



PO Box 32, Wekweètì NT X0E 1W0
Tel: 867-713-2500 Fax: 867-713-2502

#1-4905 48th Street, Yellowknife NT X1A 3S3
Tel: 867-765-4592 Fax: 867-765-4593
www.wlwb.ca

February 24, 2022

File: W2022C0001

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: Olympus – Notice of Preliminary Screening Determination – Application for Land Use Permit – Vicinity of Point Lake and Itchen Lake, NT

The Wek'èezhii Land and Water Board (Board) met on February 24, 2022 and considered the Application from Golden Planet Mining Corp. (Golden Planet) for Land Use Permit (Permit) W2022C0001 for the Olympus Project in the vicinity of Point Lake and Itchen Lake, NT in accordance with the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act* (MVRMA).

The Board conducted a preliminary screening based on 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 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 W2022C0001 on March 7, 2022.

The Board and staff look forward to continued communications throughout the pause period. Please contact Ryan Fequet at (867) 765-4589 with any questions or concerns regarding this letter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mason Mantla', written in a cursive style.

Mason Mantla
Chair, Wek'èezhii Land and Water Board

BCC'd to: Wek'èezhii Distribution List
Stefan Sklepowicz, Golden Planet

Attached: Preliminary Screening Determination and Reasons for Decision



PO Box 32, Wekweètì NT X0E 1W0
 Tel: 867-713-2500 Fax: 867-713-2502

#1-4905 48th Street, Yellowknife NT X1A 3S3
 Tel: 867-765-4592 Fax: 867-765-4593
www.wlwb.ca

Preliminary Screening Determination and Reasons for Decision

Land Use Permit Application	
File Number	W2022C0001
Company	Golden Planet Mining Corp.
Project	Olympus
Location	Vicinity of Point Lake and Itchen Lake, NT
Activity	Mining Exploration
Date of Decision	February 24, 2022

1.0 Decision

In accordance with subsection 124(1) of the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act* (MVRMA), the Wek'èezhì Land and Water Board (WLWB or Board) met on February 24, 2022 to make a preliminary screening determination on the Application from Golden Planet Mining Corp. (Golden Planet) (the Applicant) for Land Use Permit W2022C0001 (Permit)¹ for the Olympus project located on the mineral leases and claims in the vicinity of Point Lake and Itchen Lake, NT (Project).²

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.

The Board's determination, including reasons for its decision, are detailed in sections [3.0](#) and [4.0](#).

¹See WLWB Online Registry www.wlwb.ca/ for [Golden Planet - Land Use Permit Application - Application Form - Jan 10 22](#).

² The Project is the Olympus 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."

2.0 List of Defined Terms and Acronyms

Applicant	Golden Planet Mining Corp.
Application	The complete application package submitted by the Applicant for Land Use Permit W2022C0001.
Board	Wek'èezhii Land and Water Board
DFO	Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada
EA	Environmental Assessment
ECCC	Environment and Climate Change Canada
GNWT	Government of the Northwest Territories
GNWT-ECE-PWNHC	Government of the Northwest Territories – Education, Culture and Employment – Prince of Whales Northern Heritage Centre
GNWT-ENR-EAM	Government of the Northwest Territories – Environment and Natural Resources – Environmental Assessment and Monitoring
GNWT-Lands	Government of the Northwest Territories – Lands – North Slave Region
MVLWB	Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board
MVRMA	<i>Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act</i>
ORS	Online Review System (www.new.onlinereviewssystem.ca)
Party	As per the MVLWB <i>Rules of Procedures</i> , an applicant, a person, or an organization participating in the regulatory proceeding for the Application.
Project	Olympus, which is the proposed development (as defined in Part 5 of the MVRMA). ³
Review Board	Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board
SCP	Spill Contingency Plan
Standard Permit Conditions	MVLWB Standard Land Use Permit Conditions Template
TG	Tłı̨chǫ Government
TK	Traditional Knowledge
WMP	Waste Management Plan
WRRB	Wek'èezhii Renewable Resources Board
WWHPP	Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat Protection Plan

3.0 Background and Scope of Screening

On January 10, 2022 Golden Planet submitted an application for a type A land use permit to conduct mineral exploration activities in the vicinity of Point Lake (traditionally known as Deèzàatì) and Itchen Lake following an exploratory summer field program in 2021. The Project is anticipated to commence March 2022 and continue for a period of five years with a possible two-year extension. The purpose of the Project is to find gold mineralization in sufficient quantities to justify further evaluation and potentially extraction. Should the results of the drilling program prove successful, Golden Planet has expressed interest in constructing access road(s) with the support of an Archaeological Impact Study.

³ “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.”

Engagement has occurred with First Nation and Government parties throughout 2021 prior to the submission of this Application, and Golden Planet has agreed to sign a data-sharing agreement with the Tłıchq Government (TG) to identify and protect archeological sites.

3.1 Scope of Screening:

The proposed activities for the Project include:

- diamond-drilling and reverse-circulation drilling;
- the use of equipment, vehicles, and machines;
- fuel storage;
- construction, operation, and maintenance of a temporary camp and potential satellite camps; and
- establishment and maintenance of winter-access trails.

These proposed activities will occur on 35 mineral claims owned by Golden Planet in the vicinity of Point Lake (traditionally known as Deèzàati) and Itchen Lake. The mineral claims total an area of 20,134 hectares, and up to 100 drill holes are expected per year. The exact locations of the camp, potential satellite camps, fuel cache, drilling locations, and associated water sources have yet to be finalized, though it is expected that Point Lake will be the primary source of water for the camp and drilling activities.

3.2 Public Record and Regulatory Proceeding

To assist the Board in its preliminary screening determination for the Project, the Board distributed the Application and a draft Permit for public review on January 18, 2022, inviting reviewers to provide comments and recommendations on the Application and the preliminary screening (e.g., on impacts and mitigation measures) using the Online Review System (ORS). Comments were due February 8, 2022, and Applicant responses were received after the deadline, on February 17, 2022. The Board received comments and recommendations from the:

- Government of the Northwest Territories – Environment and Natural Resources – Environmental Assessment and Monitoring (GNWT-ENR-EAM);
- Government of the Northwest Territories – Lands – North Slave Region (GNWT-Lands);
- Tłıchq Government (TG);
- Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC);
- Wek'èezhii Renewable Resources Board (WRRB);
- Government of the Northwest Territories – Education, Culture and Employment – Prince of Whales Northern Heritage Centre (GNWT-ECE-PWNHC); and
- Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada: Triage Group Fisheries Protection Program (DFO).

Board staff also submitted comments on February 8, 2022, and all comments and recommendations are (attached).⁴

⁴ See WLWB Online Registry for [Golden Planet - Olympus - Reviewer Comments and Proponent Responses - Feb 17 22](#).

Since there were no requests to extend the reviewer comment deadline, 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.

The Board is also satisfied that the Tłıchǫ Government (TG) has been consulted in accordance with section 63 of the MVRMA.

4.0 Potential Impacts and Proposed Mitigations

A draft Permit was 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.

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.

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

Potential Impact	Activity	<p align="center">Proposed Mitigations</p> <p align="center"><i>Description of measures to reduce potential impacts, including consideration of cumulative impacts and climate change.</i></p>	Board Analysis and Determination
Soil contamination	Fuel storage (camp and caches), use of heavy equipment, refueling, use of generators, sump(s), pit-privies, drilling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Applicant proposed the following mitigations in the Application and during the public review: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ follow an approved spill plan and procedures; ○ make spill kits and equipment readily available (at camp, fuel storage and transfer sites) with contact information for the NWT Spill Report Line prominently displayed; ○ inspect fuel caches and transfer areas regularly; ○ train personnel in proper spill procedures; ○ implement secondary containment for fuel caches; ○ label and position fuel drums according to best practice; ○ make use of secondary containment for vehicle or aircraft fuelling to minimize spillage risk; ○ use drip trays and double-walled containment wherever possible; ○ inspect strapping and barrels for malfunctions daily to reduce the likelihood of spills prior to fuel transport; ○ keep equipment away from fuel storage areas, and locate fuel at a place where double-walled containment is present for fuel transfer; and ○ remove all fuel storage and caches at the end of the project. • The Board has standard permit conditions that are typically used to mitigate the described impacts. These standard conditions include:⁵ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ CHEMICALS ○ CLEAN UP SPILLS 	Based on the described mitigations, it is the Board’s opinion that the proposed activities will not have a significant adverse impact on the environment and will not be a cause of public concern.

⁵ See the WLWB Policies and Resources webpage to access the MVLWB [Standard Water Licence Conditions Template](#) and/OR MVLWB [Standard Land Use Permit Conditions Template](#).

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ CLEAN WORK AREA ○ DRILLING WASTE DISPOSAL ○ DRIP TRAYS ○ FUEL CACHE SECONDARY CONTAINMENT ○ FUEL CONTAINMENT ○ FUEL ON LAND ○ INSPECT LOCATIONS ○ LOCATION OF ACTIVITIES ○ MARK CONTAINERS AND TANKS ○ MARK FUEL LOCATION ○ MAXIMUM FUEL ON SITE ○ RECLAIM NON-OIL AND GAS SUMPS ○ REPAIR LEAKS ○ REPORT FUEL LOCATION ○ REPORT SPILLS ○ RESPONSIBILITY FOR REMEDIATION COSTS ○ SEAL OUTLET ○ SECONDARY CONTAINMENT REFUELING ○ SEWAGE DISPOSAL – SUMP SETBACK ○ SPILL CONTINGENCY PLAN ○ SPILL RESPONSE ○ WASTE CHEMICAL DISPOSAL ○ WASTE MANAGEMENT ○ WASTE PETROLEUM DISPOSAL 	
Soil compaction	Camp establishment, use of heavy equipment, access/ice trails, drilling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Applicant proposed the following mitigations in the Application: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ restrict drilling operations to a very small footprint; ○ ensure the ground is capable of supporting vehicle movements so that the land is not disturbed; and ○ completely remove all camp infrastructure (tents/shacks) and return the land to a stable condition upon completion of operations. 	Based on the described mitigations, it is the Board's opinion that the proposed activities will not have a significant adverse impact on the environment and will not be a cause of public concern.

		<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"> ○ CAMP SETBACK ○ INSPECT LOCATIONS ○ LOCATION OF ACTIVITIES ○ PREVENTION OF RUTTING ○ SUSPEND OVERLAND TRAVEL ○ USE APPROVED EQUIPMENT 	
Destabilization/ Erosion	Camp establishment, use of heavy equipment, drilling, ice trails, and stream crossings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Applicant proposed the following mitigations in the Application and public review: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ naturally or actively re-vegetate disturbed sites and return disturbed lands as close to the original condition as possible using a local source in the NWT; ○ make use of existing land disturbances to reduce environmental impacts and meet the needs of the exploration project; ○ return soil materials to drilling location as soon as possible and in proper order upon completion of drilling activities to ensure the fastest and best return to a healthy and resilient ecosystem; ○ construct the camp on level, dry, durable, and gravelly ground, which will allow surface water to drain, and prevent erosion; ○ provide adequate insulation of the ground surface beneath all camp structures to prevent the ground from settling/eroding; ○ backfill and restore sumps following their use to limit potential for localized erosion; ○ restrict drilling operations to a very small footprint; and ○ minimize erosion. • The Board has standard permit conditions that are typically used to mitigate the described impacts. These standard conditions include: 	Based on the described mitigations, it is the Board's opinion that the proposed activities will not have a significant adverse impact on the environment and will not be a cause of public concern.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ CAMP SETBACK ○ DOGLEG APPROACHES ○ EQUIPMENT: WATERCOURSE BUFFER ○ FLOWING ARTESIAN WELL ○ INSPECT LOCATIONS ○ NATURAL VEGETATION ○ OFF-ROAD VEHICLE TRAVEL ○ PARALLEL ROADS ○ PARALLEL WATERCOURSE SETBACK ○ PERMAFROST PROTECTION ○ PRE-CONSTRUCTION PROFILES ○ PREVENTION OF RUTTING ○ PROGRESSIVE EROSION CONTROL ○ PROGRESSIVE RECLAMATION ○ REPAIR EROSION ○ STREAM BANKS ○ SUSPEND OVERLAND TRAVEL ○ USE APPROVED EQUIPMENT ○ VEHICLE MOVEMENT FREEZE-UP 	
Water table alteration	Drilling water use, encountering artesian wells	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Applicant proposed the following mitigations in the Application: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ seal any drill holes that encounter artesian aquifers; ○ use of the LWB Method for Determining Winter Water Source Capacity for Small-Scale Developments;⁶ and ○ prevent obstruction of natural drainage. • 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"> ○ FLOWING ARTESIAN WELL ○ NATURAL DRAINAGE 	Based on the described mitigations, it is the Board's opinion that the proposed activities will not have a significant adverse impact on the environment and will not be a cause of public concern.
Changes to water quality	Camp establishment, fuel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Applicant proposed the following mitigations in the Application and during the public review: 	Based on the described mitigations, it is the Board's opinion that the proposed activities

⁶ See the WLWB Policies and Resources webpage to access the [LWB Method for Determining Winter Water Source Capacity for Small-Scale Developments - Apr 7 21](#).

<p>(groundwater and surface water)</p>	<p>storage (camp and caches), use of heavy equipment, refueling, sump(s), pit privies, drilling waste, stream crossings, and lime, lye, bacterial-reducing agent, dispersants, emulsion-treating agent use</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ follow an approved spill plan and procedures; ○ make spill kits and equipment readily available (at camp, fuel storage and transfer sites) with contact information for the NWT Spill Report Line prominently displayed; ○ regularly inspect fuel caches and transfer areas; ○ train personnel in proper spill procedures; ○ implement secondary containment for fuel caches; ○ properly labelling and positioning fuel drums; ○ make use of secondary containment for vehicle or aircraft fuelling to minimize spillage risk; ○ locate fuel storage, sump, and any pit privies at least 100 m from the high-water mark of any water course to limit potential for contamination; ○ use drip trays and double-walled containment wherever possible; ○ remove all fuel storage and caches at the end of the project; ○ locate any campsite on durable land or another previously cleared area; ○ regarding spills in water, only use dispersants and emulsion-treating agents if advised by professionals; ○ prior to fuel transport, inspect strapping and barrels for malfunctions daily to reduce the likelihood of spills; ○ keep equipment away from fuel storage areas, and locate fuel at a place where double-walled containment is present for fuel transfer; ○ use low volumes of lime, lye and bacterial-reducing agents on site; ○ prior to fuel transport, inspect strapping and barrels for malfunctions daily to reduce the likelihood of spills; and ○ deposit drill-cuttings into a natural depression. <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"> ○ CAMP SETBACK 	<p>will not have a significant adverse impact on the environment and will not be a cause of public concern.</p>
--	--	--	---

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ CHEMICALS ○ CLEAN UP SPILLS ○ CLEAN WORK AREA ○ CONSTRUCT ICE BRIDGES SNOWFILLS ○ DETOURS AND CROSSINGS ○ DRILLING NEAR WATER OR ON ICE ○ DRILLING WASTE ○ DRILLING WASTE CONTAINMENT ○ DRILLING WASTE DISPOSAL ○ DRILLING/ ADIT SETBACK ○ DRIP TRAYS ○ EQUIPMENT: WATERCOURSE BUFFER ○ EXCAVATION SETBACK ○ FLOWING ARTESIAN WELL ○ FUEL CACHE SECONDARY CONTAINMENT ○ FUEL CONTAINMENT ○ FUEL ON LAND ○ FUEL STORAGE SETBACK ○ INSPECT LOCATIONS ○ LOCATION OF ACTIVITIES ○ MARK FUEL LOCATIONS ○ MAXIMUM FUEL ON SITE ○ PARALLEL WATERCOURSE SETBACK ○ RECLAIM NON-OIL AND GAS SUMPS ○ REPAIR LEAKS ○ REPORT FUEL LOCATION ○ REPORT SPILLS ○ RESPONSIBILITY FOR REMEDIATION COSTS ○ SEAL OUTLET ○ SECONDARY CONTAINMENT - REFUELING ○ SEWAGE DISPOSAL – SUMP SETBACK ○ SPILL CONTINGENCY PLAN ○ SPILL RESPONSE ○ STORAGE ON ICE ○ SUMP SETBACK 	
--	--	---	--

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ USE APPROVED EQUIPMENT ○ WASTE CHEMICAL DISPOSAL ○ WASTE MANAGEMENT ○ WASTE PETROLEUM DISPOSAL 	
Permafrost - loss or change in extent and/or change in persistence	Camp establishment, drilling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Applicant proposed the following mitigation in the Application: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ provide adequate insulation of the ground surface beneath all camp structures to prevent the melting of permafrost. • 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 ○ PERMAFROST PROTECTION ○ PREVENTION OF RUTTING 	Based on the described mitigation, it is the Board's opinion that the proposed activities will not have a significant adverse impact on the environment and will not be a cause of public concern.
Changes to aquatic habitat	fuel spills associated with storage (caches), use of heavy equipment, refueling, sump(s), pit privies, drilling waste, stream crossings, and lime, lye, bacterial-reducing agent, dispersants, emulsion-treating agent use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Applicant proposed the following mitigations in the Application and during the public review: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ follow an approved spill plan and procedures; ○ make spill kits and equipment readily available with contact information for the NWT Spill Report Line prominently displayed; ○ regularly inspect fuel caches and transfer areas; ○ train personnel in proper spill procedures; ○ secondary containment for fuel caches; ○ properly labelling and positioning fuel drums; ○ make use of secondary containment for vehicle or aircraft fuelling to minimize spillage risk; ○ locate fuel storage, sump, and any pit privies at least 100 m from the high-water mark of any water course to limit potential for contamination; ○ use drip trays and double-walled containment wherever possible; ○ remove all fuel storage and caches at the end of the project; ○ locate any campsite will be on durable land or another previously cleared area; 	Based on the described mitigations, it is the Board's opinion that the proposed activities will not have a significant adverse impact on the environment and will not be a cause of public concern.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ regarding spills in water, only use dispersants and emulsion- if advised by professionals; ○ use low volumes of lime, lye and bacterial-reducing agents on site; ○ prior to fuel transport, inspect strapping and barrels for malfunctions daily to reduce the likelihood of spills; ○ use of the LWB Method for Determining Winter Water Source Capacity for Small-Scale Developments; and ○ deposit drill-cuttings into a natural depression. <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"> ○ CAMP SETBACK ○ CLEAN UP SPILLS ○ CONSTRUCT ICE BRIDGES SNOWFILLS ○ DETOURS AND CROSSINGS ○ DRILL LOCATIONS ○ DRILLING NEAR WATER OR ON ICE ○ DRILLING WASTE ○ DRILLING WASTE CONTAINMENT ○ DRILLING WASTE DISPOSAL ○ DRILLING/ ADIT SETBACK ○ EQUIPMENT: WATERCOURSE BUFFER ○ EXCAVATION SETBACK ○ FUEL CACHE SECONDARY CONTAINMENT ○ FUEL CONTAINMENT ○ FUEL ON LAND ○ FUEL STORAGE SETBACK ○ HABITAT DAMAGE ○ NATURAL DRAINAGE ○ PORTABLE RAMPS ○ RECLAIM NON-OIL AND GAS SUMPS ○ REMOVE ICE BRIDGES/ SNOWFILLS ○ REPORT SPILLS ○ SEAL OUTLET 	
--	--	---	--

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ SEASONAL SHUT DOWN ○ SEWAGE DISPOSAL – SUMP SETBACK ○ SPILL CONTINGENCY PLAN ○ SUMP SETBACK ○ WASTE CHEMICAL DISPOSAL ○ WASTE PETROLEUM DISPOSAL 	
Temporary water flow or level changes	Drilling water use, encountering artesian wells, stream crossings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Applicant proposed the following mitigations in the Application: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ seal any drill holes that encounter artesian aquifers; and ○ prevent obstruction of natural drainage. • 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"> ○ FLOWING ARTESIAN WELL ○ NATURAL DRAINAGE ○ REMOVE ICE BRIDGES/ SNOWFILLS 	Based on the described mitigations, it is the Board's opinion that the proposed activities will not have a significant adverse impact on the environment and will not be a cause of public concern.
Changes in air quality and/or Increased greenhouse gases	Generator and heavy equipment fuel use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Applicant did not propose mitigations in the Application. • The Board has no standard permit conditions that are typically used to mitigate the described impacts. 	It is the Board's opinion that the main activities that would impact air quality will be dispersed over a large area, are intermittent in nature, and are not going to continue for an extended period of time. Therefore, the Board believes that the proposed activities will not have a significant adverse impact on the environment or be a cause of public concern.
Direct loss of vegetation	Camp establishment, heavy equipment, drilling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Applicant proposed the following mitigations in the Application and during the public review: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ naturally or actively re-vegetate disturbed sites and return disturbed lands as close to the original condition as possible using a local source in the NWT; ○ upon completion of activities and as soon as possible, soil materials will be returned in the reverse order to which 	Based on the described mitigations, it is the Board's opinion that the proposed activities will not have a significant adverse impact on the environment and will not be a cause of public concern.

		<p>they were removed to ensure the fastest and best return to a healthy and resilient ecosystem;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ insulate the ground surface beneath all camp structures to prevent vegetation from being removed; ○ ensure adequate snowpack is present to support vehicle movements during the winter so vegetation is not disturbed; and ○ no unnecessary destruction of vegetation. <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"> ○ DETOURS AND CROSSINGS ○ FLOWING ARTESIAN WELL ○ HABITAT DAMAGE ○ LOCATION OF ACTIVITIES ○ NATURAL VEGETATION ○ OFF-ROAD VEHICLE TRAVEL ○ PARALLEL ROADS ○ PARALLEL WATERCOURSE SETBACK ○ PERMAFROST PROTECTION ○ PREVENTION OF RUTTING ○ SAVE AND PLACE ORGANIC SOIL ○ SUSPEND OVERLAND TRAVEL ○ VEHICLE MOVEMENT FREEZE-UP 	
Loss of species at risk (vegetation)	Camp establishment, heavy equipment, drilling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Although the Applicant did not propose mitigations specific to plant species at risk, however the following general mitigations relating to vegetation was proposed in the Application: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ no unnecessary destruction of vegetation; and ○ no significant destruction of habitat as no roads or access trails will be created, the existing camp footprint will not be expanded. ● The Board has standard permit conditions that are typically used to mitigate the described impacts. These standard conditions include: 	As no Parties expressed concern with regards to loss of plant species at risk during the public review, it is the Board's opinion that the proposed activities will not have a significant adverse impact on the environment and will not be a cause of public concern.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ LOCATION OF ACTIVITIES ○ NO CLEARING ○ PARALLEL ROADS ○ PARALLEL WATERCOURSE SETBACK 	
Introduction of non-native (invasive) species (vegetation)	Heavy equipment, drilling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Applicant proposed the following mitigations during the public review: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ ensure equipment is clean before transport, and no soil/seeds or other vegetation is attached to the equipment before coming on site; and ○ any active re-vegetation would be done using local species from a supplier in the North. • The Board has no standard permit conditions that are typically used to mitigate the described impacts. 	Based on the described mitigations, it is the Board's opinion that the proposed activities will not have a significant adverse impact on the environment and will not be a cause of public concern
Effects on plant health (drilling waste, dust, toxins)	Fuel storage, spills, refueling, use of heavy equipment, ash (waste incineration)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Applicant proposed the following mitigations in the Application: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ locate the burn-barrel or incinerator downwind from the camp and place on gravelly or rocky ground with no vegetation or combustible material in the vicinity; ○ ash from the incinerator will be collected and barreled and backhauled to Yellowknife for appropriate disposal; and ○ seal any drill holes that encounter artesian aquifers. • 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"> ○ DRILLING WASTE CONTAINMENT ○ FLOWING ARTESIAN WELL ○ FUEL CONTAINMENT 	Based on the described mitigations, it is the Board's opinion that the proposed activities will not have a significant adverse impact on the environment and will not be a cause of public concern
Increased risk of fire	Waste incineration and cigarette use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Applicant proposed the following mitigations in the Application and during the public review: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ consult with fire/safety consultants and government authorities to obtain approval for in-situ burning; ○ locate fire-extinguishing equipment at the camp (including kitchen, dry tent, and other enclosed areas where there is a fire risk); 	Based on the described mitigations, it is the Board's opinion that the proposed activities will not have a significant adverse impact on the environment and will not be a cause of public concern

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ completely extinguish all fires from the incineration of waste; and ○ provide containers around camp for the disposal of cigarette butts. <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	Camp establishment, fuel storage and caches, use of heavy equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Applicant proposed the following mitigations in the Application: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ ensure adequate snowpack is present to support vehicle movements during the winter so vegetation is not disturbed; ○ there will be no significant destruction of habitat as no roads or access trails will be created, the existing camp footprint will not be expanded, and all transportation will be by helicopter or float plane; ○ restrict drilling operations to a very small footprint; ○ locate any campsite on durable land or another previously cleared area to limit the amount of vegetation disturbed; and ○ completely remove all camp infrastructure (tents/shacks) and return the land to a stable condition upon completion of operations. ● 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 	Based on the described mitigations, it is the Board's opinion that the proposed activities will not have a significant adverse impact on the environment and will not be a cause of public concern
Direct loss or removal of habitat, dens, or nests (Terrestrial Wildlife)	Heavy equipment use, drilling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Applicant proposed the following mitigations in the Application and during the public review: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ if a den, nest or eggs are encountered, the area will not be disturbed and will be avoided at a minimum setback distance; ○ all project work areas be checked for the presence of migratory birds and their nests before work begins; 	Based on the described mitigations, it is the Board's opinion that the proposed activities will not have a significant adverse impact on the environment and will not be a cause of public concern

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ all project staff to be trained on how to recognize signs that a bird might be nesting in the area; ○ align the Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat Protection Plan (WWHPP) with the Bathurst Caribou Management Plan and the Bathurst Caribou Range Plan; ○ restrict drilling operations to a vey small footprint; ○ abide by all applicable legislation so as to prevent impacts to wildlife; and ○ there will be no significant destruction of habitat as no roads or access trails will be created, the existing camp footprint will not be expanded, and all transportation will be by helicopter or float plane. <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"> ○ HABITAT DAMAGE ○ MIGRATORY BIRD NEST DISTURBANCE 	
Loss or removal of keystone species and/or Species at Risk habitat (Terrestrial Wildlife)	All land use operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Applicant proposed the following mitigations in the Application and during the public review: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ field crews and pilots will carry copies of Wildlife Sightings forms to record any wildlife observed in the camp and project area; ○ if a den, nest or eggs are encountered, the area will not be disturbed and will be avoided at a minimum setback distance; ○ use eBird Canada to record bird observations; ○ all project work areas be checked for the presence of migratory birds and their nests before work begins; ○ all project staff to be trained on how to recognize signs that a bird might be nesting in the area; ○ align the WWHPP with the Bathurst Caribou Management Plan and the Bathurst Caribou Range Plan; ○ restrict drilling operations to a vey small footprint; and 	Based on the described mitigations, it is the Board's opinion that the proposed activities will not have a significant adverse impact on the environment and will not be a cause of public concern

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ there will be no significant destruction of habitat as no roads or access trails will be created, the existing camp footprint will not be expanded, and all transportation will be by helicopter or float plane. ● 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 ○ MIGRATORY BIRD NEST DISTURBANCE 	
Direct injury or mortality (Terrestrial Wildlife)	All land use operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Applicant proposed the following mitigations in the Application and during the public review: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ if a den, nest or eggs are encountered, the area will not be disturbed and will be avoided at a minimum setback distance; ○ all project work areas be checked for the presence of migratory birds and their nests before work begins; ○ all project staff to be trained on how to recognize signs that a bird might be nesting in the area; and ○ there will be no unauthorized firearms are allowed in a Golden Planet camp. Hunting is not allowed by either Golden Planet personnel or contractors, while working out of the camp. ● 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"> ○ EXCAVATED MATERIAL TEST PITS ○ MIGRATORY BIRD NEST DISTURBANCE ○ MINERAL EXPLORATION DRILL CASINGS 	Based on the described mitigations, it is the Board's opinion that the proposed activities will not have a significant adverse impact on the environment will not be a cause of public concern
Disturbances to key lifecycle stages: breeding, feeding, nesting, staging	All land use operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Applicant proposed the following mitigations in the Application and during the public review: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ there will be no significant destruction of habitat as no roads or access trails will be created, the existing camp 	Based on the described mitigations, it is the Board's opinion that the proposed activities will not have a significant adverse impact on the environment and will not be a cause of public concern

(Terrestrial Wildlife)		<p>footprint will not be expanded, and all transportation will be by helicopter or float plane;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ all project work areas be checked for the presence of migratory birds and their nests before work begins; ○ all project staff to be trained on how to recognize signs that a bird might be nesting in the area; ○ will not commence any drilling or movement of equipment within 500 meters of one or more caribou; and ○ if nests containing eggs or young are found, all disruptive activities should stop and a buffer zone established until nesting is completed and the young have naturally left the nest. <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"> ○ MIGRATORY BIRD NEST DISTURBANCE 	
Effects on population abundance and/or changes to migratory movement patterns (Terrestrial Wildlife)	Drilling and aircraft use (noise)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Applicant proposed the following mitigations in the Application and during the public review: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ will not commence any drilling or movement of equipment within 500 meters of one or more caribou; ○ align the Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat Protection Plan (WWHPP) with the Bathurst Caribou Management Plan and the Bathurst Caribou Range Plan; ○ all project work areas be checked for the presence of migratory birds and their nests before work begins; ○ all project staff to be trained on how to recognize signs that a bird might be nesting in the area; and ○ no mitigation is proposed for the noise generated from the camp facilities, by the drilling operations or helicopter use, however the project will be discontinuous, short term, and limited to smaller individual areas. ● The Board has standard permit conditions that are typically used to mitigate the described impacts. These standard conditions include: 	Based on the described mitigations, it is the Board's opinion that the proposed activities will not have a significant adverse impact on the environment and will not be a cause of public concern

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ DRILL LOCATIONS ○ DRILLING WASTE CONTAINMENT ○ HABITAT DAMAGE ○ MIGRATORY BIRD NEST DISTURBANCE 	
Human wildlife conflicts	Camp establishment, drilling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Applicant proposed the following mitigations in the Application: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ No harassment or feeding of wildlife; ○ store waste in odour proof secure containers so as not to attract wildlife; ○ inspect the camp greywater sump daily to remove any food particles and treat with lime or crystal lye to prevent the attraction of wildlife; ○ incinerate combustible wastes daily; ○ clean non-combustible recyclables thoroughly to avoid attracting wildlife; ○ prohibit hunting by either personnel or contractors while working out of the camp; ○ prohibit unauthorized firearms in a Golden Planet camp; ○ helicopters to avoid landing in the presence of wildlife, except in emergency situations; ○ any incidents between wildlife and humans must be reported immediately to Environment and Natural Resources (ENR); ○ all wildlife sightings to be recorded on the Wildlife Sighting Log or the NWT Bird Survey Form; and ○ undertake monitoring to determine the effectiveness of mitigation, include recording the dates and locations of wildlife sightings, the behavior of the animals, and any actions taken by the company to avoid disturbance or contact. This information will be submitted to ENR at the end of the field 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"> ○ GARBAGE CONTAINER 	Based on the described mitigations, it is the Board's opinion that the proposed activities will not have a significant adverse impact on the environment and will not be a cause of public concern

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ LOCATION OF ACTIVITIES ○ MIGRATORY BIRD NEST DISTURBANCE 	
Breeding disturbances (aquatic habitat)	Drilling water use and water pumps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Applicant proposed the following mitigation in the Application and during the public review: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ abide by all applicable legislation so as to prevent damage to fish habitat and impacts to wildlife ○ include the DFO's Interim Code of Practice for End-of-Pipe Fish Protection Screens for Small Water Intakes and Measures to Protect Fish and Fish Habitat across all projects. • 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 ○ CONSTRUCT ICE BRIDGES SNOWFILLS ○ DETOURS AND CROSSINGS ○ DRILL LOCATIONS ○ DRILLING NEAR WATER OR ON ICE ○ DRILLING WASTE ○ DRILLING WASTE CONTAINMENT ○ DRILLING/ ADIT SETBACK ○ EQUIPMENT: WATERCOURSE BUFFER ○ EXCAVATION SETBACK ○ PORTABLE RAMPS ○ REMOVE ICE BRIDGES/ SNOWFILLS ○ SUMP SETBACK 	Based on the described mitigations, it is the Board's opinion that the proposed activities will not have a significant adverse impact on the environment and will not be a cause of public concern.
Effects on population abundance (aquatic habitat)	Drilling water use, fishing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Applicant proposed the following mitigations in the Application and during the public review: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ abide by all applicable legislation so as to prevent damage to fish habitat and impacts to wildlife; ○ include the DFO's Interim Code of Practice for End-of-Pipe Fish Protection Screens for Small Water Intakes and Measures to Protect Fish and Fish Habitat across all projects; 	Based on the described mitigations, it is the Board's opinion that the proposed activities will not have a significant adverse impact on the environment and will not be a cause of public concern.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ use of the LWB Method for Determining Winter Water Source Capacity for Small-Scale Developments; and ○ personnel to purchase fishing licenses before arriving in camp and conduct responsible fishing practices. <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"> ○ CAMP SETBACK ○ CONSTRUCT ICE BRIDGES SNOWFILLS ○ DETOURS AND CROSSINGS ○ DRILL LOCATIONS ○ DRILLING NEAR WATER OR ON ICE ○ DRILLING WASTE ○ DRILLING WASTE CONTAINMENT ○ DRILLING/ ADIT SETBACK ○ EQUIPMENT: WATERCOURSE BUFFER ○ EXCAVATION SETBACK ○ PORTABLE RAMPS ○ RECLAIM NON-OIL AND GAS SUMPS ○ REMOVE ICE BRIDGES/ SNOWFILLS ○ SUMP SETBACK 	
Loss or reduction in game species populations (wildlife harvesting)	Drilling and aircraft use (noise)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Applicant proposed the following mitigations in the Application: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ no harassment or feeding of wildlife; ○ prohibit hunting by either personnel or contractors while working out of the camp; ○ prohibit unauthorized firearms in a Golden Planet camp; ○ there will be no significant destruction of habitat as no roads or access trails will be created, the existing camp footprint will not be expanded, and all transportation will be by helicopter or float plane; and ○ helicopters to avoid landing in the presence of wildlife, except in emergency situations; 	Based on the described mitigations, it is the Board's opinion that the proposed activities will not have a significant adverse impact on the environment and will not be a cause of public concern.

		<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"> PRIVATE PROPERTY SETBACK 	
Change to or loss of heritage resource	Heavy equipment use, drilling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Applicant proposed the following mitigations in the Application and during the public review: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> make workers aware of what to do if they suspect they have encountered an archaeological site; follow the Golden Planet Chance Archaeological Find Procedure document; work with the Tłı̨chʔ government to map known cultural heritage sites and ensure there is a buffer around any sites in proximity to the camp or drill locations; and work with government bodies that have documented Archaeological and Cultural Heritage sites and ensure that they are being avoided. 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"> AIA – HIGH POTENTIAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL BUFFER ARCHAEOLOGICAL OVERVIEW DRILL LOCATIONS SITE DISCOVERY AND NOTIFICATION SITE DISTURBANCE 	Based on the described mitigations, it is the Board’s opinion that the proposed activities will not have a significant adverse impact on the environment and will not be a cause of public concern.
Impairment of the aesthetic quality of the land or water	Camp establishment, fuel storage and caches, drilling, equipment storage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Applicant proposed the following mitigations in the Application and during the public review: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> restrict drilling operations to a very small footprint; ensure that the environment is returned as closely as economically possible to the original form; no significant destruction of habitat as no roads or access trails will be created, the existing camp footprint will not be expanded; and 	Based on the described mitigations, it is the Board’s opinion that the proposed activities will not have a significant adverse impact on the environment will not be a cause of public concern.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ completely remove all camp infrastructure (tents/shacks) and return the land to a stable condition upon completion of operations ● 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"> ○ CLEAN WORK AREA ○ DOGLEG APPROACHES ○ INSPECT LOCATIONS ○ MINERAL EXPLORATION DRILL CASINGS ○ PARALLEL ROADS ○ PRE-CONSTRUCTION PROFILES ○ RECLAIM NON-OIL AND GAS SUMPS ○ SAVE AND PLACE ORGANIC SOIL 	
Changes to the use of the area by other non-indigenous people	Camp establishment, drilling, fuel storage and caches, use of heavy equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Applicant proposed the following mitigations in the Application: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Engagement Plan version 1.0; ○ there will be no unauthorized firearms are allowed in a Golden Planet camp. Hunting is not allowed by either Golden Planet personnel or contractors, while working out of the camp; and ○ personnel to purchase fishing licenses before arriving in camp and conduct responsible fishing practices. ● The Board has no standard permit conditions that are typically used to mitigate the described impacts. 	Based on the described mitigations and the Board's process to conduct engagement with Parties, it is the Board's opinion that the proposed activities will not have a significant adverse impact on the environment 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 conditions and/or 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.

A draft Permit was circulated for review during the regulatory proceeding, and all Parties were given the opportunity to provide comments and recommendations on the draft conditions.⁷ 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, 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. If the Board does not receive a notice of referral to environmental assessment by March 6, 2022, the Board can issue the Permit and on March 7, 2022.



Mason Mantla, Chair
Wek'èezhìi Land and Water Board

February 24, 2022

Date

⁷ See WLWB Online Registry for [Golden Planet - DRAFT Land Use Permit - Jan 18 22](#).