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January 23, 2026

File: MV2024X0038

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: Mackenzie Valley Highway Geotechnical Investigation – Notice of Preliminary Screening Determination – Amendment Application for Land Use Permit – Geotech Investigation – Mackenzie Valley, NT.**

The Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board (Board) met on January 22, 2026, and considered the Application Package from Government of Northwest Territories - Department of Infrastructure (GNWT-INF) for Land Use Permit (Permit) MV2024X0038 for the MVH Geotechnical Investigation, along the Mackenzie Valley Winter Road – between Wrigley, Tulita, and Norman Wells, 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 proceedings. 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, is attached.

If the Board does not receive notice of referral to environmental assessment, it can proceed with issuance of Permit MV2024X0038 on **Tuesday, February 3, 2026**.

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.

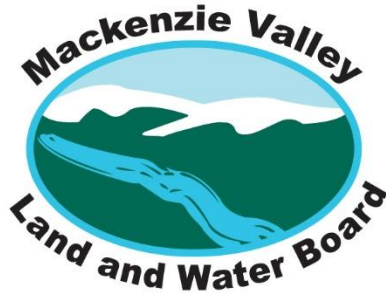
Yours sincerely,

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: Dehcho Distribution List  
SLWB – Tulita District  
Patricia Coyne – Manager, Mackenzie Valley Highway Environmental Affairs  
Rick Walbourne – Director, Regulatory and Permitting, GNWT-ECC  
Danielle Rogers – Inspectors – GNWT-ECC (Dehcho)  
Erin Goose – Inspector, GNWT-ECC (Sahtu)

Attached: Preliminary Screening Determination and Reasons for Decision



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## Preliminary Screening Determination and Reasons for Decision

Land Use Permit Application	
<b>File Number</b>	MV2024X0038
<b>Company</b>	Government of Northwest Territories – Department of Infrastructure (GNWT-INF)
<b>Project</b>	MVH Geotech Permit Amendment
<b>Location</b>	Mackenzie Valley Winter Road, NT
<b>Activity</b>	Geotechnical Investigation
<b>Date of Decision</b>	January 22, 2026

### 1.0 Decision

In accordance with subsection 124(1) of the [Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act](#) (MVRMA), the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board (Board) met on January 22, 2026, to make a preliminary screening determination on the amendment Application from Government of Northwest Territories – Department of Infrastructure (GNWT-INF) (Applicant) for Land Use Permit MV2024X0038 (Permit).<sup>1</sup>

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 changes to the Project will not have a significant adverse impact on the environment or be a cause of public concern.

<sup>1</sup>See MVLWB Online Registry [www.mvlwb.com](http://www.mvlwb.com) for [GNWT-INF – MVH Geotech Investigation – Permit Amendment – Application](#).

## 2.0 List of Defined Terms and Acronyms

Applicant/Proponent	GNWT-INF
Application	The complete amendment application package submitted by the Applicant for Land Use Permit MV2024X0038.
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	<a href="#">Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act</a>
Minister	Minister of the Government of the Northwest Territories – Environment and Climate Change
ORS	Online Review System ( <a href="http://www.new.onlinereviewssystem.ca">www.new.onlinereviewssystem.ca</a> )
Party	As per the LWB <a href="#">Rules of Procedure</a> , an applicant, a person, or an organization participating in the regulatory proceeding for the Application.
Project	MVH Geotechnical Investigation, which is the development (as defined in Part 5 of the MVRMA) <sup>2</sup> subject to proposed changes.
Review Board	Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board
Standard Permit Conditions	LWB <a href="#">Standard Land Use Permit Conditions Template</a>

## 3.0 Background and Scope of Screening

The GNWT-INF is advancing work on the proposed Mackenzie Valley Highway (MVH). In February 2025, the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board issued a Type A Land Use Permit (MV2024X0038) authorizing GNWT-INF to conduct geotechnical investigations over the next 5 years in the Dehcho and Sahtu Regions between Wrigley, Tulita, and Norman Wells. During that initial permitting process, the Project was screened for adverse environmental impacts and sources of public concern.<sup>3</sup>

In October 2025, the Proponent proposed to amend the location of activities within the original application to accommodate geotechnical investigations at two additional potential borrow sources, and along an area where the MVH route was changed in response to engagement with community stakeholders.

Prior to the amendment application submission, GNWT-INF engaged with Indigenous Governments and other local stakeholders to ensure there were no objections to the proposed scale and nature of project activities. According to the Applicant’s Engagement records, engagement with affected parties took place between August 22, 2025, and September 12, 2025. It consisted of emails sent with notification packages

<sup>2</sup> “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.”

<sup>3</sup> See MVLWB Online Registry [www.mvlwb.com](http://www.mvlwb.com) for [MVH Geotech Investigation – Notification – Preliminary Screening Determination – Feb7 24](#).

and invitations to engagement sessions, emailed copy of virtual information presentation and meeting minutes, as well as follow up emails and phone calls. No serious concerns were recorded during this engagement process.

Potentially affected parties contacted were the following:

- Dehcho First Nations
- Łíídlıı Kúé First Nation (LKFN)
- Pehdzéh Kı First Nation (PKFN)
- Fort Simpson Métis Nation
- Tulita District Land Corporation (TDLC)
- Tulita Renewable Resources Council (TRRC)
- Tulita Dene Band
- Tulita Land Corporation
- Fort Norman Métis Land Corporation
- Norman Wells Land Corporation
- Norman Wells Renewable Resource Council
- GNWT-ECC Regional Inspector Sahtu
- GNWT-ECC Regional Inspector Dehcho
- Sahtu Secretariat Incorporated

On November 26, 2025, the Proponent indicated they were required to conduct broader consultation with rightsholders and stakeholders – as internally directed by other GNWT Departments. The [updated engagement log](#) reflects the 19 additional parties consulted between November 25 and December 19, 2025; no concerns were raised during this timeframe.

The Application includes 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 areas require screening by the Board in accordance with subsection 124(1) of the MVRMA. While the Application does not include abandonment, decommissioning, or significant alterations to the Project, it does introduce new drilling locations that have not yet been screened.

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:**

#### New Areas:

The areas proposed to be added to the permit are identified in Figures 1 and 2 below. They include potential borrow sources 9.010, 9.002A, and Big Smith Creek re-alignment.

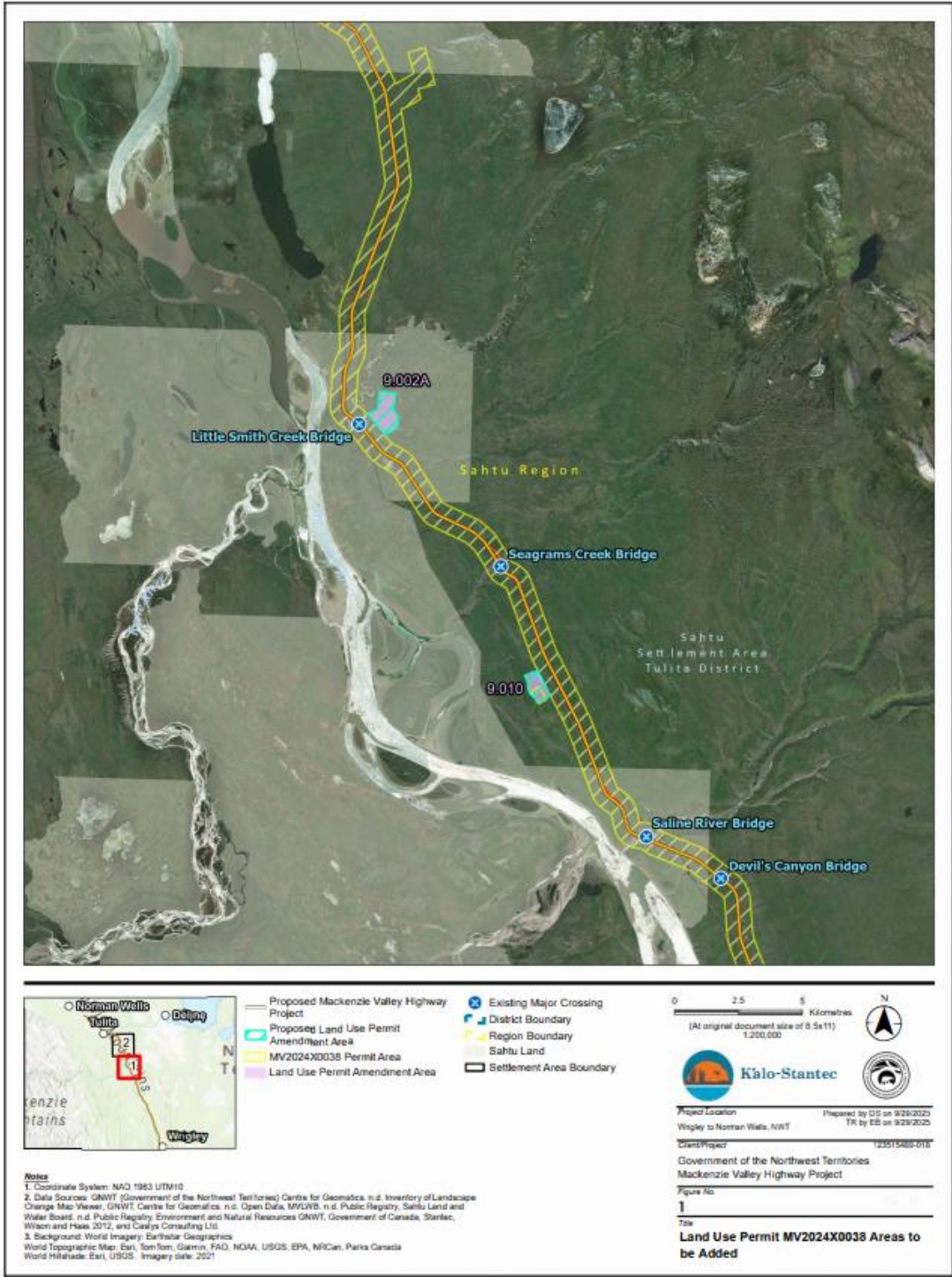


Figure 1: Borrow sources 9.010 and 9.002A proposed to be added to the permit.

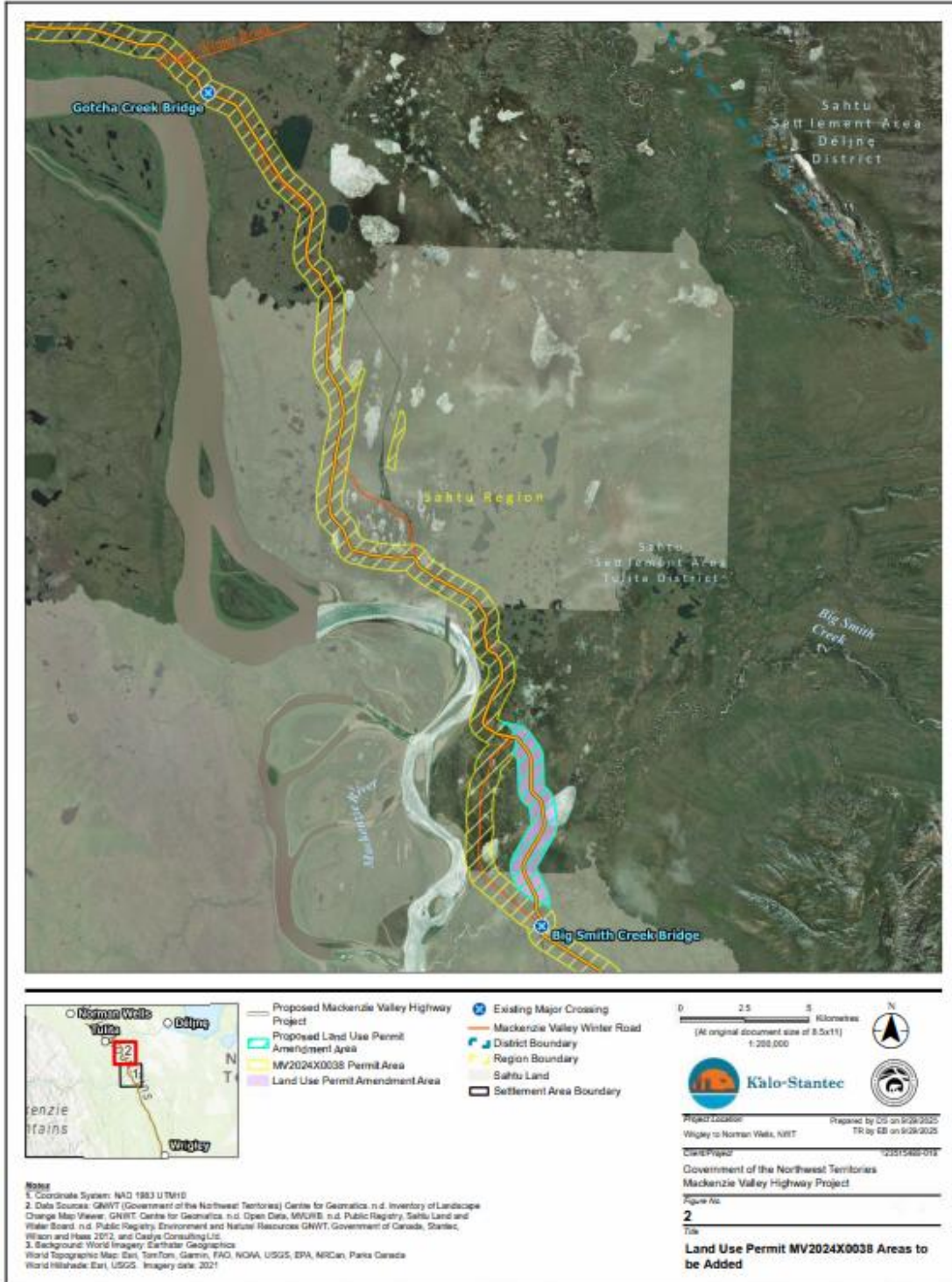


Figure 2: Big-Smith Creek Re-alignment proposed to be added to the permit.

### **3.2 Public Record and Regulatory Proceeding**

To assist the Board in its preliminary screening determination for the Project, the Board distributed the Application for public review on October 17, 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 November 6, 2025, with responses from the Applicant due November 12, 2025. The Board received comments and recommendations from Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO), and Government of Northwest Territories – Department of Education, Culture and Employment – Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre (GNWT-ECE-PWNHC) (attached).<sup>4</sup>

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 section 27, paragraphs (a) and (b) of the [Dehcho First Nations \(DCFN\) Interim Measures Agreement](#),<sup>5</sup> the Board has determined that written notice was given to the DCFN, and that a reasonable period of time was allowed for DCFN to make representations with respect to the Application.

### **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.

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<sup>4</sup> See MVLWB Online Review System for [MVH – Geotech Investigation – Land Use Permit Amendment](#).

<sup>5</sup> See MVLWB Land Claims, IMAs, and Land Use Plans webpage to access the [Dehcho First Nations Interim Measures Agreement](#).

**Table 1: Potential Impacts and Proposed Mitigations for the Proposed Changes to the Project**

<b>Potential Impact</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Proposed Mitigations</b> <i>Description of measures to reduce potential impacts, including consideration of cumulative impacts and climate change.</i>	<b>Board Analysis and Determination</b>
Soil Contamination	Use of machinery has potential for hydrocarbon spills.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Applicant indicated that soil contamination from hydrocarbon spills is a potential impact, given the use of machinery onsite. To mitigate, the Applicant has noted spill containment and clean up measures will be in place.</li> <li>• The Board has standard permit conditions that are typically used to mitigate the identified potential impacts. These standard conditions include:<sup>6</sup> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>SECONDARY CONTAINMENT – REFUELING</b></li> <li>○ <b>FUEL CONTAINMENT</b></li> <li>○ <b>SPILL RESPONSE</b></li> <li>○ <b>DRIP TRAYS</b></li> <li>○ <b>CLEAN UP SPILLS</b></li> <li>○ <b>REPORT SPILLS</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>Based on the described mitigations, it is the Board’s opinion that the proposed activities are not likely to have significant adverse impact on the environment and/or will not be a cause of public concern.</p> <p>The proposed Project involves a small footprint and there will be no stored fuel or fuel transfer onsite.</p>
Soil Compaction	Use of heavy machinery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Applicant has noted soil compaction is unlikely to occur as the geotechnical investigation will mainly be accessed via an existing winter road. For all off-road movement, the ground will be frozen, and snow covered.</li> </ul>	<p>Based on the described Project, it is the Board’s opinion that the proposed activities are not likely to have significant adverse impact on the environment and/or will not be a cause of public concern.</p>
Destabilization /erosion	Use of heavy machinery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Applicant has noted work will be completed during frozen ground conditions</li> <li>• 10 cm of packed snow will be established on access trails</li> </ul>	<p>Based on the described Project, it is the Board’s opinion that the proposed activities are not likely to have significant adverse impact on the environment and/or will not be a cause of public concern.</p>
Change in soil structure	Use of heavy machinery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Applicant has noted work will be completed during frozen ground conditions</li> <li>• 10 cm of packed snow will be established on access trails</li> </ul>	<p>Based on the described Project, it is the Board’s opinion that the proposed activities are not likely to have significant adverse impact on the environment and/or will not be a cause of public concern.</p>

<sup>6</sup> See the MVLWBT Policies and Resources webpage to access the MVLWB [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
Infiltration changes to groundwater	Drilling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Applicant has noted potential infiltration changes could occur. However, bentonite will be used to seal boreholes to mitigate this risk.</li> </ul>	Based on the described Project, it is the Board's opinion that the proposed activities are not likely to have significant adverse impact on the environment and/or will not be a cause of public concern.
Loss or change in permafrost extent	Drilling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Applicant has noted permafrost degradation is unlikely to occur or may be localized. Best management practices will be followed including the backfilling of boreholes and test pits to prevent ponding of water and limiting areas of new clearing.</li> <li>10 cm of packed snow will be established on access trails.</li> </ul>	Based on the described Project, it is the Board's opinion that the proposed activities are not likely to have significant adverse impact on the environment and/or will not be a cause of public concern.
Changes in surface water quality	Drilling and other project activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Applicant has noted, where boreholes and test pits are planned to be located &lt;100m from watercourses, GNWT-INF will implement an Erosion and Sedimentation Control Plan.</li> <li>The Board has standard permit conditions that are typically used to mitigate the identified potential impacts. These standard conditions include:<sup>7</sup> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>NATURAL DRAINAGE</b></li> <li><b>FLOWING ARTESIAN WELL</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Based on the described Project, it is the Board's opinion that the proposed activities are not likely to have significant adverse impact on the environment and/or will not be a cause of public concern.
Changes in air quality	Vehicles and machinery emissions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Applicant noted, air emissions from the drill rig equipment, dozer, excavator, water trucks and pickup trucks will be temporary and localized.</li> <li>Equipment idling will be discouraged.</li> </ul>	Based on the described Project, it is the Board's opinion that the proposed activities are not likely to have significant adverse impact on the environment and/or will not be a cause of public concern.
Increased greenhouse gases	Vehicle and machinery emissions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Applicant has noted greenhouse gases will be released during operation of the drill rig equipment, dozer, excavator, water trucks and pickup trucks</li> <li>Equipment idling will be discouraged to mitigate this impact</li> </ul>	Based on the described Project, it is the Board's opinion that the proposed activities are not likely to have significant adverse impact on the environment and/or will not be a cause of public concern.

<sup>7</sup> See the MVLWB Policies and Resources webpage to access the MVLWB [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
Direct loss of vegetation	Clearing to access drilling location	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Applicant noted that best practices from the Northern Land Use Guidelines – Access Roads and Trails (GWNT, 2015) will be applied, including:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Use existing disturbances or natural openings where appropriate</li> <li>- Width of trails will not exceed 6m</li> <li>- Line of sight will be limited to less than 200m in forested areas</li> <li>- Large trees will be avoided by taking a meandering path</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The Board has standard permit conditions that are typically used to mitigate the identified potential impacts. These standard conditions include:<sup>8</sup> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>MINIMIZE AREA CLEARED</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Based on the described Project, it is the Board’s opinion that the proposed activities are not likely to have significant adverse impact on the environment and/or will not be a cause of public concern.
Compaction of vegetation	Use of vehicles and heavy machinery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Applicant noted that off-road access to drilling locations will be conducted in winter using best practices for trails (NLUG; GNWT, 2015)</li> </ul>	Based on the described Project, it is the Board’s opinion that the proposed activities are not likely to have significant adverse impact on the environment and/or will not be a cause of public concern.
Direct loss or removal of habitat, dens, or nests	Clearing and general work activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Applicant noted, areas to be cleared will not impact known raptor nest locations. A Wildlife Management Plan (WMMP) applicable to project activities is included in attachments. Bear den surveys will be completed for geotechnical investigation locations located more than 50m from the MVWR. Mitigation for active dens will be applied, including applying an activity setback of 800m.</li> <li>• The Board has standard permit conditions that are typically used to mitigate the identified potential impacts. These standard conditions include:<sup>9</sup> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>HABITAT DAMAGE</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Based on the described Project, and identified proponent commitments (i.e., WMMP), it is the Board’s opinion that the proposed activities are not likely to have significant adverse impact on the environment and/or will not be a cause of public concern.

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

<sup>9</sup> See the MVLWB Policies and Resources webpage to access the MVLWB [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
Loss or removal of keystone species and/or Species at Risk habitat	Clearing and general work activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Project occurs within the boreal caribou NT1 range. The Applicant pointed out, the minimal clearing required to access potential drill and test pit locations is negligible at the scale of the NT1 range (NWT Species and Habitat Viewer, 2024).</li> <li>• The Board has standard permit conditions that are typically used to mitigate the identified potential impacts. These standard conditions include:<sup>10</sup> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>HABITAT DAMAGE</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Based on the described Project, and identified proponent commitments (i.e., WMMP), it is the Board’s opinion that the proposed activities are not likely to have significant adverse impact on the environment and/or will not be a cause of public concern.
Direct injury or mortality	Clearing and general work activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appropriate waste management practices will be employed to prevent wildlife attraction and potential wildlife conflict (as outlined in the WMMP). Bear den surveys will be completed for geotechnical locations greater than 50 m from the MVWR. Mitigation for active dens will be applied, including an activity setback of 800m. Clearing will be completed outside of the nesting period for migratory birds.</li> </ul>	Based on the described Project, and identified proponent commitments (i.e., WMMP), it is the Board’s opinion that the proposed activities are not likely to have significant adverse impact on the environment and/or will not be a cause of public concern.
Disturbances to key lifecycle stages of wildlife: breeding, feeding, nesting, staging	Clearing and general work activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Disturbance to key lifecycle stages is not likely, as the investigation will be conducted near an existing winter road with regular traffic; additionally, work is to occur primarily during winter and will only occur for less than one day at each site.</li> </ul>	Based on the described Project, the timing and duration of activities, as well as identified proponent commitments (i.e., WMMP), it is the Board’s opinion that the proposed activities are not likely to have significant adverse impact on the environment and/or will not be a cause of public concern.

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

<b>Potential Impact</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Proposed Mitigations</b> <i>Description of measures to reduce potential impacts, including consideration of cumulative impacts and climate change.</i>	<b>Board Analysis and Determination</b>
Effects on wildlife health (toxins, metals, etc.)	Drilling and general work activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Applicant notes, the drilling program will not use drilling additives. Additionally, the Spill Plan will be followed to reduce the likelihood and impact of accidental spills on wildlife health.</li> </ul>	Based on the described Project, it is the Board's opinion that the proposed activities are not likely to have significant adverse impact on the environment and/or will not be a cause of public concern.
Human-wildlife conflicts	General work activities / human presence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proper waste management practices will be employed to prevent wildlife attraction and potential wildlife conflict. Bear den surveys will be completed for geotechnical locations greater than 50 m from the MVWR. Mitigation for active dens will be applied, including applying an activity setback of 800 m.</li> </ul>	Based on the described Project, as well as identified proponent commitments (i.e., WMMP), it is the Board's opinion that the proposed activities are not likely to have significant adverse impact on the environment and/or will not be a cause of public concern.
Effects on traditional land use, subsistence, and harvesting rights	General work activities / human presence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Interaction with traplines is not anticipated. Access routes will be scouted prior to clearing. Should a trapline be encountered, the local First Nation/Métis Local will be notified to avoid impacting the area.</li> <li>Planned drilling locations will be communicated to Indigenous organizations at least 60 days prior to the start of the program each year, for opportunity to provide comment.</li> </ul>	Based on the described Project, as well as identified proponent commitments (i.e., WMMP), it is the Board's opinion that the proposed activities are not likely to have significant adverse impact on the environment and/or will not be a cause of public concern.
Changes to or loss of heritage resources	General work activities/ human presence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Applicant indicated that an AIA was completed at high potential locations in 2024; furthermore, Proponent commitments include compliance with any GNWT-ECE requirements.</li> <li>Additionally, all areas to be impacted will be subject to review of archaeological potential (AO), and if applicable, field-based assessment.</li> </ul>	Based on the described Project, it is the Board's opinion that the proposed activities are not likely to have significant adverse impact on the environment and/or will not be a cause of public concern.

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"> <li>• The Board has standard permit conditions that are typically used to mitigate the identified potential impacts. These standard conditions include:<sup>11</sup> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>ARCHAEOLOGICAL BUFFER</b></li> <li>○ <b>SITE DISTURBANCE</b></li> <li>○ <b>SITE DISCOVERY AND NOTIFICATION</b></li> <li>○ <b>ARCHAEOLOGICAL OVERVIEW</b></li> <li>○ <b>AIA – HIGH POTENTIAL</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
Change in ecological, cultural, social, or economic values identified for protection in approved Land Use Plans	General work activities/ human presence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As noted, the project will have limited physical impact on the landscape. It will be conducted in proximity to the existing winter road during the period of its operation. The locations of drill holes and test pits have been carefully selected to utilize existing disturbances where possible.</li> </ul>	Based on the described Project, proponent commitments (i.e., management plans) and adhered to land use plan conformity, it is the Board’s opinion that the proposed activities are not likely to have significant adverse impact on the environment and/or will not be a cause of public concern.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>	
Impairment of the recreational or traditional uses of the land or water	General work activities/ human presence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As noted, effects are expected to be temporary.</li> <li>• New access will be minimized to the extent possible by using existing cutlines and trails.</li> <li>• Access through the Project area by traditional land users will not be impeded, except where restrictions are required for public safety.</li> </ul>	Based on the described Project, it is the Board’s opinion that the proposed activities are not likely to have significant adverse impact on the environment and/or will not be a cause of public concern.

<sup>11</sup> See the MVLWBT Policies and Resources webpage to access the MVLWB [Standard Land Use Permit Conditions Template](#).

<b>Potential Impact</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Proposed Mitigations</b> <i>Description of measures to reduce potential impacts, including consideration of cumulative impacts and climate change.</i>	<b>Board Analysis and Determination</b>
Impairment of the aesthetic quality of the land or water	General work activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New access will be minimized to the extent possible by using existing cutlines and trails</li> </ul>	Based on the described Project, it is the Board's opinion that the proposed activities are not likely to have significant adverse impact on the environment and/or will not be a cause of public concern.
Changes to the use of the area by other non-indigenous people	General work activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The applicant claims, changes to the use of the area by other non-Indigenous people is possible but is not anticipated due to the short lengths of access trails to be created.</li> </ul>	Based on the described Project, it is the Board's opinion that the proposed activities are not likely to have significant adverse impact on the environment and/or 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 changes to 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.

#### 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 changes to 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 February 2, 2026, the Board can issue the Permit on Tuesday February 3, 2026.

SIGNATURE



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**Tanya MacIntosh, Chair**  
**Mackenzie Valley, Land and Water Board**

January 23, 2026

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**Date**