

Environmental Protection Operations Directorate
Prairie & Northern Region
5019 52nd Street, 4th Floor
P.O. Box 2310
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2P7

ECCC File: 6100 000 196
NIRB File: 24EN039



October 11, 2024

via email at: info@nirb.ca

Francis Emingak
Screening Officer
Nunavut Impact Review Board
29 Mitik Street
P.O. Box 1360
Cambridge Bay, NU X0B 0C0

Dear Francis Emingak:

RE: 24EN039 # – Generation Uranium – Yath Property– Screening

Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) has reviewed the information submitted to the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) regarding the above-mentioned project screening.

ECCC provides expert information and knowledge to project assessments on subjects within the department's mandate, including climate change, air quality, water quality, biodiversity, environmental preparedness and emergencies. This work includes reviewing proponent characterization of environmental effects and proposed mitigation measures. We provide advice to decision-makers regarding a proponent's characterization of environmental effects, the efficacy of their proposed mitigation activities, and may suggest additional mitigation measures. Any comments received from ECCC in this context does not relieve the proponent of its obligations to respect all applicable federal legislation.

The following comments are provided:

1. Migratory Birds

Reference

Environmental & Wildlife Management Plan

Comment

The following potential impacts, effects and mitigation measures are missing from the project proposal:

- Avoiding breeding and nesting birds during nesting season. In Nesting Zone C8, migratory birds may be found nesting from early May until mid-August.
- Air travel to reach the site. There may be potential for low-level flights during the spring, summer or fall. Flight plans should be prepared to avoid areas of migratory bird concentrations.



ECCC Recommendation(s) – Low Impacts Expected

ECCC recommends the proponent outline these considerations in an updated Environmental & Wildlife Management Plan should a project certificate be issued.

Should the project proceed to a Board Review, timing of drilling activities should be planned to avoid disturbance to species at risk and during nesting periods. In Nesting Zone C8, migratory birds may be found nesting from early May until mid-August.

2. Species at Risk

Reference

Environmental & Wildlife Management Plan

Comment

- The following Species at Risk effects and mitigation measures are missing from the project proposal:
 - Barren Ground Caribou
 - Grizzly Bear
 - Harris' Sparrow
 - Red-necked Phalarope
 - Rusty Blackbird
 - Short-eared owl
 - Transverse Lady beetle
 - Wolverine

ECCC Recommendation(s) – Low Impacts Expected

ECCC recommends the proponent outline these considerations in an updated Environmental & Wildlife Management Plan should a project certificate be issued.

The plan should include the list of species at risk that could be encountered, time of year they are likely to be present, and mitigation measures to employ should they be encountered. If the Proponent encounters species at risk, the primary mitigation measure should be avoidance.

Mitigation and monitoring measures recommended to be consistent with applicable species at risk Recovery Strategies and Action Plans or Management Plans.

At a minimum, monitoring should include recording timing and location of observed species at risk, their behavior when encountered, and actions taken by the Proponent to avoid disturbance to the species, its habitat, and/or its residence.

If you need more information, please contact Jessica Kassir at (867) 222-2036 or Jessica.Kassar@ec.gc.ca.

Sincerely,

Jessica Kassir
Environmental Assessment Officer

cc: Eva Walker, Head, Environmental Assessment North (NT and NU)