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DRAFT Work Plan

File Number	W2020L8-0003
Applicant	Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada – Contaminants and Remediation Division (CIRNAC-CARD)
Project	Rayrock (Kwetjjaà) Remediation Project – Amendment Application
Location	Rayrock (Kwetjjaà)
Activity	Miscellaneous – Remediation
Date of Work Plan	September 12, 2024
Work Plan Version	Version 1.0

Purpose of the Work Plan

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

Background

On September 11, 2024, the Applicant submitted an Amendment Application (the Application Package) for a type A Water Licence (Licence) for the Project to the Wek'èezhì Land and Water Board (Board). On September 12, 2024, the Application Package was deemed complete.

Scope of the Project

As outlined in the Application Package the Applicant is seeking an exemption from additional preliminary screening for the amendments outlined in the application. CIRNAC-CARD is proposing an amendment to the Water Licence for the following items:

1. Amendment of Part E, Condition 17, to increase the effluent quality criteria (EQC) for total suspended solids (TSS).
2. Amendment to Part C, Condition 1, to include water use from Sherman Lake to facilitate winter road construction.
3. Inclusion of a containment structure into the project activities that will act as secondary containment for camp wastewater.

The scope of the current Licence includes the following:

- a) Blasting, quarrying, and drilling activities for remediation activities; removal and shipping or burial of hazardous and non-hazardous waste in the Confined Disposal Facility; maintenance of Tailings Containment Areas and Decommissioned Waste Dump; Sherman Lake dock expansion; repairs to caps for Tailings Containment Areas and decommissioned Waste Dump, incineration or stockpiling for off-site disposal of waste from Camp operations; closure of Rayrock vent raises and Sun Rose mine shaft; capping waste rock and exploration workings at Sun Rose site; backfilling of trenches and blasted areas at Horn Plateau – REX Showing site; capping exploration workings at Horn Plateau – REX Showing site; burial or trucking out of soil with hazardous chemicals from exploration sites; removal of hazardous waste at barge landing and power line sites; removal of non-hazardous waste from exploration sites; storage and use of explosives; excavation and on-site disposal of spilled tailings; brush and vegetation clearing for access roads; access road development and maintenance; camp establishment at Rayrock and Sun Rose sites; use and regrading of quarry areas; fuel storage for operations; use of light and heavy equipment on site; treatment and encapsulation of Mill Lake sediments; encapsulation of soil, tailings, and waste rock in Confined Disposal Facility; burial of radiological-impacted debris in Confined Disposal Facility; off-site disposal of debris and materials within safe shipping limits for Uranium; removal and disposal of concrete foundations; sewage disposal; and remediation activities as approved in the Remedial Action Plan;
- b) Withdrawal of Water for use in camp operations, dust control, washing, winter road construction, and remediation activities as approved in the Remedial Action Plan;
- c) Dewatering of Mill Lake to Waste Water Treatment Facility before deposit in Sherman Lake,
- d) Depositing of Waste to Confined Disposal Facility and the Camp sump;
- e) Construction, operation, and maintenance of ice bridges to cross the Emile River or the Marian River;
- f) Construction, operation and maintenance of culverts to allow winter road passage;
- g) Construction, operation and maintenance of the Confined Disposal Facility and Sun Main Waste Rock Cover; and
- h) Closure and Reclamation activities for the remediation and monitoring of the Rayrock project sites.

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](#);



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- 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);
 - 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 carry out engagement with potentially affected parties (including communities and Indigenous governments) early and well in advance of the Application;
- 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 coordinate a technical session to address specific issues that require more focused review and discussion;
- The Board will hold a public hearing 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.



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Regulatory Proceeding Timelines

Subsection 72.18(1) of the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act* (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	Wednesday September 11 ,2024
Application Package Complete and Distributed for Review with Draft Work Plan	Board staff	Thursday, September 12, 2024
Deadline for Comments on Draft Work Plan	All Parties	Thursday, September 19, 2024
Deadline for Comments on Application Package and for Notices of Compensation Claims	Reviewers	Thursday, October 3, 2024
Deadline for Applicant’s Responses to Comments	Applicant	Thursday, October 10, 2024
Technical Session	All Parties Yellowknife	Tuesday, October 29, 2024
Distribute Technical Session Information Requests	Board Staff	Wednesday, October 30, 2024
Deadline for Responses to Information Requests	All Parties	Wednesday, November 06, 2024
Pre-Hearing Conference	All Parties Yellowknife	Wednesday, November 13, 2024



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Task	Responsible Party	Date Due (Date Completed)
Deadline for Interventions and for Compensation Claims	Interveners and Compensation Claimants	Tuesday, November 26, 2024
Preliminary Screening Determination	Board	November/December, 2024
Deadline for Applicant's Response to Interventions	Applicant	Tuesday, December 03, 2024
Deadline for Interveners' Public Hearing Presentations*	Interveners	Monday, December 09, 2024
Deadline for Applicant's Public Hearing Presentation*	Applicant	Thursday, December 12, 2024
Public Hearing*	All Parties Yellowknife	Tuesday, December 17, 2024
Distribute Public Hearing Undertakings	Board Staff	Wednesday, December 18, 2024
Deadline for Public Hearing Undertakings	All Parties	Wednesday, January 08, 2024
Draft Licence Distributed for Review	Board Staff	Wednesday, January 15, 2024
Deadline for Comments on Draft Licence *	Reviewers	Wednesday, January 22, 2024
Deadline for Applicant's Comments on Draft Licence *	Applicant	Wednesday, January 29, 2024
Deadline for Closing Arguments*	Reviewers	Monday, February 10, 2024
Deadline for Applicant's Closing Arguments*	Applicant	Monday, February 17, 2024
Board Meeting	Board	March, 2024
Board Recommendation to the Minister	Board	March, 2024
Minister's Decision	Minister	Up to 90 days

*No new evidence can be submitted in these steps of the proceeding without a Request for Ruling (see Rules 37 and 38 in the LWB [Rules of Procedure](#)).



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

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