



Behdzi Ahda First Nation

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To: Sahtu Land and Water Board

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Subject: Amendment to Permit S19S-005

Type A Land Use Permit – Geotechnical Drilling Program, Colville Lake, Sahtu Region, NT
Adding a fourth location (Site B) within the broader project boundaries. Permit scope amendment not required

As part of the new school project development in Colville Lake, Behdzi Ahda First Nation Chief and Council had decided to proceed with Site B (see site B PDF file) as the most suitable construction site for the new school. Geotechnical drilling and technical reports are required to determine the most suitable type of foundation for the new school. Previous sites (A, C1 and C2) are not suitable for school construction for several reasons: the ground is unstable due to discontinuous and melting permafrost, the land footprint is not sufficient for the school and its ground mounted solar panel arrays, and in some instances, the soil is contaminated (the tarmac on the old airport strip).

We are respectfully asking Sahtu Land and Water Board to issue an amendment to the existing Permit S19S-005 to include Site B (approximately 23,000 m²) and to extend permit's validity up to March 31, 2024.

Site B Background Information

Site B is situated in central location relative to our community, providing short walking distances to our students. The terrain is flat and the lack of natural obstacles such as hills and ravines ensure safe recess and playground conditions.

The site is surrounded by local access unpaved roads and bordered to the northwest by two permanent structures: the health centre / gymnasium and the relatively newly constructed NWTel cellular tower. There are no power lines crossing or in close vicinity and according to local utility provider, there are no buried cables or other installations. There are no permanent or temporary structures on Site B.



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By default, the school footprint position is depicted in the centre of Site B however, the exact location and orientation of the building is still to be determined in the near future.

One of the concerns for school construction site is the level of groundwater within the soil, hence the importance of drilling operations and geotechnical report in order to determine the most suitable type of foundation for the school. In spring time, the water resulting from melting snow runs off the northwest high ground boundary and tends to flood Site B.

Site B Disturbance and Mitigation Measures

The vegetation cover is characterized by sparse stunted stands of black spruce, willow, shrubs, lichen and moss (see site B vegetation PDF file). Throughout the site, the vegetation is not disturbed.

To minimize ground and vegetation disturbance, the access path to the centre of Side B is position on the west side of the land (see site B PDF file) and it requires about 60 meters track clearance to allow access for the crew and drilling equipment. As the ground is frozen, there is no need for additional gravel layers.

Approximately 20 to 25 small black spruce trees will be manually removed from the land by chainsaws to create the perimeter for the five boreholes. Total tree removal area is approximately 2,000 m². Vegetation removal will be kept to a minimum. A local crew will remove the trees and clear the snow and prepare the drilling area. See attached vegetation-removal PDF file.

Community Engagement

The nearest household is about 160 meters from the drilling site, on the eastern side of Site B. There are no houses bordering the southern, eastern, and northern side of Site B therefore the impact of drilling operations upon community residents will be minimum.

Behdzi Ahda First Nation requires the drilling crew to contact and inform the band manager prior to commencing drilling operations so all community members could take measures to keep the children away from the drilling site and equipment.

Project Contractors

Behdzi Ahda First Nation had received proposals from two contractors for the drilling operations and geotechnical reports: Tetra Tech Canada Inc. and Stantec Architecture Ltd. Both proposals are currently under review with our chief and council. The decision to award the contract to one of the proponents will be made by February 10, 2022.



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Project Timeframe

According to our plans, the drilling should be completed by March 2022 however, due to current COVID restrictions and community lockdown, materials and supplies availability, winter road conditions and other unforeseen factors the operations may be delayed. As a result, the amendment to the existing Permit S19S-005 should be valid until March 31 2024.

Wilbert Kochon, Chief

Joseph Kochon, Band Manager

Rares Ungureanu, CET
BAFN Project Coordinator

David Podal
President AKLC

Date: 2022-02-07

Updated Permit Request
GNWT INF Representative

Robin Ferguson, P.Eng, PMP
Manager, Facility Planning

CONSTRUCTION SITE COORDINATES

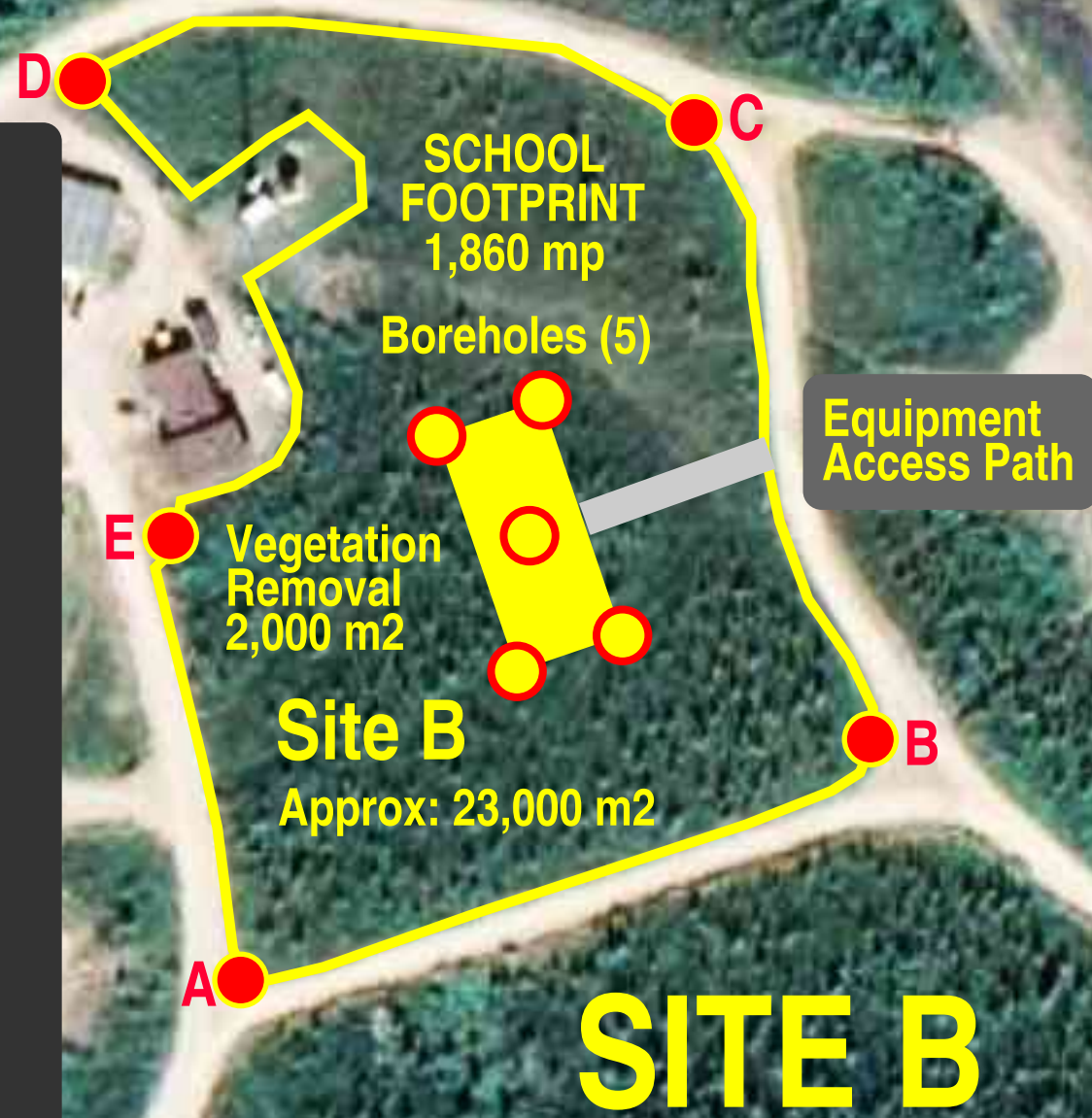
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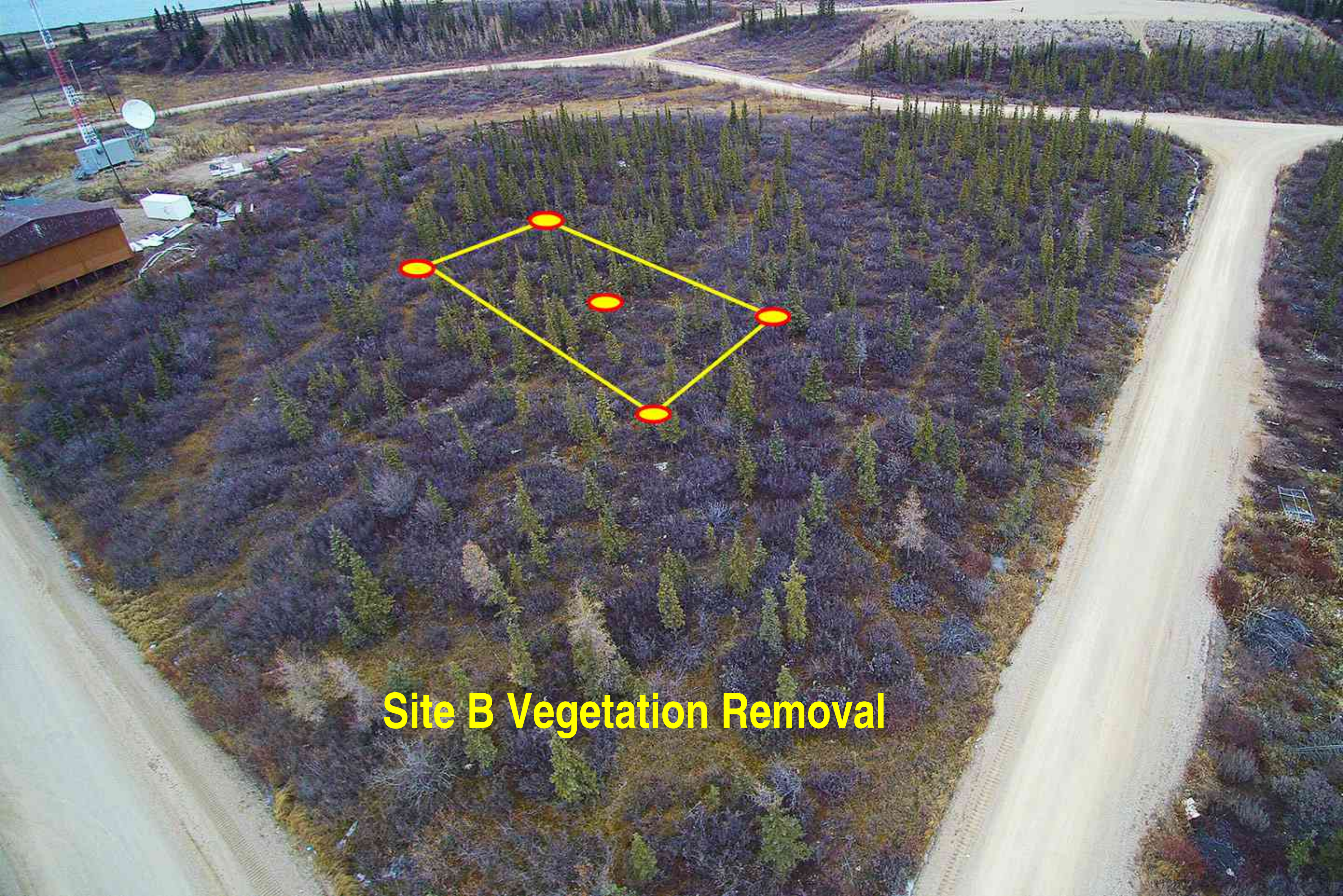
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Site B Vegetation



Site B Vegetation Removal