



January 7, 2020

AlecSandra MacDonald  
Land and Water Technician  
Gwich'in Land and Water Board  
Box 2018  
Inuvik, NT  
X0E 0T0

Dear Ms. MacDonald,

**Re: Northwestel Inc.  
Land Use Permit Application – G19H010  
Fuel Storage at North Vittrekwa Tower Site - Dempster Hwy #8  
Request for Review and Comments**

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (ENR), Government of the Northwest Territories has reviewed the application at reference based on its mandated responsibilities under the *Environmental Protection Act*, the *Forest Management Act*, the *Forest Protection Act*, the *Species at Risk (NWT) Act*, the *Waters Act* and the *Wildlife Act* and provides the following comments and recommendations for the consideration of the EISC.

### **Topic 1: Industrial and Solid, Liquid or Sewage Waste Disposal**

#### **Comment(s):**

If the Proponents Waste Management Plan or methods of waste disposal indicate that project waste, or industrial waste, will be transported to community infrastructure for disposal, the Proponent should not assume they may deposit industrial wastes, generated outside of community boundaries, in Northwest Territories community Solid and Liquid Waste Disposal Facilities.

#### **Recommendation(s):**

- 1) Should the Proponent intend to deposit waste in an NWT community Solid and Liquid Waste Disposal Facility, ENR requests that the Proponent demonstrate in the Waste Management Plan, and to the Board, that the receiving communities' Solid and Liquid Waste Disposal Facility holds a Water Licence that authorizes

the disposal of any industrial waste streams originating from outside municipal boundaries. The Proponent should also demonstrate to the Board that the community has been consulted, and has consented in writing, regarding the use of its infrastructure for disposal of the waste streams and quantities in question, and the disposal of such wastes will not contravene the Waters Act or the *Environmental Protection Act* and related Regulations and Guidelines.

## **Topic 2: Hazardous Waste Management**

### **Comment(s):**

All Proponents that generate hazardous wastes must be registered as a generator of hazardous waste in the NWT.

The Guideline for the General Management of Hazardous Waste in the NWT defines hazardous waste and outlines the roles and responsibilities of generators, carriers, and receivers of hazardous waste in the NWT. The ENR, Environment Division (ED) registers generators, carriers, receivers, and tracks the disposal of hazardous waste generated in the NWT to registered receiving facilities on hazardous waste movement documents (manifest). The definition of hazardous waste includes all waste materials that are 'dangerous goods' according to the Transportation of Dangerous Goods Regulations, and any additional waste of special concern that the ED has determined hazardous until proven otherwise, including but not limited to:

- a) incinerator waste and/or residuals (including bottom ash and fly ash);
- b) any liquid or solid wastes contaminated with refined petroleum products;
- c) bilge wastes;
- d) vehicle or vessel servicing wastes
- e) drilling wastes;
- f) produced fluids (Glycol / Hydrocarbon / Inorganic Mixtures);
- g) tailings; and
- h) any hydrocarbon, lead, mercury or other forms of contaminated soils.

The Guideline for the General Management of Hazardous Waste in the NWT and the Transportation of Dangerous Good Regulations may be found at the following sites:

[http://www.enr.gov.nt.ca/sites/enr/files/guidelines/general\\_management.pdf](http://www.enr.gov.nt.ca/sites/enr/files/guidelines/general_management.pdf)

<http://www.tc.gc.ca/eng/tdg/clear-menu-497.htm>

### **Recommendation(s):**

- 1) If the Proponent is using or generating hazardous waste, they must register as a generator of hazardous waste in the NWT and track the disposal of hazardous waste from the site activities to registered receivers on hazardous waste

movement documents provided by ENR. Please contact the Environmental Protection and Waste Management Division, ENR to register or for more information contact Mr. Lee Ross, Hazardous Waste Management Specialist, Environmental Protection and Waste Management Division by email ([Lee.Ross@gov.nt.ca](mailto:Lee.Ross@gov.nt.ca)) or by phone (867) 767-9236 extension 53187.

### **Topic 3: Fuel Storage and Spill Contingency Planning and Reporting**

#### **Comment(s):**

ENR acknowledges the proponent's Spill Contingency Plan.

In addition, the Proponent should also follow best practices for fuel storage and spill containment during project activities which may include the following recommendations.

#### **Recommendation(s):**

- 1) To assist in spill contingency planning, information is provided in EPA *Spill Contingency Planning and Reporting Regulations* found here:

<https://www.justice.gov.nt.ca/en/files/legislation/environmental-protection/environmental-protection.r2.pdf>

If clarification or further information is needed please contact the Environment Division, ENR directly to aid in the development of the Plan.

- 2) In accordance with the *Spill Contingency Planning and Reporting Regulations Section 10*, all spills in accordance with Schedule B must be reported immediately to the 24-hour Spill Report Line (867) 920-8130.
- 3) With respect to the *Environmental Protection Act Section 5 (1b)* all spills, regardless of amount, must be cleaned up, and contaminated materials disposed of at an approved facility, or in an approved manner. Additionally, as indicated in *Section 5(1c)* all reasonable efforts must be made to notify any parties affected or potentially affected by the spill.
- 4) Fuel storage areas should be greater than 100m distance from the ordinary high water mark of a water body and not located in a drainage channel.
- 5) All fuel or storage vessels containing hazardous substances left for extended periods of time (including overnight in vehicles), should be stationed in an area that contains sufficient secondary containment (i.e. Drip pans, lined bermed areas, double walled enviro-tanks etc.).

- 6) It is recommended spill kits be provided. Personnel should be trained to ensure that in the event of a spill it is contained and remediated appropriately to industry-accepted best practices and regulatory approval. In case refuelling takes place near water, in water spill planning should be considered to prevent inadvertent releases.
- 7) ENR recommends, for the operator's convenience and increased environmental protection, that all heavy equipment and refuelling vehicles carry portable spill kits that include items such as absorbent pads, containment booms, and spill pool catchment receptacles. Readily available and fully stocked spill kits can effectively mitigate potential spills.
- 8) ENR recommends that the proponent include the ENR, GNWT, Inuvik Regional Office phone number, in the Spill Response Plan. The phone number is 867-678-6696.
- 9) In the event of a spill the Inuvik Region Environmental Assessment Coordinator, Alicia McRae should also be contacted at (867) 678-6653.

#### **Topic 4: Wildlife: NWT Listed and Pre-listed Species at Risk**

##### **Comment(s):**

Sections 76 and 77 of the Species at Risk (NWT) Act require the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources to make a submission to the body responsible for assessing the potential impacts of a proposed development, or for considering a Land Use Permit or Water Licence application, respecting the potential impacts of the proposed development, Permit or Licence application on a NWT-listed or pre-listed species or its habitat. NWT-listed species are those that are on the NWT List of Species at Risk. Pre-listed species are those that have been assessed by the NWT Species at Risk Committee (SARC) but have not yet been added to the NWT List of Species at Risk.

The Proponent should be aware that NWT-listed or pre-listed species at risk and their habitat may also be subject to protection under existing sections of the NWT *Wildlife Act*.

As a best practice, ENR encourages the Proponent to consider potential impacts, mitigation measures and monitoring requirements for species at risk listed under the federal *Species at Risk Act*, as well as those designated as at risk by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) that may occur in the project area, and the prohibitions that may apply to these species under federal legislation.

The project area overlaps with the ranges of the following NWT-listed and/or pre-listed species:

- [Grizzly Bear](#) – Listed as Threatened
- [Barren-ground Caribou](#) – Listed as Threatened
- [Polar Bear](#) – Listed as Special Concern

**Recommendation(s):**

- 1) Although the project overlaps with the range(s) of the species listed above, ENR is of the opinion that the nature, areal extent, scale and/or timing of the proposed project are such that the likelihood of potential impacts to NWT-listed or the pre-listed species at risk listed above can be avoided or minimized if ENR’s wildlife recommendations in this letter are implemented as necessary, including the application of any wildlife mitigation and monitoring measures imposed by the GLWB, or as outlined in the Proponent’s Land Use Permit application and supporting documents.

**Topic 5: Cumulative Effects Tracking**

**Comment(s):**

Keeping track of the disturbance footprint of development activities is an important component of tracking and informing the management of cumulative effects on wildlife and wildlife habitat.

**Recommendation(s):**

- 1) The Proponent should submit the bounding coordinates or geospatial data for the proposed project footprint and for the completed project footprint to the Land and Water Board for placement on the public registry. The Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board’s *“Standards for Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Submissions”* should be followed when submitting spatial data.

**Topic 6: Wildlife Abodes**

**Comment(s):**

Subject to sub-section 51(2) of the *Wildlife Act*, it is illegal to break into, destroy, or damage a den, beaver dam or lodge, muskrat push-up or hibernaculum unless you have an Aboriginal or treaty right or a Permit to do so.

Protection of dens, beaver lodges, muskrat push-ups, and hibernacula is essential to ensuring reproductive success and survival of both adults and young.

### **Recommendation(s):**

- 1) The Proponent should conduct pre-activity surveys within 800m of the project footprint to identify active bear dens if project activities will occur between September 30 and March 30. Surveys should be conducted in the fall to detect freshly dug dens.
- 2) If an active bear den is detected, or suspected, the Proponent should implement and maintain an 800 m exclusion zone until the bear emerges in spring.
- 3) If a bear den and exclusion zone would result in the halt of part or the entire program, the Proponent should contact ENR to discuss alternative mitigation options. The location of active bear dens should be kept confidential between the developer and ENR until after emergence in the spring.

### **Topic 7: Wildlife Attractants and Waste Management**

#### **Comment(s):**

Subject to sub-section 66(1) of the *Wildlife Act* no person shall store food, waste, or other substances in a manner that may attract big game or other prescribed wildlife and put people, domestic animals, or wildlife in danger.

Subject to sub-section 65(1) of the *Wildlife Act*, it is illegal to intentionally feed big game, furbearers or other prescribed wildlife. Schedule A – Part 2 of the *Wildlife General Regulations* sets out the species prescribed as fur-bearers.

#### **Recommendation(s):**

- 1) The Proponent should utilize food and garbage handling and storage procedures that will minimize the attraction of wildlife.
- 2) The Proponent should store all food, waste, washed recyclables and debris that may attract wildlife within sealed animal proof containers until final disposal.
- 3) The Proponent should ensure that sealed animal proof containers are cleaned once emptied to minimize the attraction of wildlife.
- 4) The Proponent should ensure that all grey water (dishwater, showers, laundry, etc.) and black water (sewage) are treated and disposed of in a manner that will minimize the attraction of wildlife.
- 5) The Proponent should remove all contaminated waste, waste petroleum products including used oil filters, rags, scrap metal, discarded machinery, parts, drums, barrels, or plastics to an approved waste disposal facility.

## Topic 8: Wildlife Disturbance and Harassment

### Comment(s):

Unless authorized by a Licence or Permit, paragraphs 52(a) and (b) of the *Wildlife Act* prohibit engaging in an activity that is likely to result in significant disturbance to big game or other prescribed wildlife, or to unnecessarily chase, fatigue, disturb, torment or otherwise harass game or other prescribed wildlife.

Schedule A – Part 1 of the *Wildlife General Regulations*, sets out the species prescribed as big game, and Schedule B sets out prescribed wildlife for the purpose of paragraphs 52(a) and (b) of the *Wildlife Act*.

Disturbance to wildlife from sources such as noise, light, vibrations, and human presence can result in energetic stress, avoidance of key habitat, loss of reproductive fitness, injury or mortality of wildlife. Activities that may cause sensory disturbance to wildlife include vehicle traffic, stationary machinery, noise from blasting, excavation, crushing, seismic testing, vegetation clearing, and lighting or flaring.

### Recommendation(s):

- 1) The Proponent should be aware that no wildlife should be disturbed, chased, or harassed by human beings on foot, in a motorized vehicle, or by aircraft. Unless authorized by a Licence or Permit, paragraphs 52(a) and (b) of the *Wildlife Act* prohibit engaging in an activity that is likely to result in significant disturbance to big game or other prescribed wildlife, or to unnecessarily chase, fatigue, disturb, torment or otherwise harass game or other prescribed wildlife. However, subject to section 55 of the *Wildlife Act* a person may chase wildlife away from a camp or work site if doing so is necessary to prevent injury or death to a person or damage to property.
- 2) Consult the setback distances, flight altitude guidelines and timing windows for wildlife provided in Tables 6 and 7 of the Northern Land Use Guidelines: Northwest Territories Seismic Operations Vol.9 (a) as they are applicable to variety of land use activities:  
  
[http://www.lands.gov.nt.ca/sites/lands/files/resources/nlug\\_seismic\\_2015\\_english\\_-\\_16\\_sept\\_2015.pdf](http://www.lands.gov.nt.ca/sites/lands/files/resources/nlug_seismic_2015_english_-_16_sept_2015.pdf)
- 3) Consult the approved Land Use Plan, if applicable, that applies to the project area for further guidance on setback distances and timing windows to minimize disturbance to wildlife.
- 4) Wildlife shall be given the right of way at all times.

- 5) Suspend activities temporarily if one or more individuals of a big game species are spotted within five hundred (500) metres of the work site.

## **Topic 9: Reporting Wildlife Defense/Property Kills and Wildlife Incidents**

### **Comment(s):**

Subject to paragraph 57(a) of the *Wildlife Act*, any big game or other prescribed wildlife that is killed to prevent injury or death to a person or damage to property must be reported to ENR as soon as is practicable. Section 7 of the *Wildlife General Regulations* describes what information must be included in the report.

Subject to section 58 of the *Wildlife Act* and sub-section 8(1) of the *Wildlife General Regulations*, any person who accidentally kills or seriously wounds big game or other prescribed wildlife with a motorized vehicle on a highway must report the event to an officer within 24 hours after the incident.

### **Recommendation(s):**

- 1) Report all sightings of bears in and around the project location to your local ENR office. Any defence of life and property kills must be reported to the appropriate ENR office immediately. Please contact the following Regional Office as required:
  - Inuvik Region Wildlife Emergency Line at (867) 678-0289
- 2) Ensure all field personnel have completed a bear safety training course to decrease the risk of attracting bears to work sites and threats to human safety, learn how to respond to bear encounters, and decrease the risk of wildlife mortality resulting from kills in defence of life and property.
- 3) Consult the “Safety in Grizzly Bear and Black Bear Country” brochure, available at:  
[http://www.enr.gov.nt.ca/sites/enr/files/resources/safety\\_in\\_grizzly\\_and\\_black\\_bear\\_country\\_english.pdf](http://www.enr.gov.nt.ca/sites/enr/files/resources/safety_in_grizzly_and_black_bear_country_english.pdf)
- 4) Report to an ENR officer as soon as is practicable any wildlife that is killed to prevent injury or death to a person or damage to property.
- 5) Report to an ENR officer any big game or other prescribed wildlife that is killed or seriously wounded by a motorized vehicle on a highway within 24 hours after the incident.



- 6) Reports must include at minimum the name of the person who killed or injured the wildlife, an explanation of the incident, the time, date and location of the incident, the species or quantity involved, and any other information requested by the wildlife officer.
- 7) Contact the regional ENR office to obtain blank wildlife incident forms.

Comments and recommendations were provided by ENR technical experts in the Environmental Protection and Waste Management Division, the Wildlife Management Division and the Inuvik Region and were coordinated and collated by the Environmental Assessment and Monitoring Section (EAM), Environmental Stewardship and Climate Change Division.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Patrick Clancy, Environmental Regulatory Analyst at (867) 767-9233 Ext: 53096 or email [patrick.clancy@gov.nt.ca](mailto:patrick.clancy@gov.nt.ca).

Sincerely,



Patrick Clancy  
Environmental Regulatory Analyst  
Environmental Assessment and Monitoring Section  
Environmental Stewardship and Climate Change Division  
Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
Government of the Northwest Territories

Att: General Bear Encounter Guidelines