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July 16, 2019

File: W2017C0001

JoAnne Deneron
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board
200 Scotia Center
Box 938, 5102 - 50th Avenue
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2N7

Sent via Email

Dear JoAnne Deneron,

Re: Notice of Preliminary Screening Determination – Amendment Request for Permit W2017C0001 – Mineral Exploration at Lac de Gras, NT

The Wek'èezhìi Land and Water Board (Board) met on July 16, 2019 and considered the Amendment Request from North Arrow Minerals Inc. (North Arrow) to include six additional mineral claims in its Loki Project.

The Board conducted a preliminary screening based on the Amendment Application and the public review. Based on the evidence provided, the Board is satisfied the screening has been completed as per section 125(1) of the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act* (MVRMA) and has decided **not to refer** the project to environmental assessment. The Preliminary Screening Report includes the Board's reasons for decision, as required by section 121 of the MVRMA.

To fulfill the pause period required by subsection 125 of the MVRMA, the Board understands that any referral to environmental assessment must take place by end of day on July 26, 2019. If the Board does not receive notice of referral, it will proceed with the issuance of Permit W2017C0001 on July 27, 2019.

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 Ryan Fequet at (867) 765-4589 or email rfequet@wlwb.ca.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joe Mackenzie".

Joe Mackenzie
Chair, WLWB

Copied to: Mark Cliffe-Phillips – MVEIRB Executive Director
Michael Macmorran – North Arrow
Wek'èezhii East Distribution List

Attached: Preliminary Screening Report and Reasons for Decision



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PRELIMINARY SCREENING REPORT FORM

<p>PRELIMINARY SCREENER: WLWB REFERENCE / FILE NUMBER: W2017C0001 TITLE: Mineral Exploration, Lac de Gras ORGANIZATION: North Arrow Minerals Inc. MEETING DATE: July 16, 2019</p>	<p>EIRB REFERENCE NUMBER: _</p>
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Type of Development:
 (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

- New
- Amend, EIRB Ref. # _____
- Requires permit, license or authorization
- Does not require permit, license or authorization

Project Summary

North Arrow Minerals Inc. (North Arrow) submitted an application for a Type A Land Use Permit to the Wek'èezhii Land and Water Board (WLWB) on January 12, 2017. The purpose of this land use application is for diamond exploration with a focus on drilling and potential for concurrent geophysics, soil sampling, geological mapping and prospecting in the Lac De Gras region. The proposed base of operations for field programs will be a pre-existing exploration camp located near to the property with helicopter support.

Added on November 24, 2017: North Arrow submitted an Amendment Request for their Type A Land Use Permit to the WLWB on October 5, 2017. The purpose of this amendment was to include four additional claims (M10116, M10117, M10118, and M10119) to their Loki Project.

Added on July 16, 2019: North Arrow submitted an Amendment Request for their Type A Land Use Permit to the WLWB on June 7, 2019. The purpose of this amendment was to include six additional claims (MM1, MM2, MM3, MM4, MM5, and MM6) to their Loki Project.

Area: Lac de Gras, NT

Timeframe: Operations will continue to be periodic and will depend on available resources, weather, market conditions, etc.

Scope

This Permit entitles North Arrow Minerals Inc. to conduct the following land-use operation:

- a) Diamond drilling including diamond core and reverse circulation (RC) drilling; and,
- b) use and storage of fuel

Principal Activities (related to scoping)

(CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Construction | <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Aerial |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Expansion | <input type="checkbox"/> Municipal | <input type="checkbox"/> Harvesting |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Operation | <input type="checkbox"/> Quarry | <input type="checkbox"/> Camp |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Repair | <input type="checkbox"/> Linear / Corridor | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scientific/ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Research | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water Intake | <input type="checkbox"/> Sewage | <input type="checkbox"/> Solid Waste |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other: | | |

Principal Development Components (related to scoping)

- Access Road
- construction
- abandonment/removal
- modification e.g., widening, straightening
- Automobile, Aircraft or Vessel Movement
- Blasting
- Building
- Burning
- Burying
- Channeling
- Cut and Fill
- Cutting of Trees or Removal of Vegetation
- Dams and Impoundments
 - construction
 - abandonment/removal
 - modification
- Ditch Construction
- Drainage Alteration
- Drilling other than Geoscientific
- Ecological Surveys
- Excavation
- Explosive Storage
- Fuel Storage
- Topsoil, Overburden or Soil
 - fill
 - disposal
 - removal
 - storage

- Waste Management
- disposal of hazardous waste
- waste generation
- Sewage
- disposal of sewage
- Geoscientific Sampling
- trenching
- diamond drill
- borehole core sampling
- bulk soil sampling
 - Gravel
 - Hydrological Testing
- Site Restoration
 - fertilization
 - grubbing
 - planting/seeding
 - reforestation
 - scarify
 - spraying
 - recontouring
- Slashing and removal of vegetation
- Soil Testing
- Stream Crossing/Bridging
- Tunneling/Underground
- Other (describe):

NTS Topographic Map Sheet Numbers

NTS map sheet 76D

Latitude / Longitude and UTM System:

117°15'30.179"W 64°31'7.288"N

116°47'31.157"W 64°21'10.48"N

Amended the coordinates, Latitude / Longitude and UTM System, as per North Arrow's October 5, 2017 application.

North West Corner: -111.25831183732441, 64.518326

North East Corner: -110.72918936785221, 64.518303

South East Corner: -110.73081388038553, 64.353193

South West Corner: -111.25676229928587, 64.353215

Amended the coordinates, Latitude / Longitude as per North Arrow's June 7, 2019 Amendment Request.

Minimum Latitude – N64°22'25.00

Minimum Longitude – W111°14'54. 25

Maximum Latitude – N64°32'28.00

Maximum Longitude – W110°44'25. 45

Nearest Community and Water Body:

Wekweèti and Lac de Gras

Land Status (*consultation information*)

- Free Hold / Private
- Commissioners/Territorial Land
- Federal Crown Land
- Municipal Land
- Tliche Lands

Transboundary Implications

British Columbia
 Nunavut

Alberta
 Wood Buffalo National Park

Saskatchewan
 Inuvialuit Settlement Region

Yukon

Type of Transboundary Implication: Impact / Effect Development

Public Concern _____
(DESCRIBE)

PHYSICAL - CHEMICAL EFFECTS

IMPACT

1. Ground Water

- water table alteration
- water quality changes
- infiltration changes
- other
- N/A

MITIGATION

IMPACT

2. Surface Water

- flow or level changes
- water quality changes
- water quantity changes
- Drainage pattern changes
- temperature
- wetland changes / loss
- other:
- N/A

MITIGATION

Drill wastes and/or fuel may enter waterbody. Land use conditions included to locate all sumps a minimum of 100 m from normal high-water mark. Proponent will have spill kits available and a Spill Contingency Plan is in place.

IMPACT

3. Noise

- noise in/near water
- other: noise increase
- N/A

MITIGATION

Wildlife and particularly caribou activity will be monitored to ensure that drilling activity does not cause a disruption to migration, calving, nesting, hibernation or other activities. Drilling will be halted if caribou are seen in the area (within 800 m) and recommenced once animals have moved out of the area.

Drill program will be heli-portable and of short duration – 2 to 3 weeks.

IMPACT

4. Land

- geologic structure changes
- soil contamination
- buffer zone loss
- soil compaction & settling
- Destabilization / erosion
- permafrost regime alteration
- other: explosives/scarring
- N/A

MITIGATION

Drill waste disposal and potential for fuel oil spills. Land Use Conditions included in regard to location of sumps and fuel storage. Proponent will have spill kits available and a Spill Contingency Plan is in place, which includes secondary containment for fuel.

IMPACT

5. Non Renewable Natural Resources

- resource depletion
- other:
- N/A

MITIGATION

IMPACT

6. Air/Climate/ Atmosphere

- Other
- N/A

MITIGATION

Minimal impacts for the duration of the project from use of a helicopter during the 2-3 week program.

BIOLOGICAL ENVIRONMENT

IMPACT

1. Vegetation

- species composition
- species introduction
- toxin / heavy accumulation
- other:
- N/A

MITIGATION

Drill waste disposal and potential for fuel/oil spills. Land Use Condition included for deposit of drill waste. Spill kits with absorbent material for clean-up of fuel/oil spills during fuel transfer. No clearing of vegetation will be conducted. Drill program will be heli-portable and of short duration – 2 to 3 weeks.

IMPACT

2. Wildlife & Fish

- effects on rare, threatened or endangered species
- fish population changes
- waterfowl population changes

MITIGATION

breeding disturbance

Drill program will be heli-portable and of short duration – 2 to 3 weeks. No clearing of vegetation will be conducted for this project.

population reduction

species diversity change

health changes
(Identify)

behavioural changes
(Identify)

habitat changes / effects

game species effects

Potential to encounter migrating caribou. Drill program will be heli-portable and of short duration – 2 to 3 weeks.

Wildlife and particularly caribou activity will be monitored to ensure that drilling activity does not cause a disruption to migration, calving, nesting, hibernation or other activities. Drilling will be halted if caribou are seen in the area (within 800 m) and recommenced once animals have moved out of the area.

toxins / heavy metals

forestry changes

agricultural changes

other:

N/A

INTERACTING ENVIRONMENT

IMPACT

1. Habitat and Communities

predator-prey

MITIGATION

There will be no vegetation clearing for this project. All waste will be stored in the field so that it is inaccessible to wildlife.

wildlife habitat / ecosystem
Composition changes

reduction / removal of keystone
or endangered
species

removal of wildlife corridor or
buffer zone

other:

N/A

IMPACT

2. Social and Economic

MITIGATION

- 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

- 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 site
- effects to aboriginal lifestyle
- other: potential risk to unrecorded archaeological sites
- N/A

MITIGATION

Standard conditions related to conducting an Archaeological Overview and an Archaeological Impact Assessment have been included.

NOTES:

PRELIMINARY SCREENER / REFERRING BODY INFORMATION
(CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

	RA or DRA	ADVICE	PERMIT REQUIRED
Environment Canada	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fisheries and Oceans	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Canadian Heritage (Parks Canada)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Natural Resources Canada	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Public Works and Government Services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Transport Canada	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Northern Oil and Gas Directorate	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Canadian Nuclear Safety	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Industry Canada	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Canadian Transportation Agency	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
National Defense	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GNWT – ENR	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GNWT - MACA	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GNWT - Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Prince of Wales Heritage Center	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
MVEIRB	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
MVLWB	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Deh Cho First Nations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tlicho Government	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Behchoko Community Government	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gameti Community Government	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wekweètì Community Government	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Whati Community Government	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lutsel K'e Dene First Nation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Akaiicho Prescreening Board	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rae-Edzo Metis Local #64	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
North Slave Metis Alliance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Northwest Territory Metis Nation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REASONS FOR DECISION
(LIST ALL REASONS AND SUPPORTING RATIONALES FOR PRELIMINARY SCREENING DECISION)

BACKGROUND:

The WLWB received a request to amend North Arrow's Land Use Permit W2017C0001 on June 7, 2019. The purpose of this Amendment Request is to include six additional claims (MM1, MM2, MM3, MM4, MM5, and MM6) to North Arrow's Loki Project.

Land Use Permit Conditions

A draft Permit was not circulated for review because the Amendment Request did not include any proposed changes to the Permit conditions or to the activities included within the existing Permit. The Permit has however been updated to reflect the MVLWB (2019) *Standard Land Use Permit Conditions Template Version 2 (Standard List)*.

During the review period, the Government of the Northwest Territories, Education, Culture and Employment (GNWT-ECE) submitted a recommendation to include a condition related to the protection of historical, archaeological, and burial sites. This recommendation can be found in the Review Summary and Attachments.¹ To address this, standard conditions related to an Archaeological Overview and an Archaeological Impact Assessment have been included in the Permit (Conditions 78 and 79 from the Standard List). The Board recognizes that an Archaeological Review was conducted in 2014; however, it was confirmed that this review does not constitute an Archaeological Overview for the additional claims as a whole that are being proposed for inclusion as part of the Amendment Request.² At this time, it is unclear whether the 2014 Archaeological Review constitutes an Archeological Overview for the areas currently included in the Permit, but the Board believes that the inclusion of Condition 78 from the Standard List will allow the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre to provide guidance on which areas have been, or should be, subject to an Archeological Overview.

PRELIMINARY SCREENING DECISION:

In accordance with section 124(1) of the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act (MVRMA)*, the Board must conduct a preliminary screening of the Amendment Request. The preliminary screening identifies potential impacts and mitigations for the proposed activities. The test within the preliminary screening is to determine whether the project 'will not have a significant adverse impact on the environment' or 'will not be a cause for public concern.' The Board completed a Preliminary Screening of this request on July 16, 2019, in accordance with Section 125(1) of the MVRMA.

The Board is satisfied that a reasonable period of notice was given to Communities and First Nations affected by the Amendment Request as required by Subsection 63(2) of the MVRMA so that they could provide comments to the Board.

The Board is also satisfied that the Tlicho Government has been consulted in accordance with Section 63 of the MVRMA.

The GNWT-ENR indicated that they had no comments or recommendations at the time; the GNWT-Department of Lands indicated that the GNWT-Lands Administration had no concerns; and the GNWT-Lands Inspector noted their support of the Amendment Request. GNWT-ECE raised one concern during the Public Review, which has been addressed by the inclusion of conditions as discussed above. The Board believes that any impacts of the development on the environment can be mitigated by the existing conditions of the Permit, as well as the inclusion of the conditions mentioned above.

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

- there is no reasonable likelihood that the proposed amendment might have a significant adverse impact on the environment; and
- the proposed amendment is not a cause of public concern.

PRELIMINARY SCREENING DECISION	
<input checked="" 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 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>

¹ See WLWB (www.wlwb.ca) Online Registry for [W2017C0001 - North Arrow - LUP Amendment Application - Review Summary and Attachments - Jul 5 19](#)

² *Ibid.*, pg. 11

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Proceed with regulatory process and/or implementation.</i>
<input 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 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>

Preliminary Screening Organization



Chair, Wek'èezhii Land and Water Board

