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Preliminary Screening Determination and Reasons for Decision

Issued pursuant to section 121 of the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act* (MVRMA)

Land Use Permit Application Preliminary Screening	
Preliminary Screener	MVLWB
Reference/File Number	MV2021J0001
Company	Government of Northwest Territories Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Project	Francois Lake Forestry Camp, NT
Date of Decision	March 11, 2021

These Reasons for Decision set out the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board's (the Board or MVLWB) decision on the preliminary screening of a Type A Land Use Permit Application made by Government of Northwest Territories Department of Environment and Natural Resources (GNWT-ENR) to the Board on January 28, 2020 for Land Use Permit (Permit) MV2021J0001.

1.0 Project Summary

The Francois Lake Forestry Camp was built in the early 1980s and served primarily as a remote forest fire base to train forest firefighters. GNWT-ENR plans to continue to use the Francois Lake Forestry Camp to house and feed forest fire operation personnel working on fires in proximity to the Francois Lake area, which is located approximately 100 km east of Yellowknife. Recently the camp was used to host a meeting of Indigenous governments, and the GNWT expects that there may be similar events occurring at the camp in the future. The site is also used to store jet or aviation fuel drums for future aircraft use. GNWT-ENR has indicated that the camp activities have a low impact on the environment. The size of the camp is close to 1 ha.

The Francois Lake Forestry Camp that currently exists consists of 11 cabins with bunks for guests, a shower building, four outhouses with pits, a main building with a full kitchen and a dining area to hold about 30-40 people. There is also a helicopter landing pad, a float plane dock, a structure to store any hazardous materials and fuel, and a building used as a sauna. The camp will be operational from early June until early September for an average of 14 days per year, and the number of residents would vary from 4 to 49.

For waste management at the Francois Lake Camp, recyclables, and non-burnable garbage will be sent to Yellowknife. Paper and cardboard will be burned on site. Sewage will be collected in pit latrines and treated with lime, and grey water will be captured in a sump behind the kitchen to filter through the soil over time. Empty fuel drums/propane tanks are stored onsite to eventually be hauled back to Yellowknife as soon as possible prior to the winter season. Finally, contaminated absorbent pads are shipped back to Yellowknife for appropriate disposal.

Equipment that will be used onsite will include a pump, generator, outboard motor (to propel the camp boat) and chainsaw. A manual wobble pump will be used for transferring drummed gas to boats, generators, and pumps. An electrical wobble pump will be used to refill the helicopter from drummed fuel. A maximum of 8,815 litres of fuel will be stored onsite, with up to 7,175 litres of aviation fuel stored in 205 L drums (35) and up to 1,640 litres of gasoline stored in 205 L drums (8).

GNWT-ENR indicated that as the Francois Lake Camp is a long-term facility, there are no foreseeable plans to remove the camp anytime soon. Should it be determined to remove the camp, the entire site would be restored to its natural state with all buildings removed.

2.0 Scope of Preliminary Screening

2.1 Scope

- Use of a campsite; and
- Storage of fuel.

2.2 Principal Activities

- Operation; and
- Camp.

2.3 Principal Development Components

- Fuel Storage; and
- Waste Management
 - waste generation
 - sewage
 - disposal of sewage

2.4 NTS topographic map sheet number

085J

2.5 Latitude / longitude and UTM system

NAD 1983 UTM Zone 11V

SW corner: 62.4852° N, -112.40431° W

NE corner: 62.48607° N, -112.40042° W

2.6 Nearest community and water body

Yellowknife; Francois Lake

2.7 Land Status

Tenured Territorial Land Area (Reserve 805I/08-11)

2.8 Transboundary/Transregional Implications

None

3.0 Land Use Eligibility – Section 18 Mackenzie Valley Land Use Regulation

Francois Lake Camp is located in an area that is under an Interim Land Withdrawal status. GNWT-ENR operates Francois Lake Camp under the GNWT Reserve 085I/08-001. Consequently, GNWT-ENR Forestry has been granted permission to access these lands and has the right to occupy under Section 18(b) of the *Mackenzie Valley Land Use Regulations*.

18) A person is eligible for a permit who

- b) in any other case, has a right to occupy the land and either contracts to have the land-use operation carried out or is the person who is to carry out the operation.*

4.0 Public Review

- January 28, 2021 – Application received;
- January 29, 2021 – Application deemed complete and review commenced;
- February 19, 2021 – Reviewer comments and recommendations due and received;
- February 26, 2021 – Responses due and received; and
- March 11, 2021 –Application presented to the Board for decision, including the preliminary screening.

Pursuant to Schedule 4.1 of the **Northwest Territory Métis Nation** (NWTMN) Interim Measures Agreement, the Board 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 **Akaitcho Territory Dene First Nations** (ATDFN) Interim Measures Agreement, the Board 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.

4.1 Preliminary Screener / Referring Body Information

The Type A Land Use Permit Application was distributed to the Distribution List for public review on the Board's Online Review System (ORS). As part of the public review, comments and recommendations to assist with the Board's preliminary screening determination were requested. The organizations notified through the distribution list are included in Appendix A, Table 1.

5.0 Potential Impacts and Mitigations Table

Potential Impacts	X	Potential Project Impacts and Proposed Mitigations
ABIOTIC COMPONENTS		
Land		
Soil contamination	X	Fuel spills could occur and contaminate soil. The fuel cache has secondary containment through the use of One Insta-Berm. The Spill Contingency Plan will be followed at all times and includes details on preventative measures, fuel transport and storage. If a spill does occur, the Spill Contingency Plan provides a plan for action that will minimize environmental damage.
Water		

Potential Impacts	X	Potential Project Impacts and Proposed Mitigations
Groundwater		
Changes in water quality	X	Sewage and grey water could impact groundwater quality. Human waste is collected in pits and treated with lime. Grey water is collected in a sump and naturally filtered.
Surface Water		
Changes in water quality	X	Fuel spills could discharge to Francois Lake. The fuel cache has secondary containment through the use of One Insta-Berm. The Spill Contingency Plan will be followed at all times and includes details on preventative measures, fuel transport and storage. If a spill does occur, the Spill Contingency Plan provides a plan for action that will minimize environmental damage.
Changes in water quality	X	Fuel spills could be harmful to aquatic life. The fuel cache has secondary containment through the use of One Insta-Berm. The Spill Contingency Plan will be followed at all times and includes details on preventative measures, fuel transport and storage. If a spill does occur, the Spill Contingency Plan provides a plan for action that will minimize environmental damage.
BIOTIC COMPONENTS		
Terrestrial Wildlife Habitat		
Human-wildlife conflicts	X	The Francois Lake area is known to have wolverines and be occasionally frequented by owls and falcons, as indicated in a letter send from the Yellowknives Dene First Nation to GNWT-ENR. GNWT-ENR will implement all necessary measures to ensure animal and human protection are taken. Proper garbage disposal outlined in the Waste Management Plan will be ensured so that animals are not attracted to the site. Wildlife Officers or a Camp Manager typically supervise the operations of the camps and employ preventative measures to not attract problem wildlife to the site.
Effects on wildlife health (toxins, metals, etc.)	X	Fuel spills could be harmful to wildlife. The fuel cache has secondary containment through the use of One Insta-Berm. The Spill Contingency Plan will be followed at all times and includes details on preventative measures, fuel transport and storage. If a spill does occur, the Spill Contingency Plan provides a plan for action that will minimize environmental damage.
Human-wildlife conflicts	X	Wildlife in the area could be attracted to food and food waste. Garbage is dealt with in a variety of ways to mitigate this. Non recyclable plastics, food contaminated wastes and other non-burnable waste are separated and stored until they can be shipped which is usually about every 3-4 days. Recyclable materials are cleaned and stored until they can be sent in to YK for deposit at appropriate recycling depots. Cardboard, box board and paper are separated, stored and

Potential Impacts	X	Potential Project Impacts and Proposed Mitigations
		either shipped back to YK for recycling or burned on site. Wildlife Officers or a Camp Manager typically supervise the operations of the camps and employ preventative measures to not attract problem wildlife to the site.
Aquatic Habitat		
Effects on health (toxins, metals, sediment, etc.)	X	Activities at Francois Lake Camp could impact aquatic life health (e.g., if there was a fuel spill). The Spill Contingency Plan will be followed at all times and includes details on preventative measures, fuel transport and storage. If a spill does occur, the Spill Contingency Plan provides a plan for action that will minimize environmental damage. GNWT-ENR will comply with all the measures set out in DFO's Interim Code of Practice for End-of-Pipe Screens and the Measures to Protect Fish and Fish Habitat.
Effects on population abundance	X	Activities at Francois Lake Camp could impact aquatic population abundance (e.g., if there was a fuel spill). The Spill Contingency Plan will be followed at all times and includes details on preventative measures, fuel transport and storage. If a spill does occur, the Spill Contingency Plan provides a plan for action that will minimize environmental damage. GNWT-ENR will comply with all the measures set out in DFO's Interim Code of Practice for End-of-Pipe Screens and the Measures to Protect Fish and Fish Habitat.

6.0 Preliminary Screening Decision

The Board is satisfied that the preliminary screening of GNWT-ENR's Application for Type A Land Use Permit MV2021J0001 for the Francois Lake Forestry Camp 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 any impacts of the development on the environment can be mitigated through the imposition of the terms and conditions in the Land Use Permit approved by the Board.

7.0 Conclusion

Land Use Permit MV2021J0001 contains provisions that the Board deems necessary to ensure and monitor compliance with the MVRMA and the Regulations made thereunder, and to provide appropriate safeguards in respect of GNWT-ENR's use of the land affected by the Permit.

SIGNATURE

Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board



Mavis Cli-Michaud, Chair

March 11, 2021

Date

Appendix A

Table 1. Organizations included in the Distribution List for the Public Review of Type A Land Use Permit Application MV2021J0001

Akaitcho IMA Implementation Office	GNWT - Lands - South Slave Region - Fort Smith
Bathurst Inlet Development Ltd.	GNWT - MACA (Municipal and Community Affairs)
Bathurst Inlet Lodge	GNWT - PPCA (Policy, Planning, Communications and Analysis (w/in ITI))
Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency – NWT Region	GNWT - PWNHC (Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre (w/in ECE))
CIRNAC - Inspector	Golder Associates
CIRNAC-CARD	Hamlet of Fort Resolution
City of Yellowknife	Katlodeeche First Nation
Dene Nation	Lutsel K'e Dene First Nation - Chief or Wildlife, Lands and Environment
Deninu K'ue First Nation	Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board
Det'on Cho Corporation	MVLWB
Environment and Climate Change Canada	North Slave Metis Alliance
Fisheries and Oceans Canada	Northwest Territory Metis Nation
Fort Resolution Metis Government	NWT & Nunavut Chamber of Mines
Forward Mining	NWT- OROGO
Ghotelnene K'odtineh Dene (Manitoba Denesuline)	Rover Metals Corp.
GNWT - ENR (Environment and Natural Resources)	Salt River First Nation
GNWT - ENR - EAM (Environmental Assessment and Monitoring)	Smith's Landing First Nation
GNWT - ENR - North Slave Region	Snap Lake Environmental Monitoring Agency (SLEMA)
GNWT - ENR - South Slave Region - Fort Smith	Tlicho Government
GNWT - Executive and Indigenous Affairs	Tlicho Lands Protection Department
GNWT - HSS (Health and Social Services)	Town of Hay River
GNWT - INF (Infrastructure)	Wek' eezhii Renewable Resources Board
GNWT - ITI (Industry, Tourism and Investment)	West Point First Nation
GNWT - Lands	WLWB
GNWT - Lands - Hay River Region	Wood
GNWT - Lands - North Slave Region	Yellowknives Dene First Nation