NPC 150635: Izok Corridor Project

Close

Proposal Status: Conformity Determination Issued

Overview Documents

Project Overview

Type of application: New

Proponent name:

Sarah Hasek

Proponent company:

MMG Resources Inc.

Project Description:

MMG Resources Inc. (MMG) is planning to conduct mineral exploration activities as part of the Izok Corridor Project (the Project). Despite filing this as a new application, this is an amendment to previous NPC submissions (NPC 149985: Izok Lake Project and NPC 149834: High Lake), both of which received conformity determinations. The purpose of this application is to: -Amend geographical extent of two Nunavut Water Board (NWB) Water Licences (2BE-IZO2328 and 2BE-HIG2328) -Amend geographical extent of two CIRNAC Land Use Permits (LUPs; N2024C0021 and N2024C0022) -Advance mineral exploration in CIRNAC mineral claim areas The Izok Corridor has been explored by various groups since its discovery in the 1950's and is currently held by MMG, who acquired the project in 2009. Following extensive work around feasibility for potential development, the project has remained on standby awaiting more favourable economic conditions, primarily related to arctic infrastructure. With the acquisition of CIRNAC mineral claims, MMG intends to resume mineral exploration activities. The High Lake area is south of Gray's Bay. The nearest community to the High Lake area is Kugluktuk, approximately 150 km to the west. The Izok Lake area is approximately 210 km southeast of Kugluktuk, near Contwoyto Lake, and extends into the Northwest Territories. See Figures 1-3, attached. Part of this Project has been previously reviewed by the NPC for mineral exploration activities that have been undertaken in this area, including on portions of MMGs mineral claims by previous proponents (NPC 148636: Izok Lake Project; 148606: High Lake). Overlapping exploration activities have been subject to Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) screenings (primarily NIRB File # 12MN043, but also #'s 12YA007, 07YN055, 07YN056, 06EN048, 08EN067,06EN066, 04YN073, 03EN053, 01WN021, 02EN039, 06MN082) and further

screening may not be required. MMG acquired 63 CIRNAC mineral claims in the Izok Corridor Project Area in February 2023, and an additional 5 CIRNAC mineral claims in July and September 2024. MMG's CIRNAC Mining Leases and the CIRNAC Surface Leases in the Project area predate the Nunavut Land Claim Agreement (NLCA). Where land use is administered by the Kitikmeot Inuit Association (KIA), MMG will work with the KIA for appropriate right of access agreements (see Figures 1-3, attached). The geographical extents of two CIRNAC LUPs and NWB Water Licences must be amended to encompass the CIRNAC mineral claims. In the High Lake area, the western extent of the LUP and Water Licence must be extended to include 16 CIRNAC mineral claims. In the Izok area, the northern extent must be extended to include 5 CIRNAC mineral claims. Table 1 and 2, attached, include all CIRNAC mineral claims within the Project area, with mineral claims not fully bound by the LUP or Water Licence indicated in bold. Proposed extents of each area are identified in Figure 1, attached. To advance the potential mine development, further mineral exploration activities are planned, starting in 2025 and continuing to 2028 on the Izok Lake CIRNAC mining lease sites, the High Lake CIRNAC mining lease sites, and CIRNAC mineral claims acquired by MMG. MMG plans to conduct geophysical surveys (including EM and IP surveys) and diamond drilling programs starting in April 2025. Exploration activities may occur during summer, fall and/or winter seasons. Exploration drilling will be carried out with the use of diamond drills and reverse circulation drills. Other activities related to exploration may include aerial or ground-based surveys, geophysical surveys, mapping, sampling, staking, environmental monitoring or baseline studies, and archaeological studies. MMG will preferentially source Project personnel, materials and services from Kitikmeot communities and offer on-the-job training as required. Initially, MMG's exploration team will be based at Bluestar Gold's Ulu Camp until the Izok Lake Camp (at Ham Lake) and High Lake Camp can be prepared for seasonal occupation. Small fly camps may also be used periodically to support limited remote seasonal exploration activities. Any temporary fly camps will be located on dry durable ground near areas of mineralogical interest, where exploration drilling may occur. These camps would utilize temporary, tent-based infrastructure and establishment of these camps will be preceded by archaeological surveys and implementation of measures to avoid disturbance of archaeological sites. Water will be withdrawn per the existing NWB Type B Water Licences (2BE-IZO2328 and 2BE-HIG2328) for use of 100 m3/day (per Licence) to support exploration activities and camp operations. Both Type B Water Licences were renewed in 2023 with conditions that the total camp water use shall not exceed 15 cubic metres per day, and the total volume of water for all purposes shall not exceed 100 cubic metres per day. See Table 4, attached, for a list of applicable Project authorizations. The High Lake exploration site is located approximately 50 km south of Grays Bay and has been in care and maintenance since 2015. The High Lake camp can be accessed by fixed-wing aircraft

on floats using High Lake. A helicopter is normally stationed on site during camp occupancy. During field exploration programs, the camp occupancy will vary depending on the activities occurring in the area, including the number of drills operating and other activities (e.g. stakeholder tours) to the maximum capacity of 30 people. The Izok Lake camp is located approximately 300 km southwest of High Lake and has been in care and maintenance since 2015. During field exploration programs, the camp occupancy will vary depending on the activities occurring in the area, including the number of drills operating and other activities (e.g. stakeholder tours) to the maximum capacity of 30 people. Izok Lake Camp can be accessed by fixed-wing aircraft, using the 760 m gravel air strip located approximately one kilometer from camp. Table 3, attached, provides estimated number of personnel on site, and estimated number of days, per project area. Transportation between camp sites and exploration targets is primarily via helicopter with limited use of snowmobiles in winter. ATVs are used in the summer/fall within the camp region to move equipment and supplies between the airstrip and the various camp buildings. Fuel at all sites will be stored in secondary containment and will include diesel, aviation fuel, gasoline and propane. Spill prevention measures and spill contingency plans will be implemented. 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 pacto, 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 Yellowknife to an approved waste management facility.

Project Schedule

Start Date:

2025-05-06

End Date:

2028-12-31

Project Map

List of project geometries:

Id

Geometry

Location Name

16551

polygon

N2024C0021

16559

polygon

N2024C0022 - Proposed

16560

polygon

N2024C0021 - Proposed

16561

polygon

2BE-IZO2328

16562

polygon

N2024C0022

16563

polygon

2BE-HIG2328

16564

polygon

N2024C0021

NPC Planning regions:

No Approved Plan

Project Land Use and Authorizations

Project Land Use:

Mineral Exploration

Permanent Structures

Temporary Structures

Licensing Agencies:

Nunavut Impact Review Board

Nunavut Water Board

Nunavut Water Board

Kitikmeot Inuit Association

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

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

Government of Nunavut - Department of Culture and Heritage

Material Use

Equipment:

Type

Quantity

Type

Use

Helicopter / fixed wing aircraft

TBD

2000 lbs

Transportation of crew and equipment/supplies; airborne geophysics. Quantity and dimensions dependent on activities. AS350-B/206LR/500D.

CAT Dozer

2

D6 – 6000 lbs; 8’x14’

Construction of air strip on frozen lake

Drilling rigs

TBD

TBD

Drilling – geotechnical, core or diamond drills; for exploration;

Incinerator

2

Forced air diesel fired furnace

Disposal of combustible wastes

Toilets

TBD

Various

Incinerating, pacto, or pit-type toilets

Generators

TBD

60-175 Kw; 2’x4’

Power supply for drilling, camps

Water pumps

TBD

Various

Water supply for camps and drilling

Snowmobiles/ATVs

TBD

Various

Transportation of crew and equipment/supplies

Fuel Use:

Type

Container

Capacity

Use

Aviation fuel

1600

205

Fuel for helicopters, fixed wing aircraft

Gasoline

24

205

Fuel for atvs, etc

Diesel

1600

205

Fuel forgenerators, etc

Propane

24

125

Fuel for stoves, etc

Hazardous Material and Chemical Use:

Type

Container

Capacity

Use

Lubricants and greases

1

1

Equipment maintenance; quantities to be determined

Acetylene

1

1

Equipment repair (welding); quantities to be determined

Batteries and Solvents

1

1

Various equipment and small appliances, solvents for cleaning; quantities to be determined

Oxygen

1

1

Welding repair; quantities to be determined

Drill muds, lubricants, additives

1

1

Drilling additives; quantities to be determined

Water Consumption:

Daily Amount (m^2)

Retrieval Method

Retrieval Location

100

Proximal to drill targets as outlined in the Application / Approval.

Water hoses with intake screens

Waste and Impacts

Environmental Impacts:

The project exploration work is intended to identify additional mineral resources in the region as well as continue to advance the feasibility of the Izok Lake/ High Lake deposits. Drilling operations are helicopter supported. The drill will be positioned on a temporary plank floor constructed over wooden timers (8” x 8”). Drill pads maintain a 60 m distance to waterbodies. Secondary containment and spill kits are employed at fuel transfer points. Water used for diamond drilling is pumped from a source proximal to the pad location, using water screens approved as per DFO requirements. At the completion of drilling, water in the settling tanks is filtered and inspected before being returned to the environment. Cuttings from the tanks are collected and deposited downhole or in sump locations. These locations are normally natural depressions or open fractures in rock that allow for suitable natural containment. Where lake bottom targets are identified, drilling from the frozen lake surface is carried out in the winter months. Lake water is tested prior to and after completion of drill holes to ensure that there are no contaminants escaping the closed system. Cuttings are carefully collected and deposited on land in sumps, as described above. Sump locations are reported annually with the completion of drilling. Any disturbed ground is re-seeded. Operations will be modified or suspended if found to be affecting seasonal migration or nesting activities. Researchers will travel with a local Inuit Wildlife Monitor who will be responsible for spotting wildlife and taking action to avoid crew interactions with wildlife. Helicopter overflights will be at high altitudes except in areas of takeoff and landing. Helicopter flights will follow guidelines to minimize effects to wildlife. For more information on potential environmental impacts and proposed mitigations, please refer to table 4, attached to this application.

Waste Management:

Waste Type

Quantity Generated

Treatement Method

Disposal Method

Combustible wastes

TBD

Wastes will be collected at end of day and returned to camp for management. Will be sorted and camp and managed with camp wastes

Incineration

Combustible wastes

TBD

Incinerated on site in forced air diesel fired furnace; remnants will be managed as non-combustible waste.

Incineration

Greywater

TBD

Greywater from domestic use runs through a grease trap and a settling tank before draining to a sump located on site.

Sumps

Hazardous waste

TBD

Waste will be sealed in drums and removed from site for disposal at KBL in Yellowknife, NT.

Off site disposal

Sewage (human waste)

TBD

Sewage is collected daily from Pacto style toilet facilities and sealed in plastic bags and incinerated on site.