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June 2, 2026

File: MV2026D0002

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: North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. – Notice of Preliminary Screening Determination – Application for Land Use Permit – Mining – Cantung, NT**

The Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board (Board) met on May 28, 2026, and considered the Application Package from North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. for Land Use Permit (Permit) MV2026D0002 for Care and Maintenance at Cantung Mine, NT (Project) in accordance with the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act (MVRMA)*.

The Board conducted a preliminary screening based on the public record for the proceeding of proposed changes to the Project that are considered to be significant alterations and not exempt from screening pursuant to section 157.1 of the MVRMA. 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 significant alterations/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 MV2026D0002 on June 13, 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.

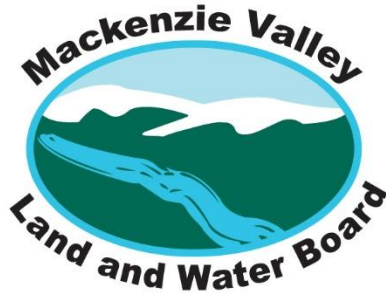
Yours sincerely,

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: NATCL Distribution List  
Todd Martin, NATCL  
Marianna Lee, NATCL

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>	MV2026D0002
<b>Company</b>	North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd.
<b>Project</b>	Cantung Mine – Care and Maintenance
<b>Location</b>	Cantung Mine, NT
<b>Activity</b>	Mining
<b>Date of Decision</b>	May 28, 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 (MVLWB or Board) met on May 28, 2026, to make a preliminary screening determination on the Application from North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. (NATCL; Applicant) for Land Use Permit MV2026D0002 (Permit)<sup>1</sup> for care and maintenance at the Cantung Mine (Project).<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>See MVLWB Online Registry [www.mvlwb.com](http://www.mvlwb.com) for [NATCL – Permit Application – Application Form – Jan 12 26](#).

<sup>2</sup> The Project is care and maintenance at the Cantung Mine, 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 has determined that some Project activities and areas are exempt from preliminary screening, for one of the two following reasons:

- 1) The Project was previously licenced prior to June 22, 1984, and the activities and areas do not include abandonment, decommissioning, or significant alterations to the Project. Accordingly, the Board has determined that Part 5 of the MVRMA does not apply to these activities pursuant to section 157.1 of the [MVRMA](#), and no preliminary screening is required for these activities; or
- 2) The activities were previously screened and therefore are exempt from preliminary screening under Part 1, Schedule 1, section 2.1 of the Exemption List Regulations.

The Applicant has proposed new Project activities that the Board determined to be a significant alteration to the Project and that have not previously been screened. However, the Board has decided not to refer the proposed changes to the Project to the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (the Review Board) for Environmental Assessment because, based on the evidence, it is the Board's opinion that the proposed changes to the Project will not have a significant adverse impact on the environment or be a cause of public concern.

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

## 2.0 List of Defined Terms and Acronyms

AIA	Archaeological Impact Assessment
Applicant	North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd.
Application	The complete application package submitted by the Applicant for Land Use Permit MV2026D0002.
Board	Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board
CCAA	<i>Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act</i>
CIRNAC	Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada
CIRNAC-RLM	CIRNAC Resources and Land Management
DCFN	Dehcho First Nation
DFO	Fisheries and Oceans Canada
GNWT	Government of the Northwest Territories
Inspector	An Inspector designated under subsection 84(1) of the <a href="#">Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act</a>
LFN	Liard First Nation
Licence	Water Licence MV2023L2-0006
MVLUR	<a href="#">Mackenzie Valley Land Use Regulations</a>
MVLWB or Board	Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board
MVRMA	<a href="#">Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act</a>
Minister	Minister of Northern and Arctic Affairs
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.
Permit	Land Use Permit MV2026D0002

PWNHC	Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre
Project	Care and maintenance at the Cantung Mine, which is the proposed development (as defined in Part 5 of the MVRMA). <sup>3</sup>
Review Board	Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board
Standard Permit Conditions	LWB <a href="#">Standard Land Use Permit Conditions Template</a>
TP	Tailings Pond
TSF	Tailings Storage Facility

### 3.0 **Background and Scope of Screening**

#### Project Description

The Cantung Mine operated for several years including 1962-1986, 2002-2003, 2005, and 2009-2010. Due to the decline in the price of tungsten overtime, the company filed for creditor protection on June 9, 2015, with the Supreme Court of British Columbia (B.C.) (the Court) pursuant to the *Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act* (CCAA), R.S.C. 1985, c. C-36. The Project transitioned to care and maintenance on October 26, 2015, with funding for relevant activities provided by Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC).

On November 16, 2015, the Court granted the NATCL's request for bankruptcy protection and appointed Alvarez & Marsal Canada Inc. as the Project's Monitor. On November 18, 2015, Canada reclassified the site as a "New Site Requiring Remediation" as per the Devolution Agreement. The administration and control of surface land and rights were transferred from the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) to Canada (subsurface rights were retained by the GNWT). Since the court's initial ruling on bankruptcy protection, the Monitor, Alvarez & Marsal Canada Inc., have sought and been granted several extensions under the CCAA.

In July 2019, the Court granted an order to jointly market and sell the Cantung and nearby Mactung properties to the private sector. The Monitor, on behalf of the Licensee, and in coordination with the GNWT and Canada, undertook a sales and marketing process to secure a successful buyer for the Project. In April 2022, the sales and marketing process was terminated without the selection of a buyer. Since then, a decision has been made to transition the Project from care and maintenance to final closure and reclamation. Previous options of returning the Project to an operational mine or continuing to fund the current phase of care and maintenance are no longer viable. NATCL currently holds type A Licence MV2023L2-0006 for mining and milling at the Cantung Mine site,<sup>4</sup> and Permit MV2019S009 for geotechnical test pitting and drilling, which will expire on June 5, 2026.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>3</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>4</sup> See MVLWB Online Registry for [MV2023L2-0006](#).

<sup>5</sup> See MVLWB Online Registry for [MV2019S0019](#).

## Regulatory History – Preliminary Screening

On February 1, 2002, NATCL applied to the Board for a licence (MV2002L2-0019) to replace Water Licence N3L2-0004 (issued in 1995) for its mining operation on the Flat River.<sup>6</sup> Because the project had been licensed in 1975, before the Board could issue MV2002L2-0019, it needed to consider whether the application was exempt from preliminary screening under section 157.1 of the MVRMA. Under section 157.1, Part 5 of the MVRMA, which establishes the environmental assessment process, does not apply to licences or permits for projects that were previously licensed and/or permitted prior to June 22, 1984, and do not include abandonment, decommissioning, or significant alterations of the project.

On July 8, 2003, the Board decided that section 157.1 of the MVRMA did not apply as Licence MV2002L2-0019 would not be a continuation of the original water licence N3L3-0004 issued in 1975, and that a renewed licence in effect was a new licence.<sup>7</sup> The Board subsequently conducted a preliminary screening of the Application and referred it to the Review Board for Environmental Assessment.<sup>8</sup>

On August 22, 2002, NATCL sought judicial review of the Board's decision to conduct a preliminary screening of the Application, which was dismissed by Justice Schuler of the Supreme Court of the Northwest Territories.<sup>9</sup> NATCL then filed a Notice of Appeal from the decision of Justice Schuler to the Northwest Territories Court of Appeal on January 9, 2003.<sup>10</sup> The Court of Appeal overturned Justice Schuler's decision and held that section 157.1 of the MVRMA grandfathers an *undertaking* licensed prior to June 22, 1984 rather than a *licence* issued prior to June 22, 1984.<sup>11</sup> The Board subsequently resumed its regulatory proceeding and issued Licence MV2002L9-0019 on November 29, 2003.

Since Licence MV2002L2-0019 was issued, the Board has conducted several preliminary screenings on applications made by NATCL because they included significant project alterations and were not exempt pursuant to section 157.1 of the MVRMA. This includes applications associated with the following authorizations: Permit MV2009Q0049;<sup>12</sup> Permit MV2010C0055;<sup>13</sup> Permit MV2012S0011;<sup>14</sup> Permit MV2012C0014;<sup>15</sup> Permit MV2014C0015;<sup>16</sup> Licence MV2002L2-0019 and Permit MV2014D0012,<sup>17,18,19</sup> and Permit MV2019S0009.<sup>20</sup> 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

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<sup>6</sup> See MVLWB Online Registry for [MV2002L2-0019](#).

<sup>7</sup> See MVLWB Online Registry for [MV2002L2-0019 – NATCL – Preliminary Screening – Jul03](#).

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>9</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>10</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>11</sup> North American Tungsten Corp v Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board, 2003 NWTCA 5.

<sup>12</sup> See MVLWB Online Registry for [MV2009Q0049 – NATCL – Application – Preliminary Screening Report – Apr01-10](#).

<sup>13</sup> See MVLWB Online Registry for [MV2010C0055 – NATCL – Application – Preliminary Screening Report – May27-11](#).

<sup>14</sup> See MVLWB Online Registry for [MV2012S0011 – NATCL – Application – Preliminary Screening Report – Jun7-12](#).

<sup>15</sup> See MVLWB Online Registry for [MV2012C0014 – NATCL – Application – Preliminary Screening Report – Jun20-12](#).

<sup>16</sup> See MVLWB Online Registry for [MV2014C0015 – NATCL – Preliminary Screening Report – Jul3-14](#).

<sup>17</sup> See MVLWB Online Registry for [MV2002L2-0019 MV2014D0012 - NATCL – Preliminary Screening Determination – Aug13-14](#).

<sup>18</sup> See MVLWB Online Registry for [MV2002L2-0019 MV2014D0012 – NATCL – Preliminary Screening Report – Aug13-14](#).

<sup>19</sup> See MVLWB Online Registry for [MV2002L2-0019 MV2014D0012 – NATCL Amendment and New LUP – Preliminary Screening – Mar2-15](#).

<sup>20</sup> See MVLWB Online Registry for [MV2019S0009 – NATCL – Issuance – Preliminary Screening Report – Jun6-19](#).

from preliminary screening. The scopes of the previous preliminary screenings are included in Table 1 below.

On April 21, 2015, NATCL submitted a Licence Renewal Application, MV2015L2-003. The Board decided that the Renewal Application was exempt from preliminary screening under section 157.1.<sup>21</sup> The Board made the same decision about NATCL's subsequent Licence Renewal Application, MV2023L2-0006, on October 6, 2023.<sup>22</sup>

#### Description of Application

On January 12, 2026, the Applicant submitted an application for a new Permit MV2026D0002,<sup>23</sup> which was deemed incomplete on January 26, 2026.<sup>24</sup> On February 25, 2026, the Applicant submitted additional information, which was then deemed complete (the Application).<sup>25</sup> The Permit Application is to:

- continue care and maintenance;
- conduct risk reduction activities; manage water and wastewater; and
- undertake studies (i.e., geotechnical drilling).

The proposed activities are to support final closure. However, the Applicant does not consider the proposed work to be final closure. These activities are located within the Dehcho Region.

NATCL currently holds a Type A Water Licence MV2023L2-0006 (Licence) for mining and milling at the Cantung site.<sup>26</sup> NATCL has been conducting care and maintenance activities under the Licence.

An [Engagement Record](#) and [Engagement Plan \(Version 4.0\)](#) were included in the Application. NATCL noted they engaged with the following Parties:

- Acho Dene Koe First Nation
- Dehcho First Nation (DCFN)
- Fort Simpson Metis Local 52
- Kaska Dena Council
- Liard First Nation (LFN)
- Łı́ıdlı́ Kúę́ First Nation
- Naha Dehe Dene Band
- Ross River Dena Council

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<sup>21</sup> See MVLWB Online Registry for [MV2015L2-0003 – NATCL – Preliminary Screening Exemption Confirmation Letter – Jul16-15](#).

<sup>22</sup> See MVLWB Online Registry for [NATCL – Notification – Preliminary Screening Determination and RFD – Oct 6 23](#).

<sup>23</sup> See MVLWB Online Registry for [MV2026D0002](#).

<sup>24</sup> See MVLWB Online Registry for [NATCL – Permit Application – Incomplete Letter – Jan 22 26](#).

<sup>25</sup> See MVLWB Online Registry for [NATCL – Permit Application – Incomplete Response Letter – Feb 25 26](#).

<sup>26</sup> See MVLWB Online Registry for [MV2023L2-0006](#).

Engagement occurred between March 28, 2023, and November 4, 2025. No concerns were noted in the Engagement Log.

Description of Application – Preliminary Screening

In the Application Form, NATCL discussed that the activities and areas proposed in the Application are largely a continuation of those that have been ongoing since 1984 or earlier, and therefore much of the scope is expected to be exempt from preliminary screening.<sup>27</sup> NATCL also discussed previous preliminary screenings that the Board conducted for quarrying, blasting, and geotechnical investigations for various permits and licences issued in the past for the site.<sup>28</sup>

NATCL also acknowledged that the Application proposes alterations to the Project that may not be exempt from preliminary screening under section 157.1 of the [MVRMA](#) or due to having been screened in the past.

In accordance with subsection 124(1) of the MVRMA and paragraph 125(1)(a) of the [MVRMA](#), the Board must conduct a preliminary screening of any proposed changes/significant alterations of the Project that are not exempt, and report to the Review Board whether, in its opinion, the proposed changes/significant alterations of 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:**

Exempt Areas and Activities:

Activities that the Board understands fall under section 157.1 or have been previously screened are outlined in Table 1 below. The map in Annex A outlines the areas where screening occurred for the various activities and authorizations. The Table and map include all exempt activities and areas to date for the project as a whole, not all of which are ongoing or are within the scope of the current active Licence (MV2023L2-0006) or the Application for Permit MV2026D0002.

**Table 1. Exempt Areas<sup>29</sup> and Activities**

Screening N/A (section 157.1 of the MVRMA)	
Related Authorizations	Activities
N3L2-0004 MV2002L2-0019 MV2015L2-0003 MV2023L2-0006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mining and milling activities;</li> <li>• Operation and maintenance of a camp;</li> <li>• Use of vehicles and machinery;</li> <li>• Site road construction and maintenance;</li> <li>• Withdrawal of water for mining and milling, and domestic purposes;</li> <li>• Deposit of waste to the Tailings Containment Area, underground, Solid Waste Disposal Facility and Landfarm;</li> </ul>

<sup>27</sup> See MVLWB Online Registry for [NATCL – Permit Application – Application Form – Jan 12 26](#).

<sup>28</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>29</sup> See map in Annex A for the boundaries of the authorizations included in Table 1.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deposit of waste through the Wastewater Treatment Facilities;</li> <li>• Disposal of waste rock in the underground workings and above ground;</li> <li>• Disposal of sewage;</li> <li>• Handling and storage of petroleum products and hazardous materials;</li> <li>• Operation and maintenance of the Sewage Disposal Facilities, Wastewater Treatment Facilities, Tailings Containment Area, Solid Waste Disposal Facilities, and Landfarm; and</li> <li>• Progressive reclamation.</li> </ul>
<b>Previously Screened (exempt as per Exemption List Regulations)</b>	
<b>Application (Date Screened)</b>	<b>Activities</b>
MV2009Q0049 Permit Application (April 1, 2010) <sup>30</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quarry operation east of the Flat River, including the “Ski Hill Borrow Source,”<sup>31</sup> to excavate run of mine material to use for progressive reclamation activities.</li> </ul>
MV2010C0055 Permit Application (May 27, 2011) <sup>32</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mineral exploration at seven leases across the site, including: helicopter-supported surface diamond drilling; geophysical surveys; geochemical soil sampling; geological mapping; and use of explosives (to a maximum of 50 kg/30 days).</li> </ul>
MV2012S0011 Permit Application (June 7, 2012) <sup>33</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Geotechnical investigation program, including geotechnical sampling, testing, and drilling within two areas of the site.</li> <li>• Clearing, upgrading, and maintenance of access roads.</li> </ul>
MV2012C0014 Permit Application (June 20, 2012) <sup>34</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mineral exploration at seven leases across the site, including: surface diamond drilling; geophysical surveys; geochemical soil sampling; geological mapping; and use of explosives (to a maximum of 50 kg/30 days).</li> <li>• Construction of an access road off an existing road.</li> </ul>
MV2014C0015 Permit Application (July 3, 2014) <sup>35</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mineral exploration at five mineral claims and seven mineral leases across the site, including: surface diamond drilling; geophysical surveys; geochemical soil sampling; geological mapping; and use of explosives (to a maximum of 50 kg/30 days).</li> <li>• Construction of access roads.</li> </ul>
MV2002L2-0019 and MV2014D0012 (August 13, 2014) <sup>36, 37</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop and utilize dry stack tailings storage facilities (Tailings Storage Facility (TSF) 4b, TSF6, TSF7);</li> <li>• Construct and operate a dry stack tailings process facility;</li> <li>• TSF4b located northwest of tailings pond (TP) 5 at mine site, designed for a storage volume of approx. 100,000 m<sup>3</sup>;</li> <li>• TSF7 located northwest of TP4 on old town site at mine site, designed for a storage volume of approx. 347,000 m<sup>3</sup>; and</li> </ul>

<sup>30</sup> See MVLWB Online Registry for [MV2009Q0049 – NATCL – Application – Preliminary Screening Report – Apr01-10](#).

<sup>31</sup> See MVLWB Online Registry for [MV2009Q0049 – NATCL – Application – Nov20-09](#); see Figure 1 attached.

<sup>32</sup> See MVLWB Online Registry for [MV2010C0055 – NATCL – Application – Preliminary Screening Report – May27-11](#).

<sup>33</sup> See MVLWB Online Registry for [MV2012S0011 – NATCL – Application – Preliminary Screening Report – Jun7-12](#).

<sup>34</sup> See MVLWB Online Registry for [MV2012C0014 – NATCL – Application – Preliminary Screening Report – Jun20-12](#).

<sup>35</sup> See MVLWB Online Registry for [MV2014C0015 – NATCL – Preliminary Screening Report – Jul3-14](#).

<sup>36</sup> See MVLWB Online Registry for [MV2002L2-0019 MV2014D0012 – NATCL – Preliminary Screening Determination – Aug13-14](#).

<sup>37</sup> See MVLWB Online Registry for [MV2002L2-0019 MV2014D0012 – NATCL – Preliminary Screening Report – Aug13-14](#).

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TSF6 located southeast of the airstrip on an area outside of the mine lease, designed for a storage volume of approx. 9,686,600 m<sup>3</sup>.</li> </ul>
MV2002L2-0019 and MV2014D0012 Amendment Applications (March 2, 2015) <sup>38</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Road upgrading and re-alignment of the access road for TSF6.</li> </ul>
MV2019S0009 Permit Application (June 6, 2019) <sup>39</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Geotechnical test-pitting and borehole drilling to assess types and quantities of borrow source materials for potential future remediation activity at the mine and assess slope stability in the TSF 6 area.</li> <li>• Access road construction.</li> </ul>

New Areas and Activities:

Based on the evidence, the Board has determined that the following activities need to be screened within the Permit Application Project Area (see red box in Annex A):

*Quarrying*

- As noted in Table 1, quarrying at the “Ski Hill Borrow Source” was screened under Permit MV2009Q0049. NATCL has proposed to quarry at various areas across the proposed Permit boundary, as identified in the figure attached to the supplemental information submitted by NATCL on March 24, 2026.<sup>40</sup> During the public review, Board staff requested that NATCL clarify if any quarry areas should be exempt from screening because they were screened under Permit MV2009Q0049.<sup>41</sup> NATCL responded that Quarry D included in the supplemental submission overlaps with the quarry location in MV2009Q0049. Therefore, the scope of this screening includes Quarry A-C and E-K, as outlined in the supplemental information.

*Use and storage of explosives for quarrying*

- As noted by NATCL in the Application Form,<sup>42</sup> blasting associated with drilling has been screened by the Board in the past. However, the Board is including the use and storage of explosives associated with quarry development in the preliminary screening because this activity has not been assessed previously.
- Use of explosives for quarrying may occur in Quarries E, H, I, J, and K.<sup>43</sup>
- NATCL is planning to use packaged explosives in quantities that may exceed 150 kg in a 30-day period and up to 6,000 kg per year.<sup>44</sup> Quarrying will occur approximately 300 metres from the Flat River.<sup>45</sup>

<sup>38</sup> See MVLWB Online Registry for [MV2002L2-0019 MV2014D0012 – NATCL Amendment and New LUP – Preliminary Screening – Mar2-15](#).

<sup>39</sup> See MVLWB Online Registry for [NATCL – Issuance – Preliminary Screening Report – Jun6-19](#).

<sup>40</sup> See MVLWB Online Registry for [NATCL – Permit Application – Supplemental Information – Mar 24 26](#).

<sup>41</sup> See MVLWB Online Review System for [North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. – New Type A Land Use Permit – Mar 6 26 MVLWB 7](#).

<sup>42</sup> See MVLWB Online Registry for [NATCL – Permit Application – Application Form – Jan 12 26](#).

<sup>43</sup> See MVLWB Online Registry for [NATCL – Permit Application – Supplemental Information – Mar 24 26](#).

<sup>44</sup> See MVLWB Online Registry for [NATCL – Permit Application – Incomplete Response Letter – Feb 25 26](#).

<sup>45</sup> See MVLWB Online Registry for [NATCL – Permit Application – Supplemental Information – Mar 24 26](#).

- Storage of explosives is planned to occur adjacent to the main portal on site.<sup>46</sup>

#### *Geotechnical drilling*

- Geotechnical borehole drilling was screened under Permit MV2019S0009 in two areas at the Cantung Mine site, as shown on Figure 1 of the maps submitted by NATCL with the Permit MV2019S0009 Application.<sup>47</sup>
- In the Application Form for Permit MV2026D0002, NATCL indicated that the geotechnical drilling will be limited in extent to advance engineering design for final closure options.<sup>48</sup> Exact locations for geotechnical drilling are still to be determined.<sup>49</sup> Therefore, the Board has decided to screen all areas within the Permit Application boundary for this activity with the exception of the previously screened two areas identified on Figure 1.<sup>50</sup>

#### *Access trail development within the floodplain tailings area*

- Board staff noted during the public review that activities associated with access roads were previously subject to preliminary screening at various locations across the Cantung Mine site.<sup>51</sup> It was requested that NATCL clarify if the development of temporary access trails in the floodplain tailings area has been screened previously. In response, NATCL indicated that they do not have documentation indicating whether temporary access trails developed in this area have been screened. Therefore, the Board has decided to screen access trail development within the floodplain tailings area.

### **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 March 6, 2026, inviting reviewers to provide comments and recommendations on the Applications and the preliminary screening (e.g., on impacts and mitigation measures) using the Online Review System (ORS). Comments were originally due March 27, 2026, with responses from the Applicant due on April 3, 2026. However, on March 24, 2026, NATCL submitted supplemental information about quarrying and use of explosives for the Permit Application on March 24, 2026.<sup>52</sup>

The Board determined that the review comments and Applicant's responses were required for the Board to make a decision on the Application Package and decided to apply paragraph 22(2)(b) of the Mackenzie Valley Land Use Regulations (MVLUR) on April 2, 2026.<sup>53</sup>

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<sup>46</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>47</sup> See MVLWB Online Registry for [NATCL – Type A Land Use Permit Application – Maps – Apr 15-19](#).

<sup>48</sup> See MVLWB Online Registry for [NATCL – Permit Application – Application Form – Jan 12 26](#).

<sup>49</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>50</sup> See MVLWB Online Registry for [NATCL – Type A Land Use Permit Application – Maps – Apr 15-19](#).

<sup>51</sup> See MVLWB Online Review System for [North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. – New Type A Land Use Permit – Mar 6 26](#) MVLWB 8.

<sup>52</sup> See MVLWB Online Registry for [NATCL – Permit Application – Supplemental Information – Mar 24 26](#).

<sup>53</sup> See MVLWB Online Registry for [NATCL – Permit Application – Notification of Timeline Pause – Apr 6 26](#).

The review comment deadline was extended until April 8, 2026, so that reviewers could consider the updated information. The deadline for the Applicant's responses was extended until May 1, 2026.

The Board received comments and recommendations from Liard First Nation (LFN), the CIRNAC Inspector; Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre (PWNHC); and Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO).<sup>54</sup> Board staff also submitted comments and questions for the purposes of clarification.

Since there were no requests to extend the reviewer comment deadlines, the Board is satisfied that a reasonable period of notice was given to affected communities and First Nations, as required by subsection 63(2) of the [MVRMA](#).

Pursuant to section 27, paragraphs (a) and (b) of the [Dehcho First Nations \(DCFN\) Interim Measures Agreement](#),<sup>55</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 that are considered to be significant alterations not exempt pursuant to section 157.1 of the MVRMA;
- 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>54</sup> See MVLWB Online Review System for [Cantung Mine – New Type A Land Use Permit – Mar 6 26](#).

<sup>55</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**

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>Soil contamination</p> <p>Soil compaction</p> <p>Destabilization/ Erosion</p> <p>Inability to support vegetation,</p>	<p>Potential for spills associated with heavy equipment/drill use and spill of explosives</p> <p>Heavy equipment/ drill use overland.</p> <p>Blasting, quarrying, aggregate production, heavy equipment/drill use.</p> <p>Heavy equipment/drill use overland, quarrying/ aggregate production.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Applicant proposed the following mitigations in the Application<sup>56,57</sup> or in response to review comments:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Spill Contingency Plan will be implemented in the event of a spill.</li> <li>○ Work will be carried out in accordance with applicable authorization terms and conditions.</li> <li>○ Disturbed ground will be left rough and loose following completion of activities to address compaction and support natural revegetation.</li> <li>○ Erosion prevention and sediment control measures will be undertaken pursuant to the Water Management and Mine-Site Erosion and Sediment Protection Plan (required under Licence MV2023L2-0006). Following completion of work, slopes will be regraded to a suitable, stable angle of repose, and drainage swales established as needed.</li> <li>○ Quarrying, including blasting, will occur pursuant to a Quarry Permit and Quarry Management Plan issued by CIRNAC Resources and Land Management (CIRNAC-RLM).</li> <li>○ NATCL committed to submit a Quarry Management Plan to the Board under the Permit.<sup>58</sup></li> <li>○ Storage of explosives will occur in accordance with applicable <a href="#">National Standards</a> pursuant to the <i>Explosives Regulations</i>.</li> <li>○ NATCL has incorporated climate change considerations into care and maintenance planning by carrying out construction</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<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. This is because impacts are expected to be short-term associated with temporary, active construction, and localized within the Project footprint.<sup>61</sup> All impacts except quarrying are readily reversible. Quarrying will have a small spatial extent. The proposed mitigation measures, including standard conditions, are effective and reliable.</p>

<sup>56</sup> See MVLWB Online Registry for [NATCL – Permit Application – Application Form – Jan 12 26](#).

<sup>57</sup> See MVLWB Online Registry for [NATCL – Permit Application – Incomplete Response Letter – Feb 25 26](#).

<sup>58</sup> See MVLWB Online Registry for [NATCL – Permit Application – Draft Land Use Permit Conditions \(Applicant Comments\) -Jan 12 26](#).

<sup>61</sup> See MVLWB Online Review System for [North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. – New Type A Land Use Permit – Mar 6 26](#) MVLWB 10.

		<p>activities late in the season to avoid freshet and melt, pausing work during extreme weather events, and maintaining a surplus of erosion and sediment controls onsite to allow for timely and adequate response to changing conditions.<sup>59</sup></p> <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>60</sup> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ USE APPROVED EQUIPMENT</li> <li>○ REPAIR EROSION</li> <li>○ OFF-ROAD VEHICLE TRAVEL</li> <li>○ PREVENTION OF RUTTING</li> <li>○ SUSPEND OVERLAND TRAVEL</li> <li>○ VEHICLE MOVEMENT FREEZE-UP</li> <li>○ EXCAVATIONS AND EMBANKMENTS</li> <li>○ REPAIR LEAKS</li> <li>○ SECONDARY CONTAINMENT – REFUELING</li> <li>○ FUEL CONTAINMENT</li> <li>○ SPILL CONTINGENCY PLAN</li> <li>○ SPILL RESPONSE</li> <li>○ DRIP TRAYS</li> <li>○ CLEAN UP SPILLS</li> <li>○ PRE-CONSTRUCTION PROFILES</li> <li>○ FINAL CLEANUP AND RESTORATION</li> <li>○ NATURAL VEGETATION</li> <li>○ PROGRESSIVE RECLAMATION</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
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<sup>59</sup> See MVLWB Online Review System for [North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. – New Type A Land Use Permit – Mar 6 26](#) MVLWB 10.

<sup>60</sup> See the MVLWB Policies and Resources webpage to access the LWB [Standard Land Use Permit Conditions Template](#).

<p>Changes in groundwater and surface water quality</p>	<p>Contamination may occur in the event of spills from heavy equipment/drill use and explosive use. Surface water may be altered through the use of explosives.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Applicant proposed the following mitigations in the Application<sup>62,63</sup> or in response to review comments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Spill Contingency Plan will be implemented in the event of a spill.</li> <li>○ Work will be carried out in accordance with applicable authorization terms and conditions.</li> <li>○ Packages explosives will be used which avoids mixing.</li> <li>○ Blasting will be carried out &gt;30 metres away from the high-water mark of adjacent water courses and will be managed according to the Water Management and Mine-Site Erosion and Sediment Protection Plan (required under Licence MV2023L2-0006).</li> <li>○ Quarrying, including blasting, will occur pursuant to a Quarry Permit and Quarry Management Plan issued by Crown Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada Resources and Land Management (CIRNAC-RLM).</li> <li>○ NATCL committed to submit a Quarry Management Plan and updated Spill Contingency Plan to the Board under the Permit, to reflect storage and handling of explosives.<sup>64</sup></li> <li>○ Storage of explosives will occur in accordance with applicable <a href="#">National Standards</a> pursuant to the <i>Explosives Regulations</i>.</li> <li>○ NATCL plans to handle and store explosives in accordance with an approved Spill Contingency Plan and Quarry Management Plan and inspect and monitor in accordance with its Care and Maintenance Plan. NATCL plans to continue to fulfill its obligations pursuant to its Surveillance Network Program under Licence MV2023L2-0006 to monitor water quality.<sup>65</sup></li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<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. This is because impacts are expected to be short-term associated with temporary, active construction, and localized within the Project footprint.<sup>67</sup> The proposed mitigation measures, including standard conditions, are effective and reliable.</p>
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<sup>62</sup> See MVLWB Online Registry for [NATCL – Permit Application – Application Form – Jan 12 26](#).

<sup>63</sup> See MVLWB Online Registry for [NATCL – Permit Application – Incomplete Response Letter – Feb 25 26](#).

<sup>64</sup> See MVLWB Online Registry for [NATCL – Permit Application – Draft Land Use Permit Conditions \(Applicant Comments\) -Jan 12 26](#).

<sup>65</sup> See MVLWB Online Review System for [North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. – New Type A Land Use Permit – Mar 6 26](#) MVLWB 2.

<sup>67</sup> See MVLWB Online Review System for [North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. – New Type A Land Use Permit – Mar 6 26](#) MVLWB 10.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ NATCL has incorporated climate change considerations into care and maintenance planning by carrying out construction activities late in the season to avoid freshet and melt and pausing work during extreme weather events.<sup>66</sup></li> <li>• The Board has standard permit conditions that are typically used to mitigate the identified potential impacts. These standard conditions include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ DRILL SETBACK</li> <li>○ QUARRY SETBACK</li> <li>○ STREAM BANKS</li> <li>○ EQUIPMENT: WATERCOURSE BUFFER</li> <li>○ DRILLING NEAR WATER</li> <li>○ DRILLING WASTE</li> <li>○ DRILLING WASTE DISPOSAL</li> <li>○ DRILLING WASTE CONTAINMENT</li> <li>○ WASTE CHEMICAL DISPOSAL</li> <li>○ REPAIR LEAKS</li> <li>○ SECONDARY CONTAINMENT – REFUELING</li> <li>○ FUEL CONTAINMENT</li> <li>○ SPILL CONTINGENCY PLAN</li> <li>○ SPILL RESPONSE</li> <li>○ DRIP TRAYS</li> <li>○ CLEAN UP SPILLS</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
Changes in air quality	Dust generation from equipment use, quarrying including blasting, and aggregate production.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Applicant proposed the following mitigations in the Application:<sup>68,69</sup> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Equipment will be properly maintained to the manufacture’s specifications.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	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. This is because impacts are expected to be short-term associated with temporary,

<sup>66</sup> See MVLWB Online Review System for [North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. – New Type A Land Use Permit – Mar 6 26](#) MVLWB 10.

<sup>68</sup> See MVLWB Online Registry for [NATCL – Permit Application – Application Form – Jan 12 26](#).

<sup>69</sup> See MVLWB Online Registry for [NATCL – Permit Application – Incomplete Response Letter – Feb 25 26](#).

Increased greenhouse gases	Emissions from equipment use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Traffic will be reduced to the extent possible by accessing quarries and aggregate production areas that are close to the work area to the greatest extent possible.</li> </ul>	active construction, and localized within the Project footprint. <sup>70</sup> The proposed mitigation measures are effective.
Direct loss of vegetation	Quarries and aggregate production areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Applicant proposed the following mitigations in the Application:<sup>71</sup> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The Applicant will avoid disturbing vegetated areas to the greatest extent possible.</li> <li>○ New equipment brought to site will be clean and free of soil prior to site access.</li> <li>○ Dust control measures will be implemented, such as wetting traffic surfaces and the active face of quarries and aggregate production areas.</li> <li>○ Areas impacted by geotechnical drilling will be restricted spatially and temporally.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The Board has standard permit conditions that are typically used to mitigate the identified potential impacts. These standard conditions include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ MINIMIZE AREA CLEARED</li> <li>○ CLEARING SENSITIVE AREA</li> <li>○ FINAL CLEANUP AND RESTORATION</li> <li>○ NATURAL VEGETATION</li> <li>○ PROGRESSIVE RESTORATION</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	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. This is because impacts are expected to be short-term associated with temporary, active construction, and localized within the Project footprint. <sup>72</sup> All impacts except quarrying are readily reversible. Quarrying will have a small spatial extent. The proposed mitigation measures, including standard conditions, are effective and reliable.
Introduction of non-native (invasive) species	Equipment use (brought on site from other areas)		
Effects on plant health	Ground disturbance, heavy equipment/drill use, quarrying and aggregate production generating dust fall		
Compaction of vegetation	Drilling in upland areas		
Direct loss or removal of habitat, dens, or nests	Nests disturbed by vegetation removal and ground disturbance in undisturbed areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Applicant proposed the following mitigations in the Application<sup>73</sup> or in response to review comments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Wildlife protection measures detailed in the Care and Maintenance Plan will be implemented.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	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. This is because impacts are expected

<sup>70</sup> See MVLWB Online Review System for [North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. – New Type A Land Use Permit – Mar 6 26](#) MVLWB 10.

<sup>71</sup> See MVLWB Online Registry for [NATCL – Permit Application – Application Form – Jan 12 26](#).

<sup>72</sup> See MVLWB Online Review System for [North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. – New Type A Land Use Permit – Mar 6 26](#) MVLWB 10.

<sup>73</sup> See MVLWB Online Registry for [NATCL – Permit Application – Application Form – Jan 12 26](#).

<p>Disturbance to key lifecycle stages: breeding, feeding, nesting, staging</p> <p>Human-wildlife conflicts</p>	<p>(ground preparation for quarrying and aggregate production)</p> <p>Heavy equipment/drill use in undisturbed areas</p> <p>In intermittent work areas with traffic along site roads, areas where food and waste are</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Work will occur outside the nesting period and/or a survey for nests will be carried out prior to the start of activities.</li> <li>○ Active nests found will be avoided until no longer active.</li> <li>○ Overburden and debris will be replaced following quarrying and aggregate production, and the surface is left rough and loose to promote natural revegetation.</li> <li>○ A Wildlife Monitor will oversee active wildlife use of work areas.</li> <li>○ Maximum speed limits will be employed on site roads.</li> <li>○ Storing food and waste in work areas will occur in accordance with the Waste Management Plan.</li> <li>○ NATCL is committed to fulfilling its ongoing obligations to protect wildlife, which is enshrined in various statutes.<sup>74</sup></li> <li>● The Board has standard permit conditions that are typically used to mitigate the identified potential impacts. These standard conditions include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ HABITAT DAMAGE</li> <li>○ WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN</li> <li>○ GARBAGE CONTAINER</li> <li>○ MINIMIZE AREA CLEARED</li> <li>○ PRE-CONSTRUCTION PROFILES</li> <li>○ FINAL CLEANUP AND RESTORATION</li> <li>○ NATURAL VEGETATION</li> <li>○ PROGRESSIVE RECLAMATION</li> <li>○ MIGRATORY BIRD NEST DISTURBANCE</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>to be short-term associated with temporary, active construction, and/or localized within the Project footprint.<sup>75</sup> All impacts except quarrying are readily reversible. Quarrying will have a small spatial extent. The proposed mitigation measures, including standard conditions, are effective and reliable.</p>
<p>Effects on the health of aquatic habitat</p>	<p>Overpressures associated with blasting near the Flat River</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The Applicant proposed the following mitigations in the Application<sup>76,77</sup> or in response to review comments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Blast charges will be utilized and minimum setback distances pursuant to <a href="#">Wright and Hopky (1998)</a> or otherwise as advised</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<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</p>

<sup>74</sup> See MVLWB Online Review System for [North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. – New Type A Land Use Permit – Mar 6 26](#) LFN 35.

<sup>75</sup> See MVLWB Online Review System for [North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. – New Type A Land Use Permit – Mar 6 26](#) MVLWB 10.

<sup>76</sup> See MVLWB Online Registry for [NATCL – Permit Application – Application Form – Jan 12 26](#).

<sup>77</sup> See MVLWB Online Registry for [NATCL – Permit Application – Incomplete Response Letter – Feb 25 26](#).

		<p>by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Storage of explosives will occur in accordance with applicable <a href="#">National Standards</a> pursuant to the <i>Explosives Regulations</i>.</li> <li>○ Blasting will be carried out &gt;30 metres away from the high-water mark of adjacent water courses and will be managed according to the Water Management and Mine-Site Erosion and Sediment Protection Plan (required under Licence MV2023L2-0006).</li> <li>○ NATCL plans to handle and store explosives in accordance with an approved Spill Contingency Plan and Quarry Management Plan and inspect and monitor in accordance with its Care and Maintenance Plan. NATCL plans to continue to fulfill its obligations pursuant to its Surveillance Network Program under Licence MV2023L2-0006 to monitor water quality.<sup>78</sup></li> <li>○ NATCL has incorporated climate change considerations into care and maintenance planning by carrying out construction activities late in the season to avoid freshet and melt and pausing work during extreme weather events.<sup>79</sup></li> <li>● The Board has standard permit conditions that are typically used to mitigate the identified potential impacts. These standard conditions include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ HABITAT DAMAGE</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>concern. This is because impacts are expected to be short-term.<sup>80</sup> The proposed mitigation measures, including standard conditions, are effective and reliable.</p>
Change to or less of heritage resource	Heavy equipment/drill use in undisturbed areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The Applicant proposed the following mitigations in the Application<sup>81</sup>, or in response to review comments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ An appropriate archaeological assessment will occur prior to ground disturbance.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<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. This is because impacts are expected to have a small spatial extent (localized within</p>

<sup>78</sup> See MVLWB Online Review System for [North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. – New Type A Land Use Permit – Mar 6 26](#) MVLWB 2.

<sup>79</sup> See MVLWB Online Review System for [North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. – New Type A Land Use Permit – Mar 6 26](#) MVLWB 10.

<sup>80</sup> See MVLWB Online Review System for [North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. – New Type A Land Use Permit – Mar 6 26](#) MVLWB 10.

<sup>81</sup> See MVLWB Online Registry for [NATCL – Permit Application – Application Form – Jan 12 26](#).

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ There are no known archaeological sites within the legacy mine site footprint, however NATCL intends to follow the spirit and intent of the territorial Archaeological Sites Act and Regulations and will conduct Archaeological Overview Assessment(s), Archaeological Impact Assessment(s) by a professional archaeologist who is qualified in the NWT.<sup>82</sup> The final report will be housed in the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre, for inclusion in their database.</li> <li>• The Board has standard permit conditions that are typically used to mitigate the identified potential impacts. These standard conditions include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ ARCHAEOLOGICAL BUFFER</li> <li>○ SITE DISTURBANCE</li> <li>○ DITE DISCOVERY AND NOTIFICATION</li> <li>○ ARCHEOLOGICAL OVERVIEW</li> <li>○ AIA [Archaeological Impact Assessment] – HIGH POTENTIAL</li> <li>○ AIA</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	the Project footprint). <sup>83</sup> The proposed mitigation measures, including standard conditions, are effective and reliable.
Economic opportunity	Potential employment, contracting, and on the job training to nearby communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Applicant proposed the following mitigations in the Application<sup>84</sup> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The impact may be positive. Potential benefits are enhanced through the Applicants continued efforts to work closely with nearby communities to hire local workers and engage with location contractors to the greatest extent available and feasible.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The Board has standard permit conditions that are typically used to mitigate the identified potential impacts. These standard conditions include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ ENGAGEMENT PLAN</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	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. This is because the impact is expected to be positive.

<sup>82</sup> See MVLWB Online Review System for [North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. – New Type A Land Use Permit – Mar 6 26](#) GNWT PWNHC 1.

<sup>83</sup> See MVLWB Online Review System for [North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. – New Type A Land Use Permit – Mar 6 26](#) MVLWB 10.

<sup>84</sup> See MVLWB Online Registry for [NATCL – Permit Application – Application Form – Jan 12 26](#).

<p>Impairment of the aesthetic quality of the land or water</p>	<p>Quarrying and aggregate production</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Applicant proposed the following mitigations in the Application<sup>85</sup> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Grading and contouring landforms will occur so disturbed areas are contiguous with the surrounding area, where safe and feasible.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The Board has standard permit conditions that are typically used to mitigate the identified potential impacts. These standard conditions include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ EXCAVATION AND EMBANKMENTS</li> <li>○ MINIMIZE AREA CLEARED</li> <li>○ FINAL CLEANUP AND RESTORATION</li> <li>○ NATURAL VEGETATION</li> <li>○ PROGRESSIVE RECLAMATION</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<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. This is because impacts are expected to be localized within the Project footprint (small spatial extent).<sup>86</sup> The proposed mitigation measures, including standard conditions, are appropriate.</p>
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<sup>85</sup> See MVLWB Online Registry for [NATCL – Permit Application – Application Form – Jan 12 26](#).

<sup>86</sup> See MVLWB Online Review System for [North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. – New Type A Land Use Permit – Mar 6 26](#) MVLWB 10.

#### 4.1 Consideration of Potential Impacts

Based on the potential impacts and proposed mitigations identified above in Table 1, the Board considered whether the changes to the Project might have a significant adverse impact on the environment. In general, impacts of the changes to the Project on the environment can be mitigated through the use of 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 circulated for review during the regulatory proceeding, and all Parties were given the opportunity to provide comments and recommendations on the draft conditions. In finalizing the conditions, the Board will consider all of the evidence provided through the regulatory proceeding.

#### 4.2 Consideration of Public Concern

In addition to considering the potential impacts of the changes to the Project, the Board considered whether the changes to the Project might be a cause of public concern.

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

#### 5.0 Conclusion

The Project was previously licenced prior to June 22, 1984, and the activities and areas proposed by the Applicant that do not include abandonment, decommissioning, or significant alterations to the Project were not screened by the Board because Part 5 of the MVRMA does not apply to these activities pursuant to section 157.1 of the [MVRMA](#).

The Board completed a preliminary screening on significant alterations to the Project on April 1, 2010;<sup>87</sup> May 27, 2011;<sup>88</sup> June 7, 2012;<sup>89</sup> June 20, 2012;<sup>90</sup> July 3, 2014;<sup>91</sup> August 13, 2014;<sup>92</sup> March 2, 2015;<sup>93</sup> and June 6, 2019.<sup>94</sup> Accordingly, the Board has determined that Project activities that have already been subject to Part 5 of the [MVRMA](#) are exempt from preliminary screening under Part 1, Schedule 1, section 2.1 of the Exemption List Regulations to the MVRMA. The Board has conducted a preliminary screening of the proposed changes to the Project that are considered to be significant alterations not exempt pursuant to section 157.1 of the MVRMA.

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<sup>87</sup> See MVLWB Online Registry for [MV2009Q0049 – NATCL – Application – Preliminary Screening Report – Apr01-10](#).

<sup>88</sup> See MVLWB Online Registry for [MV2010C0055 – NATCL – Application – Preliminary Screening Report – May27-11](#).

<sup>89</sup> See MVLWB Online Registry for [MV2012S0011 – NATCL – Application – Preliminary Screening Report – Jun7-12](#).

<sup>90</sup> See MVLWB Online Registry for [MV2012C0014 – NATCL – Application – Preliminary Screening Report – Jun20-12](#).

<sup>91</sup> See MVLWB Online Registry for [MV2014C0015 – NATCL – Preliminary Screening Report – Jul3-14](#).

<sup>92</sup> See MVLWB Online Registry for [MV2002L2-0019 MV2014D0012 – NATCL – Preliminary Screening Report – Aug13-14](#).

<sup>93</sup> See MVLWB Online Registry for [MV2002L2-0019 MV2014D0012 – NATCL Amendment and New LUP – Preliminary Screening – Mar2-15](#).

<sup>94</sup> See MVLWB Online Registry for [MV2019S0009 – NATCL – Issuance – Preliminary Screening Report – Jun6-19](#).

The Board has reviewed all the evidence received during the regulatory process with respect to the preliminary screening of the proposed changes to the Project. Based on the evidence, it is the Board’s opinion that the proposed changes to the Project will not have a significant adverse impact on the environment or be a cause of public concern, as set out in paragraph 125(1)(a) of the [MVRMA](#). The Board has therefore decided not to refer the proposed changes to the Project to Environmental Assessment. If the Board does not receive a notice of referral to environmental assessment by June 12, 2026, the Board can issue the Permit on June 13, 2026.

SIGNATURE



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

June 2, 2026

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**Date**

# Annex A: Map of authorizations and activities at Cantung Mine

