
**Work Plan for the Water Licence and Land Use Permit Applications:
Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada – Contaminants and Remediation Division (CIRNAC-CARD)– W2020L8-0003 & W2020X-0005
Rayrock Remediation Project**

Work Plan Timeline

See page 3.

Purpose of the Work Plan

To outline the processes and timelines to be followed for the applications for Water Licence W2020L8-0003 and Land Use Permit W2020X-0005 for the remediation of the Rayrock Former Uranium Mine, former Sun Rose Advanced Exploration Site, and affiliated sites.

Background

Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada – Contaminants and Remediation Division (CIRNAC-CARD) submitted complete applications for a Type A Land Use Permit and a Type A Water Licence to the Wek'èezhìi Land and Water Board (WLWB) on September 21, 2020.^{1,2,3} These applications propose the Board issue Licence W2020L8-0003 and Permit W2020X-0005 to allow for the remediation of the former Rayrock Uranium Mine. Permit W2020X-0001 would replace the existing permit W2015X-0006 which expires August 13, 2022.⁴

Scope of the Project

As described by CIRNAC-CARD in the Applications, the proposed Rayrock Remediation Project is the environmental remediation of historical metal mining and exploration properties including the Rayrock Uranium mine, the Sun Rose (Northland) Advanced Exploration site, the Horn Plateau (REX) exploration site, three Rayrock affiliated drilling sites, the power line infrastructure between Rayrock and the Snare Hydroelectric Facility at Big Spruce Lake, and a Rayrock-affiliated storage area at the Barge Landing. In the Project Description, CIRNAC-CARD states that the Project would require the following activities:

- remediation of Mill Lake by removing water from Mill Lake, treating the water and discharging to Sherman Lake, and treating the lake sediments;
- encapsulation of sediment, soil, tailings and waste rock in the former Mill Lake, which may include uranium-impacted debris with concentrations above safe shipping levels;
- removal of debris and other materials collected during remedial activities on the winter road;
- incineration or off-site disposal of waste from Camp operations;
- capping of waste rock and blast pits;
- closure of an open shaft; and
- water use for road building on Tłjchq winter road system.

Guiding Principles

The following principles will guide the Work Plan of the WLWB throughout this water licence amendment process:

- The licencing and permitting process shall be carried out in a timely manner and shall have regard to the protection of the environment in consideration of the impacts of proposed undertaking and the importance of conservation to the well being and way of life of the aboriginal peoples of Canada (Section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*);
- The Board will review CIRNAC-CARD's application and consider potential conditions based on evidence and rationale submitted by the applicant and other parties;

¹ See WLWB Online Registry (www.wlwb.ca) for [W2020L8-0003 – CIRNAC-CARD – Rayrock – Cover Letter – Type A WL and Type A LUP Application Package – Sep 21 20](#)

² See WLWB Online Registry for [W2020L8-0003 – CIRNAC-CARD – Rayrock – Type A Water Licence Application – Sep 21 20](#)

³ See WLWB Online Registry for [W2020X0005 – CIRNAC-CARD – Rayrock – Type A Land Use Permit Application – Sep 21 20](#)

⁴ See WLWB Online Registry for [W2015X0006 – Rayrock – Land Use Permit – Extension – May 6 20.pdf](#)

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- The Board will review CIRNAC-CARD's Application and consider potential conditions in order to meet the Board's mandate and applicable policies, and to ensure consistency in decision-making throughout the Mackenzie Valley; and
 - The Board will continue to monitor compliance with existing Land Use Permit requirements.

Work Plan Objectives

The Work Plan is to achieve the following objectives:

- Compile a broad range of input through the review process;
- Ensure adequate information is gathered to complete the water licensing and land use permitting process;
- Facilitate a thorough, inclusive, and timely water licensing and land use permitting process; and
- Establish Water Licence and Land Use Permit conditions to ensure adequate protection of the environment.

Opportunities for Engagement

- The Board requires the Proponent to engage with communities and aboriginal organizations regarding applications prior to its submission;
- The Board will distribute the application to all reviewers on the Board's 'Wek'èezhìi West distribution list' – including aboriginal organizations, governments, and communities – for review using the LWB Online Review System;
- The Board will include a notification(s) regarding the review process in the newspaper;
- The Board will coordinate a technical session(s) and/or workshop to address specific issues that require more focused review and discussion;
- The Board will hold a public hearing and provide notice to the public of this, in advance, in the newspaper; and
- Any other consultation or engagement activity that the Board considers appropriate.

Task	Responsible Party	Due/Complete
Application submitted by Proponent	Proponent	Monday, September 21, 2020
Application distributed for review	WLWB	Tuesday, September 29, 2020
Comments due on draft work plan	Reviewers	Tuesday, October 13, 2020
Comments due on application (identify issues for technical session)	Reviewers	Wednesday, October 28, 2020
Response to comments on application	Proponent	Tuesday, November 17, 2020
Board Meeting – Preliminary Screening Decision	WLWB	December 2020
If Preliminary Screening decision is to continue with regulatory process, then draft work plan follows below		
Circulate draft agenda for technical session	WLWB	Wednesday, December 16, 2020
Comments due on draft agenda for technical session	All Parties	Monday, December 21, 2020
Circulate agenda for technical session	WLWB	Tuesday, December 22, 2020
Technical Session	All Parties	Tuesday-Thursday, January 12-14, 2021
Circulation Technical Session Information Requests	WLWB	Tuesday, January 19, 2021
Deadline for all parties' response to Information Requests	All Parties	Tuesday, February 02, 2021
Pre-Hearing Conference	All Parties	Tuesday, February 16, 2021
Deadline for Interventions	Interveners	Thursday, March 04, 2021
Deadline for Response to Interventions	Proponent	Thursday, March 18, 2021
Deadline for Interveners Public Hearing presentations	Interveners	Thursday, March 25, 2021
Deadline for Proponent Public Hearing presentations	Proponent	Thursday, April 01, 2021
Circulate agenda for Public Hearing	WLWB	Tuesday, April 06, 2021

Public Hearing	All Parties	April 13-15, 2021
Deadline for Public Hearing Undertakings	All Parties	Thursday, April 29, 2021
Draft Water Licence distributed for Review	WLWB	Thursday, May 13, 2021
Deadline for Reviewer comments on Draft Water Licence	Intervenors	Thursday, May 27, 2021
Deadline for Proponent response to Draft Water Licence	Proponent	Thursday, June 03, 2021
Deadline for Closing Arguments from Intervenors	Intervenors	Thursday, June 17, 2021
Deadline for Closing Arguments from Proponent	Proponent	Thursday, June 24, 2021
Board Meeting	WLWB	August 2021
WLWB Recommendation to the Minister	WLWB	August/September 2021
Timeline for Decision from Minister	Minister	Within 45 days of WLWB Recommendation. The Minister may extend time limit of Decision by up to 45 days.

Please note that the Work Plan has been created based on information available and is subject to change at any time.