



Mr. Mark Cliffe-Phillips
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board
200 Scotia Centre
BOX 938, 5102-50TH AVENUE
YELLOWKNIFE NT X1A 2N7

December 18, 2020

Dear Mr. Cliffe-Phillips:

Notice of Preliminary Screening Determination for the Thaidene Nënë Wildlife Conservation Area

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) has completed the preliminary screening of the referenced application (Project) (attached) based on its mandated responsibilities under Part 5, Section 124 (2) and Section 125 (1) of the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act* (MVRMA).

For the proposed Project, ENR was both the screener and the proponent. The Environmental Assessment and Monitoring (EAM) unit conducted the screening, while the Wildlife and Fish Division was the proponent. During the decision phase, the screener and proponent established a firewall for impartiality.

ENR-EAM is satisfied that:

- The application has been screened pursuant to the MVRMA;
- Reviewers were instructed to submit concerns and comments on whether the proposed Project might:
 - Cause public concern; or
 - Cause a significant adverse environmental impact.

ENR-EAM has determined that the proposed Project is not a cause for public concern and has no potential to cause a significant adverse environmental impact. Therefore, ENR has decided not to refer the proposed establishment of Thaidene Nënë Wildlife Conservation Area to environmental assessment.

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Unless the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board or another party with the authority to do so refers the proposed Project to an environmental assessment, the GNWT will proceed with the next stages of development for the Thaidene Nënë Wildlife Conservation Area after the ten-day pause period has expired.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Ms. Lee Ann Malley, Manager of the EAM Unit at (867) 767-9233 ext. 53095 or LeeAnn_Malley@gov.nt.ca.

Sincerely,



John MacDonald
A/Deputy Minister
Environment and Natural Resources

Attachment.

- c. Mr. Julian Kanigan, Director, Environmental Stewardship and Climate Change
Environment and Natural Resources

Ms. Heather Sayine-Crawford, A/Director, Wildlife and Fish Division
Environment and Natural Resources

Ms. Lee Ann Malley, Manager, Environmental Assessment and Monitoring
Environmental Stewardship and Climate Change, Environment and Natural Resources

Mr. Rob Gau, Manager, Biodiversity Conservation,
Wildlife and Fish Division, Environment and Natural Resources