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DRAFT Work Plan

File Number	Water Licence MV2023L2-0006
Applicant	North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd.
Project	Cantung Mine Site – Renewal Application
Location	Cantung Mine, NT
Activity	Mining and Milling
Date of Work Plan	September 13, 2023
Work Plan Version	4

Purpose of the Work Plan

To outline the processes and timelines to be followed for this regulatory proceeding.

Background

On July 6, 2023, the Applicant submitted a Renewal Application for a type A Water Licence (Licence) (the Application Package) for the Project to the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board (Board). On July 14, 2023, the Application Package was deemed complete.

Scope of the Project

The scope of the Project includes the same scope as the current Licence MV2015L2-0003¹, as outlined in the Application Package. The Applicant is requesting no changes to the current Licence MV2015L2-0003 terms and conditions.

Guiding Principles

The following principles will guide the Board's regulatory proceeding:

- The Board will carry out the regulatory proceeding in a timely manner and in accordance with the Land and Water Board (LWB) [Rules of Procedure](#);
- The Board shall consider the impacts of the proposed Project on and the importance of conservation to the wellbeing and way of life of the Indigenous peoples of Canada (section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*);

¹ See the MVLWB Online Registry (www.mvlwb.com) for the current Licence MV2015L2-0003 – [NATCL – Cantung – Approval – Modification Request – Dec21_22](#).

- The Board will review the Application Package and develop the Licence based on the evidence and rationale submitted by the Applicant and other Parties; and
- The Board will develop the Licence in accordance with the Board’s mandate and applicable policies to ensure protection of the environment and, where possible, consistency in decision-making throughout the Mackenzie Valley.

Work Plan Objectives

The Work Plan objectives are:

- Compile a broad range of input through the review process;
- Ensure adequate information is gathered to complete the Board’s regulatory proceeding; and
- Facilitate a thorough, inclusive, and timely regulatory proceeding.

Opportunities for Community Engagement

- The Board requires the Applicant to engage with potentially affected parties – including communities and Indigenous organizations and governments – regarding the Application Package prior to submission;
- The Board will distribute the Application Package, a draft Work Plan, and a draft Licence for public review using the LWB Online Review System (ORS);
- The Board will place a notification(s) regarding the review process in the newspaper;
- The Board will hold a public hearing, if required, and will place a notification regarding the hearing in the newspaper; and
- The Board will hold any other consultation or engagement activity that the Board considers appropriate.

Regulatory Proceeding Timelines

Subsection 72.18(1) of the MVRMA requires the Board to make a decision on a water licence application within a period of nine months after the day on which an application is deemed complete and the review process begins. Based on section 28 of the *Federal Interpretation Act*, this is equivalent to 275 calendar days. The Board’s day count stops whenever the Board requires the Applicant to provide information for the regulatory proceeding to continue (signified by the red shading in the table below). Once that information has been provided, the Board’s day count resumes (signified by the green shading in the table below). Significant milestones have also been bolded in the table below.

The Work Plan table below sets out the main process steps and indicates the responsible Party and the anticipated completion date for each item.

Work Plan

Task	Responsible Party	Date Due (Date Completed)
Application Package Submitted	Applicant	July 6, 2023

Task	Responsible Party	Date Due (Date Completed)
Application Package Complete and Distributed for Review with Draft Work Plan	Board staff	July 14, 2023
Deadline for Comments on Draft Work Plan	All Parties	July 28, 2023
Deadline for Comments on Application Package and for Notices of Compensation Claims	Reviewers	August 4, 2023
Deadline for Applicant's Responses to Comments	Applicant	August 11, 2023
Preliminary Screening Determination	Board	August 2023
Technical Session	All Parties	Not proposed given the Applicant is requesting no change to Licence terms and conditions
Pre-Hearing Conference	All Parties (Yellowknife, NT and remotely)	September 25, 2023
Deadline for Interventions and for Compensation Claims	Interveners and Compensation Claimants	September 27, 2023
Deadline for Applicant's Response to Interventions	Applicant	October 4, 2023
Deadline for Interveners' Public Hearing Presentations	Interveners	October 11, 2023
Deadline for Applicant's Public Hearing Presentation	Applicant	October 13, 2023
Public Hearing	All Parties (Location TBD)	October 25, 2023
Distribute Public Hearing Undertakings	Board Staff	October 26, 2023
Deadline for Public Hearing Undertakings	All Parties	November 6, 2023
Draft Licence Distributed for Review	Board Staff	November 14, 2023
Deadline for Comments on Draft Licence	Reviewers	November 28, 2023
Deadline for Applicant's Comments on Draft Licence	Applicant	December 5, 2023
Deadline for Closing Arguments	Reviewers	December 12, 2023

Task	Responsible Party	Date Due (Date Completed)
Deadline for Applicant’s Closing Arguments	Applicant	December 19, 2023
Board Meeting	Board	January 2024
Board Recommendation to the Minister	Board	February 2024
Minister’s Decision	Minister	Up to 90 days

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

Work Plan Revision History

Version	Date	Rationale for Revision
2	August 2, 2023	To reflect comments from NATCL regarding the draft Work Plan. ²
3	September 13, 2023	To account for the ongoing wildfire situation in the Northwest Territories.
4	September 19, 2023	To avoid overlap with a Technical Session scheduled by the Wek’èezhìi Land and Water Board.

² See MVLWB Online Registry for [NATCL – Type A Renewal Application – NATCL Comments on Work Plan – July 28 23](#).