



Resource and Land Management
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Submitted via email to: mschnurr@wlwb.ca

Ms. Meghan Schnurr
Wek'èezhìi Land and Water Board
#1 – 4905 48th Street
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RE: Nighthawk Gold Corporation Indin Lake Gold Property Water Licence Applications and Land use Permit Application: Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada Closing Arguments

- Draft Federal Type A Water Licence – W2021L2-0005
- Draft Non-Federal Type A Water Licence – W2021L2-0004
- Draft Type A Land Use Permit – W2021C0009

Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC) Resource and Land Management is providing its closing argument to the Wek'èezhìi Land and Water Board for the review of the above-mentioned applications related to ongoing mineral exploration at the Indin Lake Gold Property.

On March 21, 2022, CIRNAC submitted a technical intervention regarding the Nighthawk Gold Corporation (Nighthawk) application for Type A Federal and Non-Federal Water Licences and Type A Land Use Permit. The intervention focused on the RECLAIM security estimate prepared by Nighthawk and recommended revisions related to costs associated with chemicals, buildings and equipment, and mobilization specific to activities on Federal land. The revisions would result in an increase in the total Federal security of approximately \$159,479 compared to Nighthawk's RECLAIM security estimate.

The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) also submitted an intervention related to the RECLAIM security estimate that included the Federal component. The Federal security estimate presented by the GNWT was notably different than that presented by CIRNAC. Nighthawk's response to interventions stated their preference to adopt the security estimate prepared by the GNWT, suggesting that the GNWT security estimate provides an accurate estimate of closure activities using consistent rates across the entire project, without the risk of double accounting for closure activities split between Federal and Territorial lands.





A two-day public hearing was held from April 12 to April 13, 2022. CIRNAC was provided the opportunity to present information related to our technical intervention for consideration by the Board on Day One of the public hearing. At this time CIRNAC indicated that we generally support the Federal security estimate proposed by the GNWT following review of their intervention and the supporting memorandum prepared by Arktis Solutions. However, CIRNAC still supported the use of the higher unit cost (\$1.20) for waste fuel removal from Federal land which was not used in the GNWT RECLAIM estimate.

As part of their public hearing presentation, Nighthawk reiterated their support for the GNWT security estimate. Nighthawk also elaborated on the GNWT estimate, indicating that the GNWT estimate used a lower unit cost because transport costs were addressed under mobilization security and that increasing the unit costs would, therefore, result in double counting of the shipment costs. In response, CIRNAC communicated that if waste fuel transportation costs have been accounted for elsewhere in the GNWT security estimate, then that addresses CIRNAC's concerns, and we would support the use of the GNWT security estimate. Our intervention related to the Federal security estimate is considered resolved.

Comments on the draft Federal and Non-Federal Type A Water Licences and Type A Land Use Permit were submitted through the Online Review System by CIRNAC on July 11, 2022. These comments were focused on licence and permit conditions rather than on the security estimate. Nighthawk provided responses to CIRNAC's comments. CIRNAC considers the comments raised during the review of the licence and permit applications to be resolved at this time.

CIRNAC would like to thank the Wek'èezhìi Land and Water Board for the opportunity to provide participate in this review process, and to thank Nighthawk (the Proponent) and the other intervening parties for their participation. CIRNAC looks forward to ongoing Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Regards,

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