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September 10, 2020

File: G20X007

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

Sent via email

Dear Mr. Cliffe-Phillips,

**Re: Notice of Preliminary Screening Determination – Application for Land Use Permit
Inuvik Airport Monitoring Wells – Inuvik, NT**

The Gwich'in Land and Water Board (Board) met on September 10, 2020 and considered the Application from Transport Canada for Type A Land Use Permit (Permit) G20X007 for the Inuvik Airport Monitoring Wells in Inuvik, NT, in accordance with the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act* (MVRMA).

The Board conducted a preliminary screening based on the Application and 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 Preliminary Screening Report includes the Board's reasons for decision, as required by section 121 of the MVRMA (attached).

If the Board does not receive notice of referral to environmental assessment, it will proceed with the issuance of Permit G20X007 on September 21, 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 Leonard DeBastien at (867) 777-4954

Yours sincerely,

Elizabeth Wright
Chair, GLWB

Copied to: GLWB Distribution List
Melissa Fraser, Transport Canada

Attached: Preliminary Screening Report, including Reasons for Decision

Preliminary Screening Report Form

<p>Preliminary screener: GLWB</p> <p>Reference / File number: G20X007</p> <p>TITLE: Inuvik Airport Monitoring Wells</p> <p>ORGANIZATION: Transport Canada</p> <p>MEETING DATE: September10, 2020</p>	<p>EIRB</p> <p>Reference number:</p>
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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:

Transport Canada (TC) has submitted a complete application for a type A land use permit (permit). The purpose of this Application is to install groundwater monitoring wells at Inuvik Airport, in Inuvik, NT. This includes the installation of five (5) monitoring wells at the former landfill site, using drill equipment and vehicle.

Scope:

- a) Mobilizing drill rig and support vehicles
- b) Drilling five boreholes and installing ground water monitoring Wells
- c) Purging and sampling wells

Land Use Eligibility - Section 18 Mackenzie Valley Land Use Regulations:
18(b)

Type of Disposition

Disposition Number(s)

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

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

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Construction <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Installation <input type="checkbox"/> Maintenance <input type="checkbox"/> Expansion <input type="checkbox"/> Operation <input type="checkbox"/> Repair <input type="checkbox"/> Research <input type="checkbox"/> Water Intake <input type="checkbox"/> Other: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Exploration <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation <input type="checkbox"/> Municipal <input type="checkbox"/> Quarry <input type="checkbox"/> Linear / Corridor <input type="checkbox"/> Sewage | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Decommissioning <input type="checkbox"/> Abandonment <input type="checkbox"/> Aerial <input type="checkbox"/> Harvesting <input type="checkbox"/> Camp <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scientific/Monitoring <input type="checkbox"/> Solid Waste |
|---|--|--|

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

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Access Road <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> construction <input type="checkbox"/> abandonment/removal <input type="checkbox"/> modification e.g., widening, straightening <input type="checkbox"/> Automobile, Aircraft or Vessel Movement <input type="checkbox"/> Blasting <input type="checkbox"/> Building | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Waste Management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> disposal of hazardous waste <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> waste generation <input type="checkbox"/> sewage <input type="checkbox"/> disposal of sewage <input type="checkbox"/> Geoscientific Sampling <input type="checkbox"/> Trenching |
|--|--|

- Burning
- Burying
- Channelling
- 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

- Diamond drill
- Borehole core sampling
- Bulk soil sampling
 - gravel
 - hydrological Testing
- Site Restoration
 - fertilization
 - grubbing
 - planting/seeding
 - reforestation
 - scarify
 - spraying
 - re-contouring
- Slashing and removal of vegetation
- Soil Testing
- Stream Crossing/Bridging
- Tunnelling/Underground
- Other:

NTS topographic map sheet numbers:

107B07

Latitude / longitude

68.300497, -133.520022

Nearest community and water body:

Inuvik, NT / Dolomite Lake

Land Status (*consultation information*)

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

Transboundary/Transregional Implications

- British Columbia
 Alberta
 Saskatchewan
 Yukon
 Nunavut
 National Park
 Inuvialuit Settlement Region
 Wek'èezhii
 Gwich'in
 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

infiltration changes

No groundwater identified or expected at location

other:

N/A

Impact
2) Surface Water

Mitigation

flow or level changes

water quality changes

Drilling and removal of soil from the ground in the form of borehole drilling could negatively affect soil stability and quality. In turn this could affect surface water run-off.

Anticipated disruption to surface contours and water flow is minimal. After the boreholes have been drilled, they are instrumented with 2" PVC piping and backfilled around the outside of the PVC with a mixture of silica sand and bentonite clay. The backfilling ensures stabilization of the hole and prevents potential collapses.

water quantity changes

drainage pattern changes

temperature

wetland changes/loss

other:

N/A

Impact
3) Noise

Mitigation

noise in/near water

Drilling activities will be short-termed and temporary. No noise mitigations proposed.

noise increase

Drilling activities will be short-termed and temporary. No noise mitigations proposed.

other:

N/A

Impact
4) Land

Mitigation

geologic structure changes

soil contamination

Removing potentially contaminated material during drilling contained in the drill cuttings could cause further contamination of the surrounding area and could potentially impact flora and fauna.

Soil cuttings will be contained onsite during the drilling process and sampled for possible contamination, thereby preventing any migration of contaminants. Upon project completion, soil cuttings will be disposed of offsite at a licensed facility, or returned to drill area depending on sampling results.

- buffer zone loss
- soil compaction and settling
- destabilization/erosion
- permafrost regime alteration
- explosives/scarring
- other:
- N/A

Drilling and removal of soil from the ground in the form of borehole drilling could negatively affect soil stability and quality. Bore holes will be instrumented with 2" PVC piping and backfilled. Backfilling ensures stabilization of the hole and prevents potential collapses.

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

Drilling and removal of soil from the ground in the form of borehole drilling could negatively affect soil stability and quality. Using the same pieces of equipment in different areas increases the risk for cross-contamination to occur.

After the boreholes have been drilled, they are instrumented with 2" PVC piping and backfilled around the outside of the PVC with a mixture of silica sand and bentonite clay. The backfilling ensures stabilization of the hole and prevents potential collapses. The augers used for drilling are cleaned between each hole to prevent any potential cross-contamination from occurring.

- toxin/heavy accumulation
- other: Linear Migration routes, habitat fragmentation
- N/A

Area is already disturbed. Mitigation not necessary.

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

1) Habitat and Communities

Mitigation

- 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

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

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

Reasons For Decision

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

DECISION

The Gwich'in Land and Water Board (the Board) is satisfied that the preliminary screening of Application G20X007, Transport Canada, Inuvik Airport Monitoring Wells, Inuvik NT 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

Gwich'in Land and Water Board

September 10, 2020

Signatures



Elizabeth Wright, Chair