



**NIRB File No.: 24EN047**  
**NPC File No.: 150522**

October 8, 2024

Eric Sondergaard  
White Cliff Minerals Ltd  
3139 Leduc Crescent S.W  
Calgary, Alberta T3E 5X1

Sent via email: [eric.sondergaard@gmail.com](mailto:eric.sondergaard@gmail.com)

**Re: Notice of Screening for White Cliff Minerals Ltd's "Rae Copper Exploration Project" proposal**

Dear Eric Sondergaard:

On September 11, 2024, 2024 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) received a referral to screen White Cliff Minerals Ltd's "Rae Copper Exploration Project" proposal from the Nunavut Planning Commission (Commission), which noted that the project proposal is outside the area of an applicable regional land use plan.

Pursuant to Article 12, Sections 12.4.1 and 12.4.4 of the *Agreement between the Inuit of the Nunavut Settlement Area and Her Majesty the Queen in right of Canada (Nunavut Agreement)* and s. 87 of the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act*, S.C. 2013, c. 14, s. 2 (*NuPPAA*), the NIRB has commenced screening this project proposal and has assigned it file number **24EN047** - please reference this file number in all future related correspondence.

#### PROJECT OVERVIEW

##### ***Project Scope:***

All documents received and pertaining to this project proposal can be accessed from the NIRB's online public registry at [www.nirb.ca/project/125991](http://www.nirb.ca/project/125991).

|                           |   |                               |                    |                  |                            |
|---------------------------|---|-------------------------------|--------------------|------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>Project:</b>           | Rae Copper Exploration Project  |                               |                    |                  |                            |
| <b>Region:</b>            | Kitikmeot Region  |                               |                    |                  |                            |
| <b>Location:</b>          | An area of 2643.61 km <sup>2</sup> Northwest, West and Southwest of Kugluktuk |                               |                    |                  |                            |
| <b>Closest Community:</b> | Kugluktuk   | <b>Distance (approximate)</b> | 60 kilometres (km) | <b>Direction</b> | Northwest, West, Southwest |

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| <b>Summary of Project Description:</b> | The Proponent intends to conduct a temporary tent-based exploration camp and run a small seasonal drill exploration program with up to three exploration drills and the following activities: aerial mapping surveys, ground sampling and/or baseline studies. |
| <b>Project Proposed Timeline:</b>      | 2025 to 2032   |

According to the project proposal, the scope of the project includes the following undertakings, works or activities:

The camp will be opened seasonally for a winter and/or summer exploration program and closed between uses. Every year the exploration camp will be closed, and exploration activities stopped while the Bluenose East Caribou herd is in the areas for their calving (May 28 to July 3) and post calving (June 21 to July 3) periods.

- Use of a helicopter to transport personnel and equipment;
- Use of drills for exploration sampling of rock;
- Use of generators to supply power for camp, drills and other equipment;
- Use of an incinerator to dispose of combustible wastes;
- Use of toilets (Incinerating, pinto or pit-type toilets);
- Use of snowmobiles, a boat, ATV's and trailers to transport personnel and supplies to field sites;
- Use of water pumps to supply camp and drills;
- Use of a snowcat for camp and drill support;
- Use of a chieftain and sloop for low pressure transport for winter access;
- Use of a loader for the winter maintenance trail/road/pad;
- Use of a tent camp;
- Use of a fly camp to support remote activities seasonally;
- Non-combustible waste to be removed and disposed of at an accredited facility;
- Use of 82,000 litres of aviation fuel for aircraft;
- Use of 82,000 litres of diesel fuel for camp heating, power and drill fuel;
- Use of 4,100 litres of gasoline for small engine fuel;
- Use of 1,800 kg propane for camp cooking and miscellaneous;
- Use of 1000 litres of lubricant and greases for equipment maintenance;
- Use of 500 lbs acetylene for equipment repair welding;
- Use of 1 m<sup>3</sup> (cubic meters) of batteries and solvents for various equipment and small appliances requiring batteries and solvents for cleaning;
- Use of 200 lbs of oxygen for welding repairs;
- Use of 2,500 gallons of drill muds, lubricants and additives to add to drill fluids to aid in the drilling process; and
- Use of 30 m<sup>3</sup> (cubic meters) of salt that is added to drilling fluids to lower freezing point and prevent freezing in of drill rods.

### ***Inclusion or Exclusion of Scoping List***

At this time, the NIRB has identified no additional works or activities in relation to the project proposal. As a result, the NIRB will proceed with screening the project based on the scope as described above.

#### REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

All documents received can be accessed from the NIRB's online public registry [www.nirb.ca/project/125991](http://www.nirb.ca/project/125991) and include:

- Commission Conformity Determination
- Commission Application
- Potential Impacts and Mitigations Table
- Revised Commission Conformity Determination
- Engagement Log
- NIRB Application
- Spill Contingency Plan
- Waste Management Plan
- Wildlife Management and Monitoring Plan

The NIRB will copy you on screening process related correspondence and upload related documents to the NIRB's online registry for public access. The NIRB may request additional information at any time during the process.

The NIRB is copying parties and municipalities potentially affected by White Cliff Minerals Ltd project proposal with this letter, and we invite interested parties to comment directly to the NIRB by **October 30, 2024**.

The NIRB would like parties to provide comments regarding:

- Whether the project proposal is likely to arouse significant public concern; and if so, why;
- Whether the project proposal is likely to cause significant adverse eco-systemic or socio-economic effects; and if so, why;
- Whether the project proposal is likely to cause significant adverse impacts on wildlife habitat or Inuit harvest activities; and if so, why;
- Whether the project proposal is of a type where the potential adverse effects are highly predictable and mitigable with known technology, (and providing any recommended mitigation measures); and
- Any matter of importance to the Party related to the project proposal.

Additionally, please be aware that the NIRB and the Nunavut Water Board (NWB) are required to coordinate their processes<sup>1</sup> for projects that require a water licence, especially municipal undertakings in order ensure the timely review and processing of the application. In undertaking a coordinated NIRB-NWB process, the Proponent must provide information through the assessment

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<sup>1</sup> As per Sections 13.5.2 and 13.6.1 of the *Nunavut Agreement*, s. 193 of *NuPPAA*, and s. 37 of the *Nunavut Waters and Nunavut Surface Rights Tribunal Act*.

to satisfy both the impact assessment requirements as well as the water licensing process; furthermore, where information to satisfy each process is similar, coordination of the timing or contents of applications may be considered when information is being submitted to both organizations. However, the Proponent has the option to request or opt out of a coordinated process at any time. Should the Proponent wish to discontinue the coordinated process, the Proponent may do so in writing to both the NIRB and the NWB.

#### CONTACT INFORMATION

Please send your comments to the NIRB via email at [info@nirb.ca](mailto:info@nirb.ca), via fax at (867) 983-2594 or via the individual project dashboard for this assessment on the NIRB's online public registry at [www.nirb.ca/project/125991](http://www.nirb.ca/project/125991).

If you have any questions or require clarification, feel free to contact the undersigned at (867) 983 4612 or [tkuliktana@nirb.ca](mailto:tkuliktana@nirb.ca)

Sincerely,



Tundra Kuliktana  
Screening Officer  
Nunavut Impact Review Board

Enclosures (4): Public Notice of Screening (English, and Inuinnaqtun)  
Comment Forms (English, and Inuinnaqtun)

cc: Distribution List  
Richard Dywer, Nunavut Water Board  
Dustin Fredlund, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated  
Carson Gillis, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated  
Jorgan Aitaok, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated  
Wynter Kuliktana, Kitikmeot Inuit Association  
Tannis Bolt, Kitikmeot Inuit Association  
Justin Buller, Government of Nunavut  
Dianne Lapierre, Government of Nunavut  
Caroline Whittle, Government of Nunavut, Culture and Heritage  
Natalie D'Souza, Government of Nunavut, Environment  
Mosha Cote, Nunavut Research Institute  
Tracey McCaie, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada  
Jose Audet-Lecouffe, Fisheries and Oceans Canada