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January 21, 2020

File: MV2019X0028

Mr. Mark Cliffe-Phillips
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board
200 Scotia Centre
Box 938, 5102-50th Avenue
Yellowknife NT X1A 2N7

Sent by email

Dear Mr. Cliffe-Phillips,

**Re: Miscellaneous – Government of the Northwest Territories – Environment and Natural Resources–
Notice of Preliminary Screening Determination – Application for Land Use Permit – Groundwater Well
Installation – Bretzlaff Drive Yellowknife**

The Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board (Board) met on January 16, 2020 and considered the Application from the Government of the Northwest Territories – Environment and Natural Resources (GNWT-ENR) for a Land Use Permit (Permit) for groundwater well installation at Bretzlaff Drive in Yellowknife, NT (Project) in accordance with the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act* (MVRMA).

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

If the Board does not receive notice of referral to environmental assessment, it can proceed with issuance of Permit MV2019X0028 on **Monday February 3, 2020**.

Our Board and staff look forward to continued communications throughout the pause period. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this letter, please contact Shelagh Montgomery at (867) 766-7457.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mavis Cli-Michaud".

Mavis Cli-Michaud
Chair, Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board

Copied to: Distribution List
Dave Abernethy – GNWT – Environment and Natural Resources

Attached: Preliminary Screening Reasons for Decision

Preliminary Screening Report Form

Preliminary screener: MVLWB Reference / File MV2019X0028 number: TITLE: Soil Testing ORGANIZATION: Government of the Northwest Territories – Environment and Natural Resources MEETING DATE: January 16, 202	EIRB Reference number:
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Type of Development:
(CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | New |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Amend, EIRB Ref. # |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Requires permit, licence, or authorization |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Does not require permit, licence, or authorization |

Project Summary:

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) is applying for a Land Use Permit (LUP) to install three groundwater monitoring wells at the former Yellowknife Helibase located in Bretzlaff Drive, Yellowknife, NT. The project will include, borehole drilling, creation of excavations for test pits, design and installation of monitoring wells, as well as monitoring well development and survey. This work is being completed to monitor groundwater quality and increase the understanding of the environmental conditions of the site.

Equipment

- 1 - Drill Rig
- 1 - Excavator
- 1 - Backhoe
- 1- Support Truck

Scope:

Drilling for the installation, operation and monitoring of water monitoring wells;

Land Use Eligibility - Section 18 Mackenzie Valley Land Use Regulations:

Type of Disposition

Disposition Number(s)

- Mineral Claims
- Prospecting Permit (s)
- Mineral Leases
- Oil and Gas: EL/SDL/PL
- Quarry Permit
- Timber Permit
- Other:

GNWT- ENR Former Helibase – Commissioners Lands

Principal Activities (related to scoping) (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Construction | <input type="checkbox"/> Exploration | <input type="checkbox"/> Decommissioning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Installation | <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial | <input type="checkbox"/> Abandonment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Maintenance | <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation | <input type="checkbox"/> Aerial |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Expansion | <input type="checkbox"/> Municipal | <input type="checkbox"/> Harvesting |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Operation | <input type="checkbox"/> Quarry | <input type="checkbox"/> Camp |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Repair | <input type="checkbox"/> Linear / Corridor | <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific/ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Research | <input type="checkbox"/> Sewage | <input type="checkbox"/> Solid Waste |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water Intake | | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: Groundwater Monitoring
Well Instillation | | |

Principal Development Components (related to scoping) (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Access Road | <input type="checkbox"/> construction | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Waste Management | <input type="checkbox"/> disposal of hazardous waste |
| <input type="checkbox"/> abandonment/removal | <input type="checkbox"/> modification e.g., widening, straightening | <input type="checkbox"/> waste generation | <input type="checkbox"/> sewage |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Automobile, Aircraft or Vessel Movement | | <input type="checkbox"/> disposal of sewage | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Blasting | | <input type="checkbox"/> Geoscientific Sampling | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Building | | <input type="checkbox"/> Trenching | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Burning | | <input type="checkbox"/> Diamond drill | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Burying | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Borehole core sampling | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Channelling | | <input type="checkbox"/> Bulk soil sampling | <input type="checkbox"/> gravel |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cut and Fill | | <input type="checkbox"/> hydrological Testing | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cutting of Trees or Removal of Vegetation | | <input type="checkbox"/> Site Restoration | <input type="checkbox"/> fertilization |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dams and Impoundments | <input type="checkbox"/> construction | <input type="checkbox"/> grubbing | <input type="checkbox"/> planting/seeding |
| <input type="checkbox"/> abandonment/removal | <input type="checkbox"/> modification | <input type="checkbox"/> reforestation | <input type="checkbox"/> scarify |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ditch Construction | | <input type="checkbox"/> spraying | <input type="checkbox"/> re-contouring |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Drainage Alteration | | <input type="checkbox"/> Slashing and removal of vegetation | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Drilling other than Geoscientific | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Soil Testing | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ecological Surveys | | <input type="checkbox"/> Stream Crossing/Bridging | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Excavation | | <input type="checkbox"/> Tunnelling/Underground | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Explosive Storage | | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fuel Storage | | | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Topsoil, Overburden or Soil | <input type="checkbox"/> fill | | |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> disposal | | |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> removal | | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> storage | | |

NTS topographic map sheet numbers:

85J/08

Latitude / longitude and UTM system:

114°20'57.41"

114°21'06.30"

62°27'46.47"

62°27'43.73"

Nearest community and water body:

City of Yellowknife, NT

Great Slave Lake

Land Status (consultation information)

- Free Hold/Private Commissioner's/Territorial Lands Federal Crown Land Municipal Land

Transboundary/Transregional Implications

- | | | | |
|---|--|---|--------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> British Columbia | <input type="checkbox"/> Alberta | <input type="checkbox"/> Saskatchewan | <input type="checkbox"/> Yukon |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nunavut | <input type="checkbox"/> National Park | <input type="checkbox"/> Inuvialuit Settlement Region | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wek'èezhii | <input type="checkbox"/> Gwich'in | <input type="checkbox"/> Sahtu | |

Type of transboundary implication: Impact / Effect Development

Public concern: _____
(Describe.)

Physical - Chemical Effects

Impact	Mitigation
1) Ground Water	

water table alteration

water quality changes

There is the potential for the operation to have impacts on the water quality through the deposit of hydrocarbons. With the implementation of a Spill Contingency Plan the risk are lowered and mitigations are in place.

infiltration changes

other:

N/A

Impact

Mitigation

2) Surface Water

flow or level changes

water quality changes

Flowing artesian wells may be encountered, which may impact the surface water quality if the groundwater is contaminated. To mitigate this risk, ENR will be required to plug the borehole to prevent outflow of water.

There is the potential for the operation to have impacts on the water quality through the deposit of hydrocarbons. With the implementation of a Spill Contingency Plan the risk are lowered and mitigations are in place.

water quantity changes

drainage pattern changes

temperature

wetland changes/loss

other:

N/A

Impact

Mitigation

3) Noise

noise in/near water

noise increase

Drilling activities will occur short in duration; thus noise increase is short-termed and temporary. Adjacent land users will be notified prior to drilling. No mitigations proposed.

other:

N/A

Impact

Mitigation

4) Land

geologic structure changes

soil contamination

Drill cuttings may potentially be contaminated. Upon project completion, they will be disposed off site at an appropriate facility.

The risk of spills or leaks from heavy machinery for well installation will be mitigated through preventative actions and secondary containment, where appropriate. The spill plan outlines procedures in case of a spill and spill kits will be available on site. All refuelling activities will occur offsite.

buffer zone loss

soil compaction and settling

The use of heavy equipment on site for soil sampling and well installation may cause some soil compaction. Impacts will be mitigated through the use of existing roads, where possible and the limitation of vehicle or equipment movement on sensitive land features. The anticipated footprint of the work is limited to a previously developed site.

destabilization/erosion

Drilling and removal of soil from the ground in the form of borehole drilling could negatively affect soil stability and quality. Boreholes will be maintained in place until the site is fully remediated. A track mounted drill rig is proposed to create boreholes. This type of equipment will ensure that the risk of erosion will be negligible. No riparian areas will be affected and little to no vegetation will be removed for access

permafrost regime alteration

explosives/scarring

other:

N/A

Impact

5) Non-renewable natural resources

Mitigation

resource depletion

other:

N/A

Impact

6) Air/climate/atmosphere

Mitigation

other:

N/A

BIOLOGICAL ENVIRONMENT

Impact

1) Vegetation

Mitigation

species composition

species introduction

toxin/heavy accumulation

other: Linear Migration routes, habitat fragmentation

N/A

Impact

2) Wildlife and Fish

Mitigation

effects on rare, threatened or endangered species

fish population changes

waterfowl population

changes

- breeding disturbance
- population reduction
- species diversity change
- health changes
- behavioural changes
- habitat changes / effects
- game species effects
- toxins/ heavy metals
- forestry changes
- agricultural changes
- other:
- N/A

Interacting Environment

Impact

Mitigation

1) Habitat and Communities

- predator-prey
- wildlife habitat/ecosystem composition changes
- reduction/removal of keystone or endangered species
- removal of wildlife corridor or buffer zone
- other:
- N/A

Impact

Mitigation

2) Social and Economic

- planning/zoning changes or conflicts
- increase in urban facilities or services use
- rental house
- airport operations/capacity changes
- human health hazard
- impair the recreational use of water or aesthetic quality

- affect water use for other purposes
- affect other land use operations
- quality of life changes
- public concern
- other:
- N/A

Impact

3) Cultural and Heritage

Mitigation

- effects to historic property
- increased economic pressure on historic properties
- change to or loss of historic resources
- change to or loss of archaeological resources
- increased pressure on archaeological sites
- change to or loss of aesthetically important sites
- effects to aboriginal lifestyle
- other:
- N/A

- Pursuant to Schedule 4.1 of the **Northwest Territory Métis Nation (NWTMN)** Interim Measures Agreement, the MVLWB determined that written notice was given to the NWTMN and that a reasonable period of time was allowed for NWTMN to make representations with respect to the application.
- Pursuant to subsection 1.6, paragraphs (a) and (b) of the **Akaiicho Territory Dene First Nations (ATDFN)** Interim Measures Agreement, the MVLWB determined that written notice was given to the ATDFN and that a reasonable period of time was allowed for ATDFN to make representations with respect to the Application.

Preliminary Screener / Referring Body Information

Akaitcho IMA Implementation Office
Bathurst Inlet Development Ltd.
Bathurst Inlet Lodge
Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency - NWT Region
City of Yellowknife
Dene Nation
Deninu K'ue First Nation
Det'on Cho Corporation
Environment and Climate Change Canada
Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Fort Resolution Metis Council
Forward Mining
GNWT - ENR (Environment and Natural Resources)
GNWT - ENR - EAM (Environmental Assessment and Monitoring)
GNWT - ENR - North Slave Region
GNWT - ENR - South Slave Region - Fort Smith
GNWT - Executive and Indigenous Affairs
GNWT - HSS (Health and Social Services)
GNWT - INF (Infrastructure)
GNWT - ITI (Industry, Tourism and Investment)
GNWT - Lands
GNWT - Lands - Hay River Region
GNWT - Lands - North Slave Region
GNWT - Lands - South Slave Region - Fort Smith
GNWT - MACA (Municipal and Community Affairs)

GNWT - PPCA (Policy, Planning, Communications and Analysis (w/in ITI))
GNWT - PWNHC (Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre (w/in ECE))
Golder Associates
Hamlet of Fort Resolution
INAC - CARD
INAC - NWT Inspectors
INAC - Yellowknife
Katlodeeche First Nation
Lutsel K'e Dene First Nation - Chief or Wildlife, Lands and Environment
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board
Manitoba Denesuline
New Nadina Explorations Limited
North Slave Metis Alliance
Northwest Territory Metis Nation
NWT & Nunavut Chamber of Mines
NWT- OROGO
Salt River First Nation
Smith's Landing First Nation
Snap Lake Environmental Monitoring Agency (SLEMA)
Tłı̨chǫ Government
Tłı̨chǫ Lands Protection Department
Town of Fort Smith
Town of Hay River
Wek' eezhii Renewable Resources Board
West Point First Nation
WLWB
Wood
Yellowknives Dene First Nation

Reasons For Decision

(List all reasons and supporting rationales for preliminary screening decision)

DECISION

The Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board (the Board) is satisfied that the preliminary screening of Application MV2019X0028 – GNWT – Environment and Natural Resources – Miscellaneous has been completed in accordance with section 125 of the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act* (MVRMA).

The Board is satisfied that communities and First Nations affected by the Application have been notified and provided adequate time to provide comment on the Application as required by land claim and self government agreements, the MVRMA, policy directions relating to Interim Measures Agreements, and any other applicable legislation and agreements.

Having reviewed all relevant evidence on the Public Registry, including the submissions of the Applicant, the written comments received by the Board and any Staff Reports prepared for the Board, the Board has decided that in its opinion:

- The proposed development will not have a significant adverse impact on the environment; and
- The proposed development is not a cause of public concern.

The Board is also of the opinion that the Application can proceed through the regulatory process and that any impacts of the development on the environment can be mitigated through conditions of a land use permit.

Preliminary Screening Decision	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Outside Local Government Boundaries
<input type="checkbox"/>	The development proposal might have a significant adverse impact on the environment, <i>refer it to the EIRB.</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Proceed with regulatory process and/or implementation.</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	The development proposal might have public concern, <i>refer it to the EIRB.</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Proceed with regulatory process and/or implementation.</i>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Wholly Within Local Government Boundaries
<input type="checkbox"/>	The development proposal is likely to have a significant adverse impact on air, water or renewable resources, <i>refer it to the EIRB.</i>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Proceed with regulatory process and/or implementation.</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	The development proposal might have public concern, <i>refer it to the EIRB.</i>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Proceed with regulatory process and/or implementation.</i>

Preliminary Screening Organization

Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board

January 16, 2020

Signatures

Mavis Cli-Michaud, Chair