



NIRB Application for Screening #126477

Esker

Application Type: New

Project Type: Mineral Exploration

Application Date: Sunday, July 19, 2026

Period of operation: from 2026-08-04 to 2026-09-19

Project Proponent: Steven
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DETAILS

Non-technical project proposal description

- English: Who: Guardian Exploration Inc., represented by Graydon Kowal (President/CEO, Calgary, AB), is proposing the project. The company is an active mineral exploration firm focused on early-stage gold properties in Nunavut. What: The undertaking is a small-scale diamond drilling exploration program to evaluate gold mineralization on the Esker claims. Up to 8 drill pads (each ~15 m × 15 m) will test targets, with multiple holes per pad to minimize disturbance (total footprint ≤1,800 m²). Activities include helicopter-supported drilling using a closed-loop water recirculation system (max 50 m³/day freshwater withdrawal, no discharge), temporary sumps (~13.5 m³ each, max 3 active), and a small seasonal camp (12–15 personnel, max 18; 4 sleeping tents + support structures). All fuel (max 4,000 L diesel on-site) will be stored in secondary containment. No roads or permanent infrastructure will be built. Drill cuttings remain in backfilled sumps; full progressive reclamation will restore sites. Support includes a Spill Contingency Plan, Wildlife Mitigation Commitments (500 m caribou setback, Inuit monitor), Archaeological Chance Find Procedure, and biodegradable additives where practicable. Transport is entirely by helicopter. Why: The objective is to determine the presence and extent of subsurface gold mineralization identified through prior work programs. Diamond drilling is the only reliable method for this. The program advances responsible mineral exploration on Inuit Owned Lands while incorporating strong environmental protections and community consultation. Long-term implications include potential future economic benefits (jobs, royalties) if a viable deposit is found, alongside continued support for sustainable land use. Where: The project is located in the South Henik Lake area, Kivalliq Region, Nunavut, on Inuit Owned Land (KVL125B04) with portions of Crown land (AR27/AR29). Project extents span approximately 61°31'45N to 61°39'43N and 97°17'52W to 96°41'41W. Closest communities are Arviat (~200 km southeast) and Baker Lake. No protected areas overlap the immediate site; the area is used for traditional harvesting and limited tourism/outfitting (South Henik Lake Lodge). When: The 2026 field program is planned for August 1 to October 31, 2026 (drilling and camp operations), with demobilization by late October. This is a single-season program within a requested 5-year Type B Water Licence (May 2026–May 2031). Future phases would be subject to additional approvals. This summary provides an overview of the low-impact, seasonal exploration activities. Full details, including mitigations, water management, and consultation records, are available in the complete application package. Guardian Exploration Inc. welcomes questions from the public and continues engagement with Arviat HTO, KIA, and other stakeholders.
- French: Qui: Guardian Exploration Inc., représentée par Graydon Kowal (Président/PDG, Calgary, AB), propose le projet. La société est une firme d'exploration minière active qui se concentre sur les propriétés aurifères en phase précoce au Nunavut. Quoi: L'entreprise consiste en un programme d'exploration par forage au diamant à petite échelle visant à évaluer la minéralisation aurifère sur les claims Esker. Jusqu'à 8 plateformes de forage (chacune d'environ 15 m × 15 m) seront utilisées pour tester les cibles, avec plusieurs trous par plateforme afin de minimiser les perturbations (empreinte totale ≤ 1 800 m²). Les activités comprennent le forage soutenu par hélicoptère à l'aide d'un système de recirculation d'eau en circuit fermé (retrait maximal d'eau douce de 50 m³/jour, sans rejet), des puisards temporaires (environ 13,5 m³ chacun, maximum 3 actifs) et un petit camp saisonnier (12 à 15 personnes, maximum 18 ; 4 tentes de couchage + structures de soutien). Tout le carburant (maximum 4 000 L de diesel sur site) sera entreposé dans un confinement secondaire. Aucune route ni infrastructure permanente ne sera construite. Les déblais de forage demeureront dans les puisards remblayés ; une réclamation progressive complète permettra de restaurer les sites. Le projet s'accompagne d'un Plan de contingence pour les déversements, d'Engagements d'atténuation de la faune (recul de 500 m pour les caribous, moniteur inuit), d'une Procédure pour découvertes fortuites archéologiques, ainsi que d'additifs biodégradables lorsque cela est praticable. Le transport s'effectuera entièrement par hélicoptère. Pourquoi: L'objectif est de déterminer la présence et l'étendue de la minéralisation aurifère en subsurface identifiée lors de programmes de travail antérieurs. Le forage au diamant constitue la seule méthode fiable pour y parvenir. Le programme fait progresser une exploration minière responsable sur les Terres Inuites tout en intégrant de solides mesures de protection environnementale et une consultation communautaire. À long terme, il pourrait générer des retombées économiques futures (emplois, redevances) si un gisement viable est découvert, tout en maintenant un appui à l'utilisation durable des terres. Où: Le projet est situé dans la région du lac South Henik, région de Kivalliq, au Nunavut, sur des Terres Inuites (KVL125B04) avec des portions de terres de la Couronne (AR27/AR29). Les limites du projet s'étendent approximativement de 61°31'45N à 61°39'43N et de 97°17'52W à 96°41'41W. Les communautés

[illegible]

Operations Phase: from 2026-08-04 to 2026-09-19

Activities

Location	Activity Type	Land Status	Site history	Site archaeological or paleontological value	Proximity to the nearest communities and any protected areas
Proposed DDH Pads	Drilling	Crown	Prior diamond drilling was completed at Esker. Prospecting completed at River	None known	~200km west of Arviat
Camp A	Camp	Crown	Site of old camp?	None known	~200km west of Arviat
Camp B	Camp	Crown	Site of old camp?	None known	~200km west of Arviat

Community Involvement & Regional Benefits

Community	Name	Organization	Date Contacted
Arviat	Mayor and Council	Hamlet of Arviat	2026-03-05
Arviat	Chairperson	Hunters and Trappers Organization	2026-03-05
Rankin Inlet	Manager; Lands Department	KIA	2026-03-05

Authorizations

Indicate the areas in which the project is located:

Kivalliq

Authorizations

Regulatory Authority	Authorization Description	Current Status	Date Issued / Applied	Expiry Date
Nunavut Planning Commission	Conformity determination	Active	2026-04-30	
Kivalliq Inuit Association	Land use permit	Applied, Decision Pending		

Project transportation types

Transportation Type	Proposed Use	Length of Use
Air	helicopter	

Project accomodation types

Temporary Camp

Material Use

Equipment to be used (including drills, pumps, aircraft, vehicles, etc)

Equipment Type	Quantity	Size - Dimensions	Proposed Use
hand tools	20	small	For rock sampling (hammers and chisels). No mechanized tools.
helicopter	1	Bell 206	To be used to mobilize camp construction materials and supplies, exploration equipment, fuel, and personnel into, around within, and out of the project area and fro drill moves.
Fixed wing aircraft	1	Twin otter	To be used to mobilize camp construction materials and supplies, exploration equipment, fuel, and personnel into and out of the project area. The aircraft will not be stationed at the project site.
water pump	1-2	small; 1000-2000 l/h flow rate	Used to supply water to the field camp for kitchen and personnel ablution block. Estimate water use at 400-500 liters per day
EM-16 unit	1	50 x 20 x 20 cm	Handheld Very Low Frequency (VLF) EM device for geophysical surveying. The operator walks a grid (no line cutting) and takes readings on a pre-determined spacing. No residual surface disturbance.
Drone Magnetometer LIDAR System	1	70 x 70 x 40cm	Small UAV and base magnetometer station. UAV will fly across sections of the project area, at 20-50m elevation, collecting magnetic field data. Minimal noise and no land disturbance.
Hydracore 2200 diamond drill	2	12m2	3000m diamond drilling will be undertaken off of 8 pads size: 15m x 15m each.
Table Rock Saw	1	1m x 0.8m	Used for cutting drill core or rock samples in half
Hand-held rock saw	1	0.8 x 0.5 x 0.5m	Used for cutting channels in smooth outcrop to assist with channel

		sampling.
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Detail Fuel and Hazardous Material Use

Detail fuel material use:	Fuel Type	Number of containers	Container Capacity	Total Amount	Units	Proposed Use
Muriatic Acid	hazardous	2	1	2	Liters	2 muriatic acid bottles to test for carbonate
Diesel	fuel	15	210	3150	Liters	Main fuel source.
Aviation fuel	fuel	20	210	4200	Liters	Helicopter fuel
Propane	fuel	5	100	500	Lbs	Camp use
Gasoline	fuel	3	210	630	Liters	Used to fuel small generator for camp electricity, table rock saw and UAV recharge.
Lubricants and Oils	hazardous	3	40	120	Liters	Various lubricant / grease and oils for drills.
Drilling additives	hazardous	3	20	60	Liters	See 'Drill Additives' under 'Documents' and 'Equipment'

Water Consumption

Daily amount (m3)	Proposed water retrieval methods	Proposed water retrieval location
50	Small diesel pump and 1.5 inch hose	Pistol Lake, Sandy Lake and Noomut River

Waste

Waste Management

Project Activity	Type of Waste	Projected Amount Generated	Method of Disposal	Additional treatment procedures
Camp	Combustible wastes	5-10kg per day	Daily burning of combustible, non-toxic waste (e.g., paper, cardboard, untreated wood) in a contained, safe burn barrel or fire pit.	Plastics, Styrofoam, foils, etc will be collected and packed out for proper offsite disposal.
Camp	Greywater	2-3m ³ per day	Excavate sump pits for collection and filtering into adjacent soils.	Screen and strain kitchen sink wastewater before water drains into sump. Use biodegradable soaps.
Mineral Exploration	Overburden (organic soil, waste material, tailings)	100m ³	Diamond drill cuttings and drilling fluids will be directed to temporary drill sumps where solids will settle and water will be recirculated.	Upon completion of drilling, sumps will be allowed to dry and will be backfilled with overburden and contoured to natural grade.
Camp	Sewage (human waste)	0.5 - 0.75 m ³	burial on site over 100m from any water body	Excavated outhouse pit will be back filled

Environmental Impacts:

Water: No significant effects to any identified water sources is anticipated due to efforts to both minimize impact during operations and rehabilitate sumps and pads to a state as close to the original condition as possible after the project is completed. Air: No effects to air quality are anticipated. Wildlife: Helicopter and drilling noise may cause some disturbance to wildlife. Helicopter use will be limited to only what is needed to complete the project. Vegetation: Surface vegetation and soil will see some disturbance during drilling (e.g. sumps and pads). Both will be rehabilitated once they have fulfilled their purpose.

Additional Information

SECTION A1: Project Info

SECTION A2: Allweather Road

SECTION A3: Winter Road

SECTION B1: Project Info

Exploration at both the Esker and River Showings are for gold (Au).

SECTION B2: Exploration Activity

Exploration drilling

SECTION B3: Geosciences

Geological Mapping

SECTION B4: Drilling

1. Number of Drill Holes and Depths: The proposed 2026 diamond drilling program includes up to 16 drill holes. Multiple holes (commonly two and up to four) may be drilled from individual pads to minimize surface disturbance. Target depths range from 175 m to 250 m, with the majority of holes targeting approximately 200 m. Specific proposed holes and parameters are as follows (all coordinates UTM NAD83 Zone 14N): GEE-26-01: 175 m GEE-26-02: 250 m GEE-26-03 to GEE-26-08: 200 m each GER-26-09 to GER-26-16: 200 m each. These are target depths; actual depths will be adjusted based on geological conditions. 2. Drill Additives: Drilling operations will utilize a closed-loop water recirculation system. 3. Method for Dealing with Drill Cuttings: Drill cuttings will be contained within excavated sumps (up to three active sumps at any time, each approximately 13.5 m³). Sumps will be excavated using a small mini track hoe confined to drill pad areas. Upon completion of drilling at each location, sumps will be backfilled and stabilized to restore natural surface contours as closely as practicable. 4. Method for Dealing with Drill Water: Drilling will employ a closed-loop recirculating water system. No discharge of drill water to natural water bodies is proposed. Freshwater withdrawal will not exceed 50 m³ per day or 2,500 m³ for the entire season. Intake hoses will be screened to prevent fish entrainment and positioned to minimize sediment disturbance. 5. Mobilization of Drill Equipment: Drill equipment will be mobilized primarily by helicopter. Helicopters will place drill rigs directly onto prepared pads. Limited ATV use may occur along existing natural pathways for the movement of supplies. No new roads or access corridors will be constructed. A mini track hoe (previously used in 2025) will be available for minor pad leveling and sump excavation as required. 6. Abandonment of Drill Holes: Upon completion of drilling, drill holes will be managed in accordance with standard exploration practices and applicable regulatory requirements for temporary mineral exploration holes in Nunavut. Surface reclamation of pads and sumps will be completed as described above.

SECTION B5: Stripping

NA

SECTION B6: Underground Activity

NA

SECTION B7: Waste Rock

NA

SECTION B8: Stockpiles

NA

SECTION B9: Mine Development

SECTION B10: Geology

SECTION B11: Mine

SECTION B12: Mill

SECTION C1: Pits

SECTION D1: Facility

SECTION D2: Facility Construction

SECTION D3: Facility Operation

SECTION D4: Vessel Use

SECTION E1: Offshore Survey

SECTION E2: Nearshore Survey

SECTION E3: Vessel Use

SECTION F1: Site Cleanup

SECTION G1: Well Authorization

SECTION G2: Onland Exploration

SECTION G3: Offshore Exploration

SECTION G4: Rig

SECTION H1: Vessel Use

SECTION H2: Disposal At Sea

SECTION I1: Municipal Development

Description of Existing Environment: Physical Environment

Pistol Lake: This camp location is situated at 592000E/6829627N (NAD83, Zone 14N). It is approximately 1km east of the eastern shore of South Henik Lake, a large lake, approximately 45 km long in a north-south

direction and 15km at its widest point. An esker snakes its way toward the north approximately 1km east of the proposed campsite. Sandy Lake: This camp location is situated at 598325E/6828447N (NAD83, Zone 14N). It is south and east of the previous location sitting approximately 7km east of South Henik Lake.

Description of Existing Environment: Biological Environment

Additional Details on the Socioeconomic Environment: The project area is within Inuit Owned Lands (KVL125B04) in the Kivalliq Region, supporting traditional harvesting by Arviat and other communities. Key socioeconomic values include subsistence hunting/fishing (caribou, fish, waterfowl), cultural land use, and potential outfitting (e.g., South Henik Lake Lodge). No permanent settlements nearby; temporary use by tourists/hunters/anglers. Economic benefits via local hiring (Inuit monitor, staff) and minimal disturbance to traditional activities. Consultation with Arviat HTO, KIA, and community occurred in March 2026. Vegetation (Terrestrial, Freshwater, Marine) Terrestrial: Low Arctic tundra with dwarf shrub-heath, sedge meadows, lichen/moss ground cover, and scattered wetlands. Sparse tree cover (near treeline transition). Freshwater: Aquatic vegetation in lakes/streams (e.g., Pondweeds, mosses). Marine: Not applicable (inland project; ~100+ km from Hudson Bay coast). Project avoids sensitive wetlands where possible; sumps and pads will be reclaimed to original condition. Wildlife, Including Habitat and Migration Patterns Dominant: Barren-ground caribou (Qamanirjuaq/Beverly herds) – tundra habitat, long-distance seasonal migrations (spring to coastal calving grounds, fall to treeline). Muskox, grizzly/wolverine, wolves, foxes. Habitat: Open tundra, eskers, wetlands. Project measures: 500 m caribou setback, pause operations if present, wildlife monitor, secure waste to prevent attraction. No roads; helicopter access minimizes habitat fragmentation. Birds, Including Habitat and Migration Patterns Breeding/migratory waterfowl and shorebirds (e.g., geese, ducks, loons, sandpipers) in tundra wetlands/lakes. Raptors (peregrine falcon, gyrfalcon). Habitat: Lakeshores, wetlands for nesting/feeding. Migration: Spring/fall passages; some breed locally. Minimal project overlap due to seasonal timing (Aug–Oct) and small footprint; avoid nesting areas. Species of Concern (SARA and Agency-Listed) Barren-ground caribou: COSEWIC Special Concern; important cultural/subsistence species. No specific SARA critical habitat in immediate project area, but regional migration corridors. Mitigation: Strict 500 m setback. Other: Possible grizzly bear (Special Concern), wolverine. No Ivory Gull or other high-concern colonies nearby. Project commitments address SARA via avoidance and monitoring. Aquatic (Freshwater and Marine) Species, Habitat, and Patterns Freshwater: Arctic char, lake trout, whitefish, grayling in Pistol Lake, Noomut River, and unnamed lakes. Habitat: Lakes/streams for spawning/rearing. Spawning: Fall (char) or spring; project uses closed-loop recirculation + sumps, fish screens on intakes, >31 m setbacks. No water returned to sources. Marine: Not applicable (inland). Other Biological Valued Ecosystem Components (VECs)–Wetlands and eskers (habitat value). –Traditional/cultural harvest species (caribou, fish, geese). –Identified via community consultation (Arviat/HTO) and regional literature: Focus on caribou migration corridors and water quality for fish. No additional VECs triggered beyond those mitigated in the Spill Plan, Wildlife Commitments, and reclamation.

Description of Existing Environment: Socio-economic Environment

Proximity to Communities: The project area (South Henik Lake) is remote and uninhabited, located approximately 250–300 km northwest of Arviat (the nearest community) and ~70–100 km from Baker Lake. No permanent settlements exist within the Local Study Area. Access is helicopter-only; temporary use occurs by hunters, anglers, and tourists (e.g., South Henik Lake Lodge operated by Ryan St. John). **Archaeological and Culturally Significant Sites:** No known archaeological sites within the proposed drill pads or camp locations. The project implements a strict Archaeological Chance Find Procedure (30 m stop-work radius, immediate notification to KIA and GN Department of Culture and Heritage). Culturally significant features in the broader Regional Study Area may include tent rings, inuksuit, and traditional travel routes. The Local Study Area has been reviewed via existing KIA/NPC processes with no conflicts identified. **Palaeontological Component of Surface and Bedrock Geology:** The area features Archean bedrock (typical of Kivalliq gold prospects) with limited surficial palaeontological potential. No known fossil-bearing formations or significant palaeontological resources have been identified in the project area. Standard chance-find protocols apply if unexpected materials are encountered during excavation. **Land and Resource Use in the Area:** Primary uses include subsistence harvesting (caribou, fish, waterfowl) by Arviat and regional Inuit beneficiaries, consistent with Nunavut Land Claims Agreement rights. Tourism/outfitting (South Henik Lake Lodge) and limited trapping/guiding also occur. The project is designed to minimize interference through seasonal timing, setbacks, and consultation. No commercial mining or other industrial uses overlap the immediate area. **Local and Regional Traffic Patterns:** No road access exists. All project traffic is helicopter-supported (drill moves, camp resupply, personnel). Regional air traffic is limited to occasional charter flights for exploration, hunting, or medical evacuations. No impact on marine or overland routes is anticipated. **Human Health (Physical, Social, Psychological, Spiritual Wellbeing):** The

project poses negligible risk to human health. Measures include spill prevention, wildlife awareness training, clean camp practices, and adherence to occupational health standards. Positive contributions include local employment opportunities (Inuit monitor, potential staffing) and economic benefits to Guardian personnel and contractors. No effects on traditional food quality or spiritual/cultural wellbeing are expected due to avoidance of harvesting areas and full reclamation. Other Valued Socioeconomic Components (VSEC) Community-identified VSECs include continued access to traditional lands, protection of harvesting rights, and preservation of cultural heritage. These are addressed through ongoing KIA/HTO consultation (March 2026 letters), Inuit involvement (wildlife monitor), and commitments to minimal disturbance. No additional VSECs were highlighted in available literature or prior consultations.

Miscellaneous Project Information

Identification of Impacts and Proposed Mitigation Measures

1. Impacts by component/activity and project phase (pad preparation, drilling/operations, demobilization/reclamation) Impacts are identified as positive (P), negative and mitigable (M), negative and non-mitigable (N), or unknown (U). Drill pads (up to 8 × 15 m × 15 m; maximum 1,800 m² cumulative): M across all phases – temporary surface disturbance with progressive reclamation. Sumps (up to 3 active at ~13.5 m³ each): M during operations and reclamation – contained cuttings, backfilled and stabilized. Temporary camp and tents (core shack, kitchen, dry, first-aid, sleeping, office, storage, outhouse): M during operations and demobilization – seasonal, no fixed foundations; frames may remain secured for reuse. Fuel storage (maximum 2,500–4,000 L diesel on site): M during operations – secondary containment and Spill Contingency Plan. Helicopter-supported access and limited ATV use on existing pathways: M across all phases – no new roads or corridor clearing. Water use (closed-loop recirculation): M during operations – conservative limits, no discharge to natural water bodies. Wildlife (primarily caribou): M during operations – 500 m setback and related measures. Noise and air emissions: M during operations – localized and temporary. Socioeconomic and traditional land use: P/M across all phases – local Inuit monitor employment; minimal interference with traditional activities. Archaeological/cultural resources: M/U across all phases – chance-find procedure in place. No impacts are classified as N. 2. Discussion of the impacts identified above All negative impacts are temporary, localized, and mitigable. Maximum land disturbance is limited to approximately 1,800 m² of drill pads plus minor sump and camp footprints, fully confined to the Esker mineral claims on Inuit Owned Lands. No road construction, blasting, or permanent foundations are proposed. Progressive reclamation (equipment removal by helicopter, sump backfilling, contour restoration, and site inspection) is designed to return disturbed areas to near-natural condition. Residual effects after mitigation are expected to be negligible. 3. Potential socioeconomic impacts, including human health Positive effects include short-term local employment (engagement of an Inuit wildlife monitor) and contribution to regional mineral exploration activity. Potential negative effects are limited to temporary interference with traditional land use or hunting; these are addressed through caribou setbacks, the on-site monitor, prohibition on project personnel hunting, and respect for traditional activities. Human-health risks are low: fuel is stored in secondary containment under the Spill Contingency Plan, waste is managed appropriately, and there is no public access or permanent infrastructure that would create ongoing exposure pathways. No significant adverse health effects are anticipated. 4. Potential for transboundary effects None expected. All proposed activities occur entirely within Nunavut on Inuit Owned Lands in the South Henik Lake area. No pathways for significant cross-jurisdictional effects on water, air, wildlife, or other resources have been identified. 5. Potentially adverse effects on Species at Risk Act (SARA) listed species and their critical habitats or residences The submission does not identify specific SARA-listed species or designated critical habitat within the project area. The principal wildlife commitment is a minimum 500 m setback from caribou, immediate pause of drilling if herds enter the operational area, engagement of a local Inuit wildlife monitor during active drilling, minimization of helicopter overflights near observed wildlife, secure storage of food/fuel/waste to prevent attraction, and prohibition of hunting by project personnel. These measures, combined with the small temporary footprint and progressive reclamation, are intended to avoid or lessen any potential effects. Monitoring will be conducted by the on-site Inuit wildlife monitor and through demobilization inspections, with reporting to the Kivalliq Inuit Association as required. 6. Proposed measures to mitigate all identified negative impacts Land and soil: minor leveling using timber cribbing or limited local materials; progressive reclamation of pads and sumps to restore contours; no new access corridors. Water and aquatic resources: closed-loop recirculating system; screened intakes; zero discharge of drill water; maximum 50 m³/day and 2,500 m³ seasonal freshwater withdrawal. Wildlife: 500 m caribou setback; work stoppage if herds approach; Inuit wildlife monitor; minimized overflights; secure attractant storage; no project hunting. Fuel and spills: secondary containment for all fuel (maximum 4,000 L on site at any time); adherence to the Spill Contingency Plan. Waste: containment of drill cuttings in sumps followed by backfilling; removal or proper disposal of solid waste; correct handling of used oil and

hydrocarbon materials. Cultural resources: Archaeological Chance Find Procedure. Overall: helicopter-only access for drill rigs; temporary non-permanent structures; demobilization inspections for erosion or instability; ongoing communication and reporting to the Kivalliq Inuit Association. All measures are incorporated into the 2026 program description and supporting environmental management documents.

Cumulative Effects

The proposed 2026 diamond drilling program at the Esker Gold Project represents a small-scale, temporary, helicopter-supported exploration activity on Inuit Owned Lands in the South Henik Lake area. Its incremental environmental effects—limited ground disturbance ($\leq 1,800 \text{ m}^2$ from up to 8 drill pads), low freshwater withdrawal (max $50 \text{ m}^3/\text{day}$ via closed-loop recirculation), and seasonal camp (12–15 personnel)—are minor when considered in isolation. In the regional Kivalliq context, these effects interact with past and present mineral exploration activities (e.g., previous surface programs on the property and nearby claims) primarily through localized habitat disturbance and temporary wildlife displacement. However, progressive reclamation of pads and sumps, combined with mitigations such as 500 m caribou setbacks, an Inuit wildlife monitor, no-discharge water management, and strict spill prevention, ensure that residual effects are short-term and reversible. There is no overlap with major past industrial developments in the immediate area, and the project avoids sensitive wetlands, known archaeological sites (via chance-find procedure), and important caribou migration corridors where practicable. Reasonably foreseeable future actions in the region include continued low-level mineral exploration and traditional land use (hunting, fishing, outfitting at South Henik Lake Lodge). The Esker project's contribution to cumulative effects is considered negligible due to its short duration (August–October 2026), small spatial footprint, absence of permanent infrastructure, and full site restoration. No significant additive impacts on valued components (barren-ground caribou, fish habitat, water quality, or cultural resources) are anticipated when combined with other activities, as all operations adhere to KIA, NPC, and NWB standards. Ongoing consultation with Arviat HTO and KIA further supports adaptive management if new regional developments emerge. Overall, the project aligns with sustainable early-stage exploration in Nunavut and does not contribute to cumulatively significant adverse effects.

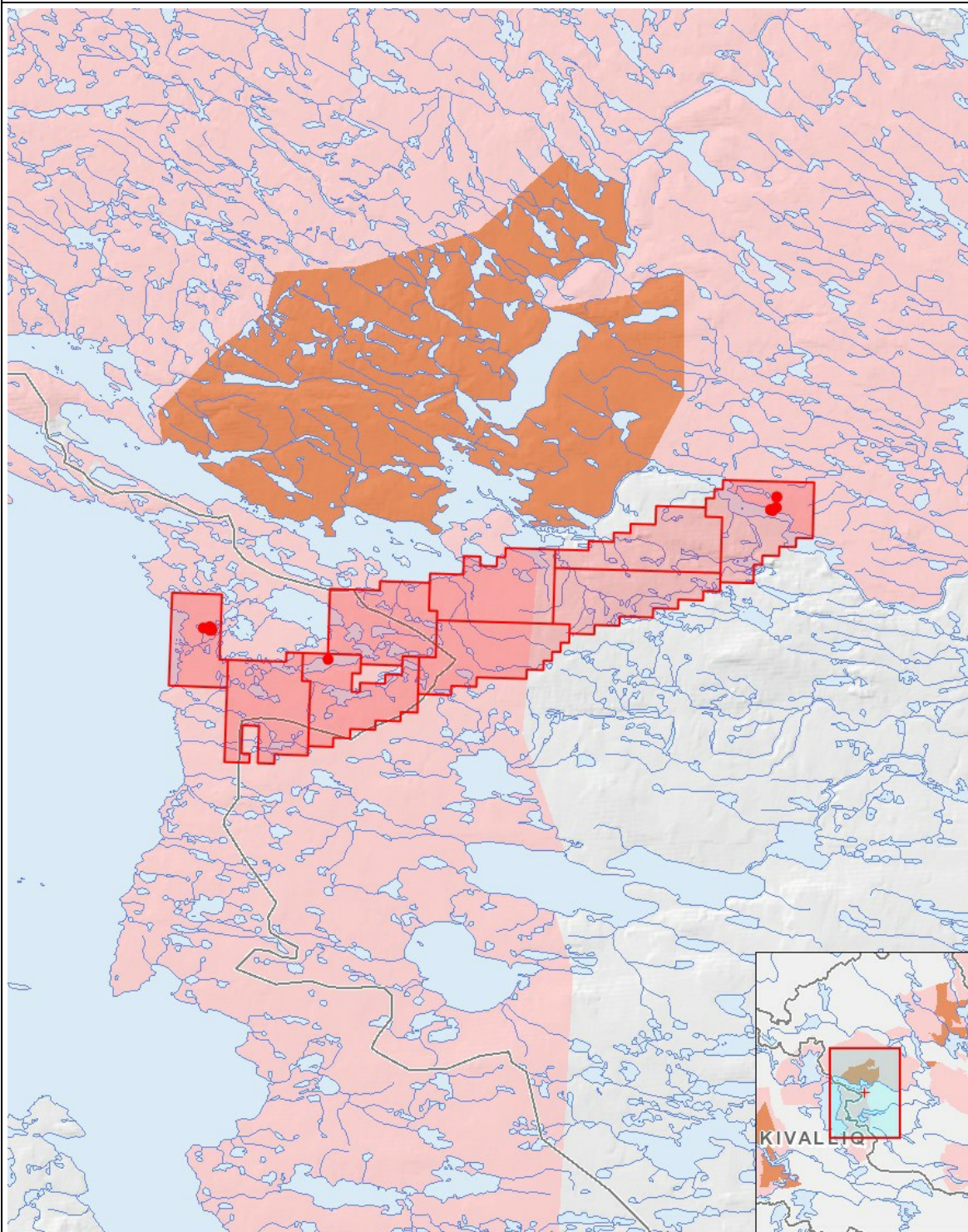
Impacts

Identification of Environmental Impacts

		PHYSICAL	Designated environmental areas	Ground stability	Permafrost	Hydrology / Limnology	Water quality	Climate conditions	Eskers and other unique or fragile landscapes	Surface and bedrock geology	Sediment and soil quality	Tidal processes and bathymetry	Air quality	Noise levels	BIOLOGICAL	Vegetation	Wildlife, including habitat and migration patterns	Birds, including habitat and migration patterns	Aquatic species, incl. habitat and migration/spawning	Wildlife protected areas	SOCIO-ECONOMIC	Archaeological and cultural historic sites	Employment	Community wellness	Community infrastructure	Human health
Construction																										
-		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-	-	-
Operation																										
Camp		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	N		-	-	-	-	-		-	P	-	-	-
Drilling		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	N	-	-	-	N		-	-	-	-	-		-	P	-	-	-
Decommissioning																										
-		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-	-	-

(P = Positive, N = Negative and non-mitigatable, M = Negative and mitigatable, U = Unknown)

Project Location



List of Project Geometries

1	polygon	Claim boundaries
2	point	Proposed DDH Pads
3	point	Camp A
4	point	Camp B