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Staff Report

Applicant: Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada – Contaminants and Remediation Division (CIRNAC – CARD)	
Location: Great Bear Lake Sites Remediation Project - Multiple locations near Great Bear Lake, NT	File Number(s): S24D-007 S24L8-004
Date Prepared: June 24, 2024	Date of Board Meeting: June 25, 2024
Subject: Request for further study - 22(2)(b) of the Mackenzie Valley Land Use Regulations	

1. Purpose

The purpose of this Report is to present to the Sahtu Land and Water Board (SLWB/Board) a request that further studies or investigations be made for the CIRNAC-CARD Great Bear Lake Sites Remediation Project Renewal of Type A Land Use Permit (Permit) Application S24D-007 as per paragraph 22(2)(b) of the Mackenzie Valley Land Use Regulations.

The Board requires additional time to process the application due to extenuating circumstances related to the recent fire evacuation order issued on June 15, 2024 for the community of Fort Good Hope, NT and the Sahtu Land and Water Board office, located in Fort Good Hope, NT, temporarily ceasing operations.

2. Background

- May 24, 2024 – Application for renewal Permit S24D-007 and renewal Licence S24L8-004 (Application) received;
- June 3, 2024 – Application deemed complete and distributed for public review
- June 17, 2024 – Comments and recommendations due on Application;
- June 24, 2024 – Applicant responses due;
- **June 25, 2024 – Further Study Required request presented to the Board;**
- July 15, 2024 – End of 42-day timeline; and
- July 24, 2024 – Current Land Use Permit S17D-003 and current Licence S17L8-002 expires.

3. Discussion

Project Description

The purpose of the Great Bear Lake Sites Remediation Project is to reduce the hazards and environmental impacts of the contaminated sites that are associated with this Project. The sites are the Silver Bear Mines (including Terra [Nak'a ts'e deh], Northrim, Norex, Graham Vein and Smallwood Mines), El Bonanza Mine

and Bonanza Mine), Contact Lake Mine [Kw'e K'a tue], the Sawmill Bay site and three portal sites (Contact Lake Portal, Mystery Island Portal and Bear Portal) in the southeast area of Great Bear Lake [Sahtú], NT (Figure 1). The time requested for the authorizations is three years.

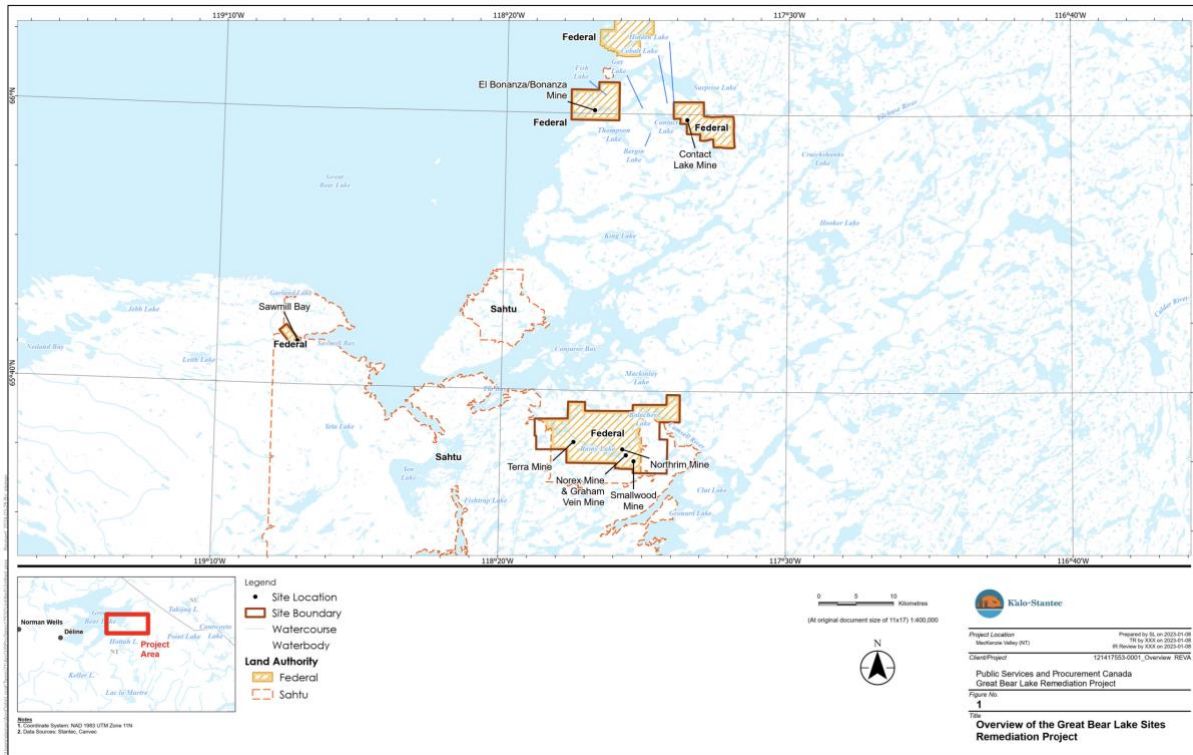
As described in the application, the scope of activities include:

Pre-Remediation Supporting Activities

- a. Construction, operation, maintenance, and decommissioning of camps, including Sewage Disposal Facilities;
- b. Construction, operation, and maintenance of site access routes, including existing site roads and portages, existing airstrips, winter roads, installation of culverts and temporary docks;
- c. Construction, operation, maintenance, and use of staging areas and fuel storage facilities and fuel;
- d. Barge operation;
- e. Water withdrawal for camp use, industrial use, winter road construction, cleaning, concrete mixing, and dust suppression;
- f. Use of equipment and machines;
- g. Quarrying to include borrow/granular material extraction/use (no crushing);
- h. Installation, operation, and removal of environmental protection measures to support Pre-remediation activities;
- i. Historic camp building demolition, including asbestos and lead paint abatement; and
- j. Non-hazardous waste management, including debris.

Remediation Activities

- k. Physical works associated with the management of waste rock, impacted water, and buildings and infrastructure containing hazardous materials;
- l. Consolidation and disposal of waste petroleum hydrocarbon products (assumed empty drums fall under category of "debris");
- m. Dock removal;
- n. Closing mine openings;
- o. Covering of gamma soils at Contact Lake;
- p. Construction of a surface water diversion away from waste; and
- q. Decommissioning of select access roads.



4. Comments

Triggers

The activities as described trigger a type A permit in accordance with 4(a)(ii), 4(a)(iii), 4(a)(iv), 4(a)(v), 4(b)(i), 4(b)(ii), and 4(b)(iii) of the Mackenzie Valley Land Use Regulations:

(4) No person shall, without a Type A permit, carry on any activity that involves

(a) on land outside the boundaries of a local government,

(ii) the use of a vehicle or machine of a weight equal to or exceeding 10 t, other than on a road or on a community landfill, quarry site or airport,

(iii) the use of a single container for the storage of petroleum fuel that has a capacity equal to or exceeding 4,000L,

(iv) the use of a self-propelled motorized machine for moving earth or clearing land, and

(v) the levelling, grading, clearing, cutting or snow-ploughing of a line, trail or right-of-way, other than a road or existing access trail to a building, that exceeds 1.5 m in width and 4 ha in area, for a purpose other than the grooming or recreational trails, and

(b) on land within or outside the boundaries of a local government,

(i) the use of motorized earth-drilling machinery the operating weight of which, excluding the weight of drill rods, stems, bits, pumps and other ancillary equipment, equals or exceeds 2.5 t, for a purpose other than the drilling of holes for building piles or utility poles or the setting of explosives within the boundaries of the local government,

(ii) the use of a campsite outside a territorial park for a duration of or exceeding 400 person-days, and

(iii) the establishment of a petroleum fuel storage facility with a capacity equal to or exceeding 80,000 L

A Type B water licence S24L8-004 (renewal of S17L8-002) is associated with this project and also required because of the deposit of waste and there is a proposed volume of water use up to 299 m³/day.

5. Public Review

On June 3, 2024, the Application was circulated for public review on the Online Review System (ORS). Comments and recommendations were due by June 17, 2024, with responses due by June 24, 2024.

6. Security

Not applicable.

7. Conclusion

The Board requires additional time to process the application due to extenuating circumstances related to the recent fire evacuation order issued on June 15, 2024 for the community of Fort Good Hope, NT and the Sahtu Land and Water Board office, located in Fort Good Hope, NT, temporarily ceasing operations.

As the Permit Application is directly associated with the Licence Application, clear linkages can be seen between the Applications including potential environmental impacts and mitigation measures, and Board staff are of the opinion that they should be reviewed and processed together.

To finalize Permit and Licence conditions that will effectively mitigate impacts of the proposed Project on the lands which may be affected, Board staff recommend coordinating the proceeding for the Permit and Licence Applications. In order to accommodate the time required for the review and submission of comments on the Applications and drafts of the Permit and Licence, and to bring it to the Board for decision, the Board may wish to pause the timeline in accordance with paragraph 22(2)(b) of the Mackenzie Valley Land Use Regulations, to allow further studies to be conducted for the Permit Application.

8. Recommendation

Board staff recommend the Board **make a motion to pause the timeline in accordance with the Mackenzie Valley Land Use Regulations specifically paragraph 22(2)(b) for Land Use Permit S24D-007 from Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada – Contaminants and Remediation Division (CIRNAC-CARD)**, to allow additional procedural time to coordinate the Permit.

A draft decision letter is attached.

9. Attachments

- [Application](#)
- Draft Decision Letter from the Board

Respectfully submitted,



Natalie Lippa
Regulatory Specialist