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Preliminary Screening Determination and Reasons for Decision

Water Licence and Land Use Permit Applications	
File Number	S26L8-003 and S26E-004
Company	Government of the Northwest Territories – Department of Infrastructure
Project	Prohibition Creek Access Road and Christina Creek Realignment
Location	Near the Town of Norman Wells, NT
Activity	Miscellaneous (L8) and Public Road (E)
Date of Decision	October 8, 2026

1.0 Decision

In accordance with subsection 124(1) of the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act* (MVRMA), the Sahtú Land and Water Board (SLWB or Board) met on October 8, 2026, to make a preliminary screening determination on the Applications from Government of the Northwest Territories – Department of Infrastructure (GNWT-INF) (Applicant) for Land Use Permit S26E-004 (Permit)[1] and Water Licence S26L8-003 (Licence)[2] for the Prohibition Creek Access Road and Christina Creek Realignment (Project).[3]

The Board has determined that some Project activities and areas are exempt from preliminary screening, because they were previously screened. The Applicant has proposed new Project activities and areas, however, the Board has decided not to refer the proposed changes to the Project to the Mackenzie Valley

[1]See SLWB Online Registry www.slwb.com for S26E-004 – Permit Application – Jul13_26.
[2] See SLWB Online Registry S26L8-003 – Licence Application – Jul13_26.
[3] The Project is the Prohibition Creek Access Road and Christina Creek Realignment, 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."

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

Applicant	Government of the Northwest Territories – Department of Infrastructure
Applications	The complete application package submitted by the Applicant for Water Licence S26L8-003 and Land Use Permit S26E-004.
CRP	Closure and Reclamation Plan (As described in the Application forms)
DFO	Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada
EA	Environmental Assessment
ECCC	Environment and Climate Change Canada
ESC	Erosion and Sediment Control
GNWT	Government of the Northwest Territories
GNWT-ECC	Government of the Northwest Territories – Environment and Climate Change
GNWT-ECE-PWNHC	Government of the Northwest Territories – Department of Education, Culture, and Employment – Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre
GNWT-INF	Government of the Northwest Territories – Department of Infrastructure
IR	Information Request
Inspector	An Inspector designated under subsection 65(1) of the *Waters Act* An Inspector designated under subsection 84(1) of the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act*
Licence	Water Licence S26L8-003
LWBs	Land and Water Boards of the Mackenzie Valley
MAD	Mean Annual Discharge
MVLWB	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
NLUG	Northern Land Use Guidelines
NWT	Northwest Territories
NSMA	North Slave Metis Alliance
NTU	Nephelometric Turbidity Unit
NWRRC	Norman Wells Renewable Resource Council
OHWM	Ordinary High-Water Mark
ORS	Online Review System (www.new.onlinereviewsystem.ca)
Party	As per the LWB *Rules of Procedure*, an applicant, a person, or an organization participating in the regulatory proceeding for the Applications.
Permit	Land Use Permit S26E-004
PCAR	Prohibition Creek Access Road

Project	Prohibition Creek Access Road and Christina Creek Realignment, which is the proposed development (as defined in Part 5 of the MVRMA).[4]
Review Board	Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board
ROW	Right-of-Way
SCP	Spill Contingency Plan
SLUP	Sahtú Land Use Plan
SLWB or Board	Sahtú Land and Water Board
SNP	Surveillance Network Program
SRRB	Sahtú Renewable Resources Board
Standard Licence Conditions	LWB *Standard Water Licence Conditions Template*
Standard Permit Conditions	LWB *Standard Land Use Permit Conditions Template*
TDLC	Tulit'a District Land Corporation
TK	Traditional Knowledge
TRRC	Tulit'a Renewable Resource Council
WMMP	Wildlife Management and Monitoring Plan
WMP	Waste Management Plan

3.0 Background and Scope of Screening

On July 13, 2026, the Applicant submitted Applications for a Type B Water Licence and Type A Land Use Permit. These Applications were submitted to continue work under a previous Water Licence (S20L8-002) and Land Use Permit (S20E-005) issued to the Applicant, and which were screened in 2020 and 2023[5, 6].

The majority of the Project has been previously screened under the Applicants expired Licence and Permit. The activities of the Project that require screening for this application are:

- Realignment of Christina Creek upstream of the existing bridge to allow for widening of the bridge approaches and to prevent erosion, including placement of rip rap; and
- Construction and operation of a camp for office and Project personnel to stay during road construction.

The Applicant anticipates it can complete this work within a Licence term of seven years and a permit length of five, with a possibility of an extension. The Applicant has been engaging with affected parties since May 2026, with previous engagement occurring during their previous Licence and Permit since 2020. The Applicant has completed Traditional Knowledge Studies with the Norman Wells Renewable Resources

[4] "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."
[5] See SLWB Online Registry for S20L8-002 – PCAR Construction Project – SLWB Preliminary Screening – Oct30_20
[6] See SLWB Online Registry for S20L8-002 – Preliminary Screening Notification Letter – RFD Update – Jun9_23.

Council and Tulit'a Renewable Resources Council in 2020 in support of the Project and incorporated the findings into the Project Description Report, where possible.

The Project areas and activities that have already been subject to Part 5 are listed in Section 3.1. Further information about these Project areas and activities, and associated impacts and mitigations, is detailed in the Board's Preliminary Screening Determinations, dated June 9, 2023, and October 28, 2020.

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:

Previously Screened or Assessed Areas and Activities:

Activities that the Board understands to have been previously considered, and which therefore do not require preliminary screening at this time, are listed below.

a) Mobilizing and demobilizing construction equipment to and from Project work sites;

b) Clearing, grubbing, and stripping vegetated material from proposed Project alignment right-of-way (ROW) and within proposed work areas at Edie Lake Quarry;

c) Construction of an all-season access road between Christina Creek and Prohibition Creek within the existing Mackenzie Valley Winter Road ROW;

d) Installation of equalization and drainage channel culverts at select locations within the ROW;

e) Sourcing and use of water from the Mackenzie River and other approved watercourses to provide dust suppression, material compaction, and temporary working surfaces during frozen ground conditions;

f) Sourcing and use of water from Canyon Creek, Francis Creek, Helava Creek, Christina Creek and Prohibition Creek (approved water sources) when sufficient flow is available to support road construction activities during unfrozen conditions;

g) Operation of one borrow source (the Edie Lake Quarry). Work will include drilling, blasting, excavation, crushing and stockpiling of granular materials;

h) Progressive reclamation at the quarry during operations;

i) Construction, operation, and reclamation of temporary support infrastructure areas (laydown and equipment staging areas);

j) Disposal of waste at approved offsite disposal facilities;

k) Storage and transfer of fuel; and

l) Use of explosives for quarry operations.

The following activities are not included within the Project scope:

a) Operation and maintenance of the PCAR is not subject to screening as part of the Preliminary Screening process (Section 13, Schedule 1 of the Exemption List Regulations issued under the MVRMA); and

b) Rehabilitation and/or replacement of bridges along the PCAR including at Christina Creek and Prohibition Creek will be completed under separate regulatory approvals processes.

<u>Updated Scope of the Project Following the Comment and Review Period and Board Decision:</u>

a) Mobilizing and demobilizing construction equipment to and from Project work sites;

b) Clearing, grubbing, and stripping vegetated material from proposed Project alignment right-of-way (ROW) and within proposed work areas at Edie Lake Quarry;

c) Construction of an all-season access road between Christina Creek and Prohibition Creek;

d) Realignment of Christina Creek upstream of the existing bridge to allow for widening of the bridge approaches and to prevent erosion, including placement of rip rap;

e) Installation of equalization and drainage channel culverts at select watercourse crossings along the ROW;

f) Operation of one borrow source (the Edie Lake Quarry). Work will include drilling, blasting, excavation, crushing and stockpiling of granular materials;

g) Construction, operation, and reclamation of temporary support infrastructure and areas (laydown, equipment staging, borrow piles);

h) Construction and operation of a camp for office and Project personnel to stay during road construction;

i) Construction, operation, and maintenance of Wastewater Treatment Facilities;

j) Storage and transfer of fuel;

k) Use of explosives for quarry operations;

l) Sourcing, withdrawal, and use of Water from the Mackenzie River for camp use and to provide dust suppression and material compaction in unfrozen conditions and temporary working surfaces during frozen ground conditions;

m) Sourcing, withdrawal, and use of Water from Canyon Creek, Francis Creek, Helava Creek, Christina Creek and Prohibition Creek when sufficient flow is available to support camp use and road construction activities during unfrozen conditions;

n) Modification of the bank or bed of a watercourse by infilling;

o) Waste management during active operations;

p) Depositing of Wastewater from the Wastewater Treatment Facilities to Sumps; and

q) Progressive Reclamation activities.

New Areas and Activities:

To support construction activities for the Project, a camp may be required and may be located on previously disturbed land either within the Town of Norman Wells Quarry or near the Edie Lake Quarry. The Applicant also intends to realign Christina Creek upstream of the existing bridge to allow widening of the bridge approaches to prevent erosion, including placement of rip rap.

3.2 Public Record and Regulatory Proceeding

To assist the Board in its preliminary screening determination for the Project, the Board distributed the Applications on July 20, 2026, and a draft Licence and draft Permit on August 21, 2026, for public review, inviting reviewers to provide comments and recommendations on the Applications and the preliminary screening (e.g., on impacts and mitigation measures) using the Online Review System (ORS). Comments were due on the applications August 11, 2026, with responses due August 18, 2026. Comments were due on the Permit and Licence conditions on September 15, 2026, with responses due September 21, 2026. The Board received comments and recommendations from the Government of the Northwest Territories – Department of Education, Culture, and Employment – Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre (GNWT-ECE-PWNHC), Sahtu Renewable Resources Board (SRRB), Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO), North Slave Metis Alliance (NSMA), and Government of the Northwest Territories – Department of Infrastructure (GNWT-INF) (attached).[7]

[7] See SLWB Online Registry for S26L8-003 and S26E-004 – Initial Applications - Review Summary Table – Aug18_26; Draft Board Staff Developed Water Licence and Permit Conditions – Review Summary Table – Sept21_26; Applicant Comments on Board Staff Developed Draft Water Licence – Sep21_26; and Applicant Comments on Board Staff Developed Draft Land Use Permit – Sep21_26.

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.

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

4.0 Potential Impacts and Proposed Mitigations

Table 1 below summarizes:

- the potential impacts of the proposed Project;
- the concerns that were identified during the regulatory proceeding and how the Applicant addressed those concerns;
- the proposed and potential mitigations for the potential impacts; and
- the Board's analysis of the potential impacts and proposed mitigations.

Table 1: Potential Impacts and Proposed Mitigations for the Proposed Project

Potential Impact	Activity	Proposed Mitigations *Description of measures to reduce potential impacts, including consideration of cumulative impacts and climate change.*	Board Analysis and Determination
LAND			
• Soil Contamination • Destabilization/ Erosion • Change in Soil Structure	• Realignment of Christina Creek upstream of the existing bridge to allow for widening of the bridge approaches and to prevent erosion, including placement of rip rap • Construction and operation of a camp for office and Project personnel to stay during road construction. • Modification of the bank or bed of a watercourse by infilling. • Depositing of Wastewater from	**The Applicant proposed the following mitigations in the Applications:** • Confine work to the existing winter-road right-of-way (ROW), approved quarry, and designated laydowns; do not travel off the Project footprint unless required • Use a fill-only embankment (no cut into subgrade). Place non-woven geotextile between existing ground and fill; vary embankment thickness by terrain type. • Clear by hand where needed to protect the ground. Retain organics and topsoil. In non-permanent areas, avoid disturbing the surface organic layer and roots during winter clearing. • Primary embankment construction in winter on frozen ground. If work is not frozen, use mushroom shoes. Keep ≥10 cm packed snow/ice on off-road winter travel surfaces. • Avoid steep slopes, highly saturated soils, and ice-rich permafrost where practical. Use suitable low-ground-pressure equipment in spring/summer/fall.	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.

Potential Impact	Activity	Proposed Mitigations *Description of measures to reduce potential impacts, including consideration of cumulative impacts and climate change.*	Board Analysis and Determination
	the Wastewater Treatment Facilities to Sumps. • Sourcing, withdrawal, and use of Water from Canyon Creek, Francis Creek, Helava Creek, Christina Creek and Prohibition Creek when sufficient flow is available to support camp use and road construction activities during unfrozen conditions.	• Mulch windrowed material and spread it on cleared ground to protect soil and permafrost. • Geotechnical work to locate ice-rich ground before construction; feed results into final design. Thermistors may be used to watch embankment thermal regime. • Follow the Permafrost Protection Plan and GNWT-INF Erosion and Sediment Control Manual. • Progressive reclamation of quarry, temporary laydowns, and temporary access (re-contour, revegetate where possible). • Camp on ~1 ha of durable, previously disturbed ground or an approved borrow/laydown; not on undisturbed or thaw-sensitive ground if alternatives exist. • Fuel and hazardous materials in secondary containment; store contaminants ≥100 m from OHWM. • Refuel in a designated area ≥30 m from OHWM; drip-minimizing nozzles; drip pans under fuelling and parked equipment. • Daily equipment inspections; repair leaks; wipe drips immediately. • Follow the Spill Contingency Plan for land/snow/ice: stop the source, berm or dyke downslope, do not flush with water, bag contaminated snow/soil, haul to an approved facility.	

Potential Impact	Activity	Proposed Mitigations *Description of measures to reduce potential impacts, including consideration of cumulative impacts and climate change.*	Board Analysis and Determination
		• For large or incomplete cleanups, hire a qualified consultant for delineation and a remediation plan. • Sewage in sealed tanks; licensed haulers; inspect trucks and hoses before pump-out. • If a greywater sump is used, site and build it to Northern Land Use Guidelines (NLUG) for Camp and Support Facilities (setbacks, wildlife attraction, soil suitability). • Decommission tanks, sumps, and piping at closure; leave the site stable. **Applicant Responses to Reviewer Comments:** N/A – no comments raised during the review regarding land. **The Board has standard permit and licence conditions that are typically used to mitigate the identified potential impacts. These standard conditions include:**[8] ○ LOCATION OF ACTIVITIES ○ PARALLEL ROADS ○ DETOURS AND CROSSINGS ○ WINTER ROADS ○ PROGRESSIVE EROSION CONTROL ○ REPAIR EROSION ○ OFF-ROAD VEHICLE TRAVEL ○ PREVENTION OF RUTTING	

[8] See the SLWB Policies and Resources webpage to access the LWB *Standard Water Licence Conditions Template* and LWB *Standard Land Use Permit Conditions Template.*

Potential Impact	Activity	Proposed Mitigations *Description of measures to reduce potential impacts, including consideration of cumulative impacts and climate change.*	Board Analysis and Determination
		○ SUSPEND OVERLAND TRAVEL ○ VEHICLE MOVEMENT FREEZE-UP ○ CHEMICALS ○ WASTE CHEMICAL DISPOSAL ○ WASTE PETROLEUM DISPOSAL ○ WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN ○ SEWAGE DISPOSAL – PLAN ○ RESPONSIBILITY FOR REMEDIATION COSTS ○ REPAIR LEAKS ○ FUEL CACHE SECONDARY CONTAINMENT ○ SECONDARY CONTAINMENT – REFUELING ○ SEAL OUTLET ○ SPILL CONTINGENCY PLAN ○ SPILL RESPONSE ○ DRIP TRAYS ○ CLEAN UP SPILLS ○ REPORT SPILLS ○ SAVE AND PLACE ORGANIC SOIL ○ DISPOSAL OF OVERBURDEN ○ LEVEL STOCKPILES ○ EXCAVATION AND EMBANKMENTS ○ PRECAUTION TO PROTECT ENVIRONMENT ○ CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL – SOURCE(S) ○ EROSION AND SEDIMENTATION CONTROL PLAN	
WATER			
• Loss or change in extent of permafrost	• Realignment of Christina Creek upstream of the	**The Applicant proposed the following mitigations in the Applications:**	Based on the described mitigations, it is the Board's opinion that the proposed activities will not have a significant adverse impact on the

Potential Impact	Activity	Proposed Mitigations *Description of measures to reduce potential impacts, including consideration of cumulative impacts and climate change.*	Board Analysis and Determination
• Changes in seasonal fluctuations of permafrost • Change in persistence of permafrost • Surface water flow or level changes (permanent, temporary, seasonal) • Surface water drainage pattern changes • Changes in surface water quality	existing bridge to allow for widening of the bridge approaches and to prevent erosion, including placement of rip rap • Construction and operation of a camp for office and Project personnel to stay during road construction. • Modification of the bank or bed of a watercourse by infilling. • Depositing of Wastewater from the Wastewater Treatment Facilities to Sumps.	• Laydowns, staging, camp buildings, quarry, contaminant storage, and equipment wash areas ≥100 m from OHWM unless an Inspector/DFO authorizes work closer than this. • Maintenance ≥30 m from OHWM. If equipment must work inside 30 m, clean and service it first. • No grading of stream banks at approaches. Keep a 30 m vegetated buffer where possible. • Remove cut vegetation from within 100 m of water so it cannot enter the channel. • Stockpiles and spoil ≥30 m from water, with erosion and sediment control (ESC). • ESC in place before work and before freshet; inspect and repair; remove non-biodegradable controls after the site is stable. • Silt fence downgradient where needed. Direct ponded water and site drainage away from watercourses. • Stop work in high rainfall/runoff. • Size culverts for the 1-in-100-year flood; add equalization culverts to prevent ponding; use riprap and geotextile at culverts.	environment, and will not be a cause of public concern.

Potential Impact	Activity	Proposed Mitigations *Description of measures to reduce potential impacts, including consideration of cumulative impacts and climate change.*	Board Analysis and Determination
	• Sourcing, withdrawal, and use of Water from Canyon Creek, Francis Creek, Helava Creek, Christina Creek and Prohibition Creek when sufficient flow is available to support (**camp use)** and road construction activities during unfrozen conditions.	• Observe drainage during construction and add cross-drains or erosion protection if needed. • Riprap at Christina Creek to be free of silt and debris. • Exposed soils: erosion-control blankets, revegetate the following spring; in permafrost, do not use measures that cause thaw or frost heave. • Track all water use under the Water Licence. Direct Project water use is anticipated to be less than 299 m^3/day. • Use the Mackenzie River as the primary source. Use Christina Creek and other listed creeks only when flow allows (typically May to October). • Do not withdraw more than 10 percent of instantaneous flow when flow is greater than 30 percent of mean annual discharge, and do not reduce flow below 30 percent MAD. • Screen intakes to DFO end-of-pipe and water-truck fish-screen criteria. • Do not release Project effluent to the Mackenzie River or other drinking-water sources. • Any quantity near or in a waterbody is immediately reportable to the NWT 24-Hour Spill Report Line at (867) 920-8130.	

Potential Impact	Activity	Proposed Mitigations *Description of measures to reduce potential impacts, including consideration of cumulative impacts and climate change.*	Board Analysis and Determination
		• On water, deploy sorbent booms. On a narrow stream, place boom across the channel downstream and anchor both banks. • If product moves under ice, auger to define the plume, use a vacuum truck if feasible, notify agencies, and implement a post-break-up monitoring and reclamation plan. • Machinery working below the ordinary high-water mark is to use biodegradable hydraulic fluid. • Do not discharge sewage to land or water. Haul sewage to the approved facility in Norman Wells. • Manage greywater in holding tanks for offsite haul, or treat and discharge only to a properly sited sump that meets licence conditions. **Applicant Responses to Reviewer Comments:** **Applicant Response to SRRB Comment ID#1:** GNWT-INF appreciates the time spent on the review. The availability of flow in streams will be confirmed though field measurement. For sources other than the Mackenzie River, no more than 10% of the instantaneous flow will be taken when flows are greater than 30% of the mean annual discharge, unless otherwise approved by Fisheries and Oceans Canada.	

Potential Impact	Activity	Proposed Mitigations *Description of measures to reduce potential impacts, including consideration of cumulative impacts and climate change.*	Board Analysis and Determination
		The Board has standard permit and licence conditions that are typically used to mitigate the identified potential impacts. These standard conditions include:[9] ○ CAMP SETBACK ○ QUARRY SETBACK ○ PARALLEL WATERCOURSE SETBACK ○ STORAGE ON ICE ○ CULVERT SIZE ○ PERMAFROST PROTECTION ○ NATURAL DRAINAGE ○ STREAM BANKS ○ MINIMIZE APPROACH ○ DRY FORDING ○ EQUIPMENT: WATERCOURSE BUFFER ○ EXCAVATION SETBACK ○ SEWAGE – DISPOSAL ○ FUEL STORAGE SETBACK ○ FUEL CONTAINMENT ○ FUEL ON LAND ○ MAXIMUM FUEL ON SITE ○ MEASURE WATER USE AND WASTE DISPOSED ○ WATER SOURCE AND MAXIMUM VOLUME ○ MAXIMUM WATER WITHDRAWAL – LOTIC WATER SOURCES ○ WATER WITHDRAWAL – FACILITIES ○ WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN ○ PERMAFROST PROTECTION PLAN	

[9] See the SLWB Policies and Resources webpage to access the LWB *Standard Water Licence Conditions Template* and LWB *Standard Land Use Permit Conditions Template.*

Potential Impact	Activity	Proposed Mitigations *Description of measures to reduce potential impacts, including consideration of cumulative impacts and climate change.*	Board Analysis and Determination
		○ EROSION AND SEDIMENTATION CONTROL PLAN ○ DISPOSAL LOCATION – ORDINARY HIGH-WATER MARK ○ OBJECTIVE – PREVENT WASTE INTO WATER ○ MATERIAL STORAGE – ORDINARY HIGH-WATER MARK ○ OBJECTIVE – WASTE AND WATER MANAGEMENT ○ SPILL PREVENTION AND RESPONSE EQUIPMENT ○ OBJECTIVE – CONSTRUCTION ○ COMPLY WITH SURVEILLANCE NETWORK PROGRAM ○ ANNUAL WATER LICENCE REPORT ○ ALL WASTE	
AIR			
• Changes in air quality • Harm to living things • Increased greenhouse gases	• Realignment of Christina Creek upstream of the existing bridge to allow for widening of the bridge approaches and to prevent erosion, including placement of rip rap • Construction and operation of a camp for office and Project personnel to stay	**The Applicant proposed the following mitigations in the Applications:** • Apply water for dust suppression in accordance with the GNWT Guideline for Dust Suppression (2013). • Enforce a 50 km/h speed limit on unfinished or dusty surfaces and control loads. • Use blast mats during quarry blasting. • Keep equipment well maintained and in good operating condition, including mufflers. • Minimize unnecessary idling. • Limit vehicle movements where practical.	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.

Potential Impact	Activity	Proposed Mitigations *Description of measures to reduce potential impacts, including consideration of cumulative impacts and climate change.*	Board Analysis and Determination
	during road construction. • Modification of the bank or bed of a watercourse by infilling. • Depositing of Wastewater from the Wastewater Treatment Facilities to Sumps. • Sourcing, withdrawal, and use of Water from Canyon Creek, Francis Creek, Helava Creek, Christina Creek and Prohibition Creek when sufficient flow is available to support (**camp use)** and road	• Treat dust as a pathway to vegetation, nests, and water as well as an amenity issue. **Applicant Responses to Reviewer Comments:** N/A – no comments raised during the review regarding air. **The Board has standard permit and licence conditions that are typically used to mitigate the identified potential impacts. These standard conditions include:**[10] ○ USE APPROVED EQUIPMENT ○ NOTIFICATION – CONMMENCEMENT ○ NOTIFICATION – RE-COMMENCEMENT	

[10] See the SLWB Policies and Resources webpage to access the LWB *Standard Water Licence Conditions Template* and LWB *Standard Land Use Permit Conditions Template*.

Potential Impact	Activity	Proposed Mitigations *Description of measures to reduce potential impacts, including consideration of cumulative impacts and climate change.*	Board Analysis and Determination
	construction activities during unfrozen conditions.		
VEGETATION			
• Direct loss of vegetation • Loss of Species at Risk or may-be-at-risk plants • Change in species composition • Introduction of non-native (invasive) species • Effects on plant health (dust, metals, toxins)	• Realignment of Christina Creek upstream of the existing bridge to allow for widening of the bridge approaches and to prevent erosion, including placement of rip rap • Construction and operation of a camp for office and Project personnel to stay during road construction.	**The Applicant proposed the following mitigations in the Applications:** • Limit clearing to the approved footprint (approximately 67 ha in the Project Description Report). Limit quarry overburden stripping to active faces. • Use fill-only construction so adjacent ground and root mats remain intact where possible. • Prefer winter clearing. Retain organics. Where vegetation is cut but not removed, cut more than 10 cm above ground so roots remain. • Keep riparian vegetation wherever possible and limit removal to right-of-way width. • Stack merchantable timber (butt size 12 cm or greater) for public salvage and advertise availability. • Progressively reclaim and revegetate temporary areas, the infilled Christina Creek channel, and the north bank of the new channel.	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.

Potential Impact	Activity	Proposed Mitigations *Description of measures to reduce potential impacts, including consideration of cumulative impacts and climate change.*	Board Analysis and Determination
	• Modification of the bank or bed of a watercourse by infilling. • Depositing of Wastewater from the Wastewater Treatment Facilities to Sumps. • Sourcing, withdrawal, and use of Water from Canyon Creek, Francis Creek, Helava Creek, Christina Creek and Prohibition Creek when sufficient flow is available to support (**camp use)** and road construction activities during	• Use native species. Do not plant noxious or invasive species. • Clean equipment before it arrives on site. Remove invasive plants if they are found. • Use dust suppression and blast mats so dust does not smother vegetation (main fallout expected within about 10 m of the footprint). • Christina Creek offsetting: achieve 85 percent riparian planting survival at year five; replant if that criterion is not met. **Applicant Responses to Reviewer Comments:** N/A – no comments raised during the review regarding vegetation. **The Board has standard permit and licence conditions that are typically used to mitigate the identified potential impacts. These standard conditions include:**[11] ○ USE EXISITING CAMP ○ TREE SCREEN ○ BRUSH DISPOSAL/TIME ○ MINIMIZE ARE CLEARED ○ FINAL CLEANUP AND RESTORATION ○ NATURAL VEGETATION ○ PROGRESSIVE RECLAMATION	

[11] See the SLWB Policies and Resources webpage to access the LWB *Standard Water Licence Conditions Template* and LWB *Standard Land Use Permit Conditions Template*.

Potential Impact	Activity	Proposed Mitigations *Description of measures to reduce potential impacts, including consideration of cumulative impacts and climate change.*	Board Analysis and Determination
	unfrozen conditions.		
TERRESTRIAL WILDLIFE HABITAT			
• Direct loss or removal of habitat, dens, or nests • Loss or removal of keystone species and/ or Species at Risk habitat • Fragmentation of wildlife corridor • Direct injury or mortality • Human-wildlife conflicts	• Realignment of Christina Creek upstream of the existing bridge to allow for widening of the bridge approaches and to prevent erosion, including placement of rip rap • Construction and operation of a camp for office and Project personnel to stay during road construction. • Modification of the bank or bed of	**The Applicant proposed the following mitigations in the Applications**: • Use the existing disturbed alignment. Avoid sensitive terrain and waterbodies where possible. • Sequence construction to shorten the area and duration of disturbance. • Respect Wildlife Management and Monitoring Plan and Project Description Report setbacks and sensitive periods (for example, bear dens 800 m for general industrial activity and 1.5 km for blasting, 30 September to 30 March). Species-at-risk buffers are in the Wildlife Monitoring and Management Plan (WMMP). • Do not knowingly breach setbacks without first consulting the responsible agency. • Complete pre-disturbance den and nest surveys (dens and raptors within 1 to 1.5 km; non-intrusive nest searches at the quarry before disruptive work in the nesting season).	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.

Potential Impact	Activity	Proposed Mitigations *Description of measures to reduce potential impacts, including consideration of cumulative impacts and climate change.*	Board Analysis and Determination
	a watercourse by infilling. • Depositing of Wastewater from the Wastewater Treatment Facilities to Sumps. • Sourcing, withdrawal, and use of Water from Canyon Creek, Francis Creek, Helava Creek, Christina Creek and Prohibition Creek when sufficient flow is available to support (**camp use)** and road construction activities during unfrozen conditions.	• Clear outside the migratory-bird window (May to mid-August) where possible. If clearing is required in that window, complete pre-clearing nest surveys and apply buffers with ECC and ECCC. • If an active nest or young are found, stop disruptive work in that area until young have permanently left. Set species-specific buffers with ECC, ECCC, NWRRC, and TRRC. • Screen stockpiles and infrastructure so birds do not nest on them. Do not apply physical deterrents during the nesting season. • Blast only if no large mammals (caribou, moose, muskox) are within 500 m. Sound an air-horn warning first. Apply extra caution in late-winter and calving periods for boreal caribou. • Keep trained wildlife monitors on site during construction. • Keep snowbanks to a maximum of 1 m. Install 10 m breaks in berms or windrows every 300 m. • Give wildlife the right-of-way, keep speeds low, and maintain roadside sight lines. • Workers will not feed, harass, or approach wildlife. Firearms are not permitted except for a designated wildlife monitor. • Project personnel are prohibited from hunting or fishing.	

Potential Impact	Activity	Proposed Mitigations *Description of measures to reduce potential impacts, including consideration of cumulative impacts and climate change.*	Board Analysis and Determination
		• Store waste in wildlife-proof containers and food, grease, and oil in bear-proof storage. Haul waste to Norman Wells. Avoid road salt. • Use fences or lights to keep animals out of the worksite. • Document sightings, conflicts, and incidents. Report mortality of listed species to ECC. • Use untreated sand or gravel for winter traction. • Follow the Spill Contingency Plan and Waste Management Plan so spills and waste do not destroy or bait habitat. • Camp: maintain the 100 m water setback, keep waste wildlife-proof, prevent food conditioning, and use deterrents as needed. **Applicant Responses to Reviewer Comments:** N/A – no comments raised during the review regarding terrestrial wildlife habitat. **The Board has standard permit and licence conditions that are typically used to mitigate the identified potential impacts. These standard conditions include:**[12] ○ CLEAN WORK AREA ○ HABITAT DAMAGE ○ GARBAGE CONTAINER	

[12] See the SLWB Policies and Resources webpage to access the LWB *Standard Water Licence Conditions Template* and LWB *Standard Land Use Permit Conditions Template*.

Potential Impact	Activity	Proposed Mitigations *Description of measures to reduce potential impacts, including consideration of cumulative impacts and climate change.*	Board Analysis and Determination
		○ CARIBOU DISTURBANCE	
AQUATIC HABITAT			
• Effects on health (toxins, metals, sediments, etc.) • Changes to migratory movement patterns • Other	• Realignment of Christina Creek upstream of the existing bridge to allow for widening of the bridge approaches and to prevent erosion, including placement of rip rap • Construction and operation of a camp for office and Project personnel to stay during road construction. • Modification of the bank or bed of a watercourse by infilling.	**The Applicant proposed the following mitigations in the Applications:** • Keep a qualified environmental professional on site at the start of in-water work and throughout construction. Record days and times on site. • Do not conduct in-water work from 1 April to 15 July. Complete work in fall or winter under low-flow or frozen conditions. • Isolate the work area and follow the DFO Interim Code of Practice for temporary cofferdams and diversion channels. • Complete a fish rescue from isolated water before dewatering. Qualified professionals must hold the required licences. • Maintain downstream depth and flow in Christina Creek whenever water is present below the isolation. • Size and monitor bypass pumps. Screen intakes to DFO freshwater end-of-pipe fish-screen guidelines. • Avoid work in the active channel where possible. Keep machinery clean, leak-free, and free of invasive species.	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.

Potential Impact	Activity	Proposed Mitigations *Description of measures to reduce potential impacts, including consideration of cumulative impacts and climate change.*	Board Analysis and Determination
	• Depositing of Wastewater from the Wastewater Treatment Facilities to Sumps. • Sourcing, withdrawal, and use of Water from Canyon Creek, Francis Creek, Helava Creek, Christina Creek and Prohibition Creek when sufficient flow is available to support (**camp use)** and road construction activities during unfrozen conditions.	• Build the new channel to similar length, flow, and habitat as the existing reach. Add woody debris and native vegetation for bank stability. • Install a clay plug in the old channel and leave the old channel to revegetate. • Complete the work to the approved design drawings and authorization conditions. • Follow DFO standards and codes of practice in force at the time of realignment, and letter of advice 21-HCAA-02514. • Immediately upstream of the Christina Creek bridge, widen sections of the former main channel, install wood toe protection and riffles with keystone boulders, and revegetate the infilled channel and the north bank of the new main channel. • Create approximately 806 m^2 of streambed (offset ratio 1:2.2) and 370 m^2 of new riparian habitat of equal or better quality below the ordinary high-water mark. • Performance criteria: 0 to 5 percent undercutting or flanking of wood toe and banks; no loss of wood toe; riffle-boulder function retained; 85 percent planting survival at year five.	

Potential Impact	Activity	**Proposed Mitigations** *Description of measures to reduce potential impacts, including consideration of cumulative impacts and climate change.*	Board Analysis and Determination
		• If criteria are not met: replant or improve growing conditions, repair woody debris and riffles, add bank-stability measures, and continue monitoring. • Visually inspect erosion and sediment controls. Stop work if sediment is escaping until measures are corrected. • When water is present, monitor turbidity at 25 m upstream and 50 m, 100 m, and 200 m downstream (300 m if needed), at three stations across the channel. • Monitor hourly when placing or removing sediment controls and every three hours while working inside isolation. • If downstream turbidity exceeds 8 NTU above baseline, stop removing controls and add site-specific measures. • Water-quality monitoring is not required when watercourses are frozen to the bottom with no flow. • Report to DFO within three months after construction with dated before, during, and after photographs and inspection reports. Document any contingency measures used. • Install culverts in accordance with DFO guidance and minimize bed and bank disturbance.	

Potential Impact	Activity	Proposed Mitigations *Description of measures to reduce potential impacts, including consideration of cumulative impacts and climate change.*	Board Analysis and Determination
		• Apply water-withdrawal screens and flow limits described under Water. • The Project Description Report includes public education as a measure for increased fishing access after the road is built. **Applicant Responses to Reviewer Comments:** • **Applicant Response to SRRB Comment ID#2:** A fish and fish habitat assessment was completed in 2020, including fish assessments for watercourses with no known fish information. Recommendations included in the report identified instream restricted activity timing windows and fish present in the watercourses within the proposed project area. The assessment was included with the application package. Additionally, a Traditional Knowledge study was conducted by the Norman Wells Renewable Resources Council (NWRRC) in 2020 (Canyon Creek to Prohibition Creek Access Road TK Study, 2020), that included one-on-one interviews with five elders from Norman Wells. The Tulit'a Renewable Resources Council (TRRC) also interviewed 20 knowledge holders from Tulit'a (Tulit'a Renewable Resources Council Traditional Knowledge Study Prohibition Creek Access Road, 2020). Both studies included specific questions regarding important areas for fishing, types of fish caught in these areas, and known fish spawning habitats near the proposed project area. Participants indicated spawning whitefish and grayling in Canyon Creek and Prohibition Creek. Local environmental monitors will be present during all project activities. • **Applicant Response to DFO Comment ID#1 and ID#2:**	

Potential Impact	Activity	Proposed Mitigations *Description of measures to reduce potential impacts, including consideration of cumulative impacts and climate change.*	Board Analysis and Determination
		GNWT-INF appreciates the time spent on the review. DFO's recommendations are noted. They will be incorporated into contract documents. **The Board has standard permit and licence conditions that are typically used to mitigate the identified potential impacts. These standard conditions include:[13]** ○ MIGRATORY BIRD NEST DISTURBANCE ○ WATER INTAKE SCREEN ○ NOTIFICATION – CONSTRUCTION	
WILDLIFE HARVESTING			
• Loss or reduction on game species populations • Effects on traditional land use, subsistence, and harvesting rights	• Realignment of Christina Creek upstream of the existing bridge to allow for widening of the bridge approaches and to prevent erosion, including placement of rip rap • Construction and operation of a	**The Applicant proposed the following mitigations in the Applications:** • Prohibit hunting and fishing by Project personnel for the duration of the Project. • Do not permit firearms on site except for a designated wildlife monitor. • Minimize the footprint and avoid sensitive traditional-use areas identified through NWRRC and TRRC traditional knowledge and ongoing engagement. • Apply the wildlife, vegetation, fish, and access controls in this document so harvest species and habitat remain available.	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.

[13] See the SLWB Policies and Resources webpage to access the LWB *Standard Water Licence Conditions Template* and LWB *Standard Land Use Permit Conditions Template*.

Potential Impact	Activity	Proposed Mitigations *Description of measures to reduce potential impacts, including consideration of cumulative impacts and climate change.*	Board Analysis and Determination
	camp for office and Project personnel to stay during road construction. • Modification of the bank or bed of a watercourse by infilling. • Depositing of Wastewater from the Wastewater Treatment Facilities to Sumps. • Sourcing, withdrawal, and use of Water from Canyon Creek, Francis Creek, Helava Creek, Christina Creek and Prohibition Creek when sufficient flow is	• Manage snowbanks and windrows so animals and harvesters can still cross the alignment. • Install wildlife-corridor and speed signage. • Do not store animal carcasses on site. Remove them as directed by GNWT-ECC. • Continue engagement during construction and adjust measures if harvest concerns arise. • Treat improved post-construction access as both a benefit for land users and a risk of higher harvest pressure. The application relies on the personnel hunting and fishing ban plus public education rather than harvest quotas. **Applicant Responses to Reviewer Comments:** N/A – no comments raised during the review regarding harvesting. **The Board has standard permit and licence conditions that are typically used to mitigate the identified potential impacts. These standard conditions include:**[14] ○ REPORTS BEFORE FINAL REMOVAL ○ PRIVATE PROPERTY SETBACK	

[14] See the SLWB Policies and Resources webpage to access the LWB *Standard Water Licence Conditions Template* and LWB *Standard Land Use Permit Conditions Template*.

Potential Impact	Activity	Proposed Mitigations *Description of measures to reduce potential impacts, including consideration of cumulative impacts and climate change.*	Board Analysis and Determination
	available to support (**camp use)** and road construction activities during unfrozen conditions.		
CULTURAL INTEGRITY AND HERITAGE RESOURCES			
• Change to or loss of cultural integrity • Change to or loss of traditional lifestyle	• Realignment of Christina Creek upstream of the existing bridge to allow for widening of the bridge approaches and to prevent erosion, including placement of rip rap • Construction and operation of a camp for office and Project personnel to stay	**The Applicant proposed the following mitigations in the Applications:** • The Project lies in Sahtu Land Use Plan Zone 63 Deh Cho (Mackenzie River) Special Management Zone. Protect graves, archaeological sites, riparian habitat, traditional trails, and community gathering values (Conformity Requirements 1 to 14). • Archaeological impact assessments have been completed at Edie Lake Quarry (2010, 2015, 2017), along the right-of-way (2020), and at the Christina Creek realignment area (2024). • Maintain a 30 m setback from any known or suspected archaeological site. • Implement an Archaeological Site Chance Find Protocol: stop work in the find area and report previously unknown cultural material to the GNWT Territorial Archaeologist.	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.

Potential Impact	Activity	Proposed Mitigations *Description of measures to reduce potential impacts, including consideration of cumulative impacts and climate change.*	Board Analysis and Determination
	during road construction. • Modification of the bank or bed of a watercourse by infilling. • Depositing of Wastewater from the Wastewater Treatment Facilities to Sumps. • Sourcing, withdrawal, and use of Water from Canyon Creek, Francis Creek, Helava Creek, Christina Creek and Prohibition Creek when sufficient flow is available to support (**camp use)** and road	• Avoid cultural sites and important land-use areas in design. Cabins on the Mackenzie River were identified. No known spiritual or ceremonial sites were recorded. Unmarked burials remain possible. • Incorporate Norman Wells RRC and Tulit'a RRC traditional knowledge into design and management plans (SLUP Conformity Requirement 2). • Keep the Engagement Plan in force and continue engagement through construction. • Site the camp and work areas to avoid known cabins and use areas. The 100 m water setback also protects shoreline use. **Applicant Responses to Reviewer Comments:** **Response to GNWT-ECE-PWNHC Comment ID#1:** GNWT-INF appreciates the time spent on the review. GWNT-ECE-PWNHC recommendations are noted. They will be incorporated into contract documents. **The Board has standard permit and licence conditions that are typically used to mitigate the identified potential impacts. These standard conditions include:**[15] ○ ARCHAEOLOGICAL BUFFER ○ AIA – HIGH POTENTIAL	

[15] See the SLWB Policies and Resources webpage to access the LWB *Standard Water Licence Conditions Template* and LWB *Standard Land Use Permit Conditions Template*.

Potential Impact	Activity	Proposed Mitigations *Description of measures to reduce potential impacts, including consideration of cumulative impacts and climate change.*	Board Analysis and Determination
	construction activities during unfrozen conditions.	○ SITE DISTURBANCE ○ SITE DISCOVERY AND NOTIFICATION ○ ARCHAEOLOGICAL OVERVIEW ○ INCORPORATE SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION AND TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE ○ IDENTIFY TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE	
SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC WELL-BEING			
• Economic opportunities or losses (employment, training) • Change in ecological, cultural, social, or economic values identified for protection in approved Land Use Plans • Changes to the use of the area by other non-Indigenous people (e.g., trappers, outfitters,	• Realignment of Christina Creek upstream of the existing bridge to allow for widening of the bridge approaches and to prevent erosion, including placement of rip rap • Construction and operation of a camp for office and Project personnel to stay during road construction.	**The Applicant proposed the following mitigations in the Applications:** • Prefer and promote local and regional contracting and hiring, including drillers, operators, truck drivers, camp staff, wildlife monitors, labourers, and engineering support. • Provide training and accreditation intended to last beyond the construction season. • The completed road is intended to improve access for traditional use and recreation between Canyon Creek and Prohibition Creek. • Enforce a strict no-alcohol and no-drugs policy on Project sites. • Implement a health and safety management plan and keep trained staff available for accidents and spills. • Prepare a traffic management plan. Install clear speed and wildlife signage. Provide temporary bypasses so local travel is not cut off without an alternative.	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.

Potential Impact	Activity	Proposed Mitigations *Description of measures to reduce potential impacts, including consideration of cumulative impacts and climate change.*	Board Analysis and Determination
residents, hunters, forest harvesters, other authorized projects)	• Modification of the bank or bed of a watercourse by infilling. • Depositing of Wastewater from the Wastewater Treatment Facilities to Sumps. • Sourcing, withdrawal, and use of Water from Canyon Creek, Francis Creek, Helava Creek, Christina Creek and Prohibition Creek when sufficient flow is available to support (**camp use)** and road construction activities during unfrozen conditions.	• Recognize and avoid community infrastructure and utilities. • If a camp is used, the contractor must submit a Camp Operations Plan for approval covering location, site plan, occupancy and duration, fuel, waste, water, and closure. Occupancy is up to 75 people for about 18 months. • Prefer existing accommodation in Norman Wells if the contractor does not require a camp, reducing new social footprint. • Direct all media and public questions on incidents to the Contractor Project Manager or GNWT Infrastructure. Workers will not speculate on fault, volume, or schedule. • Continue engagement with community and regional organizations and add mitigations if drug and alcohol, family, language, or harvest-access problems appear. • Operate any camp in accordance with the Northern Land Use Guidelines for Camp and Support Facilities and the approved Waste Management Plan and Spill Contingency Plan. • Use wildlife-proof waste storage and haul sewage to Norman Wells. • At closure, remove buildings, fuel, waste, and wastewater works and restore a stable surface.	

Potential Impact	Activity	Proposed Mitigations *Description of measures to reduce potential impacts, including consideration of cumulative impacts and climate change.*	Board Analysis and Determination
		Applicant Responses to Reviewer Comments: N/A – no comments raised during the review regarding socio-economic. **The Board has standard permit and licence conditions that are typically used to mitigate the identified potential impacts. These standard conditions include:**[16] ○ TRANSFER OF LIABILITIES ○ ENGAGEMENT PLAN ○ SUBMIT CURRENT PROJECT SCHEDULE	

[16] See the SLWB Policies and Resources webpage to access the LWB *Standard Water Licence Conditions Template* and LWB *Standard Land Use Permit Conditions Template*.

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 and licence conditions and 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.

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 Licence and Permit were 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 thus far, 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 October 18, 2026, the Board can issue the Permit and Licence on October 19, 2026.

Valerie Gordon

OCTOBER 8, 2026

Valerie Gordon, Chair
Sahtú Land and Water Board

Date