



March 6, 2025

Garry Snyder  
GNWT – Department of Infrastructure  
P.O. Box 1320  
YELLOWKNIFE, NT X1A 2L9

**Re: Land Use Permit W2021F0010  
Winter Road & Campsites  
Whati/Gamètì Junction to Wekweètì, NT**

Dear Mr. Snyder,

An inspection of the snowcat breakthrough location (Spill File: 2025096) on the Emile River was conducted by Inspectors Clint Ambrose and Karine Gignac on March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025. The inspection was carried out to ensure that conditions annexed to the above noted Land Use Permit are being adhered to during this land use operation. All findings were discussed onsite with Mr. Garry Snyder (Permittee).

The Contractor's snowcat was successfully extracted from the Emile River and only a minor amount of hydrocarbons were observed that require cleanup for proper offsite disposal. Your copy of the Environmental Inspection Report is enclosed and should be self-explanatory.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the undersigned at (867) 767-9188 or Ms. Karine Gignac at (867) 767-9187 ext. 24189.

Sincerely,

Clint Ambrose  
Manager, Resource Management (Inspector)  
Land & Water North Slave Regional Office  
GNWT – ECC

cc: WLWB – via email  
GNWT-INF – via email  
Tlicho Investment Corporation & Group of Companies – via email  
Aurora Telecom Services – via email



## ENVIRONMENTAL INSPECTION REPORT

Permittee:	GNWT-DOI	Inspection Date: March 5 <sup>th</sup> , 2025
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		Permit Expiry Date	Last Previous Inspection
Land Use Permit No.	W2021F0010	January 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 2027	February 20 <sup>th</sup> , 2025
Quarrying Permit No.			
Contractor:	Tli Cho Road Builders (TEES)	Subcontractor:	Aurora Telecom Services

Location(s) Inspected:	Snowcat breakthrough location on the Emile River at ~Km 30.3 of the Wekweètì Winter Road.
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Current Stage of Operation:	The snowcat was successfully extracted and a thorough cleanup of hydrocarbons & debris was underway.
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Program Modifications Approved:	
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Condition of Operation "A" - Acceptable "U" - Unacceptable "N/A" - Not Applicable

#	Operating Condition	Aspect Inspected			Condition
		Spill 2025096			
A	Location and Area	A			
B	Time	A			
C	Type and Size of Equipment	A			
D	Methods and Techniques	A			
E	Type, Location, Capacity and Operation of All Facilities	A			
F	Control or Prevention of Ponding of Water, Flooding, Erosion, Slides and Subsidence of Land	A			
G	Use, Storage, Handling and Ultimate Disposal of Any Chemical or Toxic Material	A			
H	Wildlife and Fisheries Habitat	A			
I	Storage, Handling & Disposal of Refuse or Sewage	A			
J	Protection of Historical, Archeological and Burial Sites	A			
K	Objects and Places of Recreational, Scenic or Ecological Value	N/A			
L	Security Deposit	N/A			
M	Fuel Storage	A* A* A*			#53 Fuel Containment #62 Clean Up Spills #63(a) Report Spills
N	Methods and Techniques for Debris and Brush Disposal	A			
O	Restoration of the Lands	A			
P	Display of Permits and Permit Numbers	A			
Q	Matters Not Inconsistent with the Regulations	A			
R	Sections 8 to 16 M.V.L.U.R.	A			



## ENVIRONMENTAL INSPECTION REPORT Pg. 2

Date: March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Permit: W2021F0010

### Explanatory Remarks

An inspection of the snowcat breakthrough location on the Emile River was conducted by Inspectors Clint Ambrose and Karine Gignac on March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025. The inspection was carried out to ensure that conditions annexed to the above noted Land Use Permit are being adhered to during this land use operation. All findings of the inspection were discussed onsite with Mr. Garry Snyder (Permittee) and Mr. Collin Purchase (Contractor).

After completion of the February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025 inspection, the Contractor retained the services of KBL Environmental to conduct monitoring & mopping of the ice slot downstream of the snowcat breakthrough location. The cooperation of the Contractor to invoke their Spill Contingency Plan and comply with Condition #53 of the land use permit is appreciated.

On Tuesday March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025 equipment was mobilized to the land use area, tandem dump trucks and an excavator. Ice overtop of the submerged snowcat (Figure 1) was cut with chain saws and the excavator used to load it into trucks for removal & disposal at KBL's facility in Yellowknife. **The Permittee/Contractor must provide the Inspectors Bill of Ladings for all material taken offsite for disposal.**

The use of the ice slot (Figure 2 & 3) for the collection of hydrocarbons during the snowcat extraction was kept ice free and active throughout this operation. Monitoring and mopping with hydrocarbon absorbent matting & booms must continue until it is confirmed that no further hydrocarbons are present in the watercourse.

Other best practices observed during the inspection were the placement of the light plant in secondary containment, positioning an Emergency Response Trailer at the breakthrough location (Figure 4), and securely storing all potentially hydrocarbon impacted ice in poly lined mega bags (Figure 5) until offsite disposal occurs.

As seen in Figure 7, the snowcat was winched to shore and upon inspection of the water surface, the Inspector is pleased to report that minimal hydrocarbons were present. Figure 8 shows "clear" water without a sheen and the only areas of concern can be viewed in Figure 9 & 10. The requirement to remove hydrocarbon impacted snow & ice and to mop the surface of the water was discussed with Mr. Snyder and Mr. Purchase.

The Inspectors were assured that the excavator would not be demobilized until full restoration was complete, and photographs taken. As per Condition #63 of the land use permit, a detailed report must be provided to the Inspector within 30 days of initially reporting the incident and therefore due **no later than 17:00 HRS on March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025.** It is anticipated that photographs of the final mop will be included in this report, if not provided sooner.

Once the detailed report and Bill of Ladings are provided, the Inspectors should be in a position to recommend closure of **Spill File: 2025096.**

Completed off Site  
Representative's Signature

Clint Ambrose  
Inspector



Inspector's Signature



## ENVIRONMENTAL INSPECTION REPORT#

**Figure 1**

**Ice between the submerged snowcat and the shoreline of the Emile River was removed and taken offsite for disposal at a licensed facility in Yellowknife.**



**Figure 2**

**The ice slot down stream of the snowcat breakthrough location has been diligently monitored since the previous inspection of February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025.**



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## ENVIRONMENTAL INSPECTION REPORT#

**Figure 3**

**Hydrocarbon absorbent booms were installed in the ice slot and changed out regularly.**



**Figure 4**

**The light plant has secondary containment present and spill response materials are readily available.**





## ENVIRONMENTAL INSPECTION REPORT#

**Figure 5**

**Poly lined mega bags are being used for the secure storage of impacted ice and spent absorbent pads until proper offsite disposal occurs.**



**Figure 6**

**An excavator was used to remove ice blocks from the river and to function as an anchor for the winching of the snowcat.**





## ENVIRONMENTAL INSPECTION REPORT#

**Figure 7**  
**Snowcat being winched out of the Emile River.**



**Figure 8**  
**No hydrocarbon sheen was observed on the upstream side of the excavated hole in the Emile River.**





## ENVIRONMENTAL INSPECTION REPORT#

**Figure 9**

**Engine oil and other hydrocarbons were observed. A thorough cleanup must be undertaken.**



**Figure 10**

**Hydrocarbon impacted snow and potential soils require excavation for offsite disposal at a licensed facility in Yellowknife.**

