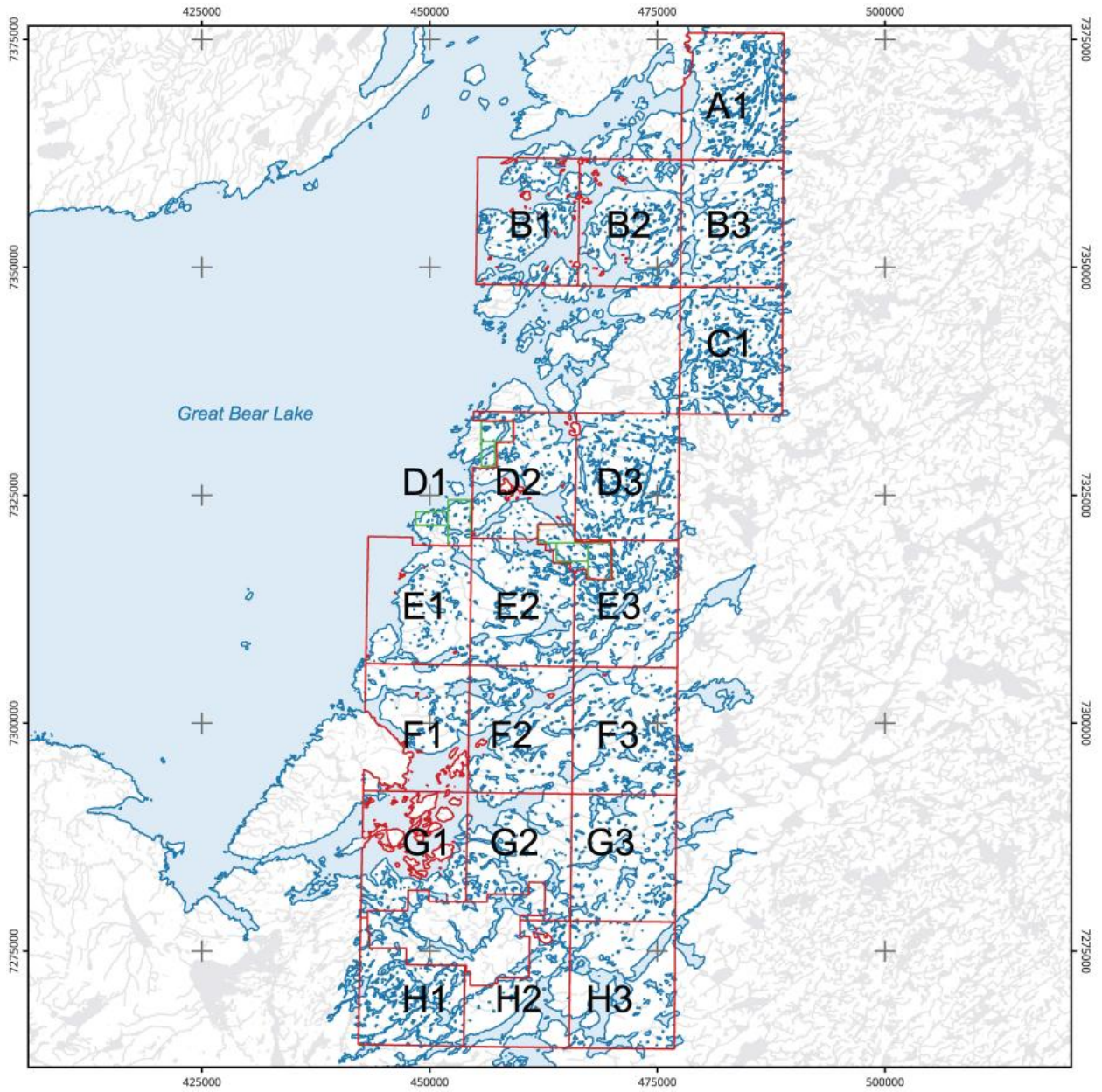


Figure 2: View of Mineral Claims and Prospecting Permits

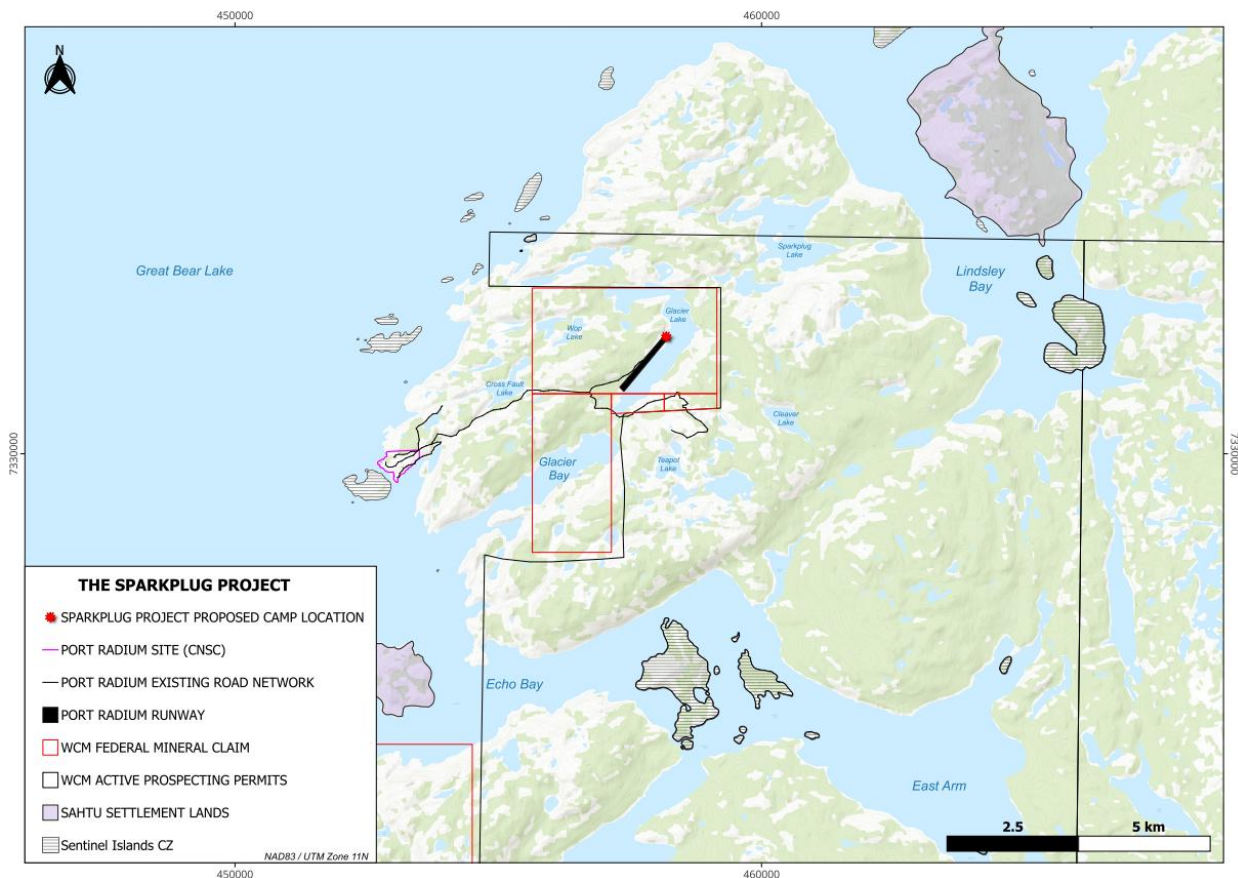


Figure 3: Location of Camp and Surrounding Mineral Interests in Relation to the Port Radium Site

Temporal Component of Preliminary Screening

Year-round work was considered in the preliminary screening. The Applicant indicated exploration activities will be undertaken seasonally, typically in summer and late winter, but potentially any time of year.

Activities included in preliminary screening

- Project Access:
 - o By helicopter or plane landing on the existing airstrip near the Port Radium site. Access is via over ice or water from Délı̄ne.
 - o Construction and use of trails, winter roads, and ice bridges: this includes access across Great Bear Lake to the camp located at the airstrip, including a connection between the winter road and existing all season roads near the Port Radium Site.
 - o The use of pre-existing infrastructure not within the boundaries of the Port Radium Site: all weather roads and airstrip. Drill support and movement will be by helicopter or overland by winter trail or road.
- Exploration Activities:
 - o Within the boundaries of the prospective permits and mineral claims provided with the Applications, except within applicable conservation zones as described in the Sahtu Land Use Plan.⁹
 - o The use of vehicles and machines for the purpose of drilling and transport.

⁹ See the [Sahtu Land Use Plan](#) Zone Prohibitions and Applicable Conditions, p. 49 and 50

- Aerial or ground-based surveys and sampling, staking, environmental monitoring, and archaeological assessment.
- Under-licence threshold water use and rates from the sources listed in the Application.
- Discharge of core cutting wastewater to natural depressions.
- Camp:
 - Located at the airstrip near the Port Radium Site.
 - Temporary structures for accommodations, food preparation, dining, office space, core cuttings, and wash facilities.
 - Smaller structures will also be erected to house toilets (which may be an outhouse or incinerating-type toilet), pump house, and generators.
 - A fuel cache with capacity for up to 400 barrels of aviation fuel (for helicopters and/or planes), 400 barrels of diesel (primarily for the drills and camp power supply) as well as smaller quantities of propane. Remote fuel caches may be established to support remote drilling.
 - May accommodate up to 49 people. WCM’s preferred camp location is on the airstrip near the Port Radium site.
 - Greywater will be discharged to sumps. If outhouses are used, blackwater pits will be backfilled upon closure of the pit location.
- Use of vehicles, machines, and equipment, storage of remote fuel caches, closure and reclamation and associated activities throughout the Project spatial boundaries.

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 11, 2024,¹⁰ 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 August 1, 2024, with responses from the Applicant due August 8, 2024. The Board received comments and recommendations from Déljné Got’ine Government (DGG), Wek’èezhii Renewable Resources Board (WRRB), Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC), Government of the Northwest Territories Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre (GNWT PWNHC), GNWT Department of Environment and Climate Change (GNWT ECC), Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC), and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO).¹¹ Board staff also submitted comments and questions for the purpose of clarification.

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](#).

¹⁰ To access the Distribution List, see the LWBs’ Online Review System for [White Cliff Minerals Sparkplug Project - New Type A Land Use Permit Application](#). On July 11, 2024, the material was distributed to the Sahtu Settlement Area Deline District Distribution List and Wek’èezhii Distribution List. On July 16, 2024, the material was distributed to the Akaitcho Distribution List.

¹¹ See MVLWB Online Registry for [White Cliff Minerals Sparkplug Project - New Type A Land Use Permit Application](#).

Pursuant to Schedule 4.1 of [Northwest Territory Métis Nation \(NWTMN\) Interim Measures Agreement](#),¹² 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 Applications.

Pursuant to subsection 1.6, paragraphs (a) and (b) of the [Akaitcho Territory Dene First Nations \(ATDFN\) Interim Measures Agreement](#),¹³ 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 Délı̨ne Got'ine Government (DGG) and that a reasonable period of time was provided for the DGG 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.

¹² See MVLWB Land Claims, IMAs, and Land Use Plans webpage to access the [Northwest Territory Métis Nation Interim Measures Agreement](#).

¹³ See MVLWB Land Claims, IMAs, and Land Use Plans webpage to access the [Akaitcho Territory Dene First Nations Interim Measures Agreement](#).

Table 1: 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.	Board Analysis and Determination
Habitat loss or damage	Direct impacts to habitat related to Project footprint	<p>WCM proposes the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where practical, selecting a camp location which has previously been subject to anthropogenic impact and/or cleared, or a naturally cleared area to reduce cumulative impacts • Establishment of camp locations on dry, durable ground to minimize ground impacts and erosion • Placement of heated camp structures, as well as drills, on cribbing (i.e., raised above ground) or placement of a mat beneath heated structures to minimize vegetation impacts and prevent permafrost degradation • No overland off-road transit by vehicles when the ground is unfrozen or when there is risk of rutting or gouging of the ground • Reduce brush clearing associated with winter trails and roads by minimizing the length and width of any over-land transit corridors and using existing roads and corridors • No brush clearing within 100 m of a waterbody unless associated with a trail crossing or for drill pad construction, when authorized by an Inspector • Placement of any brush cleared in piles to create replacement wildlife habitat • Use of natural depressions or sumps to contain liquid wastes (e.g., greywater, cuttings) and fill any dug sumps on cessation of use • Eliminating the use of salt during drilling to minimize vegetation impacts, except where determined to be necessary • Prevent introduction of non-native species by cleaning any debris or soil from any mobile heavy equipment brought to site • V-notching of any stream crossings constructed prior to melt • No camps, sumps, or fuel storage within 100 m of a waterbody except with Inspector approval • Avoid conducting activities in areas overlapping sensitive features and prescribed setbacks as identified in the Sahtú Land Use Plan • Orientation and training of all staff on the importance of and need to minimize Project footprint 	<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 or be a cause of public concern.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The areas impacted are anticipated to be discrete and progressively reclaimed. - Impacts are temporary - The Applicant’s commitments

		<p>and Project impacts on wildlife habitat</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progressive closure of drill sites • At closure, stabilize any impacted areas potentially subject to erosion or sediment loss 	and conditions of the Permit are sufficient to mitigate potential impacts
Disturbance of wildlife dens and bird nests	Impact on wildlife dens and bird nests related to Project footprints	WCM proposes the following:	
		1. Avoid, adapt, reschedule, or relocate activities to avoid vegetation clearing, brushing, and habitat disturbance during the general nesting period, where practical	
		2. If nests containing eggs or young are found, all disruptive activities should be stopped until nesting is complete and establish a suitable buffer zone for the species and activity (based on regulatory guidance).	
		3. If carnivore dens are found, these areas will be avoided when in use	
		4. Camp tents will be skirted to deter wildlife denning	
		5. Implementation of wildlife setbacks and sensitivity windows outlined in the Sahtú Land Use Plan	
Attraction of wildlife by attractants such as food waste	On-site storage and use of food and food waste and other potential wildlife attractants	WCM proposes the following:	
		1. There will be a strict 'no feeding of wildlife' policy	
		2. All wastes will be contained and managed in an organized and appropriate manner as outlined in the Waste Management Plan	
		3. All food waste and wildlife attractants will be stored in a manner resistant to wildlife access	
		4. All field crews will be required to return any food scraps and associated wastes to the camp for appropriate management	
		5. Wastes attractive to wildlife will be disposed of promptly, either by backhaul to an approved waste management facility, or in an onsite incinerator (if available)	
		6. No landfill will be established on site; these have the potential to attract wildlife	
		7. Screen kitchen wastewater to remove food particles prior to discharge and inspect greywater sump daily to remove any food waste and treat as needed with lime or crystal lye to prevent being an attractant	
		8. Orientation and training of all staff on Project waste management practices aimed at minimizing wildlife attraction	
		9. A bear fence may be erected if deemed necessary	
		10. All work areas will be inspected daily when in use to ensure that wildlife attractants are being appropriately managed and food wastes are returned to the camp on a daily basis	
		11. Storing items with attractive smells/odours in sealed containers or disposing of them in a manner that minimizes wildlife attraction	
Spills	Storage and use of	WCM proposes the following:	
		1. Fuel and any chemical caches will be located at least 100 m away from the ordinary high water mark of any	

	hazardous and potentially hazardous materials	waterbody
		2. Small equipment will have disposable spill pads underneath
		3. Regular maintenance and oil checks of motorized equipment will be undertaken
		4. Bulk fuel containers will be designed or supplied with 110% containment and drip trays and appropriately sized fuel transfer hoses with pumps will be used when refueling
		5. Spill response supplies will be located at each cache
		6. Caches will be inspected daily when exploration is underway
		7. A Spill Contingency Plan will be implemented
		8. All staff will be trained in basic chemical management and spill prevention and response procedures
		9. Any spills will be contained and cleaned up promptly
		10. If cleanup is delayed, measures will be put in place to protect any nearby waterbodies
		11. Any contaminated material will be securely stored to ensure contaminants are not released to the environment
		12. Where practical, chemicals that are toxic to wildlife will be substituted for others, particularly if they are also a wildlife attractant (e.g., propylene glycol will be used in substitution for ethylene glycol, calcium chloride in substitution for sodium chloride)
		13. All work areas will be inspected daily when in use to check for spills
		14. Hazardous and potentially hazardous wastes will be backhauled to Yellowknife on the next available flight to minimize storage of hazardous materials on site
		15. At Project closure, remove all equipment, fuel, and hazardous and potentially hazardous waste
Direct wildlife impacts	Human-wildlife conflict and wildlife injury or mortality caused by Project activities or personnel	WCM proposes the following:
		1. Implementation of a strict no hunting policy for Project staff
		2. No fishing without the appropriate fishing licence, as applicable
		3. Training staff in appropriate bear awareness and deterrence measures
		4. Equipping field crews with bear deterrence kits, which would include: air horn or whistle, bear bangers, and bear spray (and training in their use)
		5. Where necessary, using bear fences
		6. Where appropriate, making use of wildlife monitors
		7. Wildlife will not be intentionally approached by Project staff and setback distances outlined in Table 4 of the Sahtú Land Use Plan will be implemented
8. Orientation and training of all staff on Project policies regarding the feeding of wildlife, fishing and hunting, as well as jobsite/activity specific orientation of work area management of wildlife access		

		9. All work areas will be inspected daily when in use for evidence of wildlife access or initiation of nesting	
Helicopter disturbance	Use of helicopters	WCM proposes the following:	
		1. Wildlife setbacks outlined in the Sahtú Land Use Plan will be implemented	
		2. Aircraft will routinely fly at a height of at least 650 m above the ground (the highest Sahtú Land Use Plan setback altitude) even when wildlife are not present, except when activities require otherwise (e.g., for take-off/landing, when conducting altitude-specific aerial surveys, and where required for safety)	
		3. Field crews will conduct a scan for wildlife prior to landing; if wildlife are present and setbacks cannot be reliably maintained, the crew will be deployed to a different location	
		4. Helicopters will avoid landing in areas where wildlife is present except for emergencies	
		5. If specific activities necessitate deviations from Sahtú Land Use Plan wildlife setbacks, appropriate mitigations will be developed with the appropriate organizations and Renewable Resources Council	
Impacts to water volume or fish habitat	Withdrawal of water from a waterbody for Project use	WCM proposes the following:	
		1. Cumulative water use will not exceed 99 m ³ /day	
		2. Water conservation and recirculation measures will be implemented in association with drilling activity	
		3. Water will only be sourced from approved waterbodies and only in quantities suitable, based on waterbody size	
		4. Equip all water intake lines with suitably sized screens to prevent the entertainment or impingement of fish	
		5. Adherence to DFO's protective measures, as applicable	
Change to or loss of cultural integrity, loss of heritage resources	Direct disturbance of archaeological sites related to Project footprint	WCM proposes the following:	
		1. Conducting archaeological overview assessments prior to disturbing ground	
		2. Conducting archaeological impact assessments prior to disturbance of areas not identified as having low archaeological potential	
		3. Avoiding any known archaeological sites by buffer distances prescribed by the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre and the Sahtú Land Use Plan	
		4. Educating Project personnel on identification of potential archaeological resources and avoidance and notification procedures	

Decrease in air quality and contribution to climate change	Fossil fuel combustion and burning or incineration, and waste	WCM proposes the following:
		1. Emissions related to the combustion of fuel will be emitted in association with camp areas, drilling locations, and aircraft use and will be discontinuous, short term, and localized
		2. Emissions tied to Project-related activities cannot be eliminated but will be reduced where practical
		3. Consolidate waste and coordinate backhaul to reduce emissions
		4. The incinerator will only be used to burn acceptable combustible materials and manufacturer recommendations will be followed
		5. Only suitable wastes will be open burnt, including untreated wood, paper, and cardboard
Increase in noise	Operation of equipment, generators, and aircraft	WCM proposes the following:
		1. Noise will be generated in association with camp areas, drilling locations, and helicopter use and will be localized, discontinuous, and short term in nature
		2. Noise tied to Project-related activities cannot be eliminated but will be reduced where practical
Change in social and economic well-being	Project construction and operational activities	WCM proposes the following:
		1. Anticipated job opportunities during future programs; camp roles such as cook, laborer, community research assistant or monitor; and technical training for core cutting and field technician roles
		2. Services and supplies will be preferentially sourced from Déljné
		3. Community initiatives will be supported where requested by the Déljné Got'jné Government or community and financially possible, or as indicated in any agreement with the Déljné Got'jné Government
Engagement concerns	All activities	WCM submitted an addition to the Engagement Record which details engagement conducted with DGG from June 21 to March 26, 2025. The Record indicates an agreement between DGG and WCM was reached on March 10, 2025.
Those above	Those above	The Board has included conditions in the Permit that mitigate the potential impacts, notably: PARALLEL WATERCOURSE SETBACK, FIRE-FIGHTING EQUIPMENT, WINTER ROADS, STORAGE ON ICE, ARCHAEOLOGICAL BUFFER, SITE DISTANCE, ARCHAEOLOGICAL OVERVIEW, AIA – HIGH, FUEL STORAGE SETBACK, SPILL CONTINGENCY PLAN, WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN, and CLOSURE AND RECLAMATION PLAN.

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.

DGG expressed concern with the adequacy of WCM's pre-submission engagement and conformity with the Sahtu Land Use Plan. DGG requested the Board apply 22(2)(b) of the [MVLUR](#) to allow more time for engagement. The Board applied 22(2)(b) of the [MVLUR](#) and directed WCM to further engage DGG and provide additional information. In response to the Board's Direction, WCM submitted an additional Engagement Record which details engagement conducted with DGG from June 21 to March 26, 2025, including an in-person meeting.¹⁴ The Record indicates an agreement between DGG and WCM was reached on March 10, 2025. Based on this, the Board has determined that DGG's concerns have been adequately addressed.

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 May 26, 2025, the Board can issue the Permit on May 27, 2025

SIGNATURE



Tanya MacIntosh, Chair
Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board

May 16, 2025

Date

¹⁴ See MVLWB Online Registry for [WCM - Response to Board Directive - Mar26 25](#)