

Public Registry - Project Proposals

NPC 150522: Rae Copper Exploration Project

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Proposal Status: Conformity Determination Issued

[Overview Documents](#)

[Project Overview](#)

Type of application: New

Proponent name:

Eric Sondergaard

Proponent company:

White Cliff Minerals Limited

Project Description:

White Cliff Minerals Ltd.'s (WCM) Rae Copper Project (Project) is a proposed small exploration project located approximately 70 kilometers southwest of Kugluktuk, in the West Kitikmeot Region near the Coppermine River. WCM will be applying for a Type B water licence, Class A land use permit, and a Class III land use licence to allow drill-based exploration activities. If this project is approved, WCM plans to conduct an initial drill program in 2025 to verify historic results and find areas of high copper and silver potential. If those results are promising, exploration would continue seasonally in summer and/or winter over subsequent years. During this time, WCM will preferentially source Project personnel, materials, and services from Kugluktuk and the broader Kitikmeot Region and offer on-the-job training. WCM's proposed exploration program would include a temporary tent-based exploration camp and a small seasonal drill exploration program exploring for copper and silver. Small fly camps may also be used periodically to support limited remote seasonal exploration activities. The camp will be located on dry durable ground near areas of mineralogical interest and, ideally, a lake large enough to land a plane in either summer or winter. Alternately, WCM may make use of the existing Hope Lake Airstrip or other suitable land, ice, or water-based landing location, as determined by the pilot. Possible camp locations will be subject to archaeological survey to ensure there are no archaeological sites. Water will be drawn from lakes near the camp and proximal to drill targets and average water use is expected to be less than 100 m³/day and not more than 299 m³/day on any one day. The camp will usually house around 25 people, but camp population will vary depending on the number of drills operating and other activities, including community or stakeholder tours. Exploration may be undertaken in summer, fall, and/or winter with the camp closed between uses. WCM will also close the camp and cease exploration activities between May 28 and July 3 to avoid disturbances to the Blue Nose East Caribou herd, who use the area during their calving (May 28 to July 3) and post calving (June 21 to July 3) periods. The Project will be accessed by air, and possibly by winter trail from Kugluktuk with local community members and/or businesses relaying supplies into site in winter, as has been done for other projects in the area. Within the Project area, personnel and materials will travel by

foot, helicopter, or on limited winter trails when conditions permit without causing rutting or gouging. No all-weather roads are proposed. Fuel will be stored on site in secondary containment and will mostly be in the form of diesel (for drill and camp generators and heaters) and jet fuel (for the helicopters) and spill prevention measures and a spill contingency plan will be implemented. Exploration drilling will be carried out with the use of diamond drills searching for copper and silver, but similarly sized reverse circulation drills may alternately be used. Other activities related to exploration may be undertaken periodically as well, such as aerial or ground-based surveys, mapping, sampling, staking, environmental monitoring or baseline studies, and archaeological studies. Drill and core cutting waste will be deposited in natural depressions or dug sumps, as will camp greywater from the kitchen, sinks and showers, and any outhouse blackwater (should pit outhouses be used). Either pack, incinerating, or outhouse-type pit toilets will be used. An incinerator may be used to incinerate suitable wastes, and suitable materials such as untreated wood, cardboard, and paper may be open burnt. All other wastes will be backhauled to an approved waste management facility outside of Nunavut. A wide range of mitigation and management measures will be implemented to reduce potential for impacts and to maximize project benefits. This Project was previously reviewed by the NPC under file #150199 and mineral exploration activities have been undertaken in this area for many years, including on portions of WCMs mineral claims by previous proponents. These overlapping exploration activities have been subject to a number of previous Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) screenings (NIRB File #'s 15EN009, 11EN033, 05EN088, 01EN092, 01EN022, 99EN037, 98E01N015 97E08N035) and NPC review (NPC files #'s 150439, 150294, 146607, 149531, 149831, 148333, and 148285) and further screening may not be required.

[Project Schedule](#)

Start Date:

2025-03-01

End Date:

2032-03-01

[Project Map](#)

List of project geometries:

Id

Geometry

Location Name

[13926](#)

polygon

Rae Copper Project general project area

NPC Planning regions:

No Approved Plan

Project Land Use and Authorizations

Project Land Use:

Mineral Exploration

Scientific Research

Site Cleanup/Remediation

Temporary Structures

Winter Access

Licensing Agencies:

Nunavut Water Board

Kitikmeot Inuit Association

Kitikmeot Inuit Association

Government of Canada - Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada

Government of Nunavut - Department of Culture and Heritage

Government of Nunavut - Department of Culture and Heritage

Nunavut Impact Review Board

Nunavut Research Institute

Government of Nunavut - Department of Environment

Government of Nunavut - Department of Environment

Government of Canada - Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Government of Canada - Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Government of Nunavut - Department of Culture and Heritage

Material Use

Equipment:

Type

Quantity

Type

Use

Helicopter

TBD

TBC

Equipment and crew movements

Drills

TBD

5 m x 5 m

Exploration sampling of rock

Generators

TBD

2 m x 2m

power supply for camp, drills, and other equipment

Incinerator

1

5m x5m

Disposal of combustible wastes

toilets

TBD

3m x 3m

Incinerating, pacto, or pit-type toilets

snowmobile

TBD

1m x 3m

Camp and activity support/personnel movement

boat

TBD

2m x 5m

Camp and activity support/personnel movement

water pumps

TBD

1m x 1m

water supply for camp and drills.

snow cat

TBD

5m x 8m

camp and drill support

Chieftain or similar

1

4m x 8m

low pressure vehicle for winter access

Sloop or similar

1

4m x 15 m

low pressure transport for winter access

loader

1

4m x 15 m

maintenance of winter trail/road/pad

Tent Camp

1

100m x 100m

Main exploration camp

Fly Camp

1

20m x 20m

Small portable camp to support remote activities seasonally

Fuel Use:

Type

Container

Capacity

Use

Aviation fuel

400

205

helicopter fuel

Diesel

400

205

camp heating and power and drill fuel

Gasoline

20

205

small engine fuel.

Propane

40

45

camp cooking and miscellaneous uses

Hazardous Material and Chemical Use:

Type

Container

Capacity

Use

lubricants and greases

50

20

equipment maintenance

Acetylene

5

100

Equipment repair welding

batteries and solvents

1

1

various equipment and small appliances requiring batteries, and solvents for cleaning

oxygen

2

100

welding repair

Drill muds, lubricants, additives

500

5

Added to drill fluids to aid in the drilling process

Salt

30

1

added to drilling fluids to lower freezing point and prevent freezing in of drill rods

Water Consumption:

Daily Amount (m²)

Retrieval Method

Retrieval Location

299

lakes proximal to drill targets and camp

small diameter water line and pump. uptake equipped with a screen meetign DFO requiremetns to prevent the impingement or entrainment of fish

[Waste and Impacts](#)

Environmental Impacts:

Please see attached table of potential impacts and proposed mitigations

Waste Management:

Waste Type

Quantity Generated

Treatment Method

Disposal Method

Combustible wastes

<1m³/day

reuse and repurpose materials where safe and suitable. Segregate wastes at source to support efficient off-site management.

incinerate putrescible and organic waste, incinerate or burn other combustible waste (i.e. untreated wood, cardboard, and paper), or backhaul via fixed-wing aircraft for disposal in an approved landfill

Greywater

Estimated at 5 m³/day average

Strain kitchen water to prevent food material from entering the grey water waste stream. Optimize sump filtration of discharge by setting back at least 31 m from waterbodies and minimizing sump overflow

Discharge to a suitably sized sump.

Hazardous waste

<0.01 m³/day

Minimize hazardous waste generation by implementation of spill prevention measures and using an oil-water separation techniques where appropriate

Contain and back haul off site for disposal at an authorized facility

Non-Combustible wastes

<1 m³/day

Recyclables may be segregated to back haul to a recycling facility.

Contain and backhaul for disposal off-site at an authorized landfill.

Overburden (organic soil, waste material, tailings)

~5 m³/day

Minimize the amount of drill waste generated by recirculation of water and removal of solids

Drilling and core cutting waste. Deposit into a sump or natural depression located >31 m from the OHWM of any watercourse

Sewage (human waste)

<0.1 m³/day

Should outhouses be used, pit toilet sewage would be deposited in a pit sump, which would be covered and covered over on closure of the pit.

Sewage collected in incinerating or pacto toilets will be incinerated or contained and backhauled to an authorized waste management facility.