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www.mvlwb.com

August 10, 2026

File: MV2026Q0009

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: TDC Contracting Ltd. – Notice of Preliminary Screening Determination – Application for Land Use Permit – Quarrying – Salt Mountain, NT

The Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board (Board) met on August 6, 2026, and considered the Application Package from TDC Contracting Ltd. (TDC) for Land Use Permit (Permit) MV2026Q0009 for a quarry operation near Salt Mountain, NT (Project) in accordance with the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act* (MVRMA).

The Board conducted a preliminary screening based on the public record for the proceeding. Based on the evidence provided, the Board is satisfied the screening has been completed according to section 125 of the MVRMA and has decided **not to refer** the 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 MV2026Q0009 on **Friday, August 21, 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.

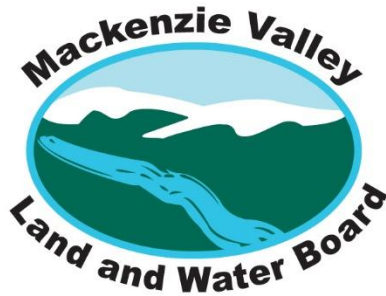
Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tanya MacIntosh". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Tanya" and last name "MacIntosh" clearly legible.

Tanya MacIntosh
Chair, Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board

BCC'd to: Akaitcho ORS Distribution List
Marie Swanson, TDC Contracting 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	MV2026Q0009
Company	TDC Contracting Ltd.
Project	Salt Mountain Quarry
Location	Salt Mountain, NT
Activity	Quarrying
Date of Decision	August 6, 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 August 6, 2026, to make a preliminary screening determination on the Application from TDC Contracting Ltd. (TDC) (Applicant) for Land Use Permit MV2026Q0009 (Permit)¹ for the construction of an access road and operation of a quarry in the Salt Mountain area (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 decisions, are detailed in sections [3.0](#) and [4.0](#).

¹ See MVLWB Online Registry www.mvlwb.com for [TDC - Application - Apr 27 26](#).

2.0 List of Defined Terms and Acronyms

Applicant	TDC Contracting Ltd.
Application	The complete application package submitted by the Applicant for Land Use Permit MV2026Q0009
GNWT	Government of the Northwest Territories
GNWT-ECC	Government of the Northwest Territories – Environment and Climate Change
Inspector	An Inspector designated under subsection 84(1) of the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act
LWBs	Land and Water Boards of the Mackenzie Valley
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
NWTMN	Northwest Territory Metis Nation
ORS	Online Review System (www.new.onlinereviewssystem.ca)
Party	As per the LWB Rules of Procedure , an applicant, a person, or an organization participating in the regulatory proceeding for the Application.
Permit	Land Use Permit MV2026Q0009
Project	Salt Mountain Quarry, which is the proposed development (as defined in Part 5 of the MVRMA). ²
Review Board	Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board
Standard Permit Conditions	LWB Standard Land Use Permit Conditions Template

3.0 Background and Scope of Screening

On April 27, 2026, the Applicant submitted an application for a new Permit MV2026Q0009, which was deemed incomplete on May 1, 2026. On June 26, the applicant submitted a revised application, which was deemed complete on June 26, 2026 (the Application). The Application is to construct an access road and conduct quarry operations. These activities are in the Salt Mountain area, approximately 30 km west of the Town of Fort Smith, NT, within the Akaitcho Region.

Prior to submission, the Applicant engaged with potentially affected Parties to ensure there were no objections to the proposed scale and nature of Project activities. The identified Parties in the Engagement Plan include:

- Athabasca Denesuline Né Né Land Corporation
- Dene Nation
- Deninu K'ųé First Nation
- Fort Smith Metis Council
- Ghotelnene K'odtineh Dene
- Hamlet of Fort Resolution

² “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.”

- Hay River Metis Government Council
- Katlodeeche First Nation
- Lutsel K'e Dene First Nation
- North Slave Metis Alliance
- Northwest Territory Metis Nation
- Salt River First Nation
- Tlicho Government
- Town of Fort Smith
- Tthebatthı Dënésułıné
- Yellowknives Dene First Nation

According to the Applicant's engagement records, written notification was sent out via email in December 2025 and January 2026, along with follow-up phone calls, and additional emails in May and June 2026.

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:

The Applicant will build an access road, widen and reshape existing pit roads, and develop pre-existing road access. Due to wildfires the area consists mainly of burnt trees, and the Project will begin with clearing and piling of overburden and organic material for future reclamation. Heavy equipment will be used to quarry, stockpile and haul granular material from the quarry to Fort Smith, NT and area. Material will also be used for access road maintenance.

Fuel storage will not exceed 650 litres and will consist of 250 litres stored in a Tidy Tank on the back of a pick-up truck and 400 litres in a mobile generator. 21.31 hectares of land will be used by the Project, which consists of 1.72 hectares for road access and 19.59 for the gravel pit/quarry. Project equipment includes tractors, trailers, excavators, dozers, various small machines, and a crushing plant.

The quarry will operate seasonally from April to October each year on an as-needed basis depending on demand and weather conditions. Upon closure of the Permit, the Applicant plans to blend the road back to natural grade of the earth in the area and use any available organic material, such as previously burned trees, as rollback material.

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 June 26, 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. Comments were due July 17, 2026, with responses from the Applicant due July 23, 2026. The Board received comments and recommendations from North Slave Metis Alliance, Yellowknives Dene First Nation, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Government of the Northwest

Territories – Environment and Climate Change, and Environment and Climate Change Canada (attached).³ Board staff also submitted comments and questions for the purposes 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](#).

Pursuant to Schedule 4.1 of [Northwest Territory Métis Nation \(NWTMN\) Interim Measures Agreement](#),⁴ the Board determined that written notice was given to the NWTMN and that a reasonable period of time was allowed for NWTMN to make representations with respect to the Application.

Pursuant to subsection 1.6, paragraphs (a) and (b) of the [Akaitcho Territory Dene First Nations \(ATDFN\) Interim Measures Agreement](#),⁵ 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.

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.

³ See MVLWB Online Registry for [TDC – Application - Review Comment Table – Aug10 26](#).

⁴ See MVLWB Land Claims, IMAs, and Land Use Plans webpage to access the [Northwest Territory Métis Nation Interim Measures Agreement](#).

⁵ 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 <i>Description of measures to reduce potential impacts, including consideration of cumulative impacts and climate change.</i>	Board Analysis and Determination
Soil Contamination	Use of equipment, fuel storage	• The applicant notes that there will be berms under the gen trailer and spill trays under equipment. • The Board has standard permit conditions that are typically used to mitigate the identified potential impacts. These standard conditions include:⁶ ○ WASTE PETROLEUM DISPOSAL ○ FUEL CONTAINMENT ○ SPILL CONTINGENCY PLAN ○ SPILL RESPONSE ○ DRIP TRAYS ○ CLEAN UP SPILLS ○ REPORT SPILLS	Based on the described mitigations, it is the Board's opinion that the proposed activities will not have a significant adverse impact on the environment and will not be a cause of public concern. Any accidents should be mitigated through Permit conditions and protocols identified in the Spill Contingency Plan.
Inability to support vegetation.	Operations	• The Applicant notes "Wildfire, rock, no vegetation". • The Board has standard permit conditions that are typically used to mitigate the identified potential impacts. These standard conditions include: ○ NATURAL VEGETATION ○ SAVE AND PLACE ORGANIC SOIL ○ MINIMIZE AREA CLEARED ○ TREE SCREEN	Based on the described mitigations, it is the Board's opinion that the proposed activities will not have a significant adverse impact on the environment and will not be a cause of public concern.
Direct loss of vegetation	Clearing	• The applicant notes "Area has already been affected by forest fire in 2023". • The Board has standard permit conditions that are typically used to mitigate the identified potential impacts. These standard conditions include:	Based on the described mitigations, it is the Board's opinion that the proposed activities will not have a significant adverse impact on the environment and will not be a cause of public concern.

⁶ See the MVLWB Policies and Resources webpage to access the LWB [Standard Land Use Permit Conditions Template](#).

Potential Impact	Activity	Proposed Mitigations <i>Description of measures to reduce potential impacts, including consideration of cumulative impacts and climate change.</i>	Board Analysis and Determination
		• NATURAL VEGETATION • SAVE AND PLACE ORGANIC SOIL • MINIMIZE AREA CLEARED • TREE SCREEN	
Economic opportunities or losses (employment, training)	Operations	• The Applicant notes “New job positions to the area”.	Based on the described mitigations, it is the Board’s opinion that the proposed activities will not have a significant adverse impact on the environment and will not be a cause of public concern.

3.3 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.

3.4 Consideration of Public Concern

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

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

5.0 Conclusion

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

If the Board does not receive a notice of referral to environmental assessment by Thursday August 20, 2026, the Board can issue the Permit on Friday, August 21, 2026.

SIGNATURE



Tanya MacIntosh, Chair
Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board

August 10, 2026

Date