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May 5, 2026

File: S26C-002

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: Rackla Metals Inc. – Notice of Preliminary Screening Determination – Application for Land Use Permit – Mineral Exploration – South Nahanni Region of the Mackenzie Mountains, NT.**

The Sahtú Land and Water Board (Board) met on May 5, 2026, and considered the Application Package from Rackla Metals Inc. for Land Use Permit (Permit) S26C-002 for the Lened Project (Project) in accordance with the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act* (MVRMA).

The Board conducted a preliminary screening based on the public record for the proceeding. Based on the evidence provided, the Board is satisfied the screening has been completed according to section 125 of the MVRMA and has decided **not to refer** the Project to environmental assessment. The Board's Preliminary Screening Determination and Reasons for Decision, as required by section 121 of the MVRMA, is attached.

If the Board does not receive notice of referral to environmental assessment, it can proceed with issuance of Permit S26C-002 on Saturday May 16, 2026.

The Board and staff look forward to continued communications throughout the pause period. Please contact Paul Dixon via [email](#) or at (867) 598 2413 ext. 225 with any questions or concerns regarding this letter.

Yours sincerely,



Valerie Gordon  
Chair, Sahtú Land and Water Board

BCC'd to: Tuli't'a Distribution List  
Amber Ridgway, Rackla Metals Inc.  
Scott Casselman, Rackla Metals Inc.

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>	S26C-002
<b>Company</b>	Rackla Metals Inc.
<b>Project</b>	Lened Project
<b>Location</b>	South Nahanni Region of the Mackenzie Mountains, NT.
<b>Activity</b>	Mineral Exploration
<b>Date of Decision</b>	May 5, 2026

### 1.0 Decision

In accordance with subsection 124(1) of the [Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act](#) (MVRMA), the Sault Land and Water Board (SLWB or Board) met on May 8, 2026, to make a preliminary screening determination on the Application from Rackla Metals Inc. (Applicant) for Land Use Permit S26C-002 (Permit)<sup>1</sup> for the Lened Project – South Nahanni Region of the Mackenzie Mountains, NT (Project).<sup>2</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

<sup>1</sup>See SLWB Online Registry [www.slwb.com](http://www.slwb.com) for [S26C-002 – Permit Application – Mar17 26](#).

<sup>2</sup> The Project is the Lened Project, which is the proposed development, where “development” is defined in Part 5 of the [MVRMA](#) as:

“any undertaking, or any part or extension of an undertaking, that is carried out on land or water and includes an acquisition of lands pursuant to the *Historic Sites and Monuments Act* and measures carried out by a department or agency of government leading to the establishment of a park subject to the *Canada National Parks Act* or the establishment of a park under a territorial law.”

the Board’s 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 determination, including reasons for its decision, are detailed in sections [3.0](#) and [4.0](#).

## 2.0 List of Defined Terms and Acronyms

Applicant	Rackla Metals Inc
Application	The complete application package submitted by the Applicant for Land Use Permit S26C-002
Board	Sahtú Land and Water Board
CRP	Closure and Reclamation Plan
CIRNAC	Crown Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada
DFO	Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada
EA	Environmental Assessment
GNWT	Government of the Northwest Territories
GNWT-ECC	Government of the Northwest Territories – Environment and Climate Change
GWNT-ECE-PWNHC	Government of the Northwest Territories – Education, Culture, and Education – Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Center
IR	Information Request
Inspector	An Inspector designated under subsection 84(1) of the <a href="#">Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act</a>
LWBs	Land and Water Boards of the Mackenzie Valley
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
NWRRC	Norman Wells Renewable Resource Council
OHWM	Ordinary High-Water Mark
ORS	Online Review System ( <a href="http://www.new.onlinereviewsystem.ca">www.new.onlinereviewsystem.ca</a> )
PC	Parks Canada
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 S26C-002
Project	Lened Project, which is the proposed development (as defined in Part 5 of the MVRMA). <sup>3</sup>
Review Board	Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board
SCP	Spill Contingency Plan
SNP	Surveillance Network Program
SLWB or Board	Sahtú Land and Water Board

<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.”

Standard Permit Conditions	LWB <a href="#">Standard Land Use Permit Conditions Template</a>
TG	Tłı̨chǫ Government
TK	Traditional Knowledge
TRRC	Tulit’a Renewable Resource Council
WMP	Waste Management Plan

**3.0 Background and Scope of Screening**

The Applicant submitted a complete Application for Type A Land Use Permit to conduct Mineral Exploration activities on the Applicants Lened property located in the South Nahanni Region of the Mackenzie Mountains, NT. The Applicant expects operations will be conducted from early to mid-May through September (approximately 18 to 20 weeks). The proposed activities will occur within a 5-year permit window, with the possibility of extension. Each exploration season following the 2026 season will depend on the success of the previous season.

The Applicant has engaged extensively with stakeholders previously, for earlier exploration activities in the Sahtú Region for the Astro Project in 2022 and 2023 and the Grad Project in 2024 and 2025. The Applicant has been active in the Sahtú region since September 2022, beginning initial engagement with the communities of Norman Wells and Tulit’a. Efforts by the Applicant have focused on ensuring that all relevant parties were informed about the proposed Project activities, the potential impacts of proposed actions, typical by-products of drill programs, and the remediation efforts to follow.

A detailed Engagement Log as well as Summaries of engagement and hand-out material were included with the Application. In addition, the Applicant has initiated a Traditional Knowledge (TK) study in collaboration with the Tulit’a Renewable Resource Council (TRRC). This study includes interviews with community members from Tulit’a and Norman Wells, with input from the Norman Wells Renewable Resource Council (NWRRC). The findings will be integrated into the design and operations of the Project to ensure that community values are incorporated into the Applicants land use plans throughout the project's lifecycle. The Applicant will continue to engage with the Tulit’a and Norman Wells communities throughout all stages of the Project, in adherence to the engagement processes outlined in the Applicants Engagement Plan.

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 Application is to conduct a drill-based mineral exploration program at the Lened Project, including the establishment of a temporary tent-based camp, and the repair, maintenance, and use of existing trails and access routes associated with historic exploration work conducted on the Lened Claims by Union Carbide in the 1980s, all in support of the planned drilling program. The Applicant also has an agreement with Selwyn Chihong Mining Ltd., permitting the use of the XY Camp which lies in the Yukon, close to the NT border, and the Howard's Pass Access Road, for which Selwyn holds a License of Occupation (LOC). The only use of the XY Camp is to be as a location to mobilize and demobilize from. All work is to occur in the Sahtú.

The Applicant plans to conduct soil sampling, prospecting, geological mapping, airborne geophysical surveying, diamond drilling and surface trenching on the Lened claims, to define the lateral and vertical extent of the historic tungsten resource and identify new occurrences. Depending on results in 2026, work may be expanded in subsequent years.

The Lened Project is within the Tuli't'a District of the Sahtú Settlement Area in Special Management Zone 41B (South Nahanni Watershed) and is bordering the Nahanni and Nááts'j'ihch'oh National Park Reserves. The project also falls within the asserted territories of the Kaska Dene and Dehcho First Nation. The Lened project is located in the South Nahanni Region of the Mackenzie Mountains at 62.367°N latitude and 128.648°W longitude on NTS map sheets 1051/07 and 08, and is approximately 320 km southwest of Tuli't'a, 340 km south-southwest of Norman Wells, 206 km east of Ross River (YT) and 395 km east of Whitehorse (YT).

The Lened Project is accessible from Watson Lake, Yukon via the Robert Campbell Highway for 105 km, then the Nahanni Range Road for 175 km to the Howard's Pass Access Road (HPAR). The property is presently accessible only by helicopter from the HPAR from staging areas outside of Nááts'j'ihch'oh National Park Reserve at km 13 or at km 62 on the HPAR. These activities are located within the Sahtú Settlement Area – Tuli't'a District.

### **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 27, 2026, inviting reviewers to provide comments and recommendations on the Application and the preliminary screening (e.g., on impacts and mitigation measures) using the Online Review System (ORS). Comments were due April 13, 2026, with responses from the Applicant due April 21, 2026. The Board received comments and recommendations from Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO), Crown Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC), Parks Canada (PC), Government of the Northwest Territories – Education, Culture, and Employment – Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre (GNWT-ECE-PWNHC), and Government of the

Northwest Territories – Environment and Climate Change (attached).<sup>4</sup> 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 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.

The Board is also satisfied that notice of the Application was provided to the Délı̄ne Got'ı̄ne Government (DGG) and that a reasonable period of time was provided for the DGG to make representations to the Board in accordance with section 63 of the [MVRMA](#).

#### **4.0 Potential Impacts and Proposed Mitigations**

All Parties have had an opportunity to provide recommendations to the Board regarding draft conditions. In finalizing the conditions, the Board will consider these recommendations and all of the evidence provided through the regulatory proceeding.

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.

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<sup>4</sup> See SLWB Online Registry for [S26C-002 – Reviewer Comments and Proponent Responses – April 21, 2016](#).

<sup>5</sup> See SLWB 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 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
<b>LAND</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Soil Contamination</li> <li>• Soil Compaction</li> <li>• Destabilization/erosion</li> <li>• Disturbance of sensitive features such as hot or warm springs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fuel Storage, transfer and use</li> <li>• Soil Sampling</li> <li>• Use of motorized and heavy equipment</li> <li>• Trenching, diamond drilling, reverse circulation drilling</li> <li>• Disturbance of wildlife use of licks or direct impacts to mineral licks from project activities</li> </ul>	<p><b>The Applicant proposed the following mitigations in the Application:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Spill Contingency Plan will be implemented;</li> <li>• Fuel and fuel caches will be located at least 100m away from the Ordinary High Water Mark of any water body or water course;</li> <li>• Fuel will be stored in impermeable fuel berms with secondary containment;</li> <li>• Fuel storage will be routinely monitored and inspected;</li> <li>• Portable drip trays and absorbent padding to catch drips will be used. Appropriately sized fuel transfer hoses with pumps will be used when fueling to avoid any leaks or drips onto the land;</li> <li>• Spill kits will be located at every fuel storage location;</li> <li>• Regular maintenance and oil checks of all motorized equipment will be undertaken to avoid preventable leaks;</li> <li>• All chemical substances including fuel will be</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 and will not be a cause of public concern.</p>

		<p>appropriately labelled;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drill water with cuttings will be redirected into a sump at least 100 m away from the Ordinary High Water Mark of any waterbody or watercourse;</li> <li>• Any spill will be cleaned up immediately upon occurrence;</li> <li>• Any contaminated material will be securely stored to prevent contaminants from being released to the environment;</li> <li>• Hazardous and potentially hazardous waste will be backhauled to Camp XY for proper disposal or waste facility to minimize storage of hazardous materials on site;</li> <li>• At project closure all equipment, fuel, and waste will be removed;</li> <li>• The use of drill pads and a camp platform (for the camp) will provide an elevated, controlled surface to evenly distribute weight and minimize area of land that would potentially be affected by heavy equipment. This will be followed by rehabilitation post-operation;</li> <li>• Where practical, selecting a location for the camp that has previously been cleared, or a naturally cleared area to minimize disturbance;</li> <li>• Establishment of camp location on dry, durable,</li> </ul>	
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		<p>unvegetated ground to minimize ground impacts and potential for erosion;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use of natural depressions or dug sumps to constrain liquid wastes (e.g., greywater, cuttings) and minimize potential of contaminating or scouring surrounding area;</li> <li>• Filling and recontouring any dug sumps, drill holes, and trenches created on cessation of use to protect permafrost and prevent erosion;</li> <li>• Prevent introduction of non-native vegetation by removing debris or soil from any mobile heavy equipment brought to site;</li> <li>• Limiting the width and depth of the trench to the minimum necessary to achieve project goals. This reduces the overall area disturbed;</li> <li>• Choosing trenching locations that avoid high-risk or environmentally sensitive areas, all trenching activities will take place further than 100 m away from water source;</li> <li>• There will be no brush clearing involved in any project activities as the project area is in the high-alpine where there is little to no vegetation present;</li> <li>• Avoid any direct disturbance of hot or warm springs in all circumstances;</li> <li>• As per the Sahtú Land Use Plan, avoid conducting land use</li> </ul>	
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		<p>activities within 1km of any known mineral lick where feasible and;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Program activities are planned in areas where impacts are confined to talus slopes with no vegetation or already existing clearings.</li> </ul> <p><b>Applicant Responses to Reviewer Comments and Board Clarifying Questions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Applicant Response to SLWB Comment ID #3: The Applicant confirms that all proposed camp locations will comply with the 100m set back from the Ordinary High-Water Mark.</li> </ul> <p><b>The Board has standard permit conditions that are typically used to mitigate the identified potential impacts. These standard conditions include:<sup>6</sup></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ LOCATION OF ACTIVITIES</li> <li>○ CAMP SETBACK</li> <li>○ DRILL LOCATIONS</li> <li>○ DRILL/ADIT SETBACK</li> <li>○ SUMP SETBACK</li> <li>○ PARRALLEL WATER COURSE SETBACK</li> <li>○ PARALLEL ROADS</li> <li>○ USE APPROVED EQUIPMENT</li> <li>○ DOGLEG APPROACHES</li> <li>○ DETOURS AND CROSSINGS</li> <li>○ EXCAVATED TEST PITS</li> <li>○ CLEAN WORK AREA</li> </ul>	
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<sup>6</sup> See the SLWB Policies and Resources webpage to access the LWB [Standard Land Use Permit Conditions Template](#).

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ PERMAFROST PROTECTION</li> <li>○ NATURAL DRAINAGE</li> <li>○ PROGRESSIVE EROSION CONTROL</li> <li>○ REPAIR EROSION</li> <li>○ PREVENTION OF RUTTING</li> <li>○ SUSPEND OVERLAND TRAVEL</li> <li>○ VEHICLE MOVEMENT FREEZE-UP</li> <li>○ STREAM BANKS</li> <li>○ MINIMIZE APPROACH</li> <li>○ DRY FORDING</li> <li>○ EXCAVATION AND EMBANKMENTS</li> <li>○ EQUIPMENT: WATERCOURSE BUFFER</li> <li>○ EXCAVATION SETBACK</li> <li>○ DRILLING NEAR WATER OR ON ICE</li> <li>○ DRILLING WASTE</li> <li>○ DRILLING WASTE DISPOSAL</li> <li>○ DRILLING WASTE CONTAINMENT</li> <li>○ RECLAIM NON-OIL AND GAS SUMPS</li> <li>○ WASTE CHEMICAL DISPOSAL</li> <li>○ WASTE PETROLEUM DISPOSAL</li> <li>○ WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN</li> <li>○ GARBAGE CONTAINER</li> <li>○ SEWAGE DISPOSAL – SUMP SETBACK</li> <li>○ SEWAGE DISPOSAL – PLAN</li> <li>○ REPAIR LEAKS</li> <li>○ FUEL STORAGE SETBACK</li> <li>○ FUEL CACHE SECONDARY CONTAINMENT</li> <li>○ SECONDARY CONTAINMENT – REFUELLING</li> <li>○ FUEL CONTAINMENT</li> <li>○ MAXIMUM FUEL ON SITE</li> <li>○ SPILL CONTINGENCY PLAN</li> <li>○ SPILL RESPONSE</li> <li>○ DRIP TRAYS</li> </ul>	
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ CLEAN UP SPILLS</li><li>○ REPORT SPILLS</li><li>○ BRUSH DISPOSAL/TIME</li><li>○ MINIMIZE AREA CLEARED</li><li>○ CLOSURE AND RECLAMATION PLAN</li><li>○ SAVE AND PLACE ORGANIC SOIL</li><li>○ FINAL CLEANUP AND RESTORATION</li><li>○ NATURAL VEGETATION</li><li>○ PROGRSSIVE RECLAMATION</li><li>○ TRAILS RESTORATION</li></ul>	
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WATER			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Changes in water volume or changes in water quality</li> <li>• Potential thermal disturbance or loss of Permafrost</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Withdrawal of water from a waterbody or watercourse for project use</li> <li>• Transfer, storage, and use of fuel</li> <li>• Trenching, diamond drilling</li> </ul>	<p><b>The Applicant proposed the following mitigations in the Application:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimizing water use to the extent practical and to a cumulative daily use of no more than 100 m3 per day;</li> <li>• Ensuring water withdrawal and sourcing aligns with DFO and Land and Water Board guidance for the protection of fish and fish habitat, such as limiting water withdrawal to &lt;10% of instantaneous flow or under ice water withdrawal to &lt;10% of available water volume;</li> <li>• Following DFO’s protective measures for fish and fish habitat and standard codes of practice and respect the NWT in-water works restricted activity timing windows to the extent feasible;</li> <li>• No camp, sumps, or fuel storage within 100m of a waterbody except with Inspector approval;</li> <li>• Implementation of a strict no fishing policy for Project staff;</li> <li>• All staff will undergo orientation and training on project policies related to wildlife feeding and fishing;</li> <li>• Drilling fluids and sediment is redirected into a sump which allows for fluid collection as well as sediment management preventing uncontrolled discharge of fluid into the surrounding area (see Waste Management Plan). The reverse circulation drill does not use water;</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 and will not be a cause of public concern.</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Activities will be designed to mitigate adverse environmental impacts related to degradation of permafrost. Although drilling and trenching is expected to be in Talus and into bedrock on south-facing slope with increased sun exposure;</li> <li>• Project equipment and camp will be elevated to minimize thermal impacts, as elevated structures allow for air circulation;</li> <li>• After project completion, disturbed areas from trenching and drilling activities will be stabilized to prevent erosion;</li> <li>• Filling and recontouring any dug sumps, drill holes, and trenches created on cessation of use;</li> <li>• Activities are designed to mitigate adverse effects and environmental impacts related to degradation of permafrost. Ground disturbance kept to a minimum, drill hole locations relocated to minimize permafrost disturbance wherever practical;</li> <li>• Limiting the width and depth of the trench to the minimum necessary to achieve project goals. This reduces the overall area disturbed; and</li> <li>• Trenching activities will be confined to 100m long x 1m deep on arid talus terrain.</li> </ul> <p><b>Applicant Responses to Reviewer Comments and Board Clarifying Questions:</b></p>	
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Applicant Response to SLWB Comment ID #3: The Applicant has confirmed that all proposed camp locations will be sited in compliance with the minimum 100m setback from the Ordinary High Water Mark (OHWM) and have provided GIS deliverables as supporting information.</li> </ul> <p><b>The Board has standard permit conditions that are typically used to mitigate the identified potential impacts. These standard conditions include:<sup>7</sup></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ WASTE PETROLEUM DISPOSAL</li> <li>○ WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN</li> <li>○ GARBAGE CONTAINER</li> <li>○ SEWAGE DISPOSAL – SUMP SETBACK</li> <li>○ SEWAGE DISPOSAL – PLAN</li> <li>○ SECURITY DEPOSIT</li> <li>○ RESPONSIBILITY FOR REMEDIATION COSTS</li> <li>○ REPAIR LEAKS</li> <li>○ FUEL STORAGE SETBACK</li> <li>○ FUEL CACHE SECONDARY CONTAINMENT</li> <li>○ SECONDARY CONTAINMENT – REFUELLING</li> <li>○ FUEL CONTAINMENT</li> <li>○ MAXIMUM FUEL ON SITE</li> <li>○ REPORT FUEL LOCATION</li> <li>○ SEAL OUTLET</li> <li>○ SPILL CONTINGENCY PLAN</li> <li>○ SPILL RESPONSE</li> <li>○ DRIP TRAYS</li> <li>○ CLEAN UP SPILLS</li> </ul>	
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<sup>7</sup> See the SLWB Policies and Resources webpage to access the LWB [Standard Land Use Permit Conditions Template](#).

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ REPORT SPILLS</li> <li>○ BRUSH DISPOSAL/TIME</li> <li>○ MINIMIZE AREA CLEARED</li> <li>○ CLOSURE AND RECLAMATION PLAN</li> <li>○ SAVE AND PLACE ORGANIC SOIL</li> <li>○ FINAL CLEANUP AND RESTORATION</li> <li>○ NATURAL VEGETATION</li> <li>○ PROGRSSIVE RECLAMATION</li> <li>○ TRAILS RESTORATION</li> <li>○ DRILL LOCATIONS</li> <li>○ DRILL/ADIT SETBACK</li> <li>○ SUMP SETBACK</li> <li>○ PARRALLEL WATER COURSE SETBACK</li> <li>○ PARALLEL ROADS</li> <li>○ REPORTS BEFORE SEASONAL REMOVAL</li> <li>○ REPORTS BEFORE FINAL REMOVAL</li> <li>○ SEASONAL SHUT DOWN</li> <li>○ USE APPROVED EQUIPMENT</li> <li>○ DOGLEG APPROACHES</li> <li>○ DETOURS AND CROSSINGS</li> <li>○ MINERAL EXPLORATION DRILL CASINGS</li> <li>○ EXCAVATED TEST PITS</li> <li>○ CLEAN WORK AREA</li> <li>○ PERMAFROST PROTECTION</li> <li>○ NATURAL DRAINAGE</li> <li>○ PROGRESSIVE EROSION CONTROL</li> <li>○ REPAIR EROSION</li> <li>○ PREVENTION OF RUTTING</li> <li>○ SUSPEND OVERLAND TRAVEL</li> <li>○ VEHICLE MOVEMENT FREEZE-UP</li> <li>○ STREAM BANKS</li> <li>○ MINIMIZE APPROACH</li> <li>○ DRY FORDING</li> </ul>	
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ EXCAVATION AND EMBANKMENTS</li> <li>○ EQUIPMENT: WATERCOURSE BUFFER</li> <li>○ EXCAVATION SETBACK</li> <li>○ DRILLING NEAR WATER OR ON ICE</li> <li>○ DRILLING WASTE</li> <li>○ DRILLING WASTE DISPOSAL</li> <li>○ DRILLING WASTE CONTAINMENT</li> <li>○ RECLAIM NON-OIL AND GAS SUMPS</li> <li>○ WASTE CHEMICAL DISPOSAL</li> <li>○ LOCATION OF ACTIVITIES</li> <li>○ CAMP SETBACK</li> </ul>	
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AIR			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential for helicopter and activity-related disturbances to Air</li> <li>• Potential decrease in air quality and contribution to increased greenhouse gases</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use of helicopters</li> <li>• Mobilization/demobilization and operation of equipment for operational activities</li> <li>• Equipment and helicopter fuel consumption</li> </ul>	<p><b>The Applicant proposed the following mitigations in the Application:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimizing idling, and ensuring efficient scheduling of flights and energy efficiency;</li> <li>• Emissions related to the combustion of fossil fuels will be discontinuous, short term and localized;</li> <li>• Minimizing helicopter use and equipment run times where feasible;</li> <li>• Carrying out preventative maintenance on equipment; and</li> <li>• Coordinating waste backhaul to avoid redundancies and reduce emissions.</li> </ul> <p><b>The Board has standard permit conditions that are typically used to mitigate the identified potential impacts. These standard conditions include:<sup>8</sup></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ USE APPROVED EQUIPMENT</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 and will not be a cause of public concern.</p>

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

VEGETATION			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vegetation loss</li> <li>• Introduction of non-native (invasive species)</li> <li>• Increased risk of fire</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mobilization of equipment for operational activities</li> </ul>	<p><b>The Applicant proposed the following mitigations in the Application:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prevent introduction of non-native vegetation by bringing clean equipment to site and removing debris or soil from any mobile heavy equipment prior to being brought to site; and</li> <li>• The majority of work will be in the high alpine, well above tree-line on rock-talus slopes that do not support vegetation growth. The camp will be equipped with firefighting equipment designed to limit the possibility of fire ignition.</li> </ul> <p><b>The Board has standard permit conditions that are typically used to mitigate the identified potential impacts. These standard conditions include:<sup>9</sup></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ RESPONSIBILITY FOR REMEDIATION COSTS</li> <li>○ REPAIR LEAKS</li> <li>○ FUEL CACHE SECONDARY CONTAINMENT</li> <li>○ SECONDARY CONTAINMENT – REFUELLING</li> <li>○ FUEL CONTAINMENT</li> <li>○ SEAL OUTLET</li> <li>○ SPILL CONTINGENCY PLAN</li> <li>○ DRIP TRAYS</li> <li>○ CLEAN UP SPILLS</li> <li>○ BRUSH DISPOSAL/TIME</li> <li>○ MINIMIZE AREA CLEARED</li> <li>○ CLOSURE AND RECLAMATION PLAN</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 and will not be a cause of public concern.</p>

<sup>9</sup> See the SLWB Policies and Resources webpage to access the LWB [Standard Land Use Permit Conditions Template](#).

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ SAVE AND PLACE ORGANIC SOIL</li> <li>○ FINAL CLEANUP AND RESTORATION</li> <li>○ NATURAL VEGETATION</li> <li>○ PROGRSSIVE RECLAMATION</li> <li>○ TRAILS RESTORATION</li> <li>○ USE APPROVED EQUIPMENT</li> <li>○ DOGLEG APPROACHES</li> <li>○ CLEAN WORK AREA</li> <li>○ PERMAFROST PROTECTION</li> <li>○ NATURAL DRAINAGE</li> <li>○ PROGRESSIVE EROSION CONTROL</li> <li>○ REPAIR EROSION</li> <li>○ PREVENTION OF RUTTING</li> <li>○ SUSPEND OVERLAND TRAVEL</li> <li>○ VEHICLE MOVEMENT FREEZE-UP</li> <li>○ STREAM BANKS</li> <li>○ MINIMIZE APPROACH</li> <li>○ DRY FORDING</li> <li>○ EXCAVATION AND EMBANKMENTS</li> <li>○ DRILLING WASTE</li> <li>○ DRILLNG WASTE DISPOSAL</li> <li>○ DRILLING WASTE CONTAINMENT</li> <li>○ RECLAIM NON-OIL AND GAS SUMPS</li> <li>○ WASTE CHEMICAL DISPOSAL</li> <li>○ WASTE PETROLEUM DISPOSAL</li> <li>○ WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN</li> <li>○ SEWAGE DISPOSAL – SUMP SETBACK</li> <li>○ SEWAGE DISPOSAL – PLAN</li> <li>○ LOCATION OF ACTIVITIES</li> <li>○ CAMP SETBACK</li> <li>○ SUMP SETBACK</li> <li>○ PARRALLEL WATER COURSE SETBACK</li> <li>○ PARALLEL ROADS</li> </ul>	
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**TERRESTRIAL WILDLIFE HABITAT**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential disturbance of wildlife dens, or nest</li> <li>• Attraction of wildlife such as food and waste</li> <li>• Disturbances to key lifecycle stages: breeding, feeding, nesting, staging</li> <li>• Increase in noise</li> <li>• Direct harm to living things, and human-wildlife conflicts</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project activities and foot print</li> <li>• On-site storage and use of food and food waste and other potential wildlife attractants</li> <li>• Helicopter activity</li> <li>• Operation of equipment, generators, helicopter</li> </ul>	<p><b>The Applicant proposed the following mitigations in the Application:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Measures taken to avoid sensitive periods, as detailed in Wildlife, Archaeology and Environmental Awareness Plan;</li> <li>• Noise will be discontinuous, short term and localized;</li> <li>• Noise will be reduced to extent practical by minimizing idling, minimizing flights where appropriate, establishing preferred flight paths the reduce disturbance of sensitive areas;</li> <li>• Ensure proper maintenance of equipment (e.g., lubrication, tightening of loose parts) to reduce mechanical noise;</li> <li>• Design flight paths to avoid sensitive wildlife habitats, particularly during critical periods such as calving or nesting seasons;</li> <li>• Maintaining the highest possible altitude over wildlife areas such as the National Park Reserves to reduce noise on the ground;</li> <li>• Minimize hovering and circling to reduce prolonged noise exposure;</li> <li>• Group noisy activities, such as running the generator, into</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 and will not be a cause of public concern.</p>
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		<p>shorter time frames to provide wildlife with extended quiet periods;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implementation of a Wildlife Management Plan;</li> <li>• Implementation of a strict no hunting policy for Project staff;</li> <li>• Equipping field crews with bear deterrence kits which include airhorns, bear spray and bear bangers;</li> <li>• Where appropriate, making use of wildlife monitors;</li> <li>• Possible bird strikes with helicopter will be mitigated by avoiding sensitive periods as outlines in the Wildlife, Archaeology and Environmental Awareness Plan;</li> <li>• Wildlife setbacks as described in the Wildlife, Archaeology and Environmental Awareness Plan;</li> <li>• Work areas will be inspected for evidence of wildlife access or initiation of nesting;</li> <li>• There will only be bush clearing activity on lower elevation trails, not in alpine; avoiding trenching activities during nesting periods where possible;</li> <li>• Avoid destroying active nests containing eggs or young. If found, establish a suitable buffer zone (based on regulatory guidance) until all young have fledged;</li> <li>• Avoiding areas which carnivore dens are discovered to be</li> </ul>	
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		<p>in use;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Skirting camp tents to deter wildlife denning;</li> <li>• Implementing wildlife setbacks and sensitivity windows to the extent feasible;</li> <li>• Conducting regular inspections to confirm setbacks from known active nests or den sites are being maintained;</li> <li>• All waste will be contained and managed in an organized and appropriate manner as outlined in the Waste Management Plan;</li> <li>• After each day on-site waste will be brought to the Lened Camp for appropriate management and disposal. Until then, or if temporary storage is required, waste attractive to wildlife will be double bagged and placed in an enclosed structure to restrict odors from escaping to minimize odor and attraction of wildlife;</li> <li>• A strict no feeding wildlife policy will be implemented;</li> <li>• No landfill will be established on site as these have the potential to attract wildlife;</li> <li>• Kitchen wastewater from any use of the camp will be screened to remove food particles prior to discharge and the greywater sump will be inspected daily to remove any food waste and treated as needed to prevent being an attractant;</li> <li>• All food waste from occasional use of the camp will be</li> </ul>	
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		<p>backhauled back to the Lened Camp for proper disposal. Maintaining the highest possible altitude per recommendations of the highest Sahtú Land Use Plan setback altitude, even when wildlife are not present, except when activities require otherwise (e.g., for take off/landing, when conducting altitude specific aerial surveys, and where required for safety);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Field crews will conduct a scan for wildlife prior to landing; if caribou, sheep, or bears are within 500 m or species-specific setbacks cannot be reliably maintained, the crew will be deployed in a different location;</li> <li>• If wildlife is encountered flight paths will be deviated;</li> <li>• Helicopters will avoid landing in areas where wildlife are present where feasible;</li> <li>• Preferred site access flight routes will be used where possible to minimize disturbance of wildlife; and</li> </ul> <p><b>Applicant Responses to Reviewer Comments and Board Clarifying Questions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Applicant Response to Parks Canada Comment ID #2: The Applicant has incorporated mitigations aligned with <i>Flying in Caribou Country and Flying in Sheep Country</i> guidance document, refined helicopter operating procedures to minimize wildlife disturbance which include avoidance protocols, response actions, and route planning, review operational timing windows to reduce overlap with sensitive periods where feasible, clarified</li> </ul>	
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		<p>altitude thresholds in the Wildlife Awareness Plan, and will continue to coordinate with Parks Canada regarding access and permitting for any travel through park reserves.</p> <p><b>The Board has standard permit conditions that are typically used to mitigate the identified potential impacts. These standard conditions include:<sup>10</sup></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN</li> <li>○ GARBAGE CONTAINER</li> <li>○ SEWAGE DISPOSAL – PLAN</li> <li>○ LOCATION OF ACTIVITIES</li> <li>○ CAMP SETBACK</li> <li>○ MINIMIZE AREA CLEARED</li> <li>○ TRAILS RESTORATION</li> <li>○ CLEAN WORK AREA</li> <li>○ SPILL CONTINGENCY PLAN</li> <li>○ CLEAN UP SPILLS</li> <li>○ MIGRATORY BIRD NEST DISTURBANCE</li> <li>○ HABITAT DAMAGE</li> <li>○ CARIBOU DISTANCE</li> </ul>	
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<sup>10</sup> See the SLWB Policies and Resources webpage to access the LWB [Standard Land Use Permit Conditions Template](#).

**AQUATIC HABITAT**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Effects on fish and fish habitat</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Withdrawal of water from a waterbody for Project use, potential run off from drilling activities</li> <li>• Spill into water during operations</li> </ul>	<p><b>The Applicant proposed the following mitigations in the Application:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimizing water use to the extent practical and to a cumulative daily use of no more than 100m<sup>3</sup> per day;</li> <li>• Ensuring water withdrawal and sourcing aligns with DFO and Land and Water Board guidance for the protection of fish and fish habitat, such as limiting water withdrawal to &lt;10% of instantaneous flow or under ice water withdrawal to &lt;10% of available water volume;</li> <li>• Following DFO’s protective measures for fish and fish habitat and standard codes of practice and respect the NWT in-water works restricted activity timing windows to the extent feasible;</li> <li>• No camp, sumps, or fuel storage within 100m of a waterbody except with Inspector approval;</li> <li>• Implementation of a strict no fishing policy for Project staff;</li> <li>• All staff will undergo orientation and training on project policies related to wildlife feeding and fishing; and</li> <li>• Drilling fluids and sediment is redirected into a sump which allows for fluid collection as well as sediment management preventing uncontrolled discharge of fluid into the surrounding area (see Waste Management Plan).</li> </ul>	<p>Based on the described mitigations, it is the Board’s opinion that the proposed will not have a significant adverse impact on the environment and will not be a cause of public concern.</p>
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		<p><b>Applicant Responses to Reviewer Comments and Board Clarifying Questions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Applicant Response to Fisheries and Oceans Canada – Comment ID#1: The Applicant will review and abide by DFO’s protective measures for fish and fish habitat and standard codes of practice.</li> </ul> <p><b>The Board has standard permit conditions that are typically used to mitigate the identified potential impacts. These standard conditions include:<sup>11</sup></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ DRILLING WASTE CONTAINMENT</li> <li>○ RECLAIM NON-OIL AND GAS SUMPS</li> <li>○ WASTE CHEMICAL DISPOSAL</li> <li>○ WASTE PETROLEUM DISPOSAL</li> <li>○ WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN</li> <li>○ GARBAGE CONTAINER</li> <li>○ SEWAGE DISPOSAL – SUMP SETBACK</li> <li>○ SEWAGE DISPOSAL – PLAN</li> <li>○ CAMP SETBACK</li> <li>○ SUMP SETBACK</li> <li>○ PARRALLEL WATER COURSE SETBACK</li> <li>○ CLOSURE AND RECLAMATION PLAN</li> <li>○ FINAL CLEANUP AND RESTORATION</li> <li>○ PROGRSSIVE RECLAMATION</li> <li>○ DETOURS AND CROSSINGS</li> <li>○ CLEAN WORK AREA</li> <li>○ NATURAL DRAINAGE</li> <li>○ PROGRESSIVE EROSION CONTROL</li> <li>○ PREVENTION OF RUTTING</li> </ul>	
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<sup>11</sup> See the SLWB Policies and Resources webpage to access the LWB [Standard Land Use Permit Conditions Template](#).

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ STREAM BANKS</li> <li>○ MINIMIZE APPROACH</li> <li>○ DRY FORDING</li> <li>○ EQUIPMENT: WATERCOURSE BUFFER</li> <li>○ EXCAVATION SETBACK</li> <li>○ DRILLING NEAR WATER OR ON ICE</li> <li>○ DRILLING WASTE</li> <li>○ DRILLING WASTE DISPOSAL</li> <li>○ FUEL STORAGE SETBACK</li> <li>○ FUEL CAHCE SECONDARY CONTAINMENT</li> <li>○ SECONDARY CONTAINMENT – REFUELLING</li> <li>○ FUEL CONTAINMENT</li> <li>○ SEAL OUTLET</li> <li>○ SPILL CONTINGENCY PLAN</li> <li>○ SPILL RESPONSE</li> <li>○ DRIP TRAYS</li> <li>○ CLEAN UP SPILLS</li> <li>○ HABITAT DAMAGE</li> </ul>	
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**CULTURAL INTEGRITY AND HERITAGE RESOURCES/ SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC WELL-BEING**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential change to, or loss of cultural integrity and heritage resource</li> <li>• Changes in social and economic opportunities or losses (employment, training)</li> <li>• Impairment of the aesthetic quality of the Land</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project activities, purchasing and employment</li> </ul>	<p><b>The Applicant proposed the following mitigations in the Application:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implementing the Wildlife, Archaeology and Environmental Awareness Plan;</li> <li>• Conducting a Traditional Knowledge Study to increase information of the land Project activities is taking place on;</li> <li>• Gathering information on the presence of known archaeological sites from the PWNHC and adhering to applicable buffer distances;</li> <li>• Conducting and Archaeological Overview Assessment of areas of planned activities;</li> <li>• Conducting activities preferentially in areas of Low Archaeological potential;</li> <li>• Per the SLUP: “In areas where there is a high risk of impact to known or suspected archaeological sites, as determined by the PWNHC, an archaeological impact assessment must be conducted prior to commencement of the land use activity;”</li> <li>• Educating Project staff on identification of potential archaeological resources and avoidance and notification procedure;</li> <li>• If archaeological sites are discovered, adhere to any</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 and will not be a cause of public concern.</p>
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		<p>buffer distances prescribed;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Direct hires from Sahtú communities, additional training opportunities in roles such as cook, laborer, cleaning, archaeological support, field assistant, core cutting, food preparation, geotechnical work on core, camp maintenance and set up, drilling and drill helpers, field technician roles, archaeological research assistant, and wildlife (or bear) monitoring;</li> <li>• Goods and services will be preferentially sourced from local communities;</li> <li>• Support of community initiatives where requested and financially feasible;</li> <li>• As per the Sahtú Land Use Plan all staff to follow the Conformity Requirements (CRs) and will abide by the best efforts to ensure it does not infringe upon ecological, cultural, social, or economic values identified for protection in the plan;</li> <li>• Restoring the Project area to a natural and stable state, similar to those present prior to project activities and to a state that requires no long-term care requirements and is supportive of traditional and non-traditional land uses; and</li> <li>• Implementation of a Closure and Reclamation Plan.</li> </ul>	
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		<p><b>Applicant Responses to Reviewer Comments and Board Clarifying Questions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Applicant response to GNWT-ECE-PWNHC Comment ID#1: The Applicant will continue to adhere to the findings of the Archaeological Overview Assessment, maintain the required avoidance buffer of 150m for archaeological sites and 500m for burial sites where identified, Complete a Archaeological Impact Assessment during the 2026 exploration season, and comply with site discovery and reporting protocols. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The Board has updated Condition #47 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BUFFER to include the 150m avoidance setback for Archaeological sites as recommended by GNWT-ECE-PWNHC.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>The Board has standard permit conditions that are typically used to mitigate the identified potential impacts. These standard conditions include:<sup>12</sup></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ SECURITY DEPOSIT</li> <li>○ LOCATION OF ACTIVITIES</li> <li>○ CLOSURE AND RECLAMATION PLAN</li> <li>○ SAVE AND PLACE ORGANIC SOIL</li> <li>○ FINAL CLEANUP AND RESTORATION</li> <li>○ NATURAL VEGETATION</li> <li>○ PROGRSSIVE RECLAMATION</li> <li>○ TRAILS RESTORATION</li> <li>○ PERMAFROST PROTECTION</li> <li>○ NATURAL DRAINAGE</li> <li>○ VEHICLE MOVEMENT FREEZE-UP</li> </ul>	
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<sup>12</sup> See the SLWB Policies and Resources webpage to access the LWB [Standard Land Use Permit Conditions Template](#).

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ STREAM BANKS</li> <li>○ MINIMIZE APPROACH</li> <li>○ DRY FORDING</li> <li>○ EXCAVATION AND EMBANKMENTS</li> <li>○ EQUIPMENT: WATERCOURSE BUFFER</li> <li>○ EXCAVATION SETBACK</li> <li>○ DRILLING NEAR WATER OR ON ICE</li> <li>○ DRILLING WASTE</li> <li>○ DRILLING WASTE DISPOSAL</li> <li>○ RESPONSIBILITY FOR REMEDIATION COSTS</li> <li>○ REPAIR LEAKS</li> <li>○ FUEL STORAGE SETBACK</li> <li>○ FUEL CANISTER SECONDARY CONTAINMENT</li> <li>○ SECONDARY CONTAINMENT – REFUELLING</li> <li>○ FUEL CONTAINMENT</li> <li>○ SEAL OUTLET</li> <li>○ SPILL CONTINGENCY PLAN</li> <li>○ SPILL RESPONSE</li> <li>○ DRIP TRAYS</li> <li>○ CLEAN UP SPILLS</li> <li>○ MIGRATORY BIRD NEST DISTURBANCE</li> <li>○ HABITAT DAMAGE</li> <li>○ CARIBOU DISTANCE</li> <li>○ MEANDER LINES</li> <li>○ ARCHAEOLOGICAL BUFFER</li> <li>○ SITE DISCOVERY AND NOTIFICATION</li> <li>○ ARCHAEOLOGICAL OVERVIEW</li> <li>○ AIA-HIGH POTENTIAL</li> <li>○ ENGAGEMENT PLAN</li> </ul>	
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#### 4.1 Consideration of Potential Impacts

Based on the potential impacts and proposed mitigations identified above in Table 1, the Board considered whether the Project might have a significant adverse impact on the environment. In general, impacts of the Project on the environment can be mitigated through the use of standard permit conditions and/or project-specific conditions established by the Board as per the LWB [Standard Process for Creating New Conditions](#). These conditions may include requirements for management and monitoring plans that provide detailed information regarding the implementation of mitigation measures and the evaluation of their effectiveness.

A draft Permit was circulated for review during the regulatory proceeding, and all Parties were given the opportunity to provide comments and recommendations on the draft conditions. In finalizing the conditions, the Board will consider all of the evidence provided through the regulatory proceeding.

#### 4.2 Consideration of Public Concern

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

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

#### 5.0 Conclusion

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

If the Board does not receive a notice of referral to environmental assessment by May 15, 2026, the Board can issue the Permit on May 16, 2026.



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**Valerie Gordon, Chair**  
**Sahtú Land and Water Board**

May 5, 2026

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**Date**