



Sahtu Land and Water Board

Staff Report

Division: Land Program	Report No. 03
Date Prepared: March 22, 2005	File No. S02A-004 / S04A-006
Meeting Date: March 24, 2005	
Subject: Request for Temporary Storage of Equipment – Northrock Summit Creek 2004/05 Drilling Program – Land Use Permits: S02A-004/S04A-006	

1. Purpose/Report Summary

To inform the Board of a request by Northrock Resources Ltd. for temporary storage of equipment at the Stewart Lake Airstrip.

2. Background

2.1 Project overview

Northrock Resources Ltd. has two existing Land Use Permits for drilling in the Summit Creek area of the Tulita District approx. 60 km south of Tulita. Northrock has an existing Access Agreement with the Tulita District Land Corporation. Northrock will be completing operations at the L-71 and B-44 well sites. Evaluation of the L-71 will not be complete prior to breakup and as a result further testing will be required during the winter of 2005/06.

To expedite the evaluation program for the winter of 2005/06, Northrock would like to store some equipment at the Stewart Lake airstrip over the summer. This would allow operations to commence earlier during the winter season. There is also the possibility that the camps to be stored may be operated in the summer to support heli-portable seismic operations under Land Use Permit S04B-004 and an additional seismic permit for which an application is being prepared. In addition to the storage of equipment Northrock would also like to store the bridge that is being used to cross the outflow from Stewart Lake on the east bank of the outflow where it will not impede the use of the access by local land users.

The Stewart Lake airstrip is located at the southwest corner of Stewart Lake. It is located on well-drained ground and sufficient space is available to allow storage of equipment without impeding aircraft movements. It is proposed that the equipment be stored at the southwest end of the airstrip adjacent to the east-west cut line that was opened this year to access the Summit Creek well sites in the uplands to the west. The dimensions of the site will be either 200m x 75m or 100m x 100m.

Fuel tanks will be placed on rig matting with secondary containment consisting of a lined berm with capacity to contain 110% of the volume of the largest storage vessel. Drums of aviation fuel will also be placed in a lined berm. 24-hour surveillance will be provided to monitor the fuel storage area. The proposed storage site is located more than 100m from any water body.

2.2 Process Requirements

Under the *Mackenzie Valley Land Use Regulations* Section 16 (1) and (2) a written authorization is required from the Board and, in the case of settlement or other private lands, of the landowner for temporary storage of equipment, fuel, camps and other items used in connection with the land use operation. A written authorization may be issued for a period of up to one year upon written request to the Board.

3. Comments

3.1 Permission of Land Owner/Community Consultation/TEK

The Stewart Lake airstrip is located on Sahtu land. Northrock Resources Ltd. and the Tulita District Land Corporation signed an Access Agreement on September 29, 2000. This agreement covers all activities under Exploration License #397, under which the drilling project is being conducted. The Tulita District Land Corporation has confirmed in a letter giving written authorization to store the equipment.

3.2 Potential Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures

No changes have been made to potential environmental impact and mitigation measures by the request for storage of equipment.

3.3 Preliminary Environmental Screening

Section 124(1) of the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act* requires the SAHTU Land & Water Board to undertake a Preliminary Screening of any proposed development prior to the issuance of a license, permit, or authorization.

A Preliminary Screening was performed and approved by the Board prior to issuing Land Use Permits S02A-004 and S04A-006. Section 143(1)(c), of the MVRMA and Exemption List Regulations Schedule 1 Part 1, Section 2, exempts this development from a Preliminary Environmental Screening because:

- This is a request for storage under the existing Land Use Permits.
- The development has not been modified, and
- The development has already fulfilled the requirements of the environmental assessment process under the MVRMA.

3.4 Conformity with Land Use Plan

The Sahtu Land Use Planning Board initially confirmed in a letter dated August 23, 2004 that there is no applicable Land Use Plan for the area affected by the proposed development.

3.5 Terms and Conditions

The Terms and Conditions for S02A-004 and S04A-006 will remain the same

4. Other Agency Comments

The request for storage of equipment was not sent to referral agencies because the scope of the project has not changed.

5. Conclusion

The proposed storage of equipment will not have any significant adverse environmental effects or cause significant public concern, therefore it is recommended that the SLWB proceed with granting Northrock Resources Ltd. with an authorization for storage of equipment at the Stewart Lake Airstrip.

6. Recommendation

It is recommended that the request for storage of equipment be granted to Northrock.

7. Reference Material Attached

- 7.1 Faxed letter from Northrock dated March 15, 2005
- 7.2 Letter from the Tulita District Land Corporation
- 7.3 Draft Letter of Authorization

Respectfully submitted,



Edna Tobac
Land/Resource Geographer

Executive Director Comments:

*Agree with Conclusion & Recommendation.
Recommend Letter of Authorization
upon receipt of approval in writing
from Tulita District Land Corp.*



G.T. Govier
Executive Director