



**Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board**  
**7th Floor - 4922 48th Street**  
**P.O. Box 2130**  
**YELLOWKNIFE NT X1A 2P6**  
**Phone (867) 669-0506**  
**FAX (867) 873-6610**

October 11, 2019

File: MV2019S0022

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

Email: [preliminaryscreening@reviewboard.ca](mailto:preliminaryscreening@reviewboard.ca)  
[mcliffephillips@reviewboard.ca](mailto:mcliffephillips@reviewboard.ca)

Dear Mr. Cliffe-Phillips,

**Re: Notice of Preliminary Screening Determination – Application for Land Use Permit – Drilling Yellowknife, NT**

The Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board (Board) met on October 10, 2019 and considered the Application from SNC-Lavalin Inc. for Type A Land Use Permit (Permit) MV2019S0022 for drilling and groundwater monitoring activities in Yellowknife, 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 MV2019S0022 on Tuesday October 22, 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 Shannon Allerston at (867) 766-7465 or email [sallerston@mvlwb.com](mailto:sallerston@mvlwb.com).

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Elizabeth Wright".

Elizabeth Wright  
Chair, A/MVLWB

Copied: Shannon Allerston, Regulatory Specialist, MVLWB;  
Akaitcho Distribution List;  
Daisy Lung, SNC-Lavalin Inc.;  
Clint Ambrose – Inspector, GNWT-Lands;

Attached: Preliminary Screening Report, including Reasons for Decision

**Preliminary Screening Report Form**

<b>Preliminary screener:</b> MVLWB  <b>Reference / File number:</b> MV2019S0022  <b>TITLE:</b> Drilling <b>ORGANIZATION:</b> SNC-Lavalin Inc.  <b>MEETING DATE:</b> October 10, 2019	<b>EIRB</b>  <b>Reference number:</b>
---	---

**Type of Development:**  
(CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

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

**Project Summary:**

Work scope consists of the completion of up to six boreholes for the purpose of assessing soil and groundwater conditions beneath the site. Depth of the boreholes will range from approximately 13 m to 20 m below grade at Lots 6 and 7, Block 503, at 139 Curry Drive in Kam Lake, Yellowknife. SNC-Lavalin also plan to work on the neighboring properties at 13 Coronation Drive (Lot 28, Block 502, Plan 900) and 15 Coronation Drive (Lot 40, Block 502, Plan 4016) pending access agreements with the owners. The boreholes will be completed with monitoring wells to access and test groundwater at and near the site. Two previously installed groundwater monitoring wells that are no longer in use will also be decommissioned. Once drilling and monitoring are complete, boreholes will be decommissioned and backfilled with bentonite/sand/clay to surface, capped with flush mount casings, and finished to match the surrounding surface area.

There is no proposed camp and no fuel storage associated with the Application. Garbage resulting from use of the area will be removed and deposited in the City of Yellowknife landfill. Arrangements have been made with the City of Yellowknife. Arrangements have also been made to remove and dispose of dill cuttings and slurry off-site at the KBL facility in Yellowknife, NT.

Equipment to be used includes a hydrovac, two drill rigs, and several support trucks; these require diesel but will not be refueled on-site. SNC-Lavalin has applied for a term of five years. The undertaking is anticipated to be completed in about fifteen days between September 2019 and March 2020.

**Scope:**

Drilling and completion of Boreholes to assess groundwater conditions; and Installation of monitoring 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:

Permission to occupy property provided by property owners

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

- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Construction                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Exploration       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Decommissioning |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Installation                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Abandonment     |
| <input checked="" 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 checked="" 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: Environmental investigations |  |   |



- water quality changes
- infiltration changes
- other:

N/A

**Impact**  
**2) Surface Water**

**Mitigation**

- flow or level changes
- water quality changes

There is a minor risk that fuel or contaminated soils or cuttings could potentially be spilled during the operation. Standard conditions requiring spill equipment and adherence to a spill contingency plan will mitigate this risk.

- water quantity changes
- drainage pattern changes
- temperature
- wetland changes/loss
- other:
- N/A

**Impact**  
**3) Noise**

**Mitigation**

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

There will be increased noise during drilling activities. These will be temporary in nature. No mitigation is suggested.

**Impact**  
**4) Land**

**Mitigation**

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

There is a minor risk that fuel or contaminated soils or cuttings could potentially be spilled during the operation. Standard conditions requiring spill equipment and adherence to a spill contingency plan will mitigate this risk.

**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**

**Mitigation**

**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 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 **Akaiitcho 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

### Distribution List

Akaitcho IMA Implementation Office  
Bathurst Inlet Development Ltd.  
Bathurst Inlet Lodge  
CanNor 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  
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  
MVLWB  
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  
Tlicho Government  
Tlicho 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 MV2019S0022, SNC-Lavalin Inc., Geotechnical drilling, Yellowknife, 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.

<b>Preliminary Screening Decision</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Outside Local Government Boundaries</b>
<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 type="checkbox"/>	<b>Wholly Within Local Government Boundaries</b>
<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**

**Signatures**

Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board



October 10, 2019

Elizabeth Wright, A/Chair