



April 11, 2023

Mr. Mark Cliffe-Phillips  
Executive Director  
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board  
Via email: [mcliffephillips@reviewboard.ca](mailto:mcliffephillips@reviewboard.ca)

Dear Mr. Mark Cliffe-Phillips:

**Notice of Preliminary Screening Decision for Pesticide Application Permit – Northland Utilities Ltd.**

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The Department of Environment and Climate Change (ECC) has completed the preliminary screening of the referenced application (Development) in accordance with its responsibilities under subsection 124(1) and subsection 125(1) of the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act* (MVRMA).

ECC has determined that the proposed Development will not be a cause of public concern and will not have a significant adverse impact on the environment. Therefore, ECC has decided not to refer the proposed Development to environmental assessment. ECC's reasons for decision, as required by section 121 of the MVRMA, are attached for your reference.

Unless the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board, or another party with the authority to do so, refers the proposed Development to an environmental assessment, ECC will proceed with the next stages of issuing the Pesticide Application Permit to Northland Utilities Ltd. after the ten-day pause period has expired.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Benjamin Elkin, Intern, Environmental Protection at [benjamin.elkin@gov.nt.ca](mailto:benjamin.elkin@gov.nt.ca) or (867) 767-9236 Ext. 53191.

Sincerely,

Erika Nyysönen  
Acting Manager, Environmental Protection  
Environment and Climate Change

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Attachment

- c. Bruno Croft, Regional Superintendent, North Slave Region  
Environment and Climate Change

Shakita Jensen, IRMA Program Coordinator  
Environment and Climate Change

## PRELIMINARY SCREENING REPORT FORM

<b>PRELIMINARY SCREENER:</b> Government of the Northwest Territories Environment and Climate Change Environmental Protection Section	<b>PROPONENT NAME:</b> Northland Utilities Ltd.  <b>PROJECT NAME:</b> Pesticide Application Permit
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### **PART 1:**

#### **Type of Development:**

*(check all that apply)*

- |                                     |                                   |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | New Development                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Amendment                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Renewal                           |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Authorization required            |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Does not require an authorization |

#### **Project Summary**

Northland Utilities Ltd. will conduct industrial vegetation control by herbicide means. For herbicide application, they will be using a hose and handgun method, with two tanks of pesticide mounted on the back of a truck. They will undertake this work throughout the Northland Utilities Electrical Substations located in Yellowknife, NT. All work will be performed by trained and certified contractors.

#### **Scope**

Perform vegetation control using herbicides to control weeds and woody brush around the substations. Vegetation within the facilities pose a risk to workers and facilities and must be removed. All vegetation control measures using herbicides will be in accordance with the *Pesticide Act* and Pesticide Regulations.

#### **Type of ECC Authorization**

*(check the authorization that applies)*

- ☐ Forest Management Agreements
- ☐ Timber Cutting Permit (>5000m<sup>3</sup> burned wood or > 1100 m<sup>3</sup> of other timber)
- ☐ Timber Cutting Licence
- ☐ Mill Licence
- ☐ Burning Permits (area > 25m<sup>3</sup>)
- ☒ Pesticide Application Permit
- ☐ Harvest of Wildlife for a Commercial Purpose
- ☐ Wildlife Business Licence
- ☐ Commercial Wildlife Licence
- ☐ Game Farm Licence
- ☐ Wildlife Management Permit

- ☐ General Wildlife Permit
- ☐ Licence to Capture Wildlife
- ☐ Licence to Capture Gyrfalcons for Commercial Purposes
- ☐ Licence to Import Live Wildlife
- ☐ Licence to Export Live Wildlife
- ☐ Licence to a Reindeer Owner for Grazing Allotment within a Reserve

- ☐ Protected Area Land Withdrawal
- ☐ Territorial Park

- ☐ Non-Application
- ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

### Principal Activities

(check all that apply)

- |   |   |                                       |
|---|---|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Construction   | <input type="checkbox"/> Exploration            | <input type="checkbox"/> Aerial       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Decommissioning  | <input type="checkbox"/> Installation           | <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Abandonment  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Maintenance | <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Expansion  | <input type="checkbox"/> Harvesting             | <input type="checkbox"/> Solid Waste  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Operation   | <input type="checkbox"/> Camp                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Sewage       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Repair   | <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific/ Research   | <input type="checkbox"/> Water Intake |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Linear / Corridor  | <input type="checkbox"/> Municipal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Quarry       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other: <u>Maintenance of Northland Utilities Electrical Substations in Yellowknife</u> |   |                                       |

### Principal Development Components:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Abandonment/removal                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Disposal of hazardous waste                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Access Road                             | <input type="checkbox"/> Disposal of sewage                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Automobile, Aircraft or Vessel Movement | <input type="checkbox"/> Ditch Construction                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Blasting                                | <input type="checkbox"/> Drainage Alteration                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Borehole core sampling                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Drilling other than Geoscientific          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Building                                | <input type="checkbox"/> Ecological Surveys                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bulk soil sampling                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Excavation                                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> gravel                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Explosive Storage                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> hydrological testing                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Fuel Storage                               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> site restoration                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Geoscientific sampling                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fertilization                           | <input type="checkbox"/> Modification e.g., widening, straightening |
| <input type="checkbox"/> grubbing                                | <input type="checkbox"/> Sewage                                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> planting/seeding                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Slashing and removal of vegetation         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> reforestation                           | <input type="checkbox"/> Soil Testing                               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> scarify                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Stream Crossing/Bridging                   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> spraying                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Waste management                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> recontouring                            | <input type="checkbox"/> Waste generation                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Burning                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Topsoil, Overburden or Soil                |

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Burying                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> disposal              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Channeling                                | <input type="checkbox"/> fill                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Construction                              | <input type="checkbox"/> removal               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cut and Fill                              | <input type="checkbox"/> storage               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cutting of Trees or Removal of Vegetation | <input type="checkbox"/> Trenching             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Construction                              | <input type="checkbox"/> Tunneling/Underground |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Abandonment/Removal                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (describe):     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Modification                              |  |

## **PART 2:**

### **NTS Topographic Map Sheet Numbers** (*List all that apply*)

Northland Utilities Electrical Substations – 085J08

### **NTS Map Sheet #s:**

### **Latitude / Longitude and UTM System:**

7000S Niven 62.460563, -114.374687

7001S Butler 62.44757, -114.41120

7002S Butler 62.447768, -114.366491

AMR 62.469186, -114.377737

### **Nearest Community and Water Body:**

Located within Yellowknife City limits

Kam Lake, Range Lake, Jackfish Lake, Great Slave Lake, and Frame Lake are less than 5km away, with several other named bodies of water and several smaller unnamed bodies of water also within 5km.

### **Land Status**

- ☒ Free Hold / Private  
☐ Commissioners Land

- ☐ Federal Crown Land  
☐ Municipal Land

### **Transboundary Implications**

- ☐ British Columbia  
☐ Manitoba  
☐ Wood Buffalo National Park

- ☐ Alberta  
☐ Nunavut  
☐ Inuvialuit Settlement Region

- ☐ Saskatchewan  
☐ Yukon

### **Type of Transboundary Implication:**

☐ Impact / Effect

☐ Development

☐ Public Concern:

Describe: \_\_\_\_\_

### **PART 3:**

#### **PHYSICAL - CHEMICAL EFFECTS**

<b>IMPACT</b>	<b>MITIGATION</b>	<b>CONDITION</b>
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##### **1. Ground Water**

☐ water table alteration

☐ water quality changes

☐ infiltration changes

☐ other

☒ N/A

No impacts are expected based on the proposed development or associated activities.

<b>IMPACT</b>	<b>MITIGATION</b>	<b>CONDITION</b>
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##### **2. Surface Water**

☐ flow or level changes

☐ water quality changes

☐ water quantity changes

☐ drainage pattern changes

☐ temperature

☐ wetland changes /loss

☐ other:

☒ N/A

No impacts are expected based on the proposed development or associated activities. All named lakes are less than 5km away, and several smaller unnamed bodies of water are within 5km.

IMPACT	MITIGATION	CONDITION
<b>3. Noise</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/> noise in/near water		
<input type="checkbox"/> other: noise increase		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A	No impacts are expected based on the proposed development or associated activities. Spraying noise will be short-term and localized to the substation.	

IMPACT	MITIGATION	CONDITION
<b>4. Land</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/> geologic structure changes		
<input type="checkbox"/> soil contamination		
<input type="checkbox"/> buffer zone loss		
<input type="checkbox"/> soil compaction & settling		
<input type="checkbox"/> destabilization/erosion		
<input type="checkbox"/> permafrost regime alteration		
<input type="checkbox"/> other:		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A	No impacts are expected based on the proposed development or associated activities.	

IMPACT	MITIGATION	CONDITION
<b>5. Non-Renewable Resources</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/> resource depletion		
<input type="checkbox"/> other:		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A	No impacts are expected based on the proposed development or associated activities.	

IMPACT	MITIGATION	CONDITION
<b>6. Air/Climate/Atmosphere</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/> other		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A	No impacts are expected based on the proposed development or associated activities.	

## BIOLOGICAL ENVIRONMENT

### IMPACT

### MITIGATION

### CONDITION

#### 7. Vegetation

- ☐ species composition
- ☐ species introduction
- ☐ toxic/heavy accumulation
- ☒ other:

Chemical control of undesirable and noxious vegetation is limited to the Northland Utilities Electrical Substation. Risk of run-off and spray drift is mitigated by using proper spray techniques, low-risk herbicides, establishing and working within buffer zones in accordance with legislation, and only spraying in suitable weather conditions.

☐ N/A

### IMPACT

### MITIGATION

### CONDITION

#### 8. Wildlife & Fish

- ☐ 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

No impacts are expected based on the proposed development or associated activities.

## INTERACTING ENVIRONMENT

### IMPACT

### MITIGATION

### CONDITION

#### 9. Habitat & Communities

- ☐ predator-prey
- ☐ wildlife habitat/ecosystem
- ☐ composition changes
- ☐ keystone/endangered species
- ☐ wildlife corridor/buffer zone
- ☐ other:

☒ N/A

No impacts are expected based on the proposed development or associated activities.

**IMPACT****MITIGATION****CONDITION****10. 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

No impacts are expected based on the proposed development or associated activities. The permit holder will be required to post signs warning workers and the public that pesticide spraying is taking place in the area. Public access will also be restricted during and after the spraying.

**IMPACT****MITIGATION****CONDITION****11. Cultural and Heritage**

- ☐ affects 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 site

☐ affects to aboriginal lifestyle

☐ other:

☒ N/A

No impacts are expected based on the proposed development or associated activities.

#### **PART 4:**

##### **PRELIMINARY SCREENER / Distribution List**

Grand Chief Jackson Lafferty	Tłıchǫ Government
Chief Louis Balsillie and Council	Denínu Kúé First Nation
Chief Fred Sangris and Council	Yellowknives Dene First Nation (Ndilǫ)
Chief Edward Sangris and Council	Yellowknives Dene First Nation (Dettah)
Chief James Marlowe and Council	Łutsel K'e Dene First Nation
Vice-President Marc Whitford	North Slave Métis Alliance
President Garry Bailey	Northwest Territory Métis Nation
Shelagh Montgomery Executive Director	Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board
Mark Cliffe-Phillips Executive Director	Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board
Sheila Bassi-Kellett Senior Administrative Officer	City of Yellowknife
Bruno Croft Superintendent	Environment and Climate Change
John Ritchie Assistant Fire Marshal	Municipal and Community Affairs
Rick Walbourne Manager, Water Resources	Environment and Climate Change

Maggie Collins  
Manager, Communications

Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission

Adrian Paradis  
Senior Project Manager

Northern Projects Management Office

Central Mail

Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Central Email

Environment and Climate Change Canada

Shakita Jensen  
IRMA Program Coordinator

Environment and Climate Change

## **Part 5:**

### **PRELIMINARY SCREENING COMMENTS**

Table 1. Preliminary Screening comments for the proposed Pesticide Application Permit

Organization	Impact/Concern	Mitigation
No concerns expressed to ECC		

## REASONS FOR DECISION

(LIST REASONS AND SUPPORTING RATIONALE FOR PRELIMINARY SCREENING DECISION)

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### **DECISION:**

The Department of Environment and Climate Change (ECC) is satisfied that the preliminary screening of application for a Pesticide Application Permit by Northland Utilities Ltd. for industrial vegetation control at their electrical substation in the North Slave region has been completed in accordance with Section 125 of the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act*.

ECC is satisfied that a reasonable period of notice (21 days) was given to the City of Yellowknife and Indigenous Governments affected by the application as required by Subsection 63(2) of the *MVRMA* so that they could provide comments to ECC.

Having reviewed all relevant information in the application, including the submissions of the Applicant and the absence of any written comments, ECC has decided that in its opinion that:

- there is no likelihood that the proposed development might have a significant adverse impact on the environment; and
- there is no likelihood that the proposed development might be a cause of public concern.

ECC 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 the imposition of the terms and conditions in the Pesticide Application Permit.

As a result, ECC, having due regard to the facts and circumstances, the merits of the submissions made to it, and to the purpose, scope and intent of the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act* and the Mackenzie Valley Land Use Regulations has decided that this Pesticide Application Permit be issued subject to the terms and conditions contained therein.

	PRELIMINARY SCREENING DECISION
<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 Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (Review Board).</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 Review Board.</i>
<input checked="" 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 Review Board.</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 Review Board.</i>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Proceed with regulatory process and/or implementation.</i>

**Preliminary Screening Organization**

Department of Environment and Climate Change

**Signatures**

