



May 27, 2022

Mr. Mark Cliffe-Phillips  
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board  
200 Scotia Centre  
BOX 938, 5102-50TH AVENUE  
YELLOWKNIFE NT X1A 2N7

Dear Mr. Mark Cliffe-Phillips:

**Notice of Preliminary Screening Decision for the 2022 Permit to Burn at the Fort Providence Wildfire Experimental Site**

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

For the proposed Development, ENR was both the screener and the proponent. The Environment Assessment and Monitoring (EAM) unit conducted the screening, while the Forest Management Division was the proponent. During the decision phase, the screener and proponent established a firewall for impartiality.

EAM as the screener, is satisfied that:

- The application has been screened pursuant to section 125 of the MVRMA;
- Reviewers were instructed to submit concerns and comments on whether the proposed Development might:
  - be a cause of public concern or
  - have a significant adverse impact on the environment.

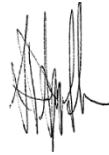
EAM has determined that the proposed Development will not be a cause of public concern and will not have a significant adverse impact on the environment. Therefore, ENR has decided not to refer the proposed Development to environmental assessment. ENR's reasons for decision, as required by section 121 of the MVRMA, are attached (attachment 2).

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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, ENR will proceed with the next stages of issuing the 2022 Permit to Burn for the Fort Providence Wildfire Experimental Site after the ten-day pause period has expired.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Jeffrey Cederwall, at [Jeffrey.Cederwall@gov.nt.ca](mailto:Jeffrey.Cederwall@gov.nt.ca) or (867) 767-9233 Ext. 53096.

Sincerely,



Andrew Applejohn  
A/Director  
Environment and Natural Resources

#### Attachments

- c. Mr. Daniel Allaire  
Manager, Forests  
Environment and Natural Resources
  
- Mr. Westly Steed  
Wildfire Risk Mitigation Coordinator  
Environment and Natural Resources
  
- Mr. Jamie Chambers  
Regional Superintendent, Dehcho Region  
Environment and Natural Resources
  
- Mr. Tony Vermillion  
Regional Superintendent, South Slave Region  
Environment and Natural Resources
  
- Mr. Norman McCowan  
Resource Management Officer III  
Lands

Ms. Laura Duncan  
Tłchq Executive Officer  
Tłchq Government

Ms. Alison de Pelham  
Executive Director  
Dehcho First Nations

Mr. Greg Nyuli  
Executive Director  
Deh Gáh Got'ie First Nation

Ms. Liza McPherson  
Executive Director  
Łíídlı Kúé First Nation

Ms. Ruby Simba  
Council Manager  
Ka'a'gee Tu First Nation

Mr. Soham Srimani  
Acting Band Manager  
Nahanni Butte Dene Band

Ms. Wendy Ross  
Band Manager  
West Point First Nation

Mr. Brad Morrissey  
Senior Administrative Officer  
Jean Marie River (Tthets'éhk'édélı) First Nation

Ms. Ruby Jumbo  
Band Manager  
Sambaa K'e First Nation

Mr. Kyle Clille  
Band Manager  
Pehdzéh Kí First Nation

Mr. Boyd Clark  
Advisor/Band Manager  
Acho Dene Koe First Nation

Ms. Holly Brewster  
Executive Assistant  
Dene Tha' First Nation

Ms. Ursula Vogt  
Executive Director  
Northwest Territory Métis Nation

Ms. Linda Piwowar  
Finance Manager  
Hay River Métis Government Council

Ms. Pearl Leishman  
Executive Director  
Fort Providence Métis Council

Ms. Lisa Lafferty  
Executive Director  
The Métis Association Local 52 – Fort Simpson, N.W.T.

Mr. Dieter Cazon  
Manager, Lands and Resources  
Łíídlı́ Kúé First Nation

Ms. Jessica Jumbo  
Environmental Coordinator  
Sambaa K'e First Nation

Ms. Debra Young  
Administrative Assistant  
North Slave Métis Alliance

Mr. Daniel Steiner  
Lands, Resources and Conservation Coordinator  
Pehdzéh Kí First Nation

Mr. Tim Heron  
Land and Resources Manager  
Northwest Territory Métis Nation

Mr. Gary Yablonski  
Chief Executive Officer  
Kátł'odeeche First Nation

Mr. Joseph Gormaly  
Environmental Program Manager  
Kátł'odeeche First Nation

Ms. Violet Camsell-Blondin  
Manager, Lands Regulation  
Tłıchǫ Government

Ms. Jess Hurtubise  
Environment Department Manager  
North Slave Métis Alliance

Mr. Trevor Teed  
Director of Lands & Environment  
Dene Nation

Ms. Susan Christie  
Senior Administrative Officer  
Hamlet of Fort Providence

Ms. Tammy Neal  
Senior Administrative Officer  
Hamlet of Enterprise

Mr. Glen Smith  
Senior Administrative Officer  
Town of Hay River

Mr. Darrel White  
Senior Administrative Officer  
Village of Fort Simpson

Mr. Curtis Coleman  
Acting Senior Administrative Officer  
Community Government of Behchokò

Mr. Adrian Paradis  
Senior Project Manager  
Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency

Ms. Megan Larose  
Environmental Specialist  
Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada

Mr. Michael Roesch  
Senior Program Manager  
Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada

Mr. Neil Fisher  
Team Leader, Hydro and Flows Regulatory Review  
Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Mr. Rick Gervais  
Fisheries Protection Biologist  
Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Mr. Bob Head  
Manager  
Digaa Enterprises Ltd.

Mr. Joachim Bonnetrouge  
Chair  
Dehcho Land Use Planning Committee

Ms. Sophie Bonnetrouge  
Office Manager  
Dehcho Land Use Planning Committee

Ms. Priscilla Canadien  
Resource Manager  
Fort Providence Resource Management Board

Mr. Tom Hoefler  
Executive Director  
NWT & Nunavut Chamber of Mines

Ms. Shannon Allerston  
Regulatory Officer  
Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board

Ms. Angela Love  
Regulatory Specialist  
Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board

Mr. Chris Hotson  
Regulatory Manager  
Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board

Environmental Assessment  
Environment and Climate Change Canada

Fisheries Protection Program  
Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Environmental Health  
Health and Social Services

## PRELIMINARY SCREENING REPORT FORM

<b>PRELIMINARY SCREENER:</b> Government of Northwest Territories – Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) – Environmental Assessment and Monitoring Unit	<b>PROPONENT NAME:</b> Government of the Northwest Territories – Environment and Natural Resources – Forest Management Division  <b>PROJECT NAME:</b> Permit to Burn application for the Fort Providence Wildfire Experimental Site
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### **PART 1:**

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

*(check all that apply)*

- New Development
- Amendment
- Renewal
- Authorization required
- Does not require an authorization

#### **Type of ENR 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 type="checkbox"/> Maintenance                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Expansion               | <input type="checkbox"/> Harvesting                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Solid Waste  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Operation               | <input type="checkbox"/> Camp                            | <input type="checkbox"/> Sewage       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Repair                  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scientific/ Research | <input type="checkbox"/> Water Intake |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Linear/Corridor         | <input type="checkbox"/> Municipal                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Quarry       |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ | Prescribe wildfire burns to meet research objectives     |                                       |

**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 type="checkbox"/> spraying   | <input type="checkbox"/> Waste management                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> recontouring   | <input type="checkbox"/> Waste generation                           |
| <input checked="" 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 checked="" 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*)

CTI-16 85 F 11

**NTS Map Sheet #s:**

CTI-16 85 F 11

**Latitude / Longitude and UTM System:**

Start: 61°35'28.3" N - 117°12'6.1" W

End: 61°34'20.3" N - 117°6'31.0" W

**Nearest Community and Water Body:**

Fort Providence is located ~40 km south of the Wildfire Experimental Site

Caen Lake is located ~10 km north of the Wildfire Experimental Site. Smaller unnamed waterbodies also exist within 10 km of the Wildfire Experimental Site.

**Land Status**

- Free Hold / Private
- Commissioners Land
- Territorial 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**

**IMPACT**

**MITIGATION**

**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.

**IMPACT**

**MITIGATION**

**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. The prescribed burns are not located adjacent to surface water bodies and will follow conditions in associated Land Use Permit MV2016X0008.

**IMPACT**

**MITIGATION**

**3. Noise**

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

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

**IMPACT****MITIGATION****4. Land**

- geologic structure changes
- soil contamination
- buffer zone loss
- soil compaction & settling
- destabilization/erosion

Burning vegetation has the potential to destabilize soil. The site location provides some mitigation as the plots are located on generally consistent topography which are not adjacent to medium – large water bodies. The potential for soil destabilization and erosion is reduced through the fires being small, and of short duration limiting damage to underground vegetation root systems. Condition 13 of Land Use Permit MV2016X0008 requires that “The Permittee shall minimize erosion by installing erosion control structures as the land-use operation progresses” and condition 14 requires that “The Permittee shall prepare the site in such a manner as to prevent rutting of the ground surface.”

- permafrost regime alteration
- other:
- N/A

**IMPACT****MITIGATION****5. Non-Renewable Resources**

- resource depletion
- other:
- N/A

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

**IMPACT****MITIGATION****6. Air/Climate/Atmosphere**

- other: smoke
- N/A

Small size of fires and short duration of fires will limit smoke generation. Fire suppression is planned to be initiated immediately after experiment is completed. The site location is ~40 km from the nearest community, minimizing potential impacts to people.

**BIOLOGICAL ENVIRONMENT**

**IMPACT**

**MITIGATION**

**7. Vegetation**

- species composition
- species introduction
- toxic/heavy accumulation
- other: Burn vegetation

Fires will be small in size (approx. <1000 m<sup>2</sup>). Fires are a natural process in the boreal forest that renews the forest. Land Use Permit MV2016X0008 condition 52 requires that "Prior to the expiry date of this Permit, the Permittee shall prepare the site in such a manner as to facilitate natural revegetation."

N/A

**IMPACT**

**MITIGATION**

**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

Before starting initiating wildlife experiments, the plots are walked through to confirm there are no migratory bird nests. Should a nest be found, the experiment is either moved to another plot or postponed.

Fires will be small in size (approx. <1000 m<sup>2</sup>). Fires are a natural process in the boreal forest that renews the forest.

behavioural changes

habitat changes / effects

Fires will be small in size (approx. <1000 m<sup>2</sup>). Fires are a natural process in the boreal forest that renews the forest.

game species effects

forestry changes

Fires will be small in size (approx. <1000 m<sup>2</sup>). Fires are a natural process in the boreal forest that renews the forest.

toxins / heavy metals

agricultural changes

other:

N/A

## **INTERACTING ENVIRONMENT**

### **IMPACT**

### **MITIGATION**

#### **9. Habitat & Communities**

predator-prey

wildlife habitat/ecosystem

Plots are reviewed before any experiment is conducted to prevent damage to wildlife abodes and habitat, including dens and nests. Fire crews are on hand to ensure fires are contained within intended burn area and do not spread uncontrolled.

composition changes

keystone/endangered species

wildlife corridor/buffer zone

other:

N/A

**IMPACT**

**MITIGATION**

**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: Local engagement and employment
- N/A

The research participants meet with the community of Fort Providence and Indigenous leaders annually. The Proponent provides copies of the Operation Plan and invite members to the site. The fire fighters involved are all local and have been involved with the site since its inception in the 1990s.

**IMPACT**

**MITIGATION**

**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 archaeological sites were found by the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre in the NWT Archaeological Sites Data Base (Dec. 2001). If a suspected archeological site is discovered, the Project shall be suspended, and the discovery will be reported to the Territorial Archaeologist and Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board.

**NOTES:**



## **PART 4:**

### **PRELIMINARY SCREENER / DISTRIBUTION LIST**

Hamlet of Fort Providence	Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada
Hamlet of Enterprise	Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency
Town of Hay River	Environment and Climate Change Canada
Designated Authority of Jean Marie River	Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Village of Fort Simpson	Education, Culture and Employment –Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre
Community Government of Behchokò	Environment and Natural Resources
Nahanni Butte Dene Band	Executive and Indigenous Affairs
Dehcho First Nations	Health and Social Services
Deh Gah Got'ie First Nation	Industry, Tourism and Investment
Fort Providence Métis Council	Infrastructure
The Métis Association Local 52 – Fort Simpson	Lands
Łíídlı́ Kúé First Nation	Municipal and Community Affairs
Ka'a'gee Tu First Nation	Digaa Enterprises Ltd.
West Point First Nation	Decho Land Use Planning Committee
Jean Marie River (Tthets'éhk'édélı́) First Nation	Dene Nation
Sambaa K'e First Nation	Fort Providence Resource Management Board
Pehdzéh Kí First Nation	NWT & Nunavut Chamber of Mines
Northwest Territory Métis Nation	NWT – Office of the Regulator of Oil and Gas
Hay River Métis Government Council	Operations
Kát'odeeche First Nation	Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board
Acho Dene Koe First Nation	Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board
Tłı̨chọ Government	
North Slave Métis Alliance	
Dene Tha' First Nation	

**PART 5:**

**PRELIMINARY SCREENING COMMENTS**

Table 1. Preliminary Screening comments for the proposed Permit to Burn for the Fort Providence Wildfire Experimental Site

REVIEWER	TOPIC	COMMENT	RECOMMENDATION
Lands (Inspector - South Slave Region)	GNWT-ENR Permit to Burn application - General Comment	The Inspector has reviewed the documentation provided. The terms and conditions of Land Use Permit MV2016X0008 will address any environmental concerns with the project.	The Inspector has no concerns with the issuance of a "Permit to Burn" for this project.
Lands	Public concern	Lands does not have any comments to provide regarding potential public concern with this development.	N/A
Territorial Land Administration	N/A	Land Administration does not have any comments on the permit to burn application.	N/A
ENR - EAM	Nesting birds	<p>The FPWES Operation Plan states that “Prior to any experimental wildfire the plots are walked through to ensure there are NO migratory bird nests. If there are any experiments are moved or postponed.”</p> <p>FMD should be aware that paragraph 51(1)(b) of the <i>Wildlife Act</i> prohibits the disturbance or destruction of a nest while the nest is occupied by a bird or its egg, regardless of if the bird is a migratory bird or not. Paragraph 51(1)(c) of the <i>Wildlife Act</i> prohibits the disturbance or destruction of the nest of a prescribed bird, even when it is unoccupied. Prescribed birds for the purpose of paragraph 51(1)(c) and 52 of the <i>Wildlife Act</i> are birds of prey (raptors) as set out in Schedule B of the Wildlife General Regulations. While a raptor nest may not be</p>	<p>EAM recommends that the pre-initiation walkthrough be conducted by an experienced biologist or personnel with bird expertise to locate and identify any potential birds, their nests and/or species at risk.</p> <p>Follow the Government of Canada’s <i>Guidelines to reduce risk to migratory birds</i> (available at <a href="https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/avoiding-harm-migratory-birds/reduce-risk-migratory-birds.html">https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/avoiding-harm-migratory-birds/reduce-risk-migratory-birds.html</a>)</p> <p>Consult the Government of Canada’s <i>General nesting periods of migratory birds</i> for current information on general nesting periods of federally protected migratory birds that occur within the NWT</p>

REVIEWER	TOPIC	COMMENT	RECOMMENDATION
		intentionally destroyed, even if unoccupied, typically on a case-by-case basis the destruction or removal of nests may be authorized where required by General Wildlife Permit.	<p data-bbox="1339 136 1986 237"><a href="https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/avoiding-harm-migratory-birds/general-nesting-periods.html">https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/avoiding-harm-migratory-birds/general-nesting-periods.html</a>)</p> <p data-bbox="1339 272 1986 509">If disturbance or destruction of an occupied nest or eggs of a non-migratory bird species (including raptors), or an unoccupied raptor nest, cannot be avoided and all other all mitigation options have been ruled out, contact the regional ENR office to determine whether a permit to disturb or destroy the nest/eggs can be obtained.</p>

## REASONS FOR DECISION

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On behalf of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (ENR), the Environmental Assessment and Monitoring unit (EAM, the Screener) is satisfied that the preliminary screening of the Permit to Burn at the Fort Providence Wildfire Experimental Site (FPWES) proposed by the Forest Management Division (the Proponent) of ENR, has been completed in accordance with section 125 of the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act* (MVRMA).

EAM is satisfied that communities, Indigenous governments and Indigenous organizations, government and other interested parties potentially affected by the proposed Permit to Burn have been notified and provided adequate time to offer comment.

The only parties who submitted comments were EAM-ENR and the Department of Lands (Lands), who submitted a total of two comments and two recommendations. The comments were consolidated into Table 1. EAM made recommendations related to nesting birds. The comments from Lands indicate that Lands is not aware of any public concern and had no comments on the Permit to Burn application. The Lands inspector communicated they have no concerns with the issuance of the permit to burn for this project and communicated that the terms and conditions of Land Use Permit MV2016X0008 will address any environmental concerns with the project. Land Use Permit MV2016X0008 was issued by the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board (MVLWB) on July 21, 2016, then extended on April 22, 2021. The Land Use Permit was screened by the MVLWB on March 12, 2009, pursuant to subsection 124(1) of the MVRMA and was therefore exempt in 2016 from screening pursuant to Part 1(2) of Schedule 1 (Section 2) of the Exemption List Regulations. During their preliminary screening the MVLWB was satisfied that “*any potential adverse environmental effects are insignificant or mitigable with known technology, and there is no likelihood that the proposed development might be a cause of public concern.*” The Land Use Permit entitles the Permittee to conduct the following land use operation: a) Prescribed research burn operations; b) Use of equipment and vehicles; and c) Fuel storage.

EAM performed their own further analysis to identify whether there might be a significant adverse impact on the environment or public concern. The small size of the prescribed burns, limited in duration and located ~ 40 km from the nearest community (Fort Providence), mitigate potential impacts of the project, as do the conditions in the Permit to Burn. The prescribed burns are scheduled to occur at the FPWES where there is a history of safely conducting small experimental wildfires which will be overseen by trained fire crews who possess the ability and resources to maintain control of the experimental fires. EAM also notes that no objections or serious concerns were raised by parties during the comment period or documented during regular site engagement activities conducted by the Proponent.

EAM finds that the proposed conditions contained in the Permit to Burn along with the existing conditions within the associated Type A Land Use Permit MV2016X0008 are sufficient to mitigate potential impacts on the environment.

Having reviewed all relevant information, including the submissions of the Applicant and the written comments received by EAM, the ENR screener, has determined that:

- The proposed development will not have a significant adverse impact on the environment; and
- The proposed development is not a cause of public concern.

EAM has therefore decided not to refer the Permit to Burn for the FPWES to environmental assessment.

<b>PRELIMINARY SCREENING DECISION</b>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Outside Local Government Boundaries</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	The development proposal might have a significant adverse impact on the environment, refer it to the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (Review Board).
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Proceed with regulatory process and/or implementation.</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	The development proposal might have public concern, refer it to the Review Board.
<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, refer it to the Review Board.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Proceed with regulatory process and/or implementation.
<input type="checkbox"/>	The development proposal might have public concern, refer it to the Review Board.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Proceed with regulatory process and/or implementation.