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March 28, 2022

File: MV2022C0001,
MV2022L2-0001 &
MV2022L2-0002

Mark Cliffe-Phillips
Mackenzie Valley Review Board
200 Scotia Centre
Box 938, 5102-50th Avenue
Yellowknife NT X1A 2N7

Sent by email

Dear Mark Cliffe-Phillips,

Re: South Gordon Lake Exploration Project – Notice of Preliminary Screening Determination – Applications for Land Use Permit and Water Licence – Mineral Exploration – Homiiti, NT]

The Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board, (Board) met on March 24, 2022 and considered the Applications from Golden Pursuit Resources LTD. (Golden Pursuit)] for Land Use Permit (Permit) MV2022C0001 and Water Licences (Licences)MV2022L2-0001 and MV2022L2-0002 for the South Gordon Lake Exploration Project Project) in accordance with the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act* (MVRMA).

The Board conducted a preliminary screening based on the public record for the proceedings. 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 Board's Preliminary Screening Determination and Reasons for Decision, as required by section 121 of the MVRMA, is attached.

If the Board does not receive notice of referral to environmental assessment, it can proceed with issuance of Permit MV2022L2-0001 and Licences MV2022L2-0001 on **Friday April 8, 2022**.

The Board and staff look forward to continued communications throughout the pause period. Please contact Shelagh Montgomery at (867) 746-7457 with any questions or concerns regarding this letter.

Yours sincerely,



Mavis Cli-Michaud

Chair, Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board

BCC'd to: Akaitcho – Distribution List
Brian McClay, Golden Pursuit Resources Ltd
Sharleen Hamm, Aurora Geoscience

Attached: Preliminary Screening Determination and Reasons for Decision



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Preliminary Screening Determination and Reasons for Decision

Water Licence and Land Use Permit Applications	
File Number	MV2022L2-0001 MV2022L2-0001 MV2022C0001
Company	Golden Pursuit Resources LTD.
Project	South Gordon Lake Exploration Project
Location	Homiiti, NT
Activity	Mineral Exploration
Date of Decision	March 24, 2022

1.0 Decision

In accordance with subsection 124(1) of the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act* (MVRMA), the Mackenzie Land and Water Board (MVLWB or Board) met on March 24, 2022 to make a preliminary screening determination on the Applications from Golden Pursuit Resources LTD. (Golden Pursuit) (Applicant) for Land Use Permit MV2022C0001 (Permit)¹ and Water Licences MV2022L2-0001 and MV2022L2-0002] (Licences)² for the South Gordon Lake Exploration Project (Project).³

The Board has decided not to refer the proposed Project to the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (the Review Board) for Environmental Assessment because, based on the evidence, it is the Board’s opinion that the proposed Project will not have a significant adverse impact on the environment or be a cause of public concern.

¹See MVLWB Online Registry www.mvlwb.com for South Gordon Lake Exploration Project – [Permit Application](#) – Jan12_22.

² See MVLWB Online Registry South Gordon Lake Exploration Project – [Licences Application](#) – Jan12_22.

³ The Project is the South Gordon Lake Exploration Project which is the proposed development, where “development” is defined in Part 5 of the MVRMA as:

“any undertaking, or any part or extension of an undertaking, that is carried out on land or water and includes an acquisition of lands pursuant to the *Historic Sites and Monuments Act* and measures carried out by a department or agency of government leading to the establishment of a park subject to the *Canada National Parks Act* or the establishment of a park under a territorial law.”

The Board’s determinations, including reasons for its decisions, are detailed in sections [3.0](#) and [4.0](#).

2.0 List of Defined Terms and Acronyms

Applicant	Golden Pursuit Resources LTD.
Applications	The complete application package submitted by the Applicant for Water Licence MV2022L2-0001, MV2022L2-0002 and Land Use Permit MV2022C0001
Board	Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board
CIRNAC	Crown Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada
CRP	Closure and Reclamation Plan
EA/EIR	Environmental Assessment/Environmental Impact Review
GNWT	Government of the Northwest Territories
GNWT-ENR	Government of the Northwest Territories – Environment and Natural Resources
GNWT-Lands	Government of the Northwest Territories – Lands
MVLWB	Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board
MVRMA	<i>Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act</i>
Minister	Minister of the Government of the Northwest Territories – Environment and Natural Resources (GNWT_ENR) OR Minister of the Government of the Northwest Territories – Lands (GNWT-Lands) OR Minister of Northern Affairs
ORS	Online Review System (www.new.onlinereviewsystem.ca)
Party	As per the MVLWB Rules of Procedures , an applicant, a person, or an organization participating in the regulatory proceeding for the Applications.
Project	South Gordon Lake Exploration which is the proposed development (as defined in Part 5 of the MVRMA). ⁴
Review Board	Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board
SCP	Spill Contingency Plan
Standard Licence Conditions	MVLWB Standard Water Licence Conditions Template
Standard Permit Conditions	MVLWB Standard Land Use Permit Conditions Template
TG	Tłı̨chǫ Government
TK	Traditional Knowledge
WMP	Waste Management Plan

⁴ “development” is defined in Part 5 of the MVRMA as:

“any undertaking, or any part or extension of an undertaking, that is carried out on land or water and includes an acquisition of lands pursuant to the *Historic Sites and Monuments Act* and measures carried out by a department or agency of government leading to the establishment of a park subject to the *Canada National Parks Act* or the establishment of a park under a territorial law.”

3.0 Background and Scope of Screening

Background:

- January 12, 2022 – Applications received;
- January 21, 2022– Applications deemed complete and distributed for review;
- January 28, 2022 – Applicant added additional water source and mineral claims to application;
- January 28, 2022 – Extended comment deadline by an additional week;
- February 17, 2022 – Comments and recommendations submitted by reviewers;
- February 24, 2022 – Further Study Required request issued by the Board and responses due from Golden Pursuit;
- February 24, 2022 – Responses due and received; and
- **March 24, 2022 – Application presented to the Board for decision.**

Scope:

On January 12, 2022 Golden Pursuit submitted an application for a Land Use Permit MV2022C0001, a Non-Federal Water Licence MV2022L2-0001 and a Federal Water Licence MV2022L2-0002. The Application is for a mineral exploration and will consist of a camp set up in the South half of Gordon Lake in the Northwest Territories, approximately 80 km northeast of Yellowknife. The Project is in an area where exploration and mining has occurred in the past and has recently been remediated by the Federal Government.

The Project scope involves the following:

- Accessing the Project area by air in summer months by a fixed wing aircraft on floats or a helicopter, and by the Winter Road, an aircraft on skis or a helicopter in winter months, with a 2.5 km winter trail spur connecting the main Winter Road to the camp area;
- Constructing and operating a seasonal temporary camp and laydown area able to support up to 60 people;
- Exploration including staking, prospecting, geological mapping, geophysics, geochemical sampling, trenching and drilling both on land and on ice using diamond and/or rotary air-blast/reverse circulation drilling;
- Waste management and water use consistent with camp construction and operation, drilling, core cutting, resupply and access;
- Local use of a boat, helicopter, atv, snowmobile, snow cat and other similar light and heavy duty vehicles for drill support, local access, winter trail construction and maintenance;
- Local overland and over ice winter access for camp and drill support;
- Caching mostly drummed diesel, jet fuel and propane at several locations proximal to drill targets and at the camp;
- Limited vegetation clearing for additional line cutting, drill pad and heli pad establishment;
- Staging equipment and supplies at the camp site over winter and during periods of temporary camp closure;
- Archaeological site assessments, where required; and

- Baseline environmental studies.

The Program is planned to commence in mid winter - early spring 2022 following receipt of approvals and establishment of the Winter Road, and is expected to be seasonal, although year-round operation is possible depending on conditions. In the near term, winter resupply and camp construction are planned, with drilling commencing thereafter, and seasonal camp operation typically occurring between February and October. It is expected that the Program, as currently scoped, will last up to 7 years, which is the expected duration of an extended Type A land use permit.

Engagement:

Dialogue with Indigenous Governments regarding the South Gordon Lake project commenced in June 2021 with Yellowknives Dene First Nation regarding employment and training opportunities. Engagement with other Indigenous Governments and interested parties specific to the land use permit and water licence applications commenced in early November.

Golden Pursuit noted they engaged with the following Parties:

- Akaitcho Dene First Nations Interim Measures Office;
- Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada;
- Government of Northwest Territories;
- Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board;
- Nahanni Construction Ltd.;
- North Slave Métis Alliance;
- Northwest Territory Métis Nation;
- Sandy Point Lodge;
- Tibbitt to Contwoyto Joint Venture;
- Tłı̨chǫ Government; and
- Yellowknives Dene First Nation.

A public meeting was held at the Explorer Hotel in Yellowknife, however no one from the public attended.

At the time of application submission:

- Inspectors provided input into draft applications and revisions were made accordingly;
- Several meetings were held with the GNWT to discuss closure cost estimating;
- A meeting with the Tłı̨chǫ Government was scheduled for mid-January;
- Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada expressed concerns over the proposed camp location and the potential interaction of related program components with remediation and monitoring;
- A meeting with Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada was scheduled for January 7, 2022 to discuss concerns associated with the proposed camp location.

In accordance with paragraph 125(1)(a) of the MVRMA, the Board must conduct a preliminary screening of the proposed Project to determine and report to the Review Board whether, in its opinion, the

proposed might have a significant adverse impact on the environment. The details of the Board's analysis are set out in section [4.0](#) below.

3.1 Scope of Screening:

Scope of Activities screened are as follows:

- a) Mineral exploration including diamond drilling;
- b) Use of equipment, vehicles, and machines;
- c) Camp construction and operation;
- d) Use and storage of fuel; and
- e) Construction, operation and maintenance of winter road and access road.

3.2 Public Record and Regulatory Proceeding

To assist the Board in its preliminary screening determination for the Project, the Board distributed the Applications, draft Licences and Permit for public review on January 21, 2022. Inviting reviewers to provide comments and recommendations on the Applications and the preliminary screening (e.g., on impacts and mitigation measures) using the Online Review System (ORS). Comments were due February 17, 2022, with responses from the Applicant due February 24, 2022. The Board received comments and recommendations from CIRNAC – CARD, GNWT – Lands – North Slave Region, CIRNAC – Inspectors, CIRNAC, GNWT – ECE – Prince of Whales North Heritage Centre (PWNHC), and DFO (attached).⁵

Since there were no requests to extend the reviewer comment deadlines, the Board is satisfied that a reasonable period of notice was given to affected communities and First Nations, as required by subsection 63(2) of the MVRMA.

4.0 Potential Impacts and Proposed Mitigations

Table 1 below summarizes:

- the potential impacts of the proposed Project;
- the concerns that were identified during the regulatory proceeding and how the Applicant addressed those concerns;
- the proposed and potential mitigations for the potential impacts; and
- the Board's analysis of the potential impacts and proposed mitigations.

⁵ See MVLWB Online Registry for South Gordon Lake Exploration Project – Review Comment Summary Table – Feb24_22.

Table 1: Potential Impacts and Proposed Mitigations for the Proposed Project

Potential Impact	Activity	Proposed Mitigations <i>Description of measures to reduce potential impacts, including consideration of cumulative impacts and climate change.</i>	Board Analysis and Determination
Soil Contamination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Camp operation • Drilling • Fuel Storage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Applicant proposed the following mitigations in the Applications: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Implement Waste Management Plan ○ Implement Spill Contingency Plan in the event of an unplanned release. • The Board has standard permit conditions that are typically used to mitigate the described impacts. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Repair leaks ○ Fuel storage setback ○ Fuel cache secondary containment ○ Secondary containment- refueling ○ Fuel containment ○ Mark fuel location ○ Report fuel location ○ Spill Contingency Plan ○ Spill Response ○ Drip trays ○ Clean up spills ○ Report spills ○ Camp setback ○ Drill locations ○ Sump setback 	Based on the described mitigations, it is Board staff opinion that the proposed activities will not have a significant adverse impact on the environment or will not be a cause of public concern.
Soil Compaction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Camp Use • Equipment Use 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Applicant proposed the following mitigations in the Applications: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Constructing camp on durable land; ○ Use existing disturbed areas ○ Use existing winter road infrastructure to the greatest extent possible. 	Based on the described mitigations, it is Board staff opinion that the proposed activities will not have a significant adverse impact on the environment or will not be a cause of public concern.

Potential Impact	Activity	Proposed Mitigations <i>Description of measures to reduce potential impacts, including consideration of cumulative impacts and climate change.</i>	Board Analysis and Determination
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Maintain a minimum of 10 cm of packed snow or ice on overland portions of the winter trail and road. ○ Cease overland transport prior to spring break-up ● The Board has standard permit conditions that are typically used to mitigate the described impacts. These standard conditions include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Camp setback ○ Drill locations ○ Sump setback 	
Destabilization/erosion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Equipment Use ● Drilling ● Camp Construction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Applicant proposed the following mitigations in the Applications: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Maintain a minimum of 10 cm of packed snow or ice on overland portions of the winter trail and road. ○ Cease overland transport prior to spring break-up ○ Move equipment overland only when conditions are such that rutting or gouging will occur. ○ Ensuring deposition areas are stable prior to the end of each field season. ○ Construct on a durable surface ● The Board has standard permit conditions that are typically used to mitigate the described impacts. These standard conditions include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Camp setback ○ Drill locations ○ Sump setback ○ Mineral exploration drill casings ○ Progressive erosion control ○ Repair erosion 	Based on the described mitigations, it is Board staff opinion that the proposed activities will not have a significant adverse impact on the environment or will not be a cause of public concern.
Loss or change in extent of Permafrost	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Drilling 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Applicant proposed the following mitigations in the Applications: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Capture cuttings and water at the drill collar. 	Based on the described mitigations, it is Board staff opinion that the proposed activities will not have a significant adverse impact on the

Potential Impact	Activity	Proposed Mitigations <i>Description of measures to reduce potential impacts, including consideration of cumulative impacts and climate change.</i>	Board Analysis and Determination
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Board has standard permit conditions that are typically used to mitigate the described impacts. These standard conditions include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Permafrost protection ○ Prevention of rutting 	environment or will not be a cause of public concern.
Water flow or level changes (permanent, temporary, seasonal)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drilling • Camp Operation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Applicant proposed the following mitigations in the Applications: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Water use in accordance with water licences. • The Board has standard permit conditions that are typically used to mitigate the described impacts. These standard conditions include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sump setback ○ Natural drainage ○ Drilling near water or on ice ○ Drilling waste ○ Drilling waste disposal ○ Drilling waste containment ○ Reclaim non-oil and gas sumps ○ Waste chemical disposal ○ Waste petroleum disposal 	Based on the described mitigations, it is Board staff opinion that the proposed activities will not have a significant adverse impact on the environment or will not be a cause of public concern.
Changes in water quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fuel Storage • Drilling • Camp Operation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Applicant proposed the following mitigations in the Applications: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Store fuel >100 above the high water mark in a depressional area and/or in secondary containment. ○ Implement Spill Response Plan in the event of an unplanned release. ○ Avoid storing any materials on ice. ○ Use close circuit drilling when drilling under ice. ○ Use non-toxic inert drilling fluids. ○ Deposit inert drill water in a suitable sized upland depression, >100 m above the high water mark of any watercourse. 	Based on the described mitigations, it is Board staff opinion that the proposed activities will not have a significant adverse impact on the environment or will not be a cause of public concern.

Potential Impact	Activity	Proposed Mitigations <i>Description of measures to reduce potential impacts, including consideration of cumulative impacts and climate change.</i>	Board Analysis and Determination
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Implement Spill Response Plan in the event of an unplanned release. ○ Effluent discharge in accordance with Water Licence(s) terms and conditions. ● The Board has standard permit conditions that are typically used to mitigate the described impacts. These standard conditions include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Repair leaks ○ Fuel storage setback ○ Fuel cache secondary containment ○ Secondary containment- refueling ○ Fuel containment ○ Mark fuel location ○ Report fuel location ○ Spill Contingency Plan ○ Spill Response ○ Drip trays ○ Clean up spills ○ Report spills 	
Wetland impairment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Equipment use 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Applicant proposed the following mitigations in the Applications: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cease overland transport prior to spring break-up ● The Board has standard permit conditions that are typically used to mitigate the described impacts. These standard conditions include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Natural drainage ○ Habitat damage 	Based on the described mitigations, it is Board staff opinion that the proposed activities will not have a significant adverse impact on the environment or will not be a cause of public concern.
Changes in air quality and increased green house gases	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Site access ● Camp operation ● Drilling 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Applicant proposed the following mitigations in the Applications: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Conduct routine preventative maintenance on generators and engines. 	Based on the described mitigations, it is Board staff opinion that the proposed activities will not have a significant adverse impact on the

Potential Impact	Activity	Proposed Mitigations <i>Description of measures to reduce potential impacts, including consideration of cumulative impacts and climate change.</i>	Board Analysis and Determination
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Airborne Surveys 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Use low emission vehicles where possible (i.e. use of a drone instead of aircraft for aerial surveys). ○ Avoid open burning. ○ If incinerating camp wastes, do so in compliance with the Canada Wide Standards for Dioxins and Furans and Mercury. ○ Avoid incineration of waste oil/grease on site. 	environment or will not be a cause of public concern.
Direct loss of vegetation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Camp construction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Applicant proposed the following mitigations in the Applications: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Construct camp in existing disturbed areas. • The Board has standard permit conditions that are typically used to mitigate the described impacts. These standard conditions include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Location of activities. ○ Camp Setback 	Based on the described mitigations, it is Board staff opinion that the proposed activities will not have a significant adverse impact on the environment or will not be a cause of public concern.
Effects on plant health (dust, metals, toxins)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drilling 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Applicant proposed the following mitigations in the Applications: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Minimize salt use during diamond drilling where possible. ○ Minimize drill water discharge to the surrounding ground to the greatest extent possible during diamond drilling. • The Board has standard permit conditions that are typically used to mitigate the described impacts. These standard conditions include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Habitat damage 	Based on the described mitigations, it is Board staff opinion that the proposed activities will not have a significant adverse impact on the environment or will not be a cause of public concern.
Increased Risk of fire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Camp • Equipment Operation • Drilling 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Applicant proposed the following mitigations in the Applications: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Implement Waste Management Plan. ○ Ensure adequate fire suppression supplies and fire water in all work wells. ○ Temporarily cease use of any ignition sources when extreme dry conditions. 	Based on the described mitigations, it is Board staff opinion that the proposed activities will not have a significant adverse impact on the environment or will not be a cause of public concern.

Potential Impact	Activity	Proposed Mitigations <i>Description of measures to reduce potential impacts, including consideration of cumulative impacts and climate change.</i>	Board Analysis and Determination
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Board has standard permit conditions that are typically used to mitigate the described impacts. These standard conditions include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Fire-fighting equipment. 	
Compaction of vegetation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Camp • Equipment Operation • Drilling 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Applicant proposed the following mitigations in the Applications: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Locate camp on durable surface. ○ Move equipment overland only when conditions are such that rutting or gouging will not occur. ○ Establish drill sites on durable surface. • The Board has standard permit conditions that are typically used to mitigate the described impacts. These standard conditions include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Camp setback ○ Drill locations ○ Sump setback 	Based on the described mitigations, it is Board staff opinion that the proposed activities will not have a significant adverse impact on the environment or will not be a cause of public concern.
Direct loss or removal of habitat, dens, or nests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Line cutting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Applicant proposed the following mitigations in the Applications: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Undertake activities outside nesting season • The Board has standard permit conditions that are typically used to mitigate the described impacts. These standard conditions include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Habitat damage 	Based on the described mitigations, it is Board staff opinion that the proposed activities will not have a significant adverse impact on the environment or will not be a cause of public concern.
Fragmentation of wildlife corridor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Line cutting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Applicant proposed the following mitigations in the Applications: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Limit line cutting for geophysics to the minimum extent and width • The Board has standard permit conditions that are typically used to mitigate the described impacts. These standard conditions include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Habitat damage 	Based on the described mitigations, it is Board staff opinion that the proposed activities will not have a significant adverse impact on the environment or will not be a cause of public concern.

Potential Impact	Activity	Proposed Mitigations <i>Description of measures to reduce potential impacts, including consideration of cumulative impacts and climate change.</i>	Board Analysis and Determination
Direct injury or mortality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equipment operation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Applicant proposed the following mitigations in the Applications: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Given wildlife the right of way. ○ Observe Winter Road speed limits when transiting winter roads and trails. 	Based on the described mitigations, it is Board staff opinion that the proposed activities will not have a significant adverse impact on the environment or will not be a cause of public concern.
Disturbances to key lifecycle stages: breeding, feeding, nesting, staging	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Camp construction • Drilling • Site access • Airborne surveys • Ground Surveys • Winter road and trail use • Line cutting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Applicant proposed the following mitigations in the Applications: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Construct camp outside the nesting, calving and post calving, and denning seasons. ○ Adhere to caribou mobile protection measures. ○ Observe flying height limits. ○ Use existing road infrastructure to the greatest extent possible. • The board has standard permit conditions that are typically used to mitigate described impacts. These standard conditions include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Habitat damage ○ Migratory bird nest disturbance ○ Buffer/no activity zone 	Based on the described mitigations, it is Board staff opinion that the proposed activities will not have a significant adverse impact on the environment or will not be a cause of public concern.
Human – wildlife conflicts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Camp construction and operation • Drilling • Ground Surveys • Winter road and trail use • Line cutting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Applicant proposed the following mitigations in the Applications: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Implement the Waste Management Plan. ○ Adhere to caribou mobile protection measures. ○ Give wildlife the right of way. • The board has standard permit conditions that are typically used to mitigate described impacts. These standard conditions include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Habitat damage 	Based on the described mitigations, it is Board staff opinion that the proposed activities will not have a significant adverse impact on the environment or will not be a cause of public concern.
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Camp operation (water withdrawal) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Applicant proposed the following mitigations in the Applications: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Equipment intake hoses with mesh screens in compliance 	Based on the described mitigations, it is Board staff opinion that the proposed activities will not have a significant adverse impact on the

Potential Impact	Activity	Proposed Mitigations <i>Description of measures to reduce potential impacts, including consideration of cumulative impacts and climate change.</i>	Board Analysis and Determination
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drilling (water withdrawal) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> with the Interim code of practice; end-of-pipe fish protection screens for small water intakes in freshwater. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Avoid water withdrawal from streams and small lakes. ○ Withdraw water in accordance with water licence(s) terms and conditions. • The board has standard permit conditions that are typically used to mitigate described impacts. These standard conditions include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Habitat damage ○ Drilling/adit setback ○ Sump setback ○ Natural Drainage ○ Stream banks ○ Minimize approach 	<p>environment or will not be a cause of public concern.</p>
<p>Change to or loss of traditional lifestyle</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Applicant proposed the following mitigations in the Applications: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Implement Engagement Plan. 	<p>Based on the described mitigations, it is Board staff opinion that the proposed activities will not have a significant adverse impact on the environment or will not be a cause of public concern.</p>
<p>Change to or loss of heritage</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Camp construction • Drilling • Land-based surveys • Overland equipment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Applicant proposed the following mitigations in the Applications: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Construct camp in existing disturbed area. ○ Where possible, avoid interaction with known archaeological sites. ○ Where not possible to avoid interaction with known archaeological sites, proceed with direction from the territorial Archaeologists. ○ Work in existing disturbed areas. 	<p>Based on the described mitigations, it is Board staff opinion that the proposed activities will not have a significant adverse impact on the environment or will not be a cause of public concern.</p>

Potential Impact	Activity	Proposed Mitigations <i>Description of measures to reduce potential impacts, including consideration of cumulative impacts and climate change.</i>	Board Analysis and Determination
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The board has standard permit conditions that are typically used to mitigate described impacts. These standard conditions include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Archaeological buffer ○ Site disturbance ○ Site discovery and notification ○ Archaeological overview ○ AIA – high potential ○ AIA 	
Economic opportunities or losses (employment, training)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Applicant proposed the following mitigations in the Applications: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Utilize local personnel and business wherever possible. 	Based on the described mitigations, it is Board staff opinion that the proposed activities will not have a significant adverse impact on the environment or will not be a cause of public concern.
Changes to the use of the area by other non-indigenous people (e.g. trappers, outfitters, residents, hunters, forest harvesters, other authorized projects)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All activities • Late season use of the Winter Road 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Applicant proposed the following mitigations in the Applications: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Implement engagement plan. ○ Conduct late season use of the Winter Road outside the period of the Licence of Occupation activities conducted by the Winter Road JV Committee. 	Based on the described mitigations, it is Board staff opinion that the proposed activities will not have a significant adverse impact on the environment or will not be a cause of public concern.

4.1 Consideration of Potential Impacts

Based on the potential impacts and proposed mitigations identified above in Table 1, the Board considered whether the Project might have a significant adverse impact on the environment. In general, impacts of the Project on the environment can be mitigated through the use of standard permit and licences conditions and project-specific conditions established by the Board as per the MVLWB [Standard Process for Creating New Conditions](#). These conditions may include requirements for management and monitoring plans that provide detailed information regarding the implementation of mitigation measures and the evaluation of their effectiveness.

The conditions will be discussed in further detail by all Parties through the regulatory proceeding and will be finalized by the Board following completion of the regulatory proceeding.

Draft Licences and a Permit were circulated for review during the regulatory proceeding, and all Parties were given the opportunity to provide comments and recommendations on the draft conditions. In finalizing the conditions, the Board will consider all of the evidence provided through the regulatory proceeding.

4.2 Consideration of Public Concern

In addition to considering the potential impacts of the Project, the Board considered whether the Project might be a cause of public concern.

Based on the evidence provided during the regulatory proceeding thus far, the Board did not identify any comments or issues that indicate that the Project is a cause of public concern.

5.0 Conclusion

The Board has reviewed all the evidence received during the regulatory process with respect to the Preliminary Screening of the proposed Project. Based on the evidence, it is the Board's opinion that the proposed Project will not have a significant adverse impact on the environment or be a cause of public concern, as set out in paragraph 125(1)(a) of the MVRMA. The Board has therefore decided not to refer the proposed Project to Environmental Assessment and will resume the regulatory proceeding.

If the Board does not receive a notice of referral to environmental assessment by Thursday April 7, 2022, the Board can issue the Permit and Licences on Friday April 8, 2022.

SIGNATURE



Mavis Cui-Michaud, Chair
Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board

March 28, 2022

Date