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February 9, 2021

File: G20X009

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

Sent via email

Dear Mr. Cliffe-Phillips,

**Re: Notice of Preliminary Screening Determination – Application for Land Use Permit  
New Dempster Highway Maintenance Camp**

The Gwich'in Land and Water Board (Board) met on February 9, 2021 and considered the Application from GNWT Department of Infrastructure (GNWT INF) for Type A Land Use Permit (Permit) G20X009 for the construction and operation of the new Dempster Highway Maintenance Camp in accordance with the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act* (MVRMA).

The Board conducted a preliminary screening based on the Application and the public record for the proceeding. Based on the evidence provided, the Board is satisfied the screening has been completed according to section 125 of the MVRMA and has decided **not to refer** the project to environmental assessment. The Preliminary Screening Report includes the Board's reasons for decision, as required by section 121 of the MVRMA (attached).

If the Board does not receive notice of referral to environmental assessment, it will proceed with the issuance of Permit G20X009 on February 20, 2021.

Our Board and staff look forward to continued communications throughout the pause period. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this letter, please contact Leonard DeBastien at (867) 777-4954

Yours sincerely,

Elizabeth Wright  
Chair, Gwich'in Land and Water Board

Copied to: GLWB Distribution List  
Merle Carpenter, GNWT Department of Infrastructure

Attached: Preliminary Screening Report, including Reasons for Decision

**Preliminary Screening Report Form**

<b>Preliminary screener:</b> GLWB  <b>Reference / File number:</b> G20X009  <b>TITLE:</b> New Dempster Highway Maintenance Camp  <b>ORGANIZATION:</b> GNWT Department of Infrastructure  <b>MEETING DATE:</b> February 9, 2021	<b>EIRB</b>  <b>Reference number:</b>
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**Type of Development:**  
(CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

- |                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | New  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Amend, EIRB Ref. #                                 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Requires permit, licence, or authorization         |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Does not require permit, licence, or authorization |

**Project Summary:**

GNWT Department of Infrastructure has applied to the GLWB for a Type A land use permit for the purpose of constructing and operating a new highway maintenance camp, located at km 28.8, Dempster Highway #8

**Scope:**

- a) Construction and operation of the Dempster Highway Maintenance Camp;
- b) Construction of an access road;
- c) Fuel storage; and
- d) Use of equipment, vehicles, and machines to support operations.

**Land Use Eligibility - Section 18 Mackenzie Valley Land Use Regulations:**  
18(b)

**Type of Disposition                      Disposition Number(s)**

- Mineral Claims
- Prospecting Permit (s)
- Mineral Leases
- Oil and Gas: EL/SDL/PL
- Quarry Permit
- Timber Permit
- Other: N/A

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

- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Construction<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Installation<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Maintenance<br><input type="checkbox"/> Expansion<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Operation<br><input type="checkbox"/> Repair<br><input type="checkbox"/> Research<br><input type="checkbox"/> Water Intake<br><input type="checkbox"/> Other: | <input type="checkbox"/> Exploration<br><input type="checkbox"/> Industrial<br><input type="checkbox"/> Recreation<br><input type="checkbox"/> Municipal<br><input type="checkbox"/> Quarry<br><input type="checkbox"/> Linear / Corridor<br><input type="checkbox"/> Sewage | <input type="checkbox"/> Decommissioning<br><input type="checkbox"/> Abandonment<br><input type="checkbox"/> Aerial<br><input type="checkbox"/> Harvesting<br><input type="checkbox"/> Camp<br><input type="checkbox"/> Scientific/Monitoring<br><input type="checkbox"/> Solid Waste |
|--|--|---|

**Principal Development Components (related to scoping) (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Access Road<br><div style="margin-left: 20px;"> <input type="checkbox"/> construction<br/> <input type="checkbox"/> abandonment/removal<br/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> modification e.g., widening, straightening                 </div> <input type="checkbox"/> Automobile, Aircraft or Vessel Movement<br><input type="checkbox"/> Blasting<br><input type="checkbox"/> Building | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Waste Management<br><div style="margin-left: 20px;"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> disposal of hazardous waste<br/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> waste generation<br/> <input type="checkbox"/> sewage<br/> <input type="checkbox"/> disposal of sewage                 </div> <input type="checkbox"/> Geoscientific Sampling<br><input type="checkbox"/> Trenching |
|---|---|

- Burning
- Burying
- Channelling
- Cut and Fill
- Cutting of Trees or Removal of Vegetation
- Dams and Impoundments
  - construction
  - abandonment/removal
  - modification
- Ditch Construction
- Drainage Alteration
- Drilling other than Geoscientific
- Ecological Surveys
- Excavation
- Explosive Storage
- Fuel Storage
- Topsoil, Overburden or Soil
  - fill
  - disposal
  - removal
  - storage
- Diamond drill
- Borehole core sampling
- Bulk soil sampling
  - gravel
  - hydrological Testing
- Site Restoration
  - fertilization
  - grubbing
  - planting/seeding
  - reforestation
  - scarify
  - spraying
  - re-contouring
- Slashing and removal of vegetation
- Soil Testing
- Stream Crossing/Bridging
- Tunnelling/Underground
- Other:

**NTS topographic map sheet numbers:**

106M4

**Latitude / longitude**

67° 10'36.14" /135°43'6.58"

**Nearest community and water body:**

Fort McPherson/ Vittrekwa River

**Land Status (*consultation information*)**

- Free Hold/Private
- Commissioner's/Territorial Lands
- Federal Crown Land
- Municipal Land

**Transboundary/Transregional Implications**

- British Columbia
- Nunavut
- Wek'èezhii
- Alberta
- National Park
- Gwich'in
- Saskatchewan
- Inuvialuit Settlement Region
- Sahtu
- Yukon

**Type of transboundary implication:**  Impact / Effect  Development

Public concern: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Describe.)

**Physical - Chemical Effects**

**Impact**

**Mitigation**

**1) Ground Water**

- water table alteration
- water quality changes

This Project will not use groundwater resources; no impacts on groundwater quantity are expected.

The geotechnical investigation found that the Project site is well drained, as no ground water seepage was found during bore hole drilling. This also suggests that groundwater will not be impacted by excavation during construction activities. The Spill Contingency Plan (SCP) will be in place to protect against spills and if any spills were to occur, they would be cleaned up promptly and thoroughly to prevent groundwater contamination.

infiltration changes

other:

N/A

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

**Mitigation**

flow or level changes

This Project will not create any significant impacts to area hydrology. There will be no damming of flow or installation of water-control structures. Surrounding surface water (i.e. up gradient) will be diverted around the site via a swale surrounding the new pad. A culvert will be installed under the access road to maintain flow along the ditch of the already established highway, and will maintain overall site drainage as it is.

water quality changes

The site will be bermed and lined to prevent the migration of spills into water. Spill contingency Plan addressed additional mitigation methods.

water quantity changes

drainage pattern changes

temperature

wetland changes/loss

other:

N/A

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

**Mitigation**

noise in/near water

Construction activities will be short-termed and temporary. No noise mitigations proposed.

noise increase

other:

N/A

**Mitigation**

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

geologic structure changes

soil contamination

Possibility of contamination from fuel and chemicals stored on site, during fuel transfer will be mitigated as follows: Fuel storage areas will be equipped with spill kits, and located at least 100 m away from waterbodies and large fuel storage tanks (above 2,000 L) will be double walled. The entire facility will be bermed and underlined with a geomembrane to prevent the spread of any contaminants in the event of a spill.

- buffer zone loss
- soil compaction and settling Overland vehicle travel may cause rutting and or compaction of the ground surface, but will be limited to within the facility footprint.
- destabilization/erosion

- permafrost regime alteration The results of the geotechnical investigation also showed that there is little permafrost present in areas where buildings will be constructed, which will minimize the impacts of the camp access road on the permafrost (and vice versa). The permafrost found has low ice content due to the low soil moisture in the area. A Nearby thaw slump does appear not pose any risk to the HMC. There are bedrock outcrops at several locations within and upslope of the slump. The upslope permafrost conditions do not appear to pose risk to the site.

explosives/scarring

other:

N/A



**Impact**

**5) Non-renewable natural resources**

**Mitigation**

resource depletion

other:

 N/A

**Impact**

**6) Air/climate/atmosphere**

**Mitigation**

other:

Air Quality mitigation will include: 1. Vehicles and equipment will be maintained in proper operating condition. 2. Unnecessary idling will be discouraged. 3. Vehicles and equipment will be plugged in at camps to minimize the need to keep running during cold weather.

 N/A

- 1) The design of the building will factor in greenhouse gas reduction opportunities, where appropriate.
- 2) The design of the pilings will factor in climate change scenarios over the lifespan of the building.
- 3) The camp will be properly insulated and winterized to minimize the use of heating fuel.
- 4) Vehicles and equipment will be maintained in proper operating condition.
- 5) Unnecessary idling will be discouraged.
- 6) Vehicles and equipment will be plugged in at camps to minimize the need to keep running during cold weather.




**BIOLOGICAL ENVIRONMENT**

**Impact**

**1) Vegetation**

**Mitigation**

species composition

species introduction

Equipment and vehicles used for the Project that are coming from outside of this area will be cleaned to prevent the spread of non-native plant species.

toxin/heavy accumulation

other: Linear Migration routes, habitat

fragmentation

N/A

**Impact**

**Mitigation**

**2) Wildlife and Fish**

effects on rare, threatened or endangered species

Project Location on the periphery of the migration path of porcupine caribou herd. Activities to be minimized during the migration season. Construction work to cease if caribou are within 500 m of the project area.

fish population changes

waterfowl population changes

breeding disturbance

population reduction

species diversity change

health changes

behavioural changes

habitat changes / effects

game species effects

toxins/ heavy metals

forestry changes

agricultural changes

other:

N/A

**Interacting Environment**

**Impact**

**Mitigation**

**1) Habitat and Communities**

G20X009 – GNWT INF - DHMC

predator-prey

wildlife habitat/ecosystem composition changes

- Clearing will be minimized to only those areas that are required.
- Previously disturbed areas will be used wherever possible.
- Personnel will not travel off site unless there is a specific requirement.
- Project vehicles and equipment are expected to be cleaned before entering the NWT to minimize the transport of non-native/invasive species of vegetation.
- An approved Spill Contingency Plan will be followed to ensure spills are prevented and if they were to occur as a result of an accident, that they will be controlled to prevent the spills from impacting a large area.

reduction/removal of keystone or endangered species

removal of wildlife corridor or buffer zone

other:

The Project is located on a Land Reserve of approximately 6.00 ha, no clearing of land is anticipated, the project will entail placing granular material over the existing surface layer any clearing of shrubs or infilling will be contained within the Project area. There will be little to no long-term direct or cumulative impacts on habitat loss and/or alteration due to this Project.

N/A

**Impact**

**2) Social and Economic**

**Mitigation**

planning/zoning changes or conflicts

increase in urban facilities or services use

rental house

airport operations/capacity changes

human health hazard

impair the recreational use of water or aesthetic quality

affect water use for other purposes

affect other land use operations

quality of life changes

public concern

other:

N/A

**Impact**

**3) Cultural and Heritage**

**Mitigation**

effects to historic property

increased economic pressure  
on historic properties

change to or loss of historic  
resources

change to or loss of  
archaeological resources

increased pressure on  
archaeological sites

change to or loss of  
aesthetically important sites

effects to aboriginal lifestyle

Previously disturbed location, with low potential for archaeological resources. If any new cultural or heritage resource site is discovered during the project, work must cease and the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre and GTC DCH shall be contacted immediately.

Potential for impacts to traditional land users who use the area LUP Condition requires that INF takes all reasonable precautions to avoid impacts to traditional harvesting activities.

other:

N/A



**PRELIMINARY SCREENER / REFERRING BODY INFORMATION**  
(CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

	RA or DRA	ADVICE	PERMIT REQUIRED
Environment Canada	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fisheries and Oceans	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Canadian Heritage (Parks Canada)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Natural Resources Canada	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Public Works and Gov't Services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Transport Canada	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Northern Oil and Gas Directorate	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Canadian Nuclear Safety	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Industry Canada	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Canadian Transportation Agency	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
National Defence	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GNWT – ENR	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GNWT - MACA	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GNWT - Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GNWT - Health	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GNWT – Lands	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Prince of Wales Heritage Center	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Worker's Compensation Board	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
MVEIRB	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
MVLWB	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gwich'in Land and Water Board	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Gwich'in Land Use Planning Board	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gwich'in Social & Cultural Institute	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gwich'in Tribal Council	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gwichya Gwich'in Council	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gwichya Gwich'in Renewable Resources Council	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nihtat Gwich'in Council	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nihtat Gwich'in Renewable Resource Council	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teet'it Gwich'in Council	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teet'it Gwich'in Renewable Resource Council	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ehdiitat Gwich'in Council	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ehdiitat Renewable Resource Council	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hamlet of Aklavik	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hamlet of Fort Mcpherson	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Charter Community Of Tsiigehtchic	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Town of Inuvik	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Reasons for Decision**

The Gwich'in Land and Water Board (the Board) is satisfied that the preliminary screening of Application G20X009, for Government of the Northwest Territories Department of Infrastructure Dempster Highway Maintenance 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 the Application can proceed through the regulatory process and that any impacts of the development on the environment can be mitigated through conditions of a land use permit.

<b>Preliminary Screening Decision</b>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Outside Local Government Boundaries</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	The development proposal might have a significant adverse impact on the environment, <i>refer it to the EIRB.</i> <i>Proceed with regulatory process and/or implementation.</i>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The development proposal might have public concern, <i>refer it to the EIRB.</i> <i>Proceed with regulatory process and/or implementation.</i>
<b>Wholly Within Local Government Boundaries</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	The development proposal is likely to have a significant adverse impact on air, water or renewable resources, <i>refer it to the EIRB.</i> <i>Proceed with regulatory process and/or implementation.</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	The development proposal might have public concern, <i>refer it to the EIRB.</i> <i>Proceed with regulatory process and/or implementation.</i>

**Preliminary Screening Organization**

Gwich'in Land and Water Board

February 9, 2021

**Signature**



Elizabeth Wright, Chair