



4 March 2022

W2021L2-0004, W2021L2-0005, W2021C0009

Ryan Fequet, Executive Director

Wek'èezhii Land and Water Board
#1-4905 48th St.
Yellowknife, NWT X1A 3S3

RESPONSES TO INFORMATION REQUESTS FOR TYPE A WATER LICENCES AND LAND USE PERMIT APPLICATIONS (W2021L2-0005, W2021L2-0004 AND W2021C0009) FOR THE NIGHTHAWK GOLD CORP INDIN LAKE GOLD PROPERTY

Dear Mr. Fequet,

Nighthawk Gold Corp (Nighthawk) acknowledges the receipt of an additional information request (IR) from Wek'èezhii Land and Water Board (WLWB) on 2 March 2022 and is providing responses to the additional comments. The IR received on 2 March is resulting from the Technical Workshop for Nighthawks Type A Water Licences (split interest between federal and non-federal land) and Type A Land Use Permit that was held on 15 to 17 February 2022.

IR #19

- a) ***Nighthawk to describe how the proposed effluent quality criteria for SNP Station 5-2 are consistent with the MVLWB Water and Effluent Quality Management Policy (2011). This should specifically address how the proposed EQC will achieve the two objectives for regulating the deposit of waste described in section 6.0 of the Policy; and***
- b) ***Nighthawk to describe how the proposed effluent quality criteria for the controlled Discharge at SNP Station 5-2 will ensure that the proposed effluent quality criteria for the passive Discharge at SNP Station 5-6 are met.***

The objectives for regulating the deposit of waste in Section 6.0 of the MacKenzie Valley Land and Water Board Water and Effluent Quality Management Policy are:

1. Water quality in the receiving environment is maintained at a level that allows for current and future water uses, and
2. The amount of waste to be deposited to the receiving environment is minimized.

As outlined in the response to IR#10, the EQC at SNP 5-6 are conservatively protective and are expected to meet the first objective of maintaining receiving environment water quality that will allow for current and future water uses. Any potential discharge from the Settling Pond (SNP 5-2) would therefore need to result in compliance at SNP 5-6; therefore, also protective of the downstream aquatic environment.

In the absence of data from SNP 5-2 (station historically dry), Nighthawk did not propose changes to EQC for SNP 5-2. After further discussion on potential future inputs to Settling Pond SNP 5-2, it was determined that the main source of water would potentially be from dewatering the portal. Nighthawk therefore reviewed data from SNP 5-8 and determined that water sampled at the portal would likely be in compliance with the EQC developed for SNP 5-6. For this reason, Nighthawk reconsidered the EQC at SNP 5-2 and believes that proposed values for SNP 5-6 could also be reasonably achieved at SNP 5-2.

Proposed EQC for total petroleum hydrocarbons would also apply at SNP 5-2, as would the new proposed EQC for nitrate (if explosives were shipped to site).

Nighthawk would also like to take this opportunity to submit a correction to the response to IR#10. The second bullet on page 15 should read *"The 75th percentile values from spring and fall SNP results were used for this calculation (2017 to 2021). Results that were below detection were set to half the detection limit for statistical calculations."*