

NPC 151051: Esker

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Proposal Status: Conformity Determination Issued

[Overview Documents Questionnaire](#)

[Project Overview](#)

Type of application: Amendment

Proponent name:

Graydon Kowal

Proponent company:

Guardian Exploration Inc.

Project Description:

Guardian Exploration Inc. proposes a small-scale, early-stage gold exploration program on Inuit Owned Land (surface rights) to the east of South Henik Lake, approximately 170km WNW of Arviat, Nunavut. The program will either take place concurrently with the Sundog program (NPC Application 150842) if that application is approved or as an independent helicopter-supported program based out of Arviat or a local lodge. The program will include ground-based prospecting/sampling, geological mapping and low-impact drone geophysical surveys and ground IP geophysical surveying. Additional details are provided as an attachment.

[Project Schedule](#)

Start Date:

2026-06-10

End Date:

2026-10-31

[Project Map](#)

List of project geometries:

Id

Geometry

Location Name

[19465](#)

polygon

Claim boundaries

[20776](#)

point

Camp A

[20777](#)

point

Camp B

[20636](#)

point

Proposed DDH Pads

NPC Planning regions:

Keewatin

[Project Land Use and Authorizations](#)

Project Land Use:

Advanced Mineral Exploration

Licensing Agencies:

Kivalliq Inuit Association

Nunavut Water Board

Kivalliq Inuit Association

[Material Use](#)

Equipment:

Type

Quantity

Type

Use

hand tools

20

small

For rock sampling (hammers and chisels). No mechanized tools.

Hydracore 2 drill

1

5x5x5

Diamond Drilling

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.

Fuel Use:

Type

Container

Capacity

Use

Diesel

15

210

Main fuel source.

Aviation fuel

20

210

Helicopter fuel

Propane

5

100

Camp use

Gasoline

3

210

Used to fuel small generator for camp electricity, table rock saw and UAV recharge.

Hazardous Material and Chemical Use:

Type

Container

Capacity

Use

Muriatic Acid

2

1

2 muriatic acid bottles to test for carbonate

Drilling additives

1

1

See 'Drill Additives' under 'Documents' and 'Equipment'

Water Consumption:

Daily Amount (m²)

Retrieval Method

Retrieval Location

50

South Henik & Noomut River

Water pump

Waste and Impacts

Environmental Impacts:

Environmental & Wildlife Considerations: Located in Caribou Late Summer Core Range (not in calving/post-calving zone). Impacts are minimal and mitigations include: • No garbage storage on site. • Safe fuel/waste management • Field personnel will be training and expected to monitor for bears; Trained bear monitors may also be used.

Waste Management:

Waste Type

Quantity Generated

Treatment Method

Disposal Method

Combustible wastes

5-10 kg per day

Plastics, Styrofoam, foils, etc will be collected and packed out for proper offsite disposal.

Daily burning of combustible, non-toxic waste (e.g., paper, cardboard, untreated wood) in a contained, safe burn barrel or fire pit.

Greywater

2-3m³ per day

Screen and strain kitchen sink wastewater before water drains into sump. Use biodegradable soaps.

Excavate sump pits for collection and filtering into adjacent soils.

Overburden (organic soil, waste material, tailings)

100m³

Upon completion of drilling, sumps will be allowed to dry and will be backfilled with overburden and contoured to natural grade.

Diamond drill cuttings and drilling fluids will be directed to temporary drill sumps where solids will settle and water will be recirculated.

Sewage (human waste)

0.5 - 0.75 m³

Excavated outhouse pit will be back filled

burial on site over 100m from any water body