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Recommended response:

- We recognize the seriousness of the heap leach failure and continue to treat our response to the situation with the appropriate urgency.
- Our priorities are to ensure on-site safety and to protect the health and wellbeing of Yukoners and the environment.
- We are aware of the impact of this event on the First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun and are coordinating with them on implementing remediation actions.
- Yukoners can get the most recent information on our website at yukon.ca.

Additional response (if asked about the receivership):

- We have full confidence in the Court that oversees all aspects of the receivership proceedings, including the appointment of PricewaterhouseCoopers as the receiver.
- PricewaterhouseCoopers is an impartial officer of the court, appointed to carry out the court's orders, and as such, is in control of the mine site and responsible for remediation of the heap leach failure and its impacts, including complying with territorial and federal orders.
- The Government of Yukon values the added transparency the receivership provides to all stakeholders and supports the activities being undertaken by the receiver in accordance with the court order.

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- The Government of Yukon's role as regulator and enforcement body is to closely monitor the situation at the mine site and, when appropriate, direct the receiver on remediation.

Additional response (if asked about remediation work):

- The receiver is making progress with remediation work and has improved the environmental and human health protection response.
- The new water treatment operator is making modifications to the water treatment plant on site and is conducting tests to determine how best to provide water treatment.
- We expect to start releasing treated water in the coming weeks.

Additional response (if asked about Independent Review Board):

- An Independent Review Board (the Board) has been established to investigate the underlying causes of this failure.
- Three highly qualified technical experts will conduct the review. We look forward to their report and recommendations.
- The Board has developed its own work plan and timeline to conduct its review, and we respect the Board's autonomy in this regard.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- Victoria Gold's heap leach facility at the Eagle Gold Mine experienced a failure on June 24, 2024 resulting in a release of contaminants into the environment.

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Victoria Gold/Eagle Gold Mine

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Background:

Heap leach failure

- The Eagle Gold Mine is a large, conventional open pit and heap leach gold operation in north-central Yukon, in the First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun's Traditional Territory.
- On June 24, 2024, the heap leach facility failed and released approximately four million tonnes of ore. It is estimated that two million tonnes of ore left containment, including the cyanide solution, and moved into the Dublin Gulch valley.
- Government of Yukon staff were on the ground at the Eagle gold mine on June 25, shortly after the failure to assess and monitor the situation.
- In the weeks that followed, the Government of Yukon issued the company a series of Inspector's Directions requiring actions to address the failure and resulting environmental risks including regarding water management, and treatment, physical stability and environmental monitoring.
- When the company did not fully comply with the directions, the Government of Yukon took steps to undertake critical actions but was unable to complete construction work due to health and safety requirements.
- On August 2, following the commissioning of the mine water treatment plant, the company identified 68 deceased fish in Haggart Creek downstream of the mine water effluent discharge. The fish were collected and preserved for analysis.

Receivership

- After the company failed to adequately action the orders and required work to protect the environment, and its ability to fund the required remediation was in question, the government applied to the Court to have a receiver appointed to ensure emergency measures and remediation of the failure were undertaken.
- On August 14, 2024, the court appointed PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) as receiver over Victoria Gold Corp (VGC)'s assets, including the mine. The receiver's

focus is on remediation work, as directed by the Government of Yukon as the main regulator, to return the mine site to a stable condition.

- The receiver operates with the input and support of the Government of Yukon as it relates to remediation. The receiver is accountable to the court and will report to the court periodically. The first report was provided on October 1st.
- The October 1st report shares the receiver's communications with former Victoria Gold Corp's employees, advising they may be eligible to make a claim for outstanding wages up to \$8500.00, vacation and/or severance pay under the *Wage Earner Protection Program Act*.
- The *Wage Earner Protection Program Act* is federal legislation that provides for payment of eligible wages owing to workers whose employer has gone bankrupt or become subject to receivership.

Environment and Response Activity

- The heap leach failure released significant quantities of untreated solution containing cyanide and other types of contaminants (heavy metals, arsenic) into the environment.
- The Department of Environment operates long-term water quality monitoring stations upstream and downstream of the mine.
- The receiver is working to ensure that on-site infrastructure and water treatment facilities are sufficient to protect the environment. The new water treatment operator has been making modifications to the water treatment plant and is conducting tests to determine how best to provide water treatment at the site.
- Pelly Construction has completed the safety berm across the slide area. The safety berm will allow for groundwater interception wells to be safely installed near the slide area.
- Precautions are being taken to protect workers on-site. That includes having adequate on-site monitoring to detect any slope instability and having plans in place to stop work and move workers away from an area if a new slide movement is observed.

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- A total of 18 groundwater wells have been installed. These wells provide critical information on where to focus efforts to monitor and intercept groundwater.
- Groundwater interception is underway with the construction of sumps and the installation of production wells. These systems are required to capture existing groundwater flow paths reporting to surface waters and eliminate future impacts.
- Work has been completed to increase water storage capacity. Three additional water storage ponds were constructed providing an additional 309,000 m³ of water storage on site – roughly the equivalent of approximately 124 Olympic swimming pools.
- New and improved sleeping accommodations have been established at site to ensure workers have safe and comfortable sleeping quarters. There are between 130 and 150 workers on-site at any given time.
- We continue to update the public Eagle Gold web page, including updates on cyanide levels.

Coordinated Response

- The Government of Yukon response team meets regularly with the First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun and their technical consultants to ensure transparency in our response efforts and to ensure our actions and objectives are aligned.
- The response team also meets regularly with the Government of Canada to provide updates and coordinate our responses.
- These efforts continue under the receivership and will inform our decisions on remediation at the Eagle Gold mine.

Finances

- Our preliminary estimated cost to remediate the failure and its environmental impacts is \$100-150 million.
- PwC is responsible for managing the overall project finances and the majority of procurement. The receiver will use the company's funds and assets first to finance the remediation work.

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- The Government of Yukon will advance up to \$50 million to PwC to cover the anticipated work over the first 90 days of receivership.
- As of [November 8](#), the Government of Yukon has advanced [\\$32.5 million](#) to the receiver. This money will be treated as a debt owed to the government to be recovered from Victoria Gold assets.

Procurement

- The Government of Yukon retained Yukon businesses to assist in the response efforts prior to the establishment of the receiver. Work by Yukon businesses included environmental monitoring and construction activities.
- The Comprehensive Benefit Agreement (CBA) was an agreement between the First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun and Victoria Gold Corp. and does not apply to the receiver.
- The agreement between the Government of Yukon and the receiver highlights the importance of providing local benefits to the First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun, its development corporation, and Mayo and Yukon residents and businesses.
- PwC works with the First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun to prioritize local businesses in its plans for work at the site, when able. The Government of Yukon (Economic Development) facilitates and shares information about local businesses.
- The receiver's first report speaks to the receiver using local vendors for work where possible to complete the emergency works packages.

Security

- The mine site is fully secured as determined by the Government of Yukon and the Yukon Water Board. The Government of Yukon holds \$104.1 million in financial security for reclamation and closure purposes.
- Financial security has not been accessed to fund remediation or response costs incurred to date.

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Independent Review Board

- An Independent Review Board has been launched under the Government of Yukon's Guidelines for Mine Waste Management Facilities.
- The Independent Review Board will provide a thorough and expert review of the heap leach failure. It will operate with full autonomy, with contracts managed by the court-appointed receiver, ensuring impartiality in the process.
- We anticipate the review process will take eight to ten months to complete, and a final report will be issued and made public.
- The Independent Review Board Members are:
 - Dr. Jean-Marie Konrad, M.Sc., Ph.D., FCAE, FEIC
 - Les Sawatsky, P.Eng., M.Sc.
 - Mark E. Smith, P.E., P.Eng.
- More information about the Board Members can be found on Yukon.ca
- We have not made a decision as to whether an inquiry will also be established under the *Public Inquiries Act*.

Approved by:

Lauren Haney

November 21, 2024

Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Mining Intensity Target

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon has established a target of a 45 per cent reduction in the mining sector's greenhouse gas emissions intensity by 2035.
- During this session we are introducing amendments to the *Clean Energy Act* that will set an intensity-based target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the mining sector, completing action I9 in *Our Clean Future*.
(See BN # 33)
- An intensity-based target allows for trends to be tracked regardless of how many mines are operational at any one time. It will show our progress in reducing mining-related greenhouse gas emissions and encourage mine operators to adopt low carbon practices.

Additional response:

- The mining intensity approach recognizes the differences between separate quartz and placer operations throughout their mining lifecycles, including post-production.
- Including post-production and abandoned mines in the target means that emissions from projects like the Faro Mine remediation will also be captured in annual reporting on progress.
- Since 2022, quartz mines have been required to estimate their greenhouse gas emissions, identify reduction measures, and report on greenhouse gas emissions.
- The proposed Mining Intensity Target approach will be the first of its kind in Canada.

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Mining Intensity Target

Energy, Mines and
Resources

- Implementation of the approach will include comprehensive engagement with industry to ensure it is designed to work within the Yukon's unique context.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- Keno Hill is currently the only quartz mine in operation since Victoria Gold experienced a failure of its heap leach facility in June 2024.
- The Government of Canada is seeking regulatory approval to begin remediation of the Faro mine. It is anticipated that GHG emissions from this remediation will be significant.

Background:

- The Clean Energy Act currently includes mining emissions in the net-zero, 2050 legislated target.
- Energy, Mines and Resources conducted public engagement on the overall mining intensity target in fall 2022. A What We Heard report from that engagement is available on Yukon.ca.
- The percentage of emissions from mining is variable year-to-year. From 2009-2020, it contributed 8 to 15 per cent of the Yukon's total greenhouse gas emissions. An intensity-based target allows for trends to be tracked regardless of how many mines are operational at any one time.
- A target of an overall mining emissions intensity reduction of 45 per cent below 2023 levels for 2035 and subsequent years was announced during the spring 2023 legislative session.
- Energy, Mines and Resources worked with a consultant to inform the development of baselines and benchmarks to measure progress towards the target.
- During spring 2024, the consultant and Energy, Mines and Resources presented the results and proposed baseline methodology to industry at a series of in-person and virtual meetings.

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- Using data provided through the quartz mine licensing process and from fuel tax data, the Government of Yukon will track the sector's progress toward achieving greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets.
- Canada's approach to pricing carbon pollution for emissions-intensive trade-exposed industries, such as mining, includes an Output-Based Pricing System. Depending on their size, quartz mines in the Yukon may be subject to this system.
- The Department of Finance is leading the development of a separate regulation that will return carbon levies collected from larger mines under the Output-Based Pricing System. Energy, Mines and Resources is assisting with this work. (See BN #28)

Approved by:**Paul Moore****October 17, 2024**

Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Fall 2024

Forest Resources Act Amendments

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- We **have made** changes to the *Forest Resources Act* to streamline and modernize forest resource licensing, permitting and enforcement and to support our growing biomass industry.
- The amendments are the result of a review of the Act to make the legislation more effective, provide greater clarity for all parties and continue to allow for responsible use of Yukon's forest resources.
- New enforcement provisions help us address unauthorized harvesting and respond to willful damage to timber. We are preparing the way for future regulations on more harvesting and processing facilities.
- The new Act provisions will come into force when the regulations are completed.

Additional response:

- In spring 2023, we completed consultation and public engagement on the *Forest Resources Act* with First Nations governments, renewable resources councils, industry and Yukoners. A what we heard report is available on Yukon.ca.
- The *Forest Resources Act* Review Working Group members have been instrumental in this work and I thank them for their effort and time.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- The *Forest Resources Act* review was initiated in 2017. Questions may arise regarding the time taken to complete the review, the Working Group approval process and next steps (e.g. regulations).

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Fall 2024

Forest Resources Act Amendments

Energy, Mines and
Resources**Background:**

- The establishment of a review process is legislated under section 95 of the *Forest Resources Act*.
- The *Forest Resources Act* Review Working Group consists of representatives from the Government of Yukon, Teslin Tlingit Council, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, Kluane First Nation, Kwanlin Dün First Nation and Acho Dene Koe First Nation.
- The Working Group provided early engagement opportunities in 2020 to Yukon First Nations, transboundary Indigenous groups, renewable resources councils and stakeholders, including the Yukon Wood Products Association.
- The Working Group identified and discussed policy issues around planning, tenure and enforcement, which are the three pillars of the Act. Working Group members brought forward additional items for discussion and all recommendations were made by consensus.
- The period for spring 2023 consultation and engagement (which was based on the working group's recommendations) was extended in response to requests from some First Nations governments and renewable resource councils.
- [The Act amendments received assent on November 4](#). Work will [now](#) begin on amendments to the regulations. Once the regulations are complete, the Act amendments will come into force.

Approved by:

____Paul Moore____

Deputy Minister

Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

____November 5, 2024____

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Dawson Regional Land Use Planning

EMR # 4 / ENV #10
Fall 2024

Energy, Mines and Resources
and Environment

Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon appreciates that the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Government has submitted their proposed modifications to the Recommended Dawson Regional Land Use Plan.
- The Government of Yukon recognizes how important it is for both Parties to complete the current stage of this significant land planning process in the Dawson region and are investing the time needed to complete a thorough review of the Recommended Plan, including consideration of all pertinent views and information.
- We anticipate submitting our response to accept, reject or modify the Recommended Dawson Regional Land Use Plan with written reasons to the Dawson Regional Planning Commission this fall.

Additional response:

- The Government of Yukon and the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Government concluded consultation on the Recommended Dawson Regional Land Use Plan in April 2024.
- Upon the conclusion of consultation with the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Government, the Government of Yukon completed consultation with White River First Nation through the summer of 2024, due to overlapping asserted Traditional Territory in the planning region.
- We remain committed to working with the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Government and the Commission to achieve a plan that balances diverse land uses in this region, ensuring Yukon First Nation and public priorities are appropriately reflected to best serve the area and all Yukoners.

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Dawson Regional Land Use Planning

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Fall 2024

Energy, Mines and Resources
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- If the Parties reject or request modifications to the Recommended Plan, the Commission will prepare a Final Recommended Plan. We anticipate they could provide a Final Recommended Plan in 2025, at which point there will be another round of public engagement and First Nations consultation.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- The Dawson Regional Land Use Plan, the Government of Yukon's response to the Recommended Plan, and the future of the interim withdrawals are of high interest to Yukoners.
- Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in First Nation has expressed frustration that the Government of Yukon has been slow to respond to the recommended plan.

Background:

- The Government of Yukon and the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Government formed the Dawson Regional Planning Commission in December 2018, following a pause from 2012-2018 due to the Peel Watershed court case.
- The *Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Final Agreement* Chapter 11 process provides the Commission with the autonomy to develop and recommend a plan to the Parties for their consideration.
- The Commission conducted a public consultation on the Draft Plan from June 15 to November 1, 2021.
- The Government of Yukon's response to the Draft Plan in November 2021 focused on six key topics: designations and Land Management Unit boundaries, cumulative effects, wetlands, culture and heritage, missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls and two-spirited people, and implementation.
- Subsequent comments submitted to the Commission by the Government of Yukon pertained to critical minerals, access, rivers and watercourses, cumulative

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Fall 2024

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effects and working within the Draft Plan prohibition of entry order (interim and permanent).

- The Commission delivered the Recommended Plan to the Parties (the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Government and the Government of Yukon) on June 10, 2022.
- The Government of Yukon and the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Government conducted a public consultation on the Commission's Recommended Plan from September 20 to December 20, 2022.
- Interim withdrawal of land proposed by the Commission was approved by Order-In-Council on June 15, 2021. This Order was amended on September 7, 2022, to reflect the Recommended Plan. The interim withdrawal is in effect until December 1, 2024 and [is anticipated](#) to be extended to allow time to complete a final plan for the region.
- The Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Government concluded party-to-party discussions to achieve consensus on response to the Recommended Plan and submitted their proposed modifications to the Recommended Plan pursuant to 11.6.4 of the *Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Final Agreement* on April 30, 2024, to the Commission.
- The Government of Yukon commenced consultation with White River First Nation, pursuant to bilateral Consultation Agreement and legal duty to consult, in May 2024. On August 21, 2024, White River First Nation submitted a written consultation response to the [Government of Yukon](#).

Approved by:

Paul Moore

Deputy Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources

November 21, 2024

Date approved

Dennis Berry

Deputy Minister of Environment

November 21, 2024

Date approved

Prepared for Minister Streicker and Clarke,
Departments of Energy, Mines and Resources, and
Environment

Date prepared: August 5, 2024
Last Updated: November 20, 2024

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Fall 2024

Regional Land Use Planning

Energy, Mines and Resources

Recommended response:

- We are advancing regional land use planning in collaboration with Yukon First Nations, communities and stakeholders.
- The Government of Yukon and Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in have concluded their consultation on the Recommended Dawson Regional Land Use Plan. We anticipate providing our decision to accept, reject or modify the Recommended Plan to the Dawson Regional Planning Commission with detailed written reasons this fall. (See BN #4)
- We are meeting with Yukon First Nations on the remaining regional land use plans and will advance planning in collaboration with them.
- We are at the pre-planning stage with the First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun, Champagne and Aishihik First Nations, Kluane First Nation, Carcross/Tagish First Nation and the Teslin Tlingit Council.

Additional response:

- We remain committed to the goals and priorities set out by the Yukon Forum Regional Land Use Planning Working Group to advance land use planning in a way that honours the Final Agreements.
- The Government of Yukon, the Government of Canada and the Council of Yukon First Nations are undertaking the 2024 Umbrella Final Agreement funding review. This is to ensure there is adequate funding to implement Chapter 11 of the Final Agreements, including conformity checks for projects proposed in approved Plan areas.

Session Briefing Note

Regional Land Use Planning

Energy, Mines and Resources

Context — this may be an issue because:

- Yukon First Nations, the mining industry, and environmental stakeholders are interested in the status and progress of regional land use planning and the funding available for these processes.
- There are questions regarding who conducts conformity checks after plan approval.

Background:

- The process to complete regional land use planning on the Traditional Territories of Yukon First Nations is defined in Chapter 11 of the Final Agreements. These processes can involve the participation of multiple First Nations governments.
- The Final Agreements and the *Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act* outline the continued responsibility of Regional Land Use Planning Commissions to conduct conformity checks for proposed projects in areas with approved land use plans.
- During the development of regional land use plans, planning commissions are funded through the Umbrella Final Agreement federal implementation funding.
- There are no Chapter 11 sub-regional or district planning processes underway in the Yukon. The Beaver River land use planning process is not a Chapter 11 process; it comes out of the 2018 Intergovernmental Agreement between the First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun and the Government of Yukon. (See BN #80)

The Yukon Forum

- The Yukon Forum is a quarterly meeting that takes place between Yukon First Nations, the Council of Yukon First Nations and the Government of Yukon, that aims to build strong government-to-government relations.
- In accordance with the Yukon Forum's Joint Priority Action Plan, which identifies Chapter 11 land use planning as a priority, Yukon Forum leaders set a strategic approach to restart and improve regional land use planning in the Yukon.

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Regional Land Use Planning

Energy, Mines and
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- The strategic approach entails working together to implement **four objectives**:
 1. Set up commissions for success by examining the roles of the Yukon Land Use Planning Council, planning commissions and the parties to a regional land use plan; review and agree on a broadly applicable process for regional land use planning; and review the information requirements of regional land use planning.
 2. Support several land use planning processes concurrently inside and outside of Chapter 11.
 3. Conduct a legislative review of First Nations' and Government of Yukon laws.
 4. Lead the 2019-2020 review of funding adequacy for regional land use planning under Chapter 11, which was completed in 2022.

Approved by:**Dennis Berry****2024.09.04**

Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Successor Resource Legislation – Minerals and Public Lands

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon is developing new minerals legislation and new public lands legislation in collaboration with Yukon First Nations governments and transboundary Indigenous groups and governments.
- Creating new minerals legislation is a high priority and we are actively working with First Nations governments and Indigenous groups to develop a recommended framework for the new legislation. The recent heap leach failure at the Eagle Gold Mine has elevated the priority of this work.
- In response to this urgency, a smaller working group has been created to quickly advance the work on a recommended legislative framework at a rapid pace. This working group meets intensively approximately every two weeks.
- Representatives from Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, the First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun, Champagne and Aishihik First Nations, Selkirk First Nation and Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation were selected by the Indigenous Government Caucus to participate in this smaller working group.
- New minerals and lands legislation will improve our regulatory system, respect Aboriginal and Treaty rights and promote reconciliation, protect the environment, minimize public liabilities, strengthen our economy, create the conditions for viable and

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Successor Resource Legislation – Minerals and Public Lands

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responsible industry, and ensure benefits for Yukoners and Yukon communities.

Additional response:

- The important insights and perspectives received from First Nations governments, industry representatives, environmental organizations, and the public will inform the next phases of the legislative development process for both new minerals and new lands legislation.
- In August 2024, we completed a 3-month public engagement on public lands legislation. Over 200 people attended public open-houses held in most communities throughout the Yukon and approximately 100 people completed the online survey to share perspectives on the legislative options.
- On August 27, 2024 we released a What We Heard report on new minerals legislation which summarizes the input received from the public, industry, stakeholders and First Nation governments during an engagement period in spring 2023.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- The desire to see new minerals and public lands legislation developed has been a longstanding interest of Yukon First Nations governments stemming from commitments in the 2003 Devolution Transfer Agreement. The recent heap leach failure at the Eagle Gold Mine has elevated the priority of this work.

Background:

- As of August 23, 2024, EMR has committed \$1.7M (of a total budget of \$1.9M) to support the participation of First Nations governments, transboundary Indigenous

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Successor Resource Legislation – Minerals and Public Lands

Energy, Mines and
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groups, and stakeholders in the development of new minerals and new lands legislation.

Minerals

- A Steering Committee for new minerals legislation which includes representatives of the Government of Yukon, Council of Yukon First Nations, Yukon First Nations governments and transboundary Indigenous groups was struck in September 2021.
- The Steering Committee worked to develop potential approaches for key policy issues from August 2021 to December 2022.
- This work formed the basis of a 90-day public engagement which concluded in May 2023. A What We Heard report was released on August 27, 2024.
- The Steering Committee is currently developing a recommended legislative framework and the participating governments have expressed a priority to work towards an agreement based on those recommendations.
- The Steering Committee has shifted to a smaller working group to advance its work on a recommended legislative framework at a rapid pace. This working group meets intensively approximately every two weeks.
- The Steering Committee is using the results of consultation, public and stakeholder engagement to inform its work.

Public Lands

- Work on new public lands legislation has been ongoing since 2020 and in spring 2022, the Government of Yukon carried out Indigenous consultation and public engagement to understand the views and interests for new lands legislation.
- In November 2022, a Steering Committee was established to direct legislative development that includes representatives of the Government of Yukon, Council of Yukon First Nations, Yukon First Nations governments and transboundary Indigenous groups and governments.
- The Steering Committee drafted a suite of potential approaches for each key policy issue from November 2022 to early 2024, and Indigenous consultation and

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Successor Resource Legislation – Minerals and Public Lands

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Fall 2024

Energy, Mines and
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public engagement on these options was conducted from May through August 2024 and a What We Heard report is currently in preparation.

- This work will lead to a modernized land regime that respects Aboriginal and treaty rights and balances a wide range of interests and values, including the use, sale and lease of public land.

Approved by:

Lauren Haney

November 18, 2024

Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

BC Grid Intertie

YDC #10/ EMR #7
Fall 2024

Yukon Development
Corporation and Energy,
Mines and Resources

Recommended response:

- In Our Clean Future, we committed to a target of 97 per cent of electricity on the Yukon's main grid being generated from renewable sources; up from the 92 per cent it is today.
- The Yukon – British Columbia Grid Intertie project could allow the Yukon to maintain high levels of renewable energy over the long term. The project is large and complex with infrastructure that crosses multiple traditional territories and provincial/territorial borders.
- By increasing the Yukon's renewable electricity supply we are supporting our ambitious electrification goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the Yukon's largest emission sources: transportation, heating and mining.

Additional response:

- We are thankful to Natural Resource Canada, who has committed to providing \$40 million that will support investigations into the project.
- This funding will support us looking at technical feasibility and options, potential cost and funding opportunities.
- Connecting the Yukon to British Columbia's electrical grid reduces greenhouse gas emissions from fossil fuel use and provides a nation-building opportunity that will advance arctic security, and foster shared growth, prosperity, and reconciliation.

Session Briefing Note

BC Grid Intertie

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Fall 2024

Yukon Development
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-
- Increasing our power supply supports sustainable critical mineral development in the Yukon. Critical minerals are important for the global transition away from fossil fuels.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- The Yukon's growing population and increased electrification put more demand on the electrical grid. There may be questions about the government's renewable energy plans and ability to meet increasing energy demands.

Background:

- In 2019, Midgard Consulting produced the Yukon-British Columbia Interconnection Development Plan. The report identified the project's objectives, a proposed development approach and a very preliminary cost estimate.
- In 2022, approximately 92 per cent of the electricity on the main grid was obtained from renewable energy sources.
- Renewable electricity, especially hydroelectricity, accounted for approximately 80 per cent of the Yukon's total electricity generation in 2022. Over 98% of the electricity generated in BC is from renewable sources.
- At the March and September 2023 Yukon Forum meetings, leadership discussed the potential to connect the Yukon and British Columbia grids. This discussion represents the beginning of the governments' collaboration on the project.
- The grid intertie project was also presented at the Yukon First Nations' Energy Summit in October 2023 and was discussed at the Regional Energy and Resource Table meetings in January and April 2024.
- In February, an application was made to the Critical Mineral Infrastructure Fund requesting up to \$40 million over the next four years to support pre-feasibility and engagement for this project. Natural Resources Canada announced that the funding had been approved on September 19, 2024.

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- Work on the feasibility of the grid intertie project will require the completion of a new conceptual design with updated costing.
- One of the new actions added to Our Clean Future includes a commitment to complete an updated conceptual design and alternative route analysis for the Yukon-British Columbia grid intertie project by the end of 2025.
- The Government of Yukon plans to release a request for proposals for the purpose of completing the pre-conceptual design and revised cost estimates for the project. Results of this work are scheduled to be completed in 2025.

Approved by:

Paul Moore

September 26, 2024

Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date approved

Gary Gazankas

September 24, 2024

President and CEO
Yukon Development Corporation

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Gladiator Metals

#8
Fall 2024

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- Gladiator Metals Ltd. has been conducting exploration work near the former Whitehorse Copper mine. This area is not near homes, but some of the claims lie within city limits.
- On November 14, 2023, a Class 1 authorization for the company's exploration work in the area was issued after consultation with Kwanlin Dün First Nation and Ta'an Kwäch'än Council. This authorization allows for only the lowest level of exploration work.
- [The Government of Yukon is committed to ensuring that resource development is done responsibly, and that any proposed mineral development project adheres to our regulatory framework.](#)

Additional response:

- The [original](#) Cowley Creek claims were staked decades ago and predate the nearby homes and staking prohibition. Claims may be renewed if the claim holder complies with renewal requirements.
- [The new claims staked in the Łu Zil Män \(Fish Lake\) planning area are subject to mineral development and environmental laws, official community plans, local area plans and zoning regulations.](#)
- [Should the company submit a Class 1 application in the Łu Zil Män \(Fish Lake\) area, this will be reviewed, assessed for potential environmental impacts, and consulted on with affected First Nations before any project is approved.](#)
- We have heard some residents raise concerns that mining exploration could increase the risk of radon in groundwater. Radon is sometimes

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Gladiator Metals

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Energy, Mines and
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present in groundwater in the area, but core drilling for exploration is unlikely to alter groundwater quality.

- The Government of Yukon is collaborating with the University of Saskatchewan, Ta'an Kwäch'än Council and the City of Whitehorse to examine groundwater quality and hazards in Whitehorse to better understand the risks of radon in the groundwater. This is a three-year project funded by the National Research Council of Canada.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- There is significant public interest in Gladiator Metals' exploration program given the locations of these activities and the recent court case.
- [The Fish Lake Steering Committee and local residents have raised concerns about Gladiator Metal's staking of 55 new quartz claims that were registered on May 21, 2024 in the Fish Lake planning area.](#)

Background:

- On May 11, 2023, the Mineral Resources Branch received a complaint about the Class 1 activities near the Cowley Creek site, and requested the Compliance, Monitoring and Inspections Branch inspect the site. A Natural Resource Officer inspected the site and identified numerous violations.
- The company was convicted of six offences for unauthorized activities. On August 30, 2023, the company was fined \$38,000, plus a \$5,700 victim fine surcharge.
- On November 14, 2023, Gladiator Metals received a new authorization to conduct Class 1 quartz exploration near the former Whitehorse Copper property. The site lies along the Copper Haul Road, north of the Mt. Sima Road, not near residential subdivisions. Exploration work commenced in early January 2024. The Class 1 authorization was amended to include claims in the Cowley Creek area and will require full remediation prior to November 13, 2024.
- On January 18, 2024, a Natural Resource Officer collaborated with bylaw officers from the City of Whitehorse and company representatives to inspect the site. No concerns were noted at the time.

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Resources

- Due to the overlap with the City of Whitehorse municipal boundaries, the company requires development permits from the City to proceed with work.
- Natural Resource Officers regularly inspect the Class 1 activities to ensure the company is complying with its authorization conditions. An inspection conducted on July 10, 2024, identified several reclamation issues that required attention.
- An inspection on August 13, 2024, confirmed that the previously outstanding reclamation issues had been corrected and no further issues were noted.
- On May 21, 2024, Gladiator Metals registered 55 new quartz claims in the Łu Zil Män (Fish Lake) land planning area.
- The current Whitehorse Periphery zoning regulation does not allow the issuance of Development Permits for any significant exploration project. Mine development is also prohibited within this zoning regulation.

Approved by:

Lauren Haney

October 14, 2024

Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Fall 2024

Mining Activities in Yukon Communities

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- Exploration and mining activities within community boundaries are subject to mineral development and environmental laws, official community plans, local area plans and zoning regulations.
- New mineral staking is prohibited within the City of Dawson and most of the City of Whitehorse. There are, however, existing mineral claims in these municipalities.
- Often, claims were staked decades ago and predate nearby homes or staking prohibitions. In the Yukon, claims may be renewed yearly provided the claim holder complies with renewal requirements. This is the case with the claims at Cowley Creek. (See BN #8)

Additional response:

- The Government of Yukon works with municipal governments, Yukon First Nations and affected communities to help resolve land use conflicts when they occur.
- We are developing information materials to help municipalities better understand what is available for managing exploration and mining in planned and zoned communities.
- Part of the work to develop successor resource legislation is to address issues of mining in planned and zoned communities through legislative change. (See BN #6)

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Mining Activities in Yukon Communities

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Context — this may be an issue because:

- Communities have expressed concern over the conflicts in land use within community boundaries.
- There may be questions about the Gladiator Metals Ltd. activity near Cowley Creek and their new claims near Franklin Lake, within (Łu Zil Män) Fish Lake local plan area.

Background:

- In 2020 and 2022, the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources led targeted stakeholder engagement processes to better understand issues with mineral staking and development within the boundaries of Yukon municipalities and communities.
- Limited responses were received so no What We Heard was published. However, the feedback helped shape the information materials that will be provided to municipalities around existing tools to manage mining within their boundaries.
- Although there are pre-existing placer claims within some municipalities, the *Placer Mining Act* does not allow new placer claim staking within any of the Yukon's eight incorporated municipalities, including Dawson City and the City of Whitehorse.
- In summer 2022, the Government of Yukon extended a prohibition of entry order for the City of Whitehorse to July 2027, restricting quartz mineral staking within most areas. We made this decision at the request of the City of Whitehorse and in alignment with the City's Official Community Plan (Whitehorse 2040).
- In December 2023, the Government of Yukon renewed the prohibition of entry order within the City of Dawson's municipal limits. We made this decision in partnership with the City of Dawson and the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Government.
- The City of Dawson has several active claims and mining operations that may conflict with community development interests. The municipality is doing its best to navigate these claims and operations and the Government of Yukon is providing support as required. This includes an active lawsuit brought against the

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Mining Activities in Yukon Communities

Energy, Mines and
Resources

City of Dawson and the Government of Yukon by a placer claim holder, alleging a regulatory taking of their placer claims within the City of Dawson.

- Gladiator Metals applied to do exploration work near the historical Arctic Chief mine within City of Whitehorse limits. The Government of Yukon has issued a Class 1 authorization for this work and the City of Whitehorse has issued a development permit. (See BN #8)
- Gladiator Metals' earlier exploration work in the Cowley Creek area attracted complaints and media attention. As a result of an investigation, the company was fined over \$43,000 in August 2023 for violating conditions of a Class 1 operation.
- Gladiator Metals recently staked claims near Łu Zil Män (Fish Lake) and Franklin Lake, but has not submitted applications for mineral exploration work.

Approved by:**Dennis Berry****2024.09.04**

Deputy Minister

Date approved

Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

**EMR #10/ YDC #
Fall 2024****Session Briefing Note
Micro-generation**

Energy, Mines and
Resources and Yukon
Development Corporation

Recommended response:

- The micro-generation program has seen strong uptake and popularity throughout the Yukon since it was launched in October 2013.
- Yukoners have installed renewable energy generating systems at such a high rate that we have achieved our 2030 micro-generation target of 7 megawatts seven years ahead of schedule.
- We have temporarily paused micro-generation program intake for the Whitehorse, Southern Lakes and Haines Junction areas. We are working with public utilities to study the impacts of variable generation on the grid and identifying solutions to ensure grid reliability.

Additional response:

- During the program pause, we are making technical improvements to allow micro-generation systems to be more resilient to frequency changes on the grid and completing a technical study to inform next steps.
- We continue to process micro-generation applications that were received before the program was paused.
- There are currently over 9 megawatts of direct current renewable energy generating capacity installed.

**Session Briefing Note
Micro-generation**

Energy, Mines and
Resources and Yukon
Development Corporation

- The Government of Yukon and the territory's electricity utilities are working together to ensure our electricity supply is reliable, affordable and sustainable.
-

Context — this may be an issue because:

- The micro-generation program was paused in December 2023, and then extended at the end of May 2024 out to January 15, 2025.
-

Background:

- Our Clean Future (action E10) targets 7 megawatts of installed renewable electricity capacity by 2030 through micro-generation. As of June 2024, there were 816 micro-generators connected to the Yukon utility grid generating 9.7 megawatts direct current capacity, enough to supply about 1.9 per cent of the Yukon's five-year average annual electricity generation. (See BN #33)
 - Under the micro-generation program, eight First Nations governments and four First Nations Development Corporations have installed 120 renewable energy generating systems on institutional, commercial and residential buildings throughout the Yukon.
 - The micro-generation program has been active since October 2013 and was designed to allow Yukoners to connect their home or business renewable electrical generation systems to the grid.
 - In summer 2023, Yukon's electric utilities attributed grid disruptions on the Yukon Integrated System to the high number of micro-generation systems.
 - Yukon Development Corporation and Energy, Mines and Resources have responded to the utilities' concerns in three ways: 1) commencing a technical grid study; 2) agreeing to pause pre-approvals for the microgeneration program until the study is complete, and; 3) change solar PV system inverter settings. In addition to these actions, ATCO Electric Yukon has recently determined that they will not approve any additional installations in the Haines Junction area due to
-

**EMR #10/ YDC #
Fall 2024****Session Briefing Note
Micro-generation**

Energy, Mines and
Resources and Yukon
Development Corporation

technical limitations in this part of the grid. Yukon government will continue to work with utilities to resolve these challenges.

- Energy Branch officials are working with utilities, industry, and micro-generation participants to change inverter settings. This will allow micro-generation systems to be more resilient to changes in frequency on the grid with the intention of improving grid stability.
- The technical study is in progress and expected to be completed by the end of 2024. The study will assist in determining the next steps for the program.

Approved by:**Paul Moore****November 18, 2024**

Deputy Minister,
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date approved

Gary Gazankas**November 18, 2024**

President,
Yukon Development Corporation

Date approved

Session Briefing Note**Animal Protection and
Control Act
Implementation**Environment
Energy, Mines and
Resources**Recommended response:**

- The *Animal Protection and Control Act* modernizes the Yukon's animal protection and control framework, specifying the responsibility of Yukoners to provide proper care for, and control of, the animals they own.
- The Act regulates animal businesses and rescues, and clarifies ownership of exotic pets. It creates tools to address feral and high-risk animal species to better protect Yukoners and the environment.
- The Act received assent in the fall 2022 session of the Legislative Assembly and additional public engagement on the regulations occurred in summer 2023. The regulations have now been finalized and the Act came in force as of April 4, 2024.
- The Act and regulations were developed following extensive engagement and reflect Yukoners' values, our relationships with animals and our way of life.
- I would like to thank Yukoners for sharing their diverse and unique perspectives during the engagement. All feedback was carefully considered as we developed the regulations.

Additional response:

- There are changes under the new legislation, and implementation started with the hiring of a Program Manager in July 2024. The Program Manager is supporting officers in both responsible

Session Briefing Note**Animal Protection and
Control Act
Implementation**Environment
Energy, Mines and
Resources

departments to inform Yukoners about the new requirements under the new legislation.

- Stakeholders emphasized that education and information sharing are the cornerstones of implementation. These priorities will be reflected in the enforcement approach, which is to first assist people to meet their obligations under the new law.
- We appreciate the interest and support from specialty stakeholder groups in the Yukon to help with training officers so that they will better understand the unique circumstances for care of animals such as sled dogs and horses used for outfitting.
- There are new permit and inspection requirements for animal-related businesses such as rescues, boarding facilities, and pet stores. These businesses have a year to obtain their permits and staff of both departments will assist them to complete the permit process and arrange for the initial inspections.
- There are new opportunities for partnership agreements with Yukon First Nations and municipal governments to establish deputy enforcement officers and caretakers to deliver education and enforcement locally. Again, local enforcement starts with education about responsible animal ownership.
- We are committed to working with communities and governments interested in taking on animal protection and control enforcement roles to ensure that enforcement respects local values and priorities.

Session Briefing Note**Animal Protection and
Control Act
Implementation**Environment
Energy, Mines and
Resources

Third response:

- This legislation is shared between the Departments of Environment and Energy, Mines and Resources. Officers in the Agriculture Branch will respond to welfare and control concerns regarding livestock, and officers in the Animal Health Unit will respond for other species.
- Staff with essential qualifications will be appointed as Animal Protection and Control officers under the Act to ensure there are qualified and trained employees to meet the Act requirements. In addition, we have identified caretaker authorities that will be put in place as required.
- Initially, resources from existing departmental budgets will be used to for implementation, but this is a significantly enhanced legislative framework and additional resources may be required in future years.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- There may be questions about what the Government of Yukon is doing to enforce the new requirements when there have been complaints on social media about some individuals who operate animal related businesses in Yukon.
- There may also be questions about the support available to assist Yukoners to comply with the *Animal Protection and Control Act* and regulations when they come into force.

Background:

- The Act was passed in fall of 2022 and there was extensive engagement with stakeholders to finalize regulations that were endorsed by Cabinet, bringing the legislation into effect on April 4, 2024.

Session Briefing Note**Animal Protection and
Control Act
Implementation**Environment
Energy, Mines and
Resources

- A What We Heard report was published summarizing feedback received on the compliance and enforcement framework, permitting for commercial facilities, animal control, cosmetic surgeries, standards of care and ownership of animals.
- While feral animal populations are afforded some protection under the new legislation, there have been requests for a management plan for feral horses.
- Social media concerns related to animal rescue or businesses have led to investigations that remain confidential unless and until charges are laid. The current enforcement approach is to support individuals to come into compliance with new legislation.
- The legislation enshrines care and control of livestock animals specifically for the agriculture sector. This provides a framework to raise and produce livestock in Yukon through recognized industry codes of care for livestock animals.
- Under the legislation, Eurasian boar and all hybrids are prohibited and considered a high-risk species in the Yukon. Staff of the Agriculture Branch have obtained an inventory of all Eurasian boar that exist. These are being depopulated from the Yukon through the options of relocating outside of the Yukon, and by harvesting at slaughter size to avoid wasting Yukon grown meat, with appropriate compensation.

Approved by:**Dennis Berry****September 25, 2024**

Deputy Minister of Environment

Date approved

Paul Moore**September 24, 2024**

Deputy Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Fall 2024

Agricultural Land Development and Leases

Energy, Mines and Resources

Recommended response:

- We continue to develop projects that increase access to land for farming to increase and diversify the production of local food.
- We are working to make agricultural land available to Yukoners by zoning new agricultural lands and leasing or selling these lands.
- We are seeing more agricultural lands made available as leases; leases can decrease barriers to entry, support the expansion of current farming operations, and help to ensure that lands continue to be used for agriculture.
- Our work supports a net gain of agriculture land over time. There has been no net loss of agriculture land to other land uses, nor has there been agriculture land converted to non-agriculture use.
- We promote agriculture land use through programs and incentives for farmers under the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership, including for Environmental Farm Plans, practices for soil conservation and water management techniques.

Additional response:

- In 2024, we continued working on rezoning and access development for Phase 2 of the Murray Agriculture Subdivision in Ibex Valley. This work supports the development of two titled lots of 12 ha and over 80 hectares for lease for agricultural production.
- Five lots totaling 119 hectares are available in the Silver Trail Subdivision, Mayo.

Session Briefing Note**Agricultural Land Development
and Leases****Energy, Mines and
Resources**

- In Whitehorse, the small lease lot area at Gentian Lane had 1 lease in 2024. Development continues in response to feedback from potential lessees.
- In the Klondike valley, we expect to release up to nine acres of land through seasonal leases for food production in 2025.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- There continues to be an interest in increasing local food production to support Yukon food self-sufficiency. There is a continuing demand for access to affordable land for raising livestock, and growing crops.
- Food self-sufficiency in the Yukon aligns with Our Clean Future and Cultivate Our Future: 2020 Agriculture Policy.
- [There may be questions if land designated for agriculture may be converted or wholly used for another land use.](#)

Background:**Available Agricultural Land**

- Agricultural land reserves are a first step towards land development and releases across the Yukon, notably in Haines Junction, Klondike, and Whitehorse areas. Developing reserves includes activities such as consultation, environmental assessments, building access roads, surveying and re-zoning if necessary.
- We continue to work to implement practices for climate change adaptation to utilize Yukon's woodlands for livestock production and carbon sequestration, while reserving arable lands available for crop production.

Selling and leasing agriculture land

- The agriculture lease program considers a wide range of agriculture activities to support many types of agriculture operations in the territory. These include livestock lease areas, grazing agreements and market garden leases.

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Agricultural Land Development and Leases

Energy, Mines and Resources

- We conduct ongoing inspections to ensure requirements under Agreements for Sale, agricultural leases and grazing agreements are met.
- Table below summarizes land releases from 2016 to 2024.

Summary of Agriculture land releases 2016 - 2024					
Year	Agreements for sale			Leases	
	# lots	hectares		# Leases	hectares
2016	4	117.15			
2017	5	162.03			
2018	2	12			
2019	6	290.1			
2020	2	12			
2021	2	35.5			
2022	1	5		1	3.5
2023	1	64.3		2	2.75
2024	0			1	0.05
Total 2016-2024	23	698.08		4	6.3

Land Matching Initiative

- In 2022, the Agriculture Branch coordinated a pilot project to match farmers with under-utilized agricultural land in the Dawson City area.
- Through the pilot work, it was concluded that a non-government organization is best suited to manage and implement this type of program. The Agriculture Branch engaged in discussions with NGOs with an agricultural mandate on interest on such an initiative with little uptake to date.
- Conversations with NGOs with an agricultural mandate continue regarding providing program support if those NGOS desire to develop this service.

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**Agricultural Land Development
and Leases**

#13
Fall 2024
Energy, Mines and
Resources

Approved By:

____Paul Moore____

Deputy Minister

Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

____October 23, 2024____

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Elk–Agriculture Management

Environment and
Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon aims to sustain Yukon's elk populations for their health and harvest, while ensuring elk do not negatively impact the production of local foods and crops on agricultural land.
- In 2022, we implemented a two-year pilot plan to minimize elk impact on agricultural properties while maintaining elk on the landscape.
- A Steering Committee with representation from the Government of Yukon, the Yukon Fish and Game Association and the Yukon Agricultural Association is implementing the plan.
- In March of this year, the Steering Committee hired a Pilot Project Coordinator to work with property owners and hunters to implement measures to deter elk from properties and respond when elk are present.

Additional response:

- The pilot project includes the creation of a Limited Exclusion Zone to deter elk in the affected agricultural areas of Takhini Valley, applying localized and range-scale herd management, supporting fencing options, implementing an elk radio-collaring program, and conducting a social survey to understand more about how we interact with elk.
- We have increased elk monitoring by deploying 20 radio-collars. The radio-collaring program will allow for better tracking of elk movements and distribution by season and greater accuracy to estimate population size from elk surveys.

Session Briefing Note

Elk–Agriculture Management

Environment and
Energy, Mines and
Resources

- In 2022, we introduced a new adaptive *Wildlife Act* permitting process for elk in the Limited Exclusion Zone.
- This resulted in eight additional adaptive permits being available for hunting elk. Adaptive permits restrict hunting of elk to bulls with five-point antlers or less.
- These additional permits were part of the two-year pilot program. The permits were offered in 2023 and again in 2024.
- Four of the eight adaptive *Wildlife Act* permits were filled in the 2023-2024 hunting season.
- In addition to the eight *Wildlife Act* permits, there are Permit Hunt Authorizations for elk including two permits for the Braeburn elk herd, and four permits for the Takhini elk herd.
- During the 2023-2024 hunting season, five Permit Hunt Authorization hunters were successful. Two in the Braeburn area and three in the Takhini Valley.
- This means a total of nine elk were harvested in the 2023-2024 season, seven in the Takhini Valley and two in the Braeburn area.
- Landowners and farmers can apply for a permit to shoot elk damaging their properties. These permits are only used in specific cases where there are ongoing issues and damage, and where all other reasonable measures have been unsuccessful.
- Since 2020, there have been two control kills by the Conservation Officer Services Branch and sixteen elk mortalities due to collisions with vehicles.

Session Briefing Note

Elk–Agriculture Management

Environment and
Energy, Mines and
Resources

Third response:

- Since 2014, the departments of Energy, Mines and Resources, and Environment have funded elk exclusion fencing and electric fencing.
- The use of the elk permit hunt, exclusion fencing, and electric fencing is reducing the number of complaints where elk have been persistent on farms.
- Fencing projects for three agriculture properties have been completed, and there are ongoing discussions with interested agriculture property owners for future projects.
- The number of calls to the Conservation Officer Services Branch concerning elk-agriculture conflicts remains low, with a total of eleven complaints received since 2020.
- In 2023, there were no applications for compensation claims.
- Any Yukoner experiencing a conflict with elk on their property can call the TIPP line at 1-800-661-0525 to report the issue to our Conservation Officers.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- Affected farmers may seek an update on government actions to address the conflict between the wild elk population and agricultural properties in the Limited Exclusion Zone
- There may be questions about how the Government of Yukon works with the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board and the Yukon Agricultural Association to address the conflict.

Session Briefing Note

Elk–Agriculture Management

Environment and
Energy, Mines and
Resources

Background:

- In 2022, a focus group was formed to identify options for the Takhini Elk Herd. The focus group was comprised of representatives from the Yukon Agricultural Association, Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board, Yukon Fish and Game Association, First Nations, and the departments of Energy, Mines and Resources and Environment.
- The objective was to develop a two-year pilot program aimed at effectively regulating the elk population to reduce harm to agricultural lands and infrastructure.
- In May 2023, following focus group recommendations, the Elk-Agricultural Steering Committee was established and tasked with implementing a two-year action plan.
- The Government of Yukon is providing funding of \$175,000 over two years to implement the plan.
- The Elk-Agricultural Steering Committee is comprised of representatives from the Yukon Agricultural Association, the Yukon Fish and Game Association, the departments of Environment and Energy, Mines and Resources, and the Ta'an Kwäch'än Council in an observer capacity. The Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board, Kwanlin Dün First Nation, Champagne and Aishihik First Nations, and Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation are not active participants on the Committee but are kept informed of its implementation work.
- Since 2014, the Government of Yukon has provided funding to compensate farmers for elk damage and funding to install exclusion fencing, although it has not fully covered farmers' time and other costs associated with mitigation.
 - Between 2014 and 2023, there has been \$195,665 paid in compensation for elk damage to farms. In 2023, there were no applications for compensation claims.
 - Between 2014 and 2020, there was \$200,914 provided for elk exclusion fencing projects.
 - Between 2021 - 2024, the Government of Yukon established an additional funding program for farmers to install elk exclusion fencing on agricultural properties in the Takhini Valley eastern buffer zone. \$289,576 was allocated for nine fencing projects under this program. Current and ongoing funding for elk

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Elk–Agriculture Management

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Environment and
Energy, Mines and
Resources

exclusion fencing now comes from Sustainable-Canadian Agriculture Partnership.

Approved by:	
Dennis Berry	September 26, 2024
Deputy Minister, Environment	Date approved
Paul Moore	September 25, 2024
Deputy Minister, Energy, Mines and Resources	Date approved

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2024****Agriculture Sector Status and Supports**Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- Like other regions across Canada, the Yukon's agriculture sector has faced challenges recently related to increasing input costs, supply chain challenges, labour shortages and impacts of climate change.
- Under the five-year \$9.25 million Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership program, we enable agriculture and agri-food development projects that support farm resiliency, ranging from farm business plans and research initiatives to emergency infrastructure development and equipment purchases.
- The Government of Yukon also supported the recovery process for farms in the Klondike Valley and the Klondike area after the severe spring flooding of 2023.

Additional response:

- The Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership program is an investment in the Yukon's agriculture industry to support our farmers and increase our capacity for local food production. Since its April 2023 launch, the program has approved over \$2.4 million in funding for over 100 local projects.
- The Government of Yukon continues to seek avenues to increase its purchases of locally produced foods for government-run facilities. This supports local farms and other Yukon food producers and keeps money in the territory.
- Other government funding programs also provide support to the agriculture sector in the Yukon, such as the Department of Economic Development's Economic Development Fund and the Canadian

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2024****Agriculture Sector Status and Supports**Energy, Mines and Resources

Northern Economic Development Agency.

Additional Response for Supply Management:

- We will continue to engage with farmers to ensure their interests and needs are considered as the industry evolves and grows.
- The Yukon's dairy, poultry and egg producers are not part of the national supply management systems.
- The Government of Yukon is engaged with producers in supply managed commodities on supports for those sectors that align with Yukon conditions.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- The agriculture industry has faced challenges in recent years and may be looking to the Government of Yukon to provide additional support in response to pressures such as labour shortages, sharp increases in input costs and supply chain challenges.
- ColdAcre Food Systems, a local business focused on containerized hydroponic crop production, recently ceased operations. Questions about support for the sector may arise as a result.
- Business Risk Management programs like AgriRecovery and AgriStability are facing increasing pressures and scrutiny regarding ability to respond in a timely and effective way given the frequency of events like heat domes, wildfires, drought, and flooding.
- Cultivating Our Future: 2020 Yukon Agriculture Policy is approaching its fifth year of implementation, and the agriculture sector and other organizations may be looking for status updates on Government of Yukon policy commitments that support sector development.
- Some of Yukon's farmers who produce supply managed food products such as eggs, poultry and dairy are interested in exploring Canada's supply management

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system. Questions have arisen around the benefits and responsibilities of entering the supply management system.

Background:

- Cultivating Our Future: 2020 Yukon Agriculture Policy commits the Government of Yukon to partnering with the Government of Canada to support and administer federal-provincial-territorial agricultural funding programs in the territory.
- Since 2003, five federal-provincial-territorial cost-shared agricultural funding programs have been implemented in the Yukon. The funding is cost-shared on a 60:40 ratio between the governments of Canada and Yukon, respectively.
- From 2018 to 2023, the Canadian Agricultural Partnership program provided \$1.48 million per year in funding, for a total of \$7.4 million over five years, for the development of agriculture in the Yukon.
- Over the five years of the Canadian Agricultural Partnership program, funding supported nearly 500 diverse agriculture projects across the Yukon - from community gardens and farmers' markets to building farm infrastructure, purchasing specialized equipment, developing farm business plans and supporting farm labour through internships.
- The Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (Sustainable-CAP) program replaced the Canadian Agricultural Partnership program on April 1, 2023.
- The Sustainable-CAP program will provide \$9.25 million in sector support over five years (2023-2028) for agriculture supports and agri-food development projects that range from farm business plans, research initiatives, development of infrastructure and purchasing of equipment, improve on-farm energy efficiency, and practices to adapt to and mitigate the impacts of climate change.
- The Government of Yukon engaged with First Nations and industry to ensure their feedback was reflected in the S-CAP program.
- In spring 2023, Klondike River flooding caused damage to several farms, businesses and homes. The Agriculture Flood Recovery Funding Program is a one-time program for farmers and agricultural producers. It covers costs from the damage and loss caused by 2023 flooding in the region around Klondike Valley.
- [Under the previous Canadian Agricultural Partnership funding program, ColdAcre](#)

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Food Systems received over \$40,000 in funding for a variety of projects from internships to processing equipment to business planning. ColdAcre Food Systems did not apply for any funding under Sustainable CAP.

Government of Yukon Locally Produced Food Purchases

- The Government of Yukon purchases locally produced foods for government-run facilities to support local farms and other Yukon food producers and keep money in the territory.
- The Government of Yukon spends approximately \$3,000,000 per year on food.
- Increasing government purchase of local food aligns with the vision and objectives of Cultivating Our Future: 2020 Yukon Agriculture Policy, actions identified in Our Clean Future and was identified as a key priority in the 2016-2021 Local Food Strategy for the Yukon. (See BN # 33)
- Between 2021 and 2024, there was a Local Food Standing Offer Agreement (SOA) that enabled Yukon government departments to purchase local food products.
- A total of \$122,768.74 of food was bought under the SOA; the food was purchased by two Whitehorse continuing care centres and one Whitehorse student residence.
- The Government of Yukon food purchasers surveyed in March 2022 reported that issues limiting the use of local Standing Offer Agreement include budget concerns, limited selection of local food, and a preference to use one ordering tool for simplicity.
- The Departments of Energy, Mines and Resources and Highways and Public Works have been working with a group of local farmers and food producers to address supply challenges, make purchasing easier, and explore procurement options. This led to the launch of the “Farmers Market” pilot program in 2024 that allows Government of Yukon grocery purchasers to purchase local food products via an Online Marketplace.
- As of October 2024, three local producers as well as Government of Yukon grocery purchasers are participating in the “Farmer’s Market” online pilot.

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- Health and Social Services are currently trialing local products and working to compile information on yearly volume requirements for those food items that are produced locally.
- Positive feedback has been received from both government purchasers and the producers on the pilot system functionality, which allows producers to list their products in an online catalogue and to interact directly with purchasers.
- Sales to date through the pilot have been low, with less than \$1,000 in total purchases since July 2024.
- The Departments are collaborating with producers and purchasers to enhance participation in the program.
- Following the pilot project work, the online Farmer's Market is expected to become more broadly available to qualified producers through Bids and Tenders in November 2024.

Supply Management Background

- Supply management is the marketing system that controls the domestic production, pricing and import of milk, poultry and eggs. Producers of these commodities must hold units of quota to market and sell their products.
- The Yukon's dairy, poultry and egg producers are not part of the national supply management systems for any supply-managed agricultural commodities. To date, the discussion on supply management in the Yukon has focused on egg production.
- Supply management systems require cooperation between producers, producer boards and both provincial, territorial and federal governments.
- There is no established process for how a new jurisdiction would join supply management in Canada. Initial quotas were allocated to all the provinces in the 1970's.
- In the Yukon, there are three farms producing eggs, operating federally inspected egg grading stations and selling eggs in the retail market. Several small farms also produce eggs for farm gate sales.

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- Views and perspectives on supply management vary considerably with requests for Yukon to join Canada's supply management system and other feel it is not appropriate for Yukon.

Cultivating Our Future Policy Commitments on Organic Farming

- Cultivating Our Future includes several policy commitments related to organic farming.
- Government support for the organic sector since policy approval in 2020 includes:
 - Agriculture Branch engagement with Growers of Organic Food Yukon representatives and the predominant certifying body for the Yukon in winter 2020/21 regarding Yukon-specific logo development. This work can be continued with Agriculture Branch support if it remains a sector priority.
 - Agriculture Branch staff attendance at organic conferences and workshops.
 - Support is available to associations or organic producers through Sustainable CAP for training, workshops, or conference attendance.
 - Sustainable CAP funding to Growers of Organic Food Yukon to complete a communications strategy that will enable the association to update online presence and improve public communications around organic farming, labelling and requirements.

Approved by:

____Paul Moore_____
 Deputy Minister,
 Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

____October 28, 2024____
 Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Year-Round Abattoir Availability

#16
Fall 2024
Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response

- The Government of Yukon is ensuring that farmers have access to the infrastructure they need to slaughter livestock for retail sale.
- Two privately-owned abattoirs are currently operating and providing inspected slaughter services for the Yukon's poultry and red meat livestock producers.
- The Government of Yukon's mobile abattoir was made available in 2023 and 2024 when the demand exceeded the private abattoirs' capacity [in southern Yukon](#).
- It also supported game farm species slaughter when it was challenging to transport live game farm species off-farm. [It also supported inspected slaughter in Dawson](#).

Additional response:

- As our agriculture industry is growing and changing, our ongoing work with the industry is vital to supporting more food production in the Yukon.
- We support the safe operations of private abattoirs by providing funding and training and through licensing abattoir facilities, inspecting animals prior to slaughter and providing a post-mortem inspection of the carcass.
- We will continue to monitor livestock production and abattoir needs across the territory to ensure Yukon livestock producers are well-served by our available resources.

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Year-Round Abattoir Availability

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Resources

- The government of Yukon's mobile abattoir is aging and the private sector now handles most slaughter services. Over the fall and winter, officials will engage further with the agriculture sector on the role of government's mobile abattoir with the goal of slaughter services being led by industry.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- There may be questions on year-round abattoir availability in the territory and how Yukon's livestock producers' slaughter needs are being met.

Background:

- The Government of Yukon purchased and placed a mobile abattoir into operation in 2006. The service allowed farmers to sell inspected red meat. Since then, the mobile abattoir has serviced farms primarily in Whitehorse region, where slaughter demand was greatest. Farms in Dawson, Haines Junction and Mayo, where demand is lower, coordinated fall slaughter.
- In April 2022, Yukon Born and Raised Meats closed the Yukon's only year-round abattoir. The evolving livestock industry of the territory requires year-round abattoir services.
- During winter 2022/23, the Government of Yukon's mobile abattoir was located at Horse Haven Ranch inside a heated building and was available to meet winter slaughter needs while private industry developed year-round facilities. The private sector now operates year-round, offering slaughter services to livestock producers.
- The Farm Gate received funding under the Internship Program of the Canadian Agricultural Partnership Fund in 2022/23 to support its expansion into red meat slaughter services. The Internship Program provides funding for employee wages to develop skills and gain on-the-job experience.
- As part of a long-term plan for Yukon producers to transition towards privately

Prepared for Minister Streicker
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

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owned abattoirs for their slaughter needs, in late spring 2023, the Government of Yukon started reducing access to its mobile abattoir.

- The Agriculture Branch provided two separate training sessions on abattoir operation in April 2023 and July 2023 for private abattoir businesses. The Farm Gate, Can Do Farms and Takhini Valley Meats all attended the courses. The attendees provided positive feedback on delivery and content and future training sessions will be offered based on need.
- The Government of Yukon's mobile abattoir provided service in the Dawson region in September 2024. Long-term abattoir services for northern Yukon are being assessed to support sustainable growth of the livestock sector
- There are two private abattoirs in the Yukon offering services to livestock producers:
 - The Farm Gate abattoir (M'Clintock Valley, Marsh Lake) is the Yukon's only poultry abattoir. It received its red meat slaughter license in October 2022. Both services are available to the public.
 - Takhini Valley Meats (Mendenhall) began operating for red meat slaughter in September 2023. Its abattoir is available to the public.
- There are two other abattoirs in Yukon:
 - Can Do Farms purchased a new mobile abattoir. It currently is not available to the public.
 - Takhini River Ranch operates a private abattoir used to slaughter and process animals raised on its own farm. It is not available to the public.
- Transitioning to privately-owned abattoirs is one way to promote the growth and sustainability of our agriculture sector. Stable and reliable local meat processing and packing businesses are necessary to ensure meat from inspected slaughter at these abattoirs can reach the plates of Yukoners.

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Year-Round Abattoir Availability

#16
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Resources

Approved by:

Paul Moore

October 03, 2024

Deputy Minister
Energy, Mines and Resources

Date Approved

Session Briefing Note

Procurement of YG Local Food Purchases

Highways and
Public Works

Recommended response:

- Since 2021, the Government of Yukon grocery purchasers have supported local farmers and food producers by committing to purchase locally grown products.
- The Government of Yukon also purchases local products directly through retailers and catering services.
- We have been working with a group of local farmers and food producers to better understand their perspective and explore other procurement options.
- The government launched a pilot program with a small group of local food producers in July 2024. This pilot lets purchasers buy local food products on the Online Marketplace.
- We are working with local food producers and institutional and program services to address supply challenges and to make purchasing easier.
- The departments of Highways and Public Works and Community Services include local food preferences in the catering contracts issued for camp food services.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- Local farmers and food producers recognize the Government of Yukon as a major food purchaser in the territory and may wish to see improved options to support increased government purchase of local food.

Background:

- Local Food Standing Offer Arrangements are a multi-departmental effort to increase the use of locally produced foods in government-run facilities, to support local farms and other Yukon food producers and keep money in the territory.

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YG Local Food Purchases****Highways and
Public Works**

- We are currently piloting small Standing Offer Arrangements directly with producers to sell through the Yukon government's Online Marketplace platform. This fall we will evaluate how it has worked with three vendors selling eggs, grain products and potato chips. If vendors and buyers are satisfied, we will seek additional producers.
- Increasing government purchase of local food aligns with the vision and objectives of Cultivating Our Future: 2020 Yukon Agriculture Policy; actions identified in the Our Clean Future strategy; and was identified as a key priority in the 2016-2021 Local Food Strategy for Yukon.
- In 2021 we launched the Local Food Standing Offer Arrangement. This Standing Offer Arrangement ended in May 2024.
- Through a publicly advertised tender, the Government of Yukon contracted with Takhini River Ranch in 2021 to create a government ordering portal through their existing website and offer set pricing on a variety of local foods.
- Under that Standing Offer Arrangement, the Government of Yukon committed over \$325,000 in purchases under the Standing Offer Agreement, with eggs and meat making up most of sales to date.
 - 2021-22 – Health \$125,000; Education \$10,000 (\$44 thousand spent)
 - 2022-23 – Health \$115,000 (\$52 thousand spent)
 - 2023-24 – Health \$65,000 (\$28 thousand spent)
- The Government of Yukon spends approximately \$3,000,000 per year on food, mainly with the Wholesale Grocery SOA.
- The Government of Yukon food purchasers surveyed in March 2022 reported that issues limiting the use of the local Standing Offer Agreement include budget concerns, limited selection of local food, and a preference to use one ordering tool for simplicity.

Approved by:

T. Allen

August 30, 2024

Deputy Minister, Highways and Public Works

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Domestic Sheep and Goats Control Order

Environment and
Energy, Mines and Resources

Recommended response:

- In 2020, we issued a Control Order requiring domestic sheep or goat owners to meet testing and fencing requirements to prevent disease spread to wild sheep and goats. This order is in effect until December 31, 2024.
- The order was issued because domestic sheep and goats can carry *Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae* (*M. ovi*), a pathogen that can cause fatal respiratory disease if spread to wild sheep and goats, and potentially other wild animals.
- The Control Order is a precautionary measure to safeguard the health of the Yukon's wild sheep and goats.
- In 2024, the Government of Yukon commissioned three independent contractors to provide reports that will help inform next steps for the Control Order after December 2024.
- Stakeholders and partners were engaged during the creation of these reports to help us understand the impacts of the Control Order and the current risk of disease transfer to wild sheep and goats.

Additional response:

- We continue to test domestic sheep and goats for the respiratory pathogen *M. ovi* and assess fencing to ensure compliance with the order.
- We remain up-to-date with new research and we have confidence in the testing methods and laboratories we use to monitor *M. ovi*, the primary bacteria of concern, in sheep and goats.

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Goats Control Order**Environment and
Energy, Mines and Resources

- There is no cost to farmers for testing sheep and goats in the Yukon and they can apply for compensation for the destruction of an animal testing positive if that animal was bred in the Yukon or previously tested negative prior to import.
- From the time the Control Order was announced (October 2018) to March 2024, approximately \$515,000 has been spent on compensation and funding to assist sheep and goat owners to come into compliance.

Third Response:

- Annual testing of sheep and goats in the Yukon shows that importing live animals presents a high risk of bringing *M. ovi* to the Yukon.
- We continue to monitor wildlife populations for pathogens. To date, *M. ovi* has not been detected in the Yukon's wild sheep or goats.
- Surveillance in wild sheep and goats and other wildlife species is ongoing to assess the risk of *M. ovi* and related pathogens to the health of these wild populations.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- Sheep and goat owners and wildlife stakeholders are aware of the commissioned reports and are asking about next steps as the date of expiry for the Control Order approaches (December 2024).

Background:

- The Yukon has the largest population of wild thinhorn sheep in Canada. This species is of intrinsic, cultural and commercial value.

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Domestic Sheep and
Goats Control OrderEnvironment and
Energy, Mines and Resources

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- The three commissioned reports that will help inform next steps with the Control Order are:
 - “Risk Assessment of Respiratory Pathogen Transmission from Domestic Small Ruminants to Thinhorn Sheep and Mountain Goats in the Yukon and Northern British Columbia”: *an updated assessment of the risk of pneumonia disease transfer from domestic sheep and goats to wild sheep and goats;*
 - “Sheep and Goat Control Order Impact Assessment Synthesis Report”: *an assessment of the impact this order had on domestic sheep and goat owners in Yukon; and*
 - “Mycoplasma spp. Testing in domestic sheep and goats and wildlife: Assessment of testing options and recommendations for the Yukon”: *a summary of the best available information about the options for testing for M. ovi.*
 - The Risk Assessment report concludes there is an ongoing risk of pathogen transfer from domestic sheep and goats to wild populations, which could lead to devastating respiratory disease in those wild sheep and wild goat populations. This conclusion is unchanged from the initial risk assessment completed in 2016 by a different contractor.
 - Members of Yukon Renewable Resource Councils, Yukon First Nations, agriculture associations in Yukon and neighboring jurisdictions as well as veterinarians of state, territorial and provincial governments and representatives from national and regional wildlife associations, were engaged in developing the Risk Assessment report. Members of the Yukon Wild Sheep Foundation and B.C. Guide Outfitters Association also provided their comments. Most of these stakeholders including representatives from Renewable Resources Councils and Yukon First Nations expressed support for restrictions on domestic sheep and goats to protect wildlife health and traditional ways of life.
 - All past and current sheep and goat owners subject to the Control Order were invited to participate in the industry impact assessment. They expressed concerns about the effects of the Control Order on operating costs, logistics of importing animals, impacts of fencing on animal care, impacts on the genetic variation and dangers of inbreeding on local breeding stock, anxiety caused by previously
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Session Briefing Note**Domestic Sheep and
Goats Control Order**Environment and
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negatively testing animals testing positive, and the emotional toll of destroying positive tested animals. Representatives from agriculture associations and subject matter experts from the Agriculture Branch and Animal Health Unit were also interviewed.

- On October 22, 2024, the Government of Yukon released the risk assessment and impact assessment reports on Yukon.ca. Officials from Environment and Energy, Mines and Resources provided letters and copies of the reports to sheep and goat owners, stakeholders, Renewable Resource Councils and governments. A separate report on testing methods for *Mycoplasma* spp. in domestic sheep and goats and wildlife is available upon request.

Approved by:**Paul Moore**Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources**November 4, 2024**

Date approved

Dennis BerryDeputy Minister
Department of Environment**November 5, 2024**

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Minto Mine Status and Update

#21
Fall 2024
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Resources

Recommended response:

- Since the abandonment of the Minto site in May 2023, Yukon-based companies have played a key role in safe and efficient progress on Minto Mine's Reclamation and Closure Plan.
- As of the end of September, approximately \$37 million has been spent on work to date, with nearly 80 per cent of payments directed to Yukon companies.
- Activities have focused on treating water, relocating mine waste, recontouring and covering waste dumps, removing debris and hazardous materials, and monitoring environmental performance.

Additional response:

- Planned earthworks activities for 2024 were completed on schedule and on budget. We are delighted to say visitors to the site who are familiar with the project's history of disturbance are truly impressed and appreciate the post-mining landscape being created to blend with the surrounding environment.
- We congratulate Selkirk First Nation on the court approval for its new, Selkirk First Nation-owned company to purchase assets at the Minto mine.
- The Government of Yukon spent approximately \$24 million in 2023-24 to protect the environment and begin remediating the site.
- Subject to approval of the *Second Appropriation Act*, in 2024-25 we anticipate spending up to an additional \$25 million as we continue to

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Minto Mine Status and Update

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reclaim and close the site. This will be recovered from the security we currently hold.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- There has been significant attention on the recent abandonment of the Minto Mine.

Background:

- The Minto Mine was an underground copper mine with gold and silver byproducts located on Selkirk First Nation's Category A Settlement Land.
- On May 13, 2023, Minto Metals abandoned the site and the Government of Yukon took over short-term environmental management responsibilities.
- The Government of Yukon contracted JDS to immediately mobilize to the site under a short-term contract to secure critical resources and subcontractors and initiate required activities. This contract ended on July 27, 2023, when Boreal Engineering took over as the site operator.
- On July 24, 2023, the B.C. Supreme Court appointed PricewaterhouseCoopers as the receiver of the Minto Mine site. The receiver is responsible for all of Minto's assets, undertakings and property, and has the authority, among other things, to put the mine up for sale.
- The sales process initiated by the receiver in 2023 was not successful, resulting in the receiver initiating asset liquidation in May 2024.
- As Minto Mine is on Category A Settlement Land, Selkirk First Nation holds surface and subsurface rights and the Government of Yukon collected royalty payments on behalf of Selkirk First Nation under the *Quartz Mining Act*.
- Through a court Settlement Order, royalties owed to Selkirk First Nation were resolved by a payment of \$1.3 million USD and the retention of \$700,000 CAD previously paid to Selkirk directly by Minto Metals Corporation.

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- Selkirk First Nation also received additional financial benefits under its net smelter royalty arrangement with Minto Mine's owner, Minto Metals Corp. There are still monies owed to Selkirk First Nation from this arrangement.
- Once the site went into receivership, former employees became able to access the federal government's Wage Earner Protection Program.
- The Government of Yukon holds \$75.2 million in security through a combination of cash and a surety bond for the Minto mine, and we are using this funding to protect the environment and for remediation activities.
- Our initial estimates suggest that the costs for reclamation and closure of the mine are likely to be close to the \$93.2 million in financial security we sought from the mine operator. These estimates will be updated as work progresses.
- We are using a range of approaches to ensure work progresses effectively and efficiently, including open tenders where possible and direct award contracts where work must be delivered in shorter timeframes.
- Contracts to support this work in Fiscal Year 2024-25 include:
 - Selkirk Development Corporation for reclamation activities – \$7.45 million
 - Boreal Engineering Ltd. for site operations - \$2.0 million (contract complete)
 - Cobalt Construction for site operations - \$4.6 million
 - Ensero Solutions for water monitoring – \$2.2 million
 - BQE Water for water treatment - \$1.45 million
 - SRK Consultants for engineering support - \$1 million (contract pending)
 - Selkirk Development Corporation for the supply of fuels - \$2.5 million

Approved by

Lauren Haney

October 07, 2024

Deputy Minister

Date approved

Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Prepared for Minister Streicker
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date prepared: September 16, 2024

Last Updated: October 2, 2024

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Session Briefing Note

Wolverine Mine

#22
Fall 2024

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon remains committed to the reclamation and closure of the Wolverine Mine.
- Responsibility for the site transitioned from the receiver to the Government of Yukon in November 2022. Since then, the site has been managed by an experienced local contractor to protect the environment and human health and safety.
- Since 2018, the Government of Yukon has spent approximately \$47 million on activities required at the site.

Additional response:

- We continue to protect the environment, and human health and safety at the site while remediation planning advances. This work includes water management and treatment, and environmental monitoring.
- Our next step at Wolverine will be to engage with the Kaska First Nations to develop final reclamation and closure objectives for the site, and to update the remediation and closure plan accordingly.
- Following the sale process conducted by PricewaterhouseCoopers that did not identify a successful purchaser, we have no plans to put the mine up for sale again.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- The public may be interested in the activities, expenditures and remediation approach at the Wolverine site.

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Wolverine Mine

#22
Fall 2024

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Resources

Background:

- The Wolverine Mine went into temporary closure in January 2015. The owner, Yukon Zinc Corporation, went into bankruptcy proceedings shortly thereafter.
- On September 13, 2019, the Yukon Supreme Court appointed PricewaterhouseCoopers as the receiver of the Wolverine Mine site.
- Until November 1, 2022, the receiver was responsible for the care and maintenance of the site and for complying with regulatory authorizations and applicable statutes. The Government of Yukon assumed responsibility for the site on November 1, 2022.
- Of the \$47 million spent at the site to date, \$10.5 million was recoverable through the financial security posted by Yukon Zinc Corporation.
- Natural Resource Officers inspect the site regularly to ensure appropriate measures are in place to protect the environment and human health and safety.
- In July 2023, Welichem, owner of most of the assets on the site, sold the largest share of its mine assets to NorZinc. NorZinc is planning for the removal of the mill and associated equipment.
- Ross River Dena Council has recently expressed its interest in participating in the closure and remediation process. The department of Energy, Mines and Resources has provided funding to Ross River Dena Council to support this interest.
- The Government of Yukon has a 2-year transfer payment agreement in place with Ross River Dena Council for Reclamation planning with financial funding up to \$50,000 a year. We are also working on finalizing a similar transfer payment agreement with Liard First Nation.

#22

Fall 2024

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Vangorda Sale

#23
Fall 2024

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- We continue to examine ways to address the historic liabilities at the Vangorda Plateau portion of the Faro Mine site in partnership with the Government of Canada, Ross River Dena Council and Broden Mining.
- The Government of Canada is focusing this work through a lens of reconciliation. They have advanced the proposed sale of the Vangorda Plateau, which carries benefits for the Ross River Dena Council, in recognition of the significant impacts of the Faro Mine on the Kaska people.
- This partnership between Broden Mining and Ross River Dena Council is an opportunity for responsible mining in a brownfield area to offer significant benefits to Ross River and nearby communities.

Additional response:

- Prior to concluding a sale process and the subsequent transfer of the Vangorda area to the Ross River Dena Council's Tse Zul Development Corporation, an agreement with affected First Nations and approval from the courts will be required.
- We continue to participate in discussions on this opportunity with affected First Nations, and these discussions are ongoing.
- We are ensuring that no unsecured historic liabilities are transferred to the Government of Yukon. Any mining activities will be subject to the Yukon's assessment and regulatory regimes.

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Vangorda Sale

#23
Fall 2024

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Resources

Context — this may be an issue because:

- Questions may be raised about the status of the Vangorda sale process and what if any, legislative tools are required to secure expired claims in the area for transfer to new owners.

Background:

- The Vangorda area is part of the Faro Mine site. All affected parties agreed to a remediation approach for the Faro Mine site in 2009 with an understanding that long-term care and maintenance would be required for hundreds of years.
- Any transfer of the Vangorda area requires agreement from affected First Nations as per the Devolution Transfer Agreement, and approval from the courts. Ross River Dena Council, Liard First Nation, Kaska Dena Council and Selkirk First Nation are identified as affected First Nations in the Devolution Transfer Agreement.
- Section 6.64 of the Devolution Transfer Agreement provides alternative approaches to governing and managing work at Type II mine sites, provided Yukon, Canada and affected First Nations governments agree.
- An alternate agreement under section 6.64 of the Devolution Transfer Agreement is being sought with Selkirk First Nation, the only affected First Nation that is a signatory to the Devolution Transfer Agreement.
- The Governments of Canada and Yukon are working collaboratively on a survey of the Faro and Vangorda properties. Finalizing the dividing survey line between properties is a key step in this process.
- The liability associated with the Faro Mine site (including the Vangorda area) has increased significantly from initial estimates made in 2003.

Approved By:

Lauren Haney

Deputy Minister

Energy, Mines and Resources

September 4, 2024

Date Approved

Prepared for Minister Streicker
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date prepared: August 8, 2024
Last Updated:

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Session Briefing Note

Type II Sites

#24

Fall 2024

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon continues to work closely with the Government of Canada on Type II abandoned mine sites in an oversight capacity with the exception of two locations.
- Ketza River and Clinton Creek are the last two remaining Type II sites that the Government of Yukon is responsible for reclamation and closure activities through Federal funding.
- The Governments of Canada and Yukon are working with affected First Nations and are negotiating the current roles and responsibilities for the Ketza River and Clinton Creek mines to transfer management of historical liabilities from Yukon back to Canada.
- The approach to clean up a Type II mine is specific to the unique environmental issues at each site and the interests of affected First Nations and communities.

Additional response:

- In managing Type II sites, we balance environmental protection with opportunities to strengthen and diversify our economy.
- We are collaborating with affected First Nations and communities to ensure remediation approaches recognize the specific needs and interests of those most impacted.
- We support local solutions to remedial efforts wherever possible.

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Type II Sites

#24

Fall 2024

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Context — this may be an issue because:

- There is interest in the approaches and timelines to address historic liabilities at Type II sites.

Background:

- Under the Devolution Transfer Agreement, Canada holds financial responsibility for pre-devolution liabilities on mine sites commonly referred to as Type II sites.
- Yukon Type II sites include Clinton Creek, Mount Nansen, Ketza River, Keno Hill and Faro. (See BN #40 and #88)
- In August 2023, the Governments of Canada and the Yukon informed affected First Nations (Ross River Dena Council, Liard First Nation, Dease River First Nation, Kwadacha Nation, Teslin Tlingit Council and Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in) that the two governments were entering into negotiations to adjust roles and responsibilities for the Ketza River and Clinton Creek mine sites by transferring some responsibilities from the Yukon to Canada.
- The intent of these negotiations is to reach an agreement like the one in place for the Faro mine that sees the planning and execution of work at the sites carried out by the Government of Canada. (See BN #26)
- A successful agreement requires endorsement by affected First Nations. Transition is anticipated to occur during the 2024-2025 fiscal year.
- At present, the Governments of Canada and Yukon undertake various approaches to remediate Type II sites as outlined in the table below:

Roles and Responsibilities at Type II Sites

Site	Lead Organization	Remediation	Funding
Mount Nansen	Mount Nansen Remediation Limited Partnership	Remediation planning is complete; remediation will be executed by the Mount Nansen Remediation Limited Partnership.	Government of Canada

#24

Fall 2024

Session Briefing Note

Type II Sites

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Site	Lead Organization	Remediation	Funding
Clinton Creek	Government of Yukon (anticipation of transition to Government of Canada by March 31, 2025)	Remediation planning	Government of Canada
Ketza River	Government of Yukon (anticipation of transition to Government of Canada by March 31, 2025)	Remediation planning	Government of Yukon; a large part of the costs will be recovered from Canada.
Keno	Elsa Reclamation and Development Company	Remediation planning is complete; remediation will be by Elsa Reclamation and Development Company.	Government of Canada
Faro	Government of Canada	Remediation planning is complete; the remediation project is undergoing environmental assessment with the Yukon Environmental and Socio-Economic Assessment Board.	Government of Canada

Approved by:

Lauren Haney

September 20, 2024

Deputy Minister

Date approved

Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Session Briefing Note

Discovery Claims Spill

#25
Fall 2024

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- We are advancing reclamation of an abandoned placer claim block at Discovery Creek.
- The site is on Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation's Category A Settlement Land and we are working closely with the First Nation on the matter.
- Completion of a detailed Phase Two Environmental Site Assessment in autumn will guide work planning for summer 2025 reclamation and removal of assets from site.

Additional response:

- The Phase Two Environmental Site Assessment follows established contaminated site guidelines and gathers essential environmental information. From this, a plan for reclamation can be finalized.
- The owner of the claim is deceased. The department's position is that the deceased's estate is liable for the costs for the reclamation of the abandoned claim.
- We remain committed to working with Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation representatives to ensure the site is reclaimed.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- There is interest in the expedient recovery of hydrocarbons and reclamation of the site.

Session Briefing Note

Discovery Claims Spill

#25
Fall 2024

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Background:

- Compliance, Monitoring and Inspections received an initial spill report on June 14, 2022. An inspector attended the site on June 24, 2022, documented observations, collected soil and water samples, and initiated an investigation.
- Compliance, Monitoring and Inspections continued regular visits to the site to conduct additional soil sampling and to replace absorbent materials on July 28, August 4, August 24, and October 21, 2022, until weather prevented further access to the site.
- Throughout the process, Compliance, Monitoring and Inspections staff met regularly with Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation representatives to provide updates regarding the site.
- Following unsuccessful attempts by Compliance, Monitoring and Inspections to have the responsible party correct the reclamation and remediation, an Environmental Protection Order and an Inspector's Direction were issued on October 17, 2022.
- Compliance, Monitoring, and Inspections learned that the responsible party was deceased, and no one could be formally charged for the related infractions.
- The deceased's estate representative has been advised that the Government of Yukon will be undertaking the necessary reclamation requirements outlined in the Inspector's Direction and that the estate would be financially liable for all associated costs. It is unknown if the deceased's estate has sufficient funds to cover the reclamation costs.
- A professional environmental company was hired in June 2023, to remove all totes, drums and open pails of hydrocarbon products from the site to minimize the potential of further spills.
- A limited Phase 2 assessment was conducted in July 2023 to outline the potential spread of contaminants to adjacent environment.
- The assessment delineated some areas of concern and recommended the excavation of contaminated soil adjacent to fuel storage site.

Session Briefing Note

Discovery Claims Spill

#25
Fall 2024

Energy, Mines and
Resources

- Assessment and laboratory analysis did not confirm any migration of hydrocarbons down slope of mining operation and equipment storage.

Approved by:

Lauren Haney

September 3, 2024

Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Faro Mine

#26

Fall 2024

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- With the passing of federal Bill C-47 and subsequent territorial legislation, the Government of Canada is now leading all aspects of the Faro Mine Remediation Project, including urgent remedial works.
- We acknowledge the terms and conditions included in the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board's final screening report for the remediation project.
- Where appropriate, Energy, Mines and Resources is providing support to Executive Council Office's Major Projects Yukon as lead coordinator for the Government of Yukon's participation in the environmental and socio-economic assessment process.

Additional response:

- Part of the important work at Faro Mine is to ensure that necessary activities on site are as low carbon as possible.
- We are planning to monitor greenhouse gas emissions at the Faro Mine site as part of the mining intensity target, which includes emissions from reclamation of abandoned mines.
- We continue to engage with the Government of Canada to stress the importance of ensuring project benefits from the Faro Mine Remediation Project are being realized by the Yukon First Nations, local service providers and communities.
- The Government of Yukon participates in the project's governance and provides oversight on the progress towards remediation including efforts to counteract emissions at the site.

Session Briefing Note

Faro Mine

#26

Fall 2024

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Context — this may be an issue because:

- There is interest in ensuring local contractors and communities benefit from the work at the Faro mine site.
-

Background:

- In 2018, the Government of Yukon delegated its authority under Section 37 of the Waters Act to the Government of Canada on an interim basis. The Minister of Environment was responsible for determining if actions taken at the site are reasonable to protect the environment under Section 37.
 - In 2020, the Governments of Canada and the Yukon signed a Transition Agreement that amended the roles and responsibilities of the Faro Mine Remediation Project.
 - On June 22, 2023, Canada passed Bill C-47 which included a provision giving the Government of Canada powers akin to Section 37 of the Waters Act. This amendment is a major milestone in transitioning administration and control of the Faro Mine site from the Yukon to the Government of Canada, a process that started in 2018.
 - Both governments have also entered into agreements with Selkirk First Nation and Ross River Dena Council in support of the transition.
 - The Transition Agreement allowed the Government of Canada to lead the Faro Mine Remediation Project and take full responsibility for protecting the environment and human health and safety.
 - The Transition Agreement was finalized after the Governments of Canada and the Yukon completed consultations.
 - The Faro Mine Remediation Project is currently undergoing environmental assessment by the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board. Canada submitted its Project Proposal in March 2019.
 - The Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board final screening report has been released.
-

Session Briefing Note

Faro Mine

#26

Fall 2024

Energy, Mines and
Resources

- On September 27, 2024, federal decision bodies referred the final screening report back to the Executive Committee for reconsideration, with the Executive Committee accepting public comments until October 23, 2024.

Approved by:

Lauren Haney

October 07, 2024

Deputy Minister

Date approved

Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Session Briefing Note

Fall 2024

Carbon Rebate – Mining Businesses

Energy, Mines and Resources

Recommended response:

- The carbon levy and rebate system aims to incentivize individuals and businesses to innovate and reduce their greenhouse gas emissions.
- The Government of Yukon's carbon rebate ensures that all federal carbon levies are returned to Yukoners.
- We have simplified the rebate process for small mining businesses so that they receive the carbon rebate as a refundable tax credit on their tax returns. This means mining businesses no longer need to make a separate application for the rebate.

Additional response:

- We are developing a new rebate under the federal Output-Based Pricing System that will return carbon levies collected from larger quartz mines to the mining industry, to deliver on an action identified in Our Clean Future, the Yukon climate change strategy. (See BN #47)
- There are currently no Yukon mines contributing to the federal Output-Based Pricing System.
- In fall 2022, we engaged with the mineral industry to develop a new carbon rebate for larger quartz mining operations subject to the federal Output-Based Pricing System. A What We Heard report is available on Yukon.ca.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- Victoria Gold was the Yukon's sole contributor to the federal Output-Based Pricing System. There may be interest in the rollout of the new carbon rebate for mining companies.

Session Briefing Note

Fall 2024

Carbon Rebate – Mining Businesses

Energy, Mines and Resources

Background:

- The federal *Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing Act* introduced a carbon levy in Yukon.
- The federal Output-Based Pricing System creates a carbon price for large industrial emitters while mitigating carbon leakage risks.
- Yukon's Bill No. 21, the *Carbon Price Rebate Amendments Act*, received assent on October 24, 2022 and created a new mining rebate that enables mining businesses to receive their carbon rebate as a refundable credit on their tax returns effective January 1, 2023. The rebate provides tax credits based on the value of eligible Yukon mining assets.
- For 2024-25, quartz mines will receive \$36.47 per \$1,000 of eligible Yukon mining assets, while placer mining operations will receive \$72.94.
- Placer miners have higher emissions per dollar of assets compared to quartz because of inherent differences in scale and operations. Consequently, the new mining rebate applies an adjustment factor to placer mining assets to increase their rebate amount.
- Clean technology assets that reduce fossil fuel consumption (e.g., electric vehicles) eligible for the Super Green Credit will receive a higher tax credit-- \$111.00 per \$1,000 of clean technology assets for quartz-mining operations and \$222.00 per \$1,000 of clean technology assets for placer-mining operations.
- The Government of Yukon is determining the mechanism by which levies collected through the Output-Based Pricing System will be returned to the mining industry.
- The pre-2023 mining rebate provided 100 per cent of carbon levies paid for production on eligible placer mining claims, and 100 per cent of the carbon levy paid on the first 6 kilotonnes of greenhouse gas emissions for quartz-mining operations and 50 per cent of the carbon levy paid on emissions between 6 and 10 kilotonnes.

Approved by:

_____**Dennis Berry**_____
Deputy Minister,
Energy, Mines and Resources

2024.08.26

Date approved

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2024****Carbon Rebate**Finance

Recommended response:

- The Yukon's carbon rebate is revenue neutral, over time. Our goal is to reduce carbon emissions in the territory and return all the federal government's revenues to Yukoners.
- We will continue to ensure that rebate groups receive more, on average, than they pay in carbon pricing.
- Of the total carbon revenue collected in the Yukon, we are distributing 45 per cent to individuals, 36 per cent to general businesses, 12 per cent to mining businesses, and 3.5 per cent to both First Nations and municipal governments.

Additional response:

- Carbon pricing is a sound, evidence-based policy on climate change, but our government shares concerns about equity; specifically, for those Yukoners who do not use heating oil for their homes.
- The policies in Our Clean Future, as well as the carbon price, are intended to incentivize Yukoners to make the switch to low carbon energy sources, like electric heating or heat pumps.

Third response (see relevant subsection below):**British Columbia Carbon Tax**

- Leading up to BC's provincial election, Premier Eby has committed that, if re-elected, he will scrap the province's consumer carbon tax, which was introduced in 2008.
- His commitment is conditional on the federal government not replacing it with the federal backstop system.

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Carbon Rebate

Finance

- Currently, if a province or territory does not meet the minimum benchmark standards, the federal system is put in place.
- Unlike British Columbia's carbon tax rebate program, the Yukon's carbon rebate programs are revenue neutral. This means that individuals and households get more on average than they pay in federal carbon levies.

Surplus in Business Account

- The Yukon's rebate programs are revenue neutral over time. Historically, there has been a surplus in the business account due to the timing difference between when Canada pays the Government of Yukon its carbon proceeds, and when Canada settles the final amount of payments made on our behalf to businesses.
- The business rebate account is credited when we receive money from Canada from the carbon fuel charge. This usually takes three to six months after the fuel charge is "paid at the pumps."
- Businesses are being paid promptly all through the year, however, the government's business rebate account is not debited until we reconcile with the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) for rebates made to these businesses. This process is typically completed 15 months after a tax year is closed.

Rebate for individuals

- The rebate amount for individuals for the 2023-24 rebate year is \$372, or \$93 per quarter. The rebate amount for 2024-25 rebate is \$310, or \$77.50 per quarter. This \$62 decrease is a result of the

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Fall 2024

Carbon Rebate

Finance

federal announcement to temporarily exempt heating oil from the carbon levy, which will lead to reduced proceeds from Canada.

- Yukoners living outside of Whitehorse receive an additional supplement of 20 per cent or \$62.00, effective July 2024.
- One person per household will receive the rebate for all individuals. Payment is made to the first individual who files their tax.

Rebate for general businesses (other than mining)

- Yukon businesses receive their carbon rebate as a refundable tax credit. As with some other tax credits, businesses can apply retroactively for past tax years.
- The business rebate for 2023-24 is \$21.89 per \$1,000 of eligible Yukon assets. The business rebate for 2024-25 is \$22.20 per \$1,000 of eligible Yukon assets.
- The rebate is calculated based on the value of business assets and includes incentives to invest in clean technology.
- For 2023-24, the Super Green Credit provides a rebate of about \$109 per \$1,000 of clean technology assets, which includes eligible solar energy systems, electric vehicles, and charging systems. For 2024-25, the Super Green Credit provides a rebate of about \$111 per \$1,000.

Rebate for mining businesses

- As of 2023, there is a new mining business rebate structured the same way as the general business rebate.
- The mining business rebate for 2023-24 is \$21.08 per \$1,000 of eligible Yukon mining assets. Mining assets eligible for the Super

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Carbon Rebate

Finance

Green Credit will be eligible for a rebate of about \$109 per \$1,000 of clean technology assets. Recognizing the difference in capital intensity between different mining operations, additional weight is applied to placer mining assets to increase their rebate amounts.

- The mining business rebate for 2024-25 is \$36.57 per \$1,000 of eligible Yukon mining assets. Mining assets eligible for the Super Green Credit will be eligible for a rebate of about \$111 per \$1,000 of asset costs.

Agriculture

- The federal government determines who is exempt from paying the carbon levy. The federal government made the decision to exempt this group to avoid increasing the cost of food for all Canadians.

Farmers are exempt from paying the federal carbon levy on gasoline and light fuel oil used in farming operations, using a federal definition of farming activities. The exemption is determined following the submission of Federal Tax Form K402, also titled the *Carbon levy Exemption Certificate for Farmers*.

- Farmers who buy non-exempt fuel for ancillary purposes can claim the Yukon business carbon rebate on their tax return.

First Nations governments

- The allocation that each First Nations government receives is based on the formula in Chapter 19 of the Umbrella Final Agreement. (See Annex)

Municipal governments

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Carbon Rebate

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- Municipal governments receive carbon rebates on April 1 each year.
- The percentage that each municipal government receives is outlined in the *Carbon Price Rebate General Regulation*. (See Annex)

Output-Based Pricing System (OBPS)

- The OBPS is a method of carbon pricing designed to support emission intensive trade exposed industry. It is intended to avoid carbon leakage. Carbon leakage refers to the situation where businesses transfer production to other countries with laxer emission constraints to avoid carbon pricing.
- Industrial facilities that are registered under the OBPS will be able to purchase charge-free fuel from the time the charge starts to apply. OBPS facilities will instead be subject to the carbon price on the portion of their emissions that exceed an annual output-based emissions limit.
- From August 17 through October 3, 2022 we engaged the mining industry on the development of a new carbon rebate for facilities that may be subject to the OBPS.
- A What We Heard report was published in June 2023 outlining feedback from nine stakeholders who participated in the engagement. The Government of Yukon is considering this in the development of an OBPS rebate program.
- In the Yukon, the only facilities that may meet the OBPS thresholds for voluntary participation (10 kilotonnes) or mandatory participation (50 kilotonnes) are quartz mines. There is currently only one facility registered in the OBPS in the Yukon.

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Carbon Rebate

Finance

Context — this may be an issue because:

- On October 26, 2023 Canada announced a pause on the carbon fuel charge for heating oil until April 1, 2027. Canada also announced a permanent change to the rural supplement for their Canada Carbon Rebate from 10 per cent to 20 per cent of the base amount as of April 2024. The Canada Carbon Rebate does not apply in the Yukon; however, the Yukon mirrored this change for the Yukon Government Carbon Price Rebate, effective July 2024.

Background:

- The federal *Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing Act* received royal assent on June 21, 2018. The federal carbon pollution pricing system has two parts:
 - a regulatory charge on fossil fuels (i.e., the carbon levy or fuel charge), and
 - a regulatory trading system for large facilities (i.e., the federal OBPS).
- Pricing carbon pollution is a central pillar of Canada's efforts to address climate change through the *Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change* (PCF).
- The federal government's climate plan set the Canada-wide carbon price at \$20 per tonne of carbon dioxide equivalent emissions beginning in 2019. The price is currently \$80 per tonne as of April 1, 2024 and will rise \$15 a year to \$170 per tonne in 2030.
- In designing rebate programs, the Government of Yukon considered how to address the principles established in the *Pan-Canadian Framework*, namely:
 - "Carbon pricing policies should include revenue recycling to avoid a disproportionate burden on vulnerable groups and Indigenous peoples", and
 - "Carbon pricing policies should minimize competitiveness impacts and carbon leakage, particularly for emissions-intensive, trade-exposed sectors."

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Illustrative example of family impacts

- As an example, a family of four in Mayo can expect to receive \$1,488.00 in rebates for the 12 months beginning in July 2024. This compares to the following outlays:
 - If we assume that this family has two pick-up trucks that each consume 2,000 litres of gasoline on average per year; then the family should be expected to pay roughly \$735 in carbon pricing levies. This would leave them approximately \$753 ahead, assuming they heat by wood, electricity, or heating oil.
 - Since the federal heating exemption does not apply to propane, some families will incur additional costs. The average 3-bedroom detached home consumes about 3,000 litres of propane. They would be expected to incur roughly \$390 in carbon pricing costs to heat their home. Added to the \$735 in costs for our family with two trucks and the family is still approximately \$363 ahead.

Parliamentary Budget Officer (PBO), Distributional Analysis of Federal Carbon Pricing under A Healthy Environment and A Healthy Economy, March 2022 report

- On April 17, 2024, the PBO stated their original report contain errors overstating the impact of carbon pricing. A new report is due in the Fall of 2024.
- On March 30, 2023, the PBO released an analysis of the impacts of the implementation of the Federal Fuel Charge in the seven provinces where the Climate Action Incentive payments are used in recycling carbon pricing.
- The report outlines both direct “fiscal” and “economic” impacts on households.
- Overall, in 2030-31, 80 per cent of households will receive more on the rebate than they pay on the fuel charge and associated GST. This is generally in line with how the Yukon rebate program works.
- Relative to household disposable income, the fiscal-only impact of the federal fuel charge is shown as progressive, with lower-income households facing lower net costs (or larger net gains) compared to higher income households.

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Finance

- When the economic impact is combined with the fiscal impact, the net cost increases for all households, reflecting the overall negative economic impact of the federal fuel charge. Estimates across the participating provinces show a net loss for almost three-quarters of all the households.
- The Yukon and Nunavut were excluded from the analysis as we have our own rebate programs. The Yukon program is different than the federal program in that we provide a rebate to businesses to reduce the economic impact seen in the provinces covered by the PBO analysis.
- The PBO analysis is limited to estimating the distributional impact of the federal fuel charge and does not attempt to account for the economic and environmental costs of climate change.
- In a November 2022 report, the PBO estimated that the cost of climate change has lowered Canada's GDP by 0.8 per cent, as of 2021. In the Yukon context, 0.8 per cent of real GDP is roughly \$28 million per year. The PBO is expecting the cost of climate change to increase with time.
- The Bank of Canada's latest monetary policy report released January 24th, notes in its projections for overall consumer price index growth for 2024 and 2025, that the impact of the carbon price on year-over-year inflation is generally low, at roughly 0.1 percentage points.

November 2023, OBPS Regulatory Changes

- In 2023, Canada began lowering the OBPS facility's allowable charge-free emissions limit. These changes were not included in the original Pan-Canadian Framework carbon pricing discussions.
- This change increases the potential money raised by the OBPS in Yukon and the cost imposed on industry. During the development of the Yukon's OBPS rebate program, the Department of Finance will assess the impact of the OBPS tightening rate.

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2024****Carbon Rebate**

Finance

Appendix

Federal fuel charge rates applicable in the Yukon (cents per litre unless specified)

Date of increase*	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
\$ per tonne	20	30	40	50	65	80	95	110	125	140	155	170
Gasoline	4.4	6.6	8.8	11.1	14.4	17.7	21.0	24.3	27.6	30.9	34.3	37.6
Light fuel oil	5.4	8.1	10.7	13.4	17.4	21.5	25.5	29.5	33.5	37.5	41.6	45.6
Propane	3.1	4.6	6.2	7.7	10.1	12.4	14.7	17.0	19.4	21.7	24.0	26.3
Natural gas**	3.9	5.9	7.8	9.8	12.7	15.7	18.6	21.5	24.5	27.4	30.3	33.3
Aviation turbo fuel and gasoline are exempt												

*July 1 for 2019, April 1 for future years ** Per cubic meter

Estimated fuel use in Yukon versus rebate

	Rebate (% of total)	Estimated shares of carbon levies paid by rebate group				
		2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
General businesses	36.0%	48.38%	48.26%	49.29%	34.50%	35.00%
Mining businesses	12.0%	-	-	-	11.50%	10.70%
Yukon individuals	45.00%	28.13%	27.67%	26.56%	26.80%	25.20%
Municipal governments	3.50%	2.41%	2.47%	2.27%	2.60%	3.40%
First Nations governments	3.50%	0.36%	0.36%	2.09%	2.80%	2.10%
Visitors (tourists)	0.00%	8.42%	8.90%	7.66%	8.50%	9.80%
Government of Yukon	0.00%	11.24%	11.21%	11.03%	12.10%	12.60%
Government of Canada	0.00%	0.54%	0.56%	0.57%	0.70%	0.80%
Other	0.00%	0.53%	0.57%	0.54%	0.50%	0.50%

These estimates rely on data from Statistics Canada that is subject to a significant lag. Changes should generally be interpreted as adjustments based on more recent data, rather than changes in actual consumption.

Estimated levies and rebates to individuals

	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Levy paid by individual	\$87.48	\$131.43	\$157.59	\$179.11	\$160.11
Rebate to individuals	\$192.00	\$176.00	\$320.00	\$372.00	\$310.00
Remote supplement	\$19.20	\$17.60	\$32.00	\$37.20	\$62.00

Yukon general business rebate amounts by on asset class

(per \$1,000 in assets)	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Building rebate	\$3.45	\$4.41	\$19.81	\$10.95	\$11.10
Equipment rebate	\$17.24	\$22.03	\$99.05	\$54.73	\$55.50
Green rebate	\$34.48	\$44.05	\$198.10	\$109.45	\$111.00

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2024****Carbon Rebate**

Finance

Yukon mining business rebate amounts by on asset class

	(per \$1,000 in assets)	2023-24	2024-25
Placer mining businesses	Buildings and equipment rebate	\$84.32	\$72.94
	Green rebate	\$437.80	\$222.00
Quartz mining businesses	Buildings and equipment rebate	\$21.08	\$36.47
	Green rebate	\$109.45	\$111.00

Allocation amongst First Nation's share

First Nation	Percentage of First Nation's Total
Carcross/Tagish First Nation	7.2886%
Champagne and Aishihik First Nations	11.3420%
Tr'ondek Hwech'in First Nation	8.9878%
Kluane First Nation	4.1276%
Kwanlin Dun First Nation	8.8169%
Liard First Nation	10.1364%
Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation	6.4153%
First Nation of Na-Cho Ny'ak Dun	5.9976%
Ross River Dena Council	5.9122%
Selkirk First Nation	6.8425%
Ta'an Kwach'an Council	5.0579%
Teslin Tlingit Council	7.6873%
Vuntut Gwich'in First Nation	7.8962%
White River First Nation	3.4916%

Allocation amongst Municipalities' share

Municipality	Percentage of Municipalities' Total
Carmacks	2.4975%
Dawson City	9.6566%
Faro	2.1070%
Haines Junction	4.2767%
Mayo	2.4492%
Teslin	2.4321%
Watson Lake	6.3431%
Whitehorse	70.2378%

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Fall 2024

Carbon Rebate

Finance

Approved by:

Jessica Schultz
Deputy Minister, Finance

August 20, 2024
Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Electric Vehicle Charging Stations

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- We are reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the transportation sector by building infrastructure that supports electric vehicles.
- To date, the Government of Yukon has installed 19 fast charger stations across the Yukon to electrify the highway.
- [An additional level-two charger is now operational at Swift River.](#) We are planning to install up to [three](#) additional chargers at remote intercommunity locations in fall 2024.
- We recently passed a regulation that allows businesses, First Nation governments, development corporations and municipalities to charge fees at electric vehicle charging stations that they own.

Additional response:

- The *Electric Vehicle Charging Station Regulation* supports the emerging green economy market and the clean transportation goals in Our Clean Future and the Clean Energy Act.
- Thanks to funding support from the Government of Canada, we are also offering incentives to individuals, businesses, First Nations governments, and municipalities for the installation of level-two electric vehicle charging stations.
- Our goal is to see 200 level-two chargers owned by businesses, organizations and local governments by March 2025. We have already supported [81 non-residential](#) installations. [When combined with residential installations, we have supported 139 chargers total.](#)

Session Briefing Note**Electric Vehicle Charging Stations**Energy, Mines and
Resources**Context — this may be an issue because:**

- Electric vehicle use is increasing, and the public may be interested in the growth of an electric vehicle charging network in the Yukon and neighbouring jurisdictions.
- The Government of Yukon recently passed an *Electric Vehicle Charging Station Regulation* under the *Public Utilities Act* that enables the private sale of electricity through electric vehicle charging stations.

Background:

- Our Clean Future commits the government to a target of 4,800 zero-emission vehicles on the road by 2030. (See BN #33)
- The *Clean Energy Act* commits the government to 10 per cent light-duty electric vehicle sales by 2025 and 30 per cent by 2030.
- The Government of Canada recently announced the Electric Vehicle Availability Standard, which establishes regulated targets that require at least 60 per cent of vehicle sales nationwide to be zero-emission vehicles by 2030, and 100 per cent by 2035.
- As of [September 30, 2024](#), [516](#) zero-emissions vehicles are registered in the Yukon.
- Zero-emissions vehicles were [approximately 11](#) per cent of light-duty vehicle sales in [2024 Q1](#).
- The Government of Yukon operates 19 direct current fast chargers in road-connected communities throughout the Yukon [and one level-two charger at Swift River](#). The departments of Energy, Mines and Resources and Highways and Public Works are working to fill critical gaps between chargers throughout fall 2024.

Session Briefing Note
Electric Vehicle Charging
Stations

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Approved by:

Paul Moore

November 13, 2024

Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Energy Programs

Fall 2024Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- We are taking action on climate change by increasing the Yukon's use of renewable energy and reducing our energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions.
- Our energy incentive programs offer cost-saving, emission-reducing options to Yukon residents, businesses, organizations and municipal and First Nations governments.
- Innovative programs like the Better Buildings Program, combined with our Good Energy rebates, make energy retrofits accessible and affordable for Yukoners. (See BN # 36)

Additional Response:

- Energy, Mines and Resources is working closely with Yukon Development Corporation and utilities to plan for current and future energy demand and to explore options for grid modernization.
- As of [September](#) 30, 2024, [516 zero emission vehicles](#) are registered in the territory. We have issued rebates for [1,400](#) electric bicycles.
- As of [September](#) 30, 2024, [307](#) high-performance retrofits to residential, commercial and institutional buildings have been completed across the territory. We have issued rebates for [204](#) residential and commercial smart electric heating systems and [543](#) rebates for highly energy-efficient new homes.

Session Briefing Note

Energy Programs

Fall 2024

Energy, Mines and
Resources

- We have rebated over 500 energy-efficient new homes since 2020, surpassing our target five years ahead of schedule.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- There may be questions about what the government is doing to reach its targets in Our Clean Future. (See BN #33)
- Grid power outages, energy supply, and increasing electricity prices have been reported by Yukon media and raised by opposition MLA's in the legislature.

Background:

Clean transportation

- Our Clean Future targets 4,800 zero-emission vehicles on the road by 2030.
- Our Clean Future targets fast-charging stations across the Yukon to make it possible to travel between all road-accessible Yukon communities by 2027. As of 2024, all road-accessible communities in the Yukon are within reach of a public electric vehicle fast charger.
- Rebates for 75 per cent of costs of level two chargers (designed for home and business use) are available to businesses, and 90 per cent of costs for Yukon First Nations governments, corporations and municipalities. (See BN #29)

Renewable heating

- Our Clean Future targets the installation of 1,300 smart electric heating devices. To date, we have supported 204 commercial and residential smart electric heating systems and uptake is increasing.
- Yukoners can access the Better Buildings Program and our Good Energy rebates to help with the costs of installing an electric heat pump.
- Our Clean Future targets the installation of 20 large commercial and institutional biomass systems by 2030 in non-Yukon government buildings. To date, we

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Fall 2024

Energy Programs

Energy, Mines and Resources

have supported nine commercial and institutional biomass projects through our energy incentive programs.

- We are also aware of four commercial and institutional biomass projects that were commissioned prior to our incentive programs, for a total of thirteen systems.

High-performance buildings (new and existing)

- Our Clean Future targets 2,000 high-performance retrofits to non-government buildings. As of June 30, 2024, 307 high-performance retrofits in existing buildings have been completed.
- Yukoners can access the new Better Buildings Program and our Good Energy rebates to assist with the cost of comprehensive energy retrofits.
- Since the release of Our Clean Future, we have issued 543 rebates for high-performing new homes. Our Clean Future targets 500 rebates for net-zero energy-ready new homes by 2030.

Better Buildings Program

- Fifty-eight residential and five commercial eligibility applications for the Better Buildings Program have been submitted. Applications have come from home and building owners in Whitehorse, Dawson City, Faro and Haines Junction.
- As of September 30, 2024, there are eleven clients actively participating in the Better Buildings program with funding agreements signed with the Department of Community Services for a total of \$471,560. Nine of the active clients are in Whitehorse, one in Marsh Lake, and one is in Haines Junction.

Approved by:

Paul Moore

November 13, 2024

Deputy Minister

Date approved

Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Session Briefing Note

Independent Power Production Policy

EMR # 32 **YDC #19**
Fall 2024
Yukon Development
Corporation

Recommended response:

- The Independent Power Production policy enables Yukon First Nations governments, communities, and entrepreneurs to generate renewable energy and feed clean electricity into the main electrical grid or into micro-grids in diesel-dependent communities.
- Projects currently in the queue are advancing through the connection process. Additional applications will be considered, as they are received from Proponents.
- Once the Standing Offer limit is reached, new applications will continue to be accepted for later consideration should the number of projects under review decreases or it is determined through technical studies that it is safe to increase the Standing Offer Program limit.
- Acceptance to the Standing Offer Program does not guarantee funding for Projects through the Innovative Renewable Energy Initiative or that an Electricity Purchase Agreement will be signed.

Additional response:

- The Independent Power Production policy is undergoing a review to consider how it can more closely align with the needs of the Yukon's energy system for dependable winter capacity.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- There is strong First Nations, municipal, and private sector interest in renewable energy and in government support for such initiatives.
- Some Independent Power Producers have expressed concerns about the high costs of interconnection.

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Independent Power Production Policy

Yukon Development Corporation

Background:

- The Independent Power Production Policy includes three programs: the Standing Offer Program; Unsolicited Proposals; and Calls for Power.
- The Standing Offer Program has an annual limit of 40-gigawatt hours of electricity purchased by the utilities.

	Number of Projects	Combined Capacity (MW)	Combined Energy (GWh)	% of Program Cap (40 GWh)
EPAs Executed and Connected to the Grid	7	9.35	20.08	50%
Studies in progress	3	6.00	11.18	28%
Total	10	15.35	31.26	78%

- Oro Enterprises Ltd., the proponent of the proposed 2 MW New Era North Fork Hydro project in Dawson City, was one of the 11 proponents in the queue. On January 29, 2024, Oro Enterprises Inc informed Yukon Energy that the North Fork Project was cancelled.
- In 2022 and 2023, two additional proponents were recommended for consideration to the SOP queue by Energy, Mines & Resources. Projects were put “on hold” and advised that studies to assess the impacts of their projects on the grid would only proceed when room in the IPP SOP queue became available.
- Ten independent power production projects have signed Energy Purchase Agreements with their respective utilities. Of these, seven are actively producing electricity.
 1. Solvest’s solar project - Whitehorse (active)
 2. Nomad Construction and Electrical Services’ solar project - Whitehorse (active)
 3. Vuntut Gwitchin Government’s solar project - Old Crow (active)

Session Briefing Note

Independent Power

Production Policy

EMR # 32 **YDC #19**
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4. Klondike Development Organization's solar project - Dawson City (active)
 5. Chu Níkwān Eagle Hill (Haeckel Hill) I (active)
 6. Chu Níkwān Eagle Hill (Haeckel Hill) II (active)
 7. White River First Nation's solar project - Beaver Creek (anticipated to be in service in 2025)
 8. Kluane First Nation's Nt'si wind project - Kluane Lake (anticipated to be in service in fall 2024)
 9. Arctic Pharm's solar project - Whitehorse (connected July 2024) and
 10. Sunergy's solar project - Haines Junction (active).
- First Kaska is developing a significant solar renewable energy project to provide power to the Watson Lake micro-grid. Canada's approval for the project to receive funds through the Arctic Energy Fund is pending approval.
 - Funding is available in 2024-2025 for prospective renewable energy projects through the Innovative Renewable Energy Initiative.

Approved by:

President & CEO, Yukon Development Corporation

August 30, 2024

Date Approved

Session Briefing Note

Our Clean Future: EMR Commitments

Fall 2024
Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- Forty-two new actions were added to Our Clean Future in 2023. Of these, 20 actions are assigned to Energy, Mines and Resources on topics including energy, forestry, and climate change adaptation.
- The department leads one-third of Our Clean Future actions, a total of 60 commitments aiming to increase renewable energy production, improve energy efficiency, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- Notable achievements to date include:
 - Early this year, we enabled the private sale of electricity through electric vehicle charging stations to support clean transportation.
 - By exploring projects like the Yukon-British Columbia Grid Connect Project, as well as undertaking other renewable initiatives, our government remains committed to ensuring that electricity in the territory remains reliable, affordable and sustainable.
 - In fall 2024, amendments to the Clean Energy Act were introduced. This will establish the territory's first greenhouse gas emission reduction target for the mining sector.
 - Issuing over 500 rebates for new energy-efficient homes since 2020, five years ahead of schedule.

Additional response:

- The department has successfully completed 20 of its 60 actions. A further 10 actions are ongoing as they have been integrated into operations and service delivery to the public. The remaining 30 actions are underway.

Session Briefing Note

Our Clean Future: EMR Commitments

Fall 2024
Energy, Mines and
Resources

- We continue to support many Yukoners to reduce transportation-related greenhouse gas emissions by giving rebates for electric bicycles and zero-emissions vehicles and expanding the Yukon's network of electric vehicle charging stations.
- We continue to work with partners and stakeholders to ensure Yukon's electrical grid is predominantly sourced from renewable sources.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- There may be questions about Energy, Mines and Resources' progress in implementing its key actions under Our Clean Future. The [2023 Our Clean Future and Clean Energy Act reports](#) were released in [November 2024](#). The [previous annual report](#) included new commitments.

Background:

- Under Our Clean Future Phase II, the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources is responsible for 60 actions. Most of these actions are energy-related or have energy implications in the Yukon.
- The department [brought](#) forward legislation this session to establish a mining intensity target for quartz and placer mining operations into the *Clean Energy Act*. [\(See BN #2\)](#)
- Some of the actions are energy programs and rebates; public outreach programs; and half (30 actions) can be achieved through legislation and existing resources. [\(See BN #31\)](#)
- Our Clean Future included two commitments to increase the amount of renewable fuel in both diesel and gasoline fuel pools by 2025 (Actions T9 and T10).
 - These actions strive to have approximately 20 per cent of diesel consisting of biodiesel or renewable diesel by volume, approximately 10 per cent of gasoline consisting of ethanol by volume by 2025 and a 30 per cent emissions intensity reduction overall by 2030.

Session Briefing Note

Our Clean Future: EMR

Commitments

Fall 2024
Energy, Mines and
Resources

- Our Clean Future notable achievements on targets as of [September 30, 2024](#), include:
 - Expanding the government's electric vehicle fast charger network to 19 publicly available units in all road-accessible communities [and one level-two charger in Swift River](#).
 - Achieving 9.7 megawatts of renewable electricity from micro-generators.
 - Since 2020, supporting the construction of [543](#) high-performance homes that are at least 50 per cent more energy efficient than building code standards, [surpassing our 2030 target](#).
 - Installing beyond the targeted 25 electric heat pumps in Yukon homes during a pilot project to assess heat pumps in a cold climate.
 - Supporting the installation of [204](#) smart electric heating devices.
 - Reaching [516](#) light duty zero-emission vehicles registered in the territory thanks to vehicle rebates and investment in charging stations.
 - Providing [over 1,400](#) rebates for electric bicycles.

Nuclear:

- In Our Clean Future, the Government of Yukon commits to staying up to date on new and emerging energy technologies that may be able to meet Yukon's needs in the future, such as nuclear energy, and increase our knowledge of renewable and low-carbon energy sources that may be available in Yukon.
- As signatories to the Government of Canada's Small Modular Reactor Action Plan, we are participating in important national discussions and exploring what clean energy sources and storage technologies may be available to accelerate Canada's low-carbon future.
- In 2021, the Government of Yukon contracted Calian Nuclear Ltd. to do a feasibility study on the potential use of Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) in the Yukon.
- Calian Nuclear Ltd. delivered a report called 'Feasibility Study of Small Modular Reactors in the Yukon'. As part of the contract, Calian conducted focus groups and interviews with a small number (23) of stakeholders to

Session Briefing Note

Our Clean Future: EMR Commitments

Fall 2024
Energy, Mines and
Resources

assess perceptions and opinions towards nuclear power generation. This was captured in a separate report called 'SMR in the Yukon Engagement Report'.

- The Feasibility Study of Small Modular Reactors in the Yukon report was posted on Yukon.ca on August 7, 2023, and a copy was provided to a CBC reporter as promised.
- The Government of Yukon has not decided on whether to adopt SMR technology in the territory.

Hydrogen:

- In spring 2021, the Government of Yukon contracted Navius Research to explore how the adoption of hydrogen and fuel cell technologies could further reduce emissions in the Yukon's energy production and transportation sectors.
- Navius delivered a report called 'Potential of hydrogen to help decarbonize the Yukon'.
- The Government of Yukon is currently exploring options to further this work through the development of a hydrogen pilot project. This work is at an early stage of development with government officials engaging potential partners in discussions.

Approved by:

Paul Moore

Nov 13, 2024

Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Our Clean Future Implementation

Environment and Energy,
Mines and Resources

Recommended response:

- We recognize the urgency of the climate emergency and launched Our Clean Future in September 2020 to map our route forward.
- The Government of Yukon continues to make significant progress on implementing Our Clean Future.
- In 2023, we announced the addition of 42 new actions to help us reach our climate goals, which brings the total number of climate actions to 178.
- These new actions are a product of the important work of the Yukon Climate Leadership Council, the Yukon Youth Panel on Climate Change, Navius Research and the findings in the Climate Risk Assessment report.
- We continue to track our progress on goals, targets and actions. Information on our progress was most recently published in [November in the 2023](#) Our Clean Future Annual Report and on the Our Clean Future website.
- Since releasing Our Clean Future in 2020, the Government of Yukon has completed [68](#) Our Clean Future actions, [105](#) are in progress or ongoing and [5](#) have not yet been started.

Additional response:

- As we continue to address climate change, it is important for us to look back on our progress as we diligently work towards our objectives.
- Under Our Clean Future, the government is focused on ensuring the Yukon is highly resilient to climate change impacts by 2030. (See ENV BN #21)

Session Briefing Note
Our Clean Future
Implementation

Environment and Energy,
Mines and Resources

- This year, we:
 - Completed flood maps for the Southern Lakes region, [Teslin](#) and Carmacks. Flood hazard mapping for Old Crow and the City of Dawson and the Klondike Valley are expected to be completed in 2025. [A flood hazard mapping study for Mayo is also underway and will be completed in 2026.](#)
 - Worked with municipalities and First Nations governments to finalize the Community Wildfire Protection Plans in Faro, Haines Junction, Teslin, the [City of Dawson and Whitehorse](#). [Plans for Beaver Creek, Mayo, Old Crow, Watson Lake, Destruction Bay and Burwash Landing are underway.](#)
 - Advanced climate change preparedness by initiating development of a permafrost monitoring system for key public buildings, and guidelines to address climate hazards in major infrastructure projects.
 - Established a geohazard mapping program to understand risks from climate change to the Yukon's transportation corridors.
 - Completed flood risk mapping for all transportation corridors in the Yukon.
- We are committed to efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and we support Yukoners in the transition to cleaner transportation options and energy efficient homes and buildings.
- This year, we:
 - Began providing rebates for medium-duty electric vehicles.
 - Passed an electric vehicle charging station regulation under the *Public Utilities Act* to allow First Nation governments, private

Session Briefing Note

Our Clean Future Implementation

Environment and Energy,
Mines and Resources

businesses and municipalities to sell electricity through electric vehicle charging stations.

- Installed electric vehicle chargers in every road-accessible community in the Yukon, enabling zero-emissions travel throughout the territory. 19 fast charging stations are now operational throughout the territory, [and one new Level 2 charger in Swift River](#). (See EMR BN #30)
- Since 2020, we have provided rebates for 518 energy efficient new homes, exceeding our 2030 target of 500.

Third response:

- Existing actions put us on track to reduce the Yukon's emissions by 30 per cent by 2030. However, there is still significant work required to meet our target reduction of 45 per cent by 2030.
- [One of the major drivers of emissions is population – more people means more cars on the road and more homes to heat.](#)
- [However, as the population of the Yukon continues to grow, we aren't seeing the rate of emissions increase that we would expect.](#)
- [We are seeing lower emissions per Yukoner than we saw in 2010.](#)
- [This is a promising sign that the emissions intensity of everyday life for Yukoners may be starting to decrease.](#)
- We [passed](#) legislation to set a target of a 45 per cent reduction in mining sector emissions per unit of production by 2035.
- We will continue to build on Our Clean Future as we learn more and implement new actions. This will be reflected in future annual reports.

Session Briefing Note

Our Clean Future Implementation

Environment and Energy,
Mines and Resources

- We will continue to find opportunities to reach our targets as we work with experts, stakeholders and partner governments across the territory and beyond.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- Climate change and the government's progress in delivering on Our Clean Future commitments is of interest to Yukoners.

Background:

- Our Clean Future was released on September 14, 2020, and now has 178 actions, of which 136 are original actions and 42 are new actions. These actions seek to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and support the Yukon to be highly resilient to the impacts of climate change by 2030.
- The Government of Yukon reports annually on progress for the implementation of Our Clean Future. Four Annual Reports have been published to date, with the latest report released on [November 12, 2024](#) (capturing [2023](#) data).
- The Our Clean Future website was launched in December 2023, which shows the government's commitments and successes towards fighting climate change.

Approved by:

Dennis Berry

November 19, 2024

Deputy Minister, Environment

Date approved

Paul Moore

November 13, 2024

Deputy Minister, Energy, Mines and Resources

Date approved

**Session Briefing Note
Renewable Energy
Initiatives**

Energy, Mines and
Resources and Yukon
Development Corporation

Recommended response:

- We are investing in local renewable energy projects, creating business opportunities in the growing clean energy sector, and encouraging the purchase of green technologies.
- We have temporarily paused intake for the micro-generation program within the Whitehorse, Southern Lakes and Haines Junction areas to address utility concerns about integrating grid-tied solar generation.
- Small-scale solar systems have enjoyed strong popularity and there are currently more than 14 megawatts of direct current solar capacity installed, including over 9 megawatts through the micro-generation program.

Additional response:

- We are providing funding to building owners to install efficient electric heat pumps and biomass heating systems that will reduce greenhouse gas emissions from heating buildings.
- Yukoners are installing renewable energy generating systems at such a high rate that we achieved our micro-generation target of seven megawatts, seven years ahead of schedule.
- Energy Purchase Agreements have been signed by 15 independent power production (IPP) projects. Of these, 11 are producing electricity.
- Energy storage solutions, such as Yukon Energy Corporation's grid battery, are important for integrating renewable energy.

Session Briefing Note Renewable Energy Initiatives

Energy, Mines and
Resources and Yukon
Development Corporation

- The Government of Yukon and the territory's electricity utilities are working collaboratively to ensure our electricity supply is reliable, affordable and sustainable.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- There is strong interest from First Nations governments, municipalities, the public and industry to install renewable energy systems with support from the government.
 - The micro-generation program was paused in December 2023 to allow the Government of Yukon and the utilities to study the impacts of distributed renewable generation on the grid.
-

Background:

Our Clean Future

- Our Clean Future commitments include increasing renewable electricity on the Yukon's main grid to 97 per cent (action E1) and setting a target of increasing renewable heating in the Yukon's buildings to 50 per cent by 2030. (See BN #33)

Renewable energy generation: Independent Power Production Policy

- Yukon Development Corporation's Innovative Renewable Energy Initiative provides financial and technical support to Yukon First Nations, municipalities, and community organizations for community-led renewable energy projects. (See BN #31)
- A four-megawatt wind project was installed and commissioned on Thäy Tăw (Haeckel Hill) earlier this year. The project is owned by Chu Níkwän.
- Five solar IPPs with a total of 5.35 megawatts_{DC} capacity are operating on the main grid.
- 940 kilowatts_{DC} of solar is operating in Old Crow, owned by Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation. 118 kilowatts of DC of solar is operating in Lower Post, connected to the Watson Lake micro-grid.

Session Briefing Note Renewable Energy Initiatives

Energy, Mines and
Resources and Yukon
Development Corporation

- Two new renewable projects were substantially completed in 2024: solar PV with 1.9 megawatts DC capacity owned by White River First Nation, and a 900 kilowatt wind turbine, owned by Kluane First Nation. Both projects are expected to be fully commissioned by early 2025.

Renewable energy generation: Micro-generation Program

- Our Clean Future (action E10) targets seven megawatts of installed renewable electricity capacity by 2030 through micro-generation. As of June 2024, there were 816 micro-generators connected to the Yukon utility grid which are generating 9.7 megawatts_{DC}. This is enough energy to supply about 1.9 per cent of the Yukon's five-year average annual electricity generation.
- Under the micro-generation program, eight First Nations governments and four First Nations Development Corporations have installed 120 renewable energy-generating systems on institutional, commercial and residential buildings throughout the Yukon.

Biomass

- We have supported nine large-scale commercial and institutional biomass heating projects in the territory. We are also aware of four large-scale biomass heating projects built independently from the Energy Branch's programs.
- Highways and Public Works is installing biomass heating systems in Government of Yukon buildings and is exploring the potential for biomass and other renewable energy systems in additional buildings. (See BN #55)

Geothermal resources

- The Government of Yukon is developing legislation to regulate geothermal energy development per Our Clean Future (action E11).
- Geological research is underway on the potential for geothermal as a renewable energy source for heating and electricity. (See BN #62)

Energy storage

- In 2022, the report, Meeting the Yukon's Electricity Needs through 2050, was completed by Navius Research.

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Session Briefing Note Renewable Energy Initiatives

Energy, Mines and
Resources and Yukon
Development Corporation

- The report asserted that Yukon's electricity demand is expected to grow, that solar and wind are the most cost-effective options for meeting electricity demand, electricity storage is critical to high penetration of renewables, and that growing demand for electricity will increase generating costs.
- Yukon Energy Corporation is working towards completing the grid scale battery and will consider other energy storage solutions with independent power producers and through the integrated resource planning process. (See YDC/YEC BN #2)

Approved by:

Paul Moore

November 18, 2024

Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date approved

Gary Gazankas

November 18, 2024

President and CEO
Yukon Development Corporation

Date approved

Recommended response:

- The amendments to the Assessment and Taxation Act and Regulations for the Better Buildings Program were proclaimed on October 20, 2022.
 - The Better Buildings Program offers low-cost funding to eligible property owners to complete energy-efficiency retrofits. This means more property owners will have the means to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions and carbon footprint. The funding is repayable by a local improvement charge attached to the property.
 - The program has received 64 applications of clients interested in participating. There are 10 projects currently underway and 4 have been completed.
 - We have worked closely with municipal governments as partners in this program and have developed administrative processes to ensure its successful delivery. All municipalities have signed agreements indicating their participation in this program.
-

Context:

- This may become an issue because there is interest in the amount of uptake in the program.
-

Background:

- Eligible properties include property that is subject to a land and improvement tax, is located within a participating municipality or outside of a municipal boundary, has an existing home five years or older, has a mobile home situated on titled land permanently or for a minimum of one year.
 - Participating in the Better Buildings Programs also allows for property owners to apply for available energy efficiency grant and rebate programs offered through
-

Yukon government and the federal government after making energy-efficiency retrofits to their properties.

- This loan program makes funding available to eligible residential and commercial property owners at low-interest rates, and is currently administered by the Energy Branch and the Property Assessment and Taxation Branch. The funding is recouped through local improvement taxes paid by the participant on an annual basis.
- The program was announced in the Speech from the Throne in October 2019 and the Minister made a Ministerial Statement on the home retrofit loan program on October 23, 2019.
- This loan program is in addition to current programs at the Yukon Housing Corporation that include the Home Repair Program, and the First Nations Energy Efficiency Program, which is funded through the federal Low Carbon Economy Fund. The Yukon Housing Corporation is also working on energy retrofits to government-owned housing throughout the territory, also funded by the Low Carbon Economy Fund.
- As of January 26th, 2023, Municipal Agreements were completed with all municipalities.
- Since the program launch on October 25, 2022, the Energy Branch has received applications from 64 clients wishing to participate.
- The rapid rise in interest rates has meant a decrease in Property Assessment and Taxation's programs generally. For example, applications for the Rural Electrification and Telecommunications Program applications are the lowest since the 2019/2020 fiscal year. This is consistent with the interest rate increases from 0.75% in March 2022 to 5.25% in July 2023. The current interest rate has since decreased to 4.5%.
- In addition, inflation has increased the cost of materials and services. The Property Assessment and Taxation branch completes a cost study every two years to determine the replacement cost on improvements. It is based on the consumer price index, recent sale price of homes, cost of materials and other factors. Between 2021 and 2023 there was a marked increase in the results of

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Better Buildings Program

Community Services

the cost study, meaning it is more expensive to build a new home or improve an existing home.

- Budget was reduced in 2023/24 for the Better Buildings Program to reflect updated forecast of applications and projects anticipated for the current fiscal year.
- All applications received have been reviewed and approved by the Property Assessment and Taxation branch. Most approved applications are sitting pending, waiting for the client to decide whether they are going to commit to the project or not. The following are our pending numbers by community:
 - 46 Whitehorse
 - 3 Dawson
 - 2 Faro
 - 5 Haines Junction
 - 8 rural Yukon not in a municipality
- Seven new clients joined the program between January 1, 2024, and August 1, 2024.

August 30, 2024

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Low Carbon Economy Fund / Heat Pumps

#37

Fall 2024

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response (If asked about the Heat Pump Program):

- We are committed to helping Yukoners to switch to more efficient, smart heating systems.
- We are in the final stages of signing an agreement with Canada that will support an enhanced rebate program to help low-to-middle-income Yukon households purchase and install a heat pump.
- The new program is unique to the rest of Canada in that it includes non-oil-heated homes. This will support a broader transition away from fossil fuel heating (e.g., propane).
- Once the program is announced, eligible homeowners will be able to receive 100 per cent of the cost to purchase and install a heat pump in their home up to a maximum of \$24,000.
- This new program is anticipated to be funded through agreements with both Natural Resources Canada's Oil to Heat Pump Affordability program and additional support from Environment and Climate Change Canada's Low Carbon Economy Fund.
- Currently Yukoners can apply for a rebate up to \$8,000 for heat pumps under the Good Energy rebates program. I welcome those interested to reach out to the Energy Solutions Centre.

Session Briefing Note

Low Carbon Economy Fund / Heat Pumps

#37

Fall 2024

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Additional Response (If asked about the Low Carbon Economy Fund):

- The Low Carbon Economy Fund supports the Government of Yukon's suite of residential and commercial retrofit programs including: insulation upgrades, air sealing, and biomass heating among other initiatives.
- The original Low Carbon Economy Fund Agreement ended April 1st of this year.
- We are in the process of negotiating a new five-year agreement with Canada under the Low Carbon Economy Fund to continue these initiatives.
- In the absence of a signed Agreement with Canada, the budget for the Government of Yukon retrofit program suite in this fiscal year was decreased by \$3.4 million.
- However, in 2024, as of October, Energy Solutions Centre programs has used Yukon Government funding to support: 61 residential energy retrofits, 36 heat pumps, 570 window replacements, and 614 Energy Star appliances.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- There may be questions about when Yukon might sign agreements and offer an income-tested heat pump program, supported by Canada.
- There may be questions about Energy, Mines and Resources' budget line that refers to the Low Carbon Economy Fund specifically.
- There may be questions on when the Government of Yukon will sign the Low Carbon Economy Fund Agreement with Canada.

Session Briefing Note

Low Carbon Economy Fund / Heat Pumps

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Fall 2024

Energy, Mines and
Resources

- There may be questions on progress on Our Clean Future actions:
 - Action H33 to “create a funding program by 2025 for low-income Yukoners to switch from fossil fuels to smart electric heating systems;”
 - Install 1,300 smart electric heating systems by 2030.

Background:

Heat Pump Program

- The Government of Canada’s Oil to Heat Pump Affordability program seeks to reduce costs for low to median income households to install heat pumps, reduce emissions and reduce energy costs.
- Jurisdictions that co-deliver an income-tested rebate program with Canada can offer funding up to \$20,000 per household, with 75 per cent of the cost recoverable from Natural Resources Canada.
- Given high installation costs, the Government of Yukon wished to offer a greater rebate and is complementing the Natural Resource Canada funding with a small contribution from Environment and Climate Change Canada’s Low Carbon Economy Fund. This makes an additional \$4,000 available per applicant, with 50 per cent recoverable from Environment and Climate Change Canada, increasing the total available federal funding per Yukon household up to \$24,000.
- The Government of Yukon has an approved application to Natural Resources Canada and is currently in the process of finalizing a funding agreement.
- When the program is announced, criteria for Yukoners to be eligible for the new heat pump rebate is expected to include, but not limited to:
 - Home must be connected to the main electric grid
 - Household income must be not more than the 2020 Yukon median after-tax income by household size, plus 15 per cent.
 - Home must be at least six months old, owned by the applicant, and their primary residence.

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Low Carbon Economy Fund / Heat Pumps

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Fall 2024

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Low Carbon Economy Fund

- Run by Environment and Climate Change Canada, the Low Carbon Economy Fund program has funded the Energy Solutions Centre residential and commercial rebates until March 31, 2024, when the program ended.
- The program has since been recapitalized, but there have been significant delays on the Government of Canada's end to re-start the program.
- The Government of Yukon's commercial rebate program has been paused since mid-2023 as a result. The residential rebate programs have continued to be funded by the Government of Yukon's allocation to the Energy Solutions Centre.
- As the Low Carbon Economy Fund program is paused, the budget for this fiscal year is reduced to reflect the delay in the agreement signing.
- The current budget remaining for the Energy Solutions Centre is around \$8 million, with \$2 million spent.
 - This budget encompasses many other residential-focused rebates besides heat pumps, including support for insulation upgrades, air sealing, and biomass heating systems.

Current rebates for heat pumps in the Yukon

- Currently, Yukoners can access the Better Buildings Program and our Good Energy rebates to help with the costs of installing an electric heat pump (up to \$8,000 per household).
- As of October 2024, 36 heat pump rebates have been processed this fiscal year. (34 in Whitehorse, 1 in Haines Junction, and 1 in Marsh Lake)

Approved by:

Paul Moore

Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

October 16, 2024

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Compliance Summary

2024

#39
Fall 2024
Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended Response:

- Natural Resource Officers conduct inspections and enforce legislation regulating natural resources including mining, forestry, land use, water and environmental protection.
- Officers ensure compliance through a progressive range of enforcement responses that range from education to warnings, fines, orders, directions and formal charges.
- From January 1, 2024, until [November 11](#), 2024, Natural Resource Officers completed [551](#) inspections related to mineral resources, waters, forests and public lands.

Additional response:

- The Compliance, Monitoring and Inspections Branch includes the Major Mines Unit, which is dedicated to managing compliance at quartz mines across the territory.
- Hecla Keno Hills Mine site is inspected monthly, but inspections can occur more frequently when compliance matters are identified.
- Natural Resource Officers inspect more regularly when a site is found to have issues. For example, our officers have been on site every week at the Eagle Gold mine since the heap leach failure event (EMR 1042).
- The Compliance, Monitoring and Inspections Branch is also responsible for water quality monitoring of placer watersheds and water sample analysis for compliance monitoring.

Session Briefing Note

Compliance Summary

2024

#39
Fall 2024
Energy, Mines and
Resources

Context — this may be an issue because:

- There is interest in how the Government of Yukon manages and enforces compliance associated with natural resource development activities affecting lands and waters in the Yukon.
- Yukoners, and specifically Yukon First Nations, have increasingly expressed interest in compliance and enforcement activities related to resource development in the Yukon.

Background:

- The Compliance Monitoring and Inspections Branch is staffed by 28 Natural Resource Officers, located across district offices in Dawson City, Haines Junction, Watson Lake, Mayo, Carmacks, Ross River, Teslin and Whitehorse.
- The Major Mines Unit consists of three officers responsible for compliance monitoring and enforcement at major quartz mining and associated exploration sites across the territory.
- The water quality monitoring team is based in Whitehorse and travels around the territory for monitoring.
- The Compliance, Monitoring and Inspections Branch also assists with emergency response for major events as required throughout the territory.

Compliance and Enforcement:

- Natural Resource Officers are responsible for inspecting operations to ensure the terms and conditions of an authorization or license are being met according to applicable legislative or regulatory requirements.
- Natural Resource Officers investigate and may undertake enforcement actions when compliance issues are identified.
- Enforcement actions may consist of a warning, summary convictions ticket, a direction or order, and/or court proceedings.

Session Briefing Note
Compliance Summary
2024

#39
Fall 2024
Energy, Mines and
Resources

Approved by:

Paul Moore

November 12, 2024

Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Mount Nansen

#40
Fall 2024

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- In spring 2024, Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation raised concerns about environmental risks at the abandoned Mount Nansen Mine resulting from high water levels in the tailings pond.
- The Mount Nansen Remediation Limited Partnership received an emergency water licence amendment on March 27, 2024. This amendment authorized additional water management measures to address the tailings pond and treatment capacity issues.
- Water levels in the tailings pond are within normal operating conditions and the previous issues have been resolved.

Additional response:

- Natural Resource Officers inspect the site to ensure the operator is compliant with the terms and conditions of its water licence.
- The most recent site inspection occurred on August 27, 2024, and the next inspection is planned for October.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- At the Yukon Forum on February 16, 2024, the Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation expressed concern regarding potential environmental risk of excessive water volume being stored in the tailings facility with spring melt approaching.
- The First Nation previously raised concerns about reclamation and closure activities and the conditions of the existing water licence with the Yukon Water Board and local media.

Session Briefing Note

Mount Nansen

#40
Fall 2024

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Background:

- Mount Nansen Mine was abandoned by its operator in 1999.
- The original mine was licensed by the Government of Canada before the Government of Yukon assumed responsibility for managing the territory's natural resources.
- In 2019, Mount Nansen Remediation Limited Partnership signed agreements with the Government of Canada and Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation to undertake the remediation and environmental monitoring of the Mount Nansen site.
- The operator's care and maintenance water licence were issued by the Yukon Water Board in August 2021. Water licence inspection reports are publicly available on Waterline.

Approved by:

Lauren Haney

September 16, 2024

Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date approved

Recommended response:

- Yukoners continue to face challenges across the housing continuum, which include:
 - Homelessness and a lack of access to housing with services;
 - A lack of affordable rental supply; and
 - High house prices and mortgage rates.
- Exceptionally high building costs and high borrowing costs due to interest rates are creating significant challenges for both Yukon Housing Corporation and partners.
- The corporation's five-year strategic plan, Creating Home, will help transform affordable housing service delivery through the adoption of a more client-centred and collaborative approach that integrates support and leads to better outcomes for Yukoners.

Additional response:

- Across governments, we are working with stakeholders to develop new land parcels, increase housing stock while also responding to the findings of the 2022 Office of the Auditor General Report on Housing.
 - We continue to advance projects that provide new housing to meet Yukoners' needs.
-

Context:

- The combination of high rental costs, limited affordable housing options and difficulties in securing mortgages, continues to be a challenge for many Yukoners.
-

Background:

General housing information in the Yukon

Homelessness

- At least 197 people were experiencing homelessness in the 2023 Whitehorse Point-in-Time Count. This included: 58% men; 38 % female; 4% other.

Rental housing

- According to the Census 2021, within the renter population in Whitehorse:
-

Housing Issues

Yukon Housing Corporation

- 22.7% of households live in unaffordable housing;¹
- 17.9% live in unsuitable housing; and
- 10.5% live in inadequate housing.

Rents and vacancy rate, Yukon (YBS)

	October 2022	April 2023	October 2023	April 2024
Median rent (all types)	\$1,300	\$1,325	\$1,350	\$1,420
Vacancy rate (all types)	1.9%	2.2%	1.8%	1.8%

Housing construction

- Labour shortages contribute to higher construction costs and are leading to lower residential construction output.²

Residential building construction, Yukon (YBS)

	January-June 2023	January-June 2024
# residential permits issued*	518	329 (-35% decrease)
\$ value of new permits*	\$59.4 million	\$47.6 million (-20% decrease)

*In addition to new dwelling units, residential permits include renovations, garages, and additions. The totals do not include permits issued for plumbing or stoves.

House prices

- Yukon Bureau of Statistics reports that there were 84 real estate transactions recorded in Whitehorse in the first quarter of 2024 – a decrease of 35 compared to the first quarter of 2023 (119).
- While average prices for single-detached homes in Q1-2024 had fallen relative to Q1-2022 and Q1-2023, condo prices for Q1-2024 had increased 13% since Q1-2023.

Average House Prices, Whitehorse (YBS)

Residence type	Whitehorse Average House Prices		
	2023 Q1	2024 Q1	% Change
Single-detached house	\$635,000	\$629,500	-0.9%
Condominium	\$403,800	\$456,400	13.0%

¹ Housing costs are considered “unaffordable” when they exceed 30% of household income.

² Northern Housing Report, 2023

Yukon Housing Corporation Approach to Address Housing Issues

Creating Home – YHC’s new strategic plan

- Creating Home draws on a recognized framework intended to re-design and transform health care delivery, called the Quadruple Aim, and adapts it to housing.
- This innovative approach to housing delivery will lead to better outcomes by:
 - Improving the client and provider experiences;
 - Strengthening community wellbeing; and
 - Contributing to a sustainable future.
- Creating Home represents a significant shift in how Yukon Housing Corporation operates and delivers housing services.

Capital builds recently completed by YHC or partners:

- Since 2022, 10 YHC-led projects have been completed, creating a total of 77 new residential units; and
- 8 major partnership projects have been completed through the Housing Initiatives Fund, creating over 276 new units.

YHC projects completed 2022-2024

YHC Project	Construction Start Date	Construction Completion Date	Number of Units
401 Jeckell Street, Whitehorse	May 2020	December 2022	47
RHI affordable triplex, Whitehorse	June 2021	June 2022	3
RHI affordable triplex, Watson Lake	June 2021	March 2022	3
RHI affordable triplex, Mayo	June 2021	March 2022	3
Accessible duplex, Mayo	July 2022	June 2023	2
Accessible duplex, Carmacks	August 2022	July 2023	2
RRDC staff trailer, Ross River	June 2023	December 2023	3
10-plex*, Old Crow (*Asset owned by HPW and managed by YHC)	Summer 2021	January 2024	10
Accessible duplex, Faro	Summer 2023	Spring 2024	2
Affordable duplex, Dawson City	August 2022	June 2024	2
Total units completed (YHC projects):			77

Major partnership projects completed 2022-2024

Project (Lead)	Construction Completion Date	Number of Units
Bringing Citizens Home, Whitehorse (Champagne and Aishihik FN)	Summer 2022	20
Cornerstone multi-use building, Whitehorse (Opportunities Yukon)	July 2022	53
Normandy Living seniors supportive residence, Whitehorse (KBC)	December 2022	84
Boreal Commons apartments, Whitehorse (536754 Yukon Inc)	January 2023	87
Affordable modular housing, Mayo (Na-Cho Nyäk Dun FN)	March 2023	8
Jëje Zho 12-bed men's shelter, Dawson City (Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in FN)	July 2023	8
VGFN elders complex, Old Crow (Vuntut Gwitchin FN)	January 2024	9
VGFN mobile homes, Old Crow (Vuntut Gwitchin FN)	March 2024	7
Total units completed (major partnerships):		276

Underway or upcoming housing capital projects for YHC and partners

YHC – Underway (113 units):

- 10-unit Supported Living Residence in Watson Lake
- 34-unit residential building with 8 accessible units in Dawson (former Korbo Apartments)
- 45-unit residential building, which includes 9 accessible units in Whitehorse (former Ryder Apartments)
- 6 staff units across three duplexes in Burwash Landing
- 18 two-bedroom units – purchase of 190 Olive May Way in Whitehorse

YHC – Upcoming (37+ units):

Community housing	Staff housing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 units in Mayo • 6-plex in Teslin • 6-plex in Carcross • 6-plex Haines Junction • Accessible triplex in Whitehorse • Accessible duplex in Ross River 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accessible duplex in Destruction Bay • Accessible duplex in Pelly Crossing

Major partnership projects underway (299 units):

Project	Anticipated Start Date	Anticipated Completion Date	Number of Units
Safe at Home Society's permanent supportive housing project "The Hearth"	March 2024	Spring 2026	67
Safe at Home Society's temporary housing project at 408 Alexander	May 2024	October 2024	17
DDDC's affordable rental project "Winter Crossing"	Spring 2024	Spring 2026	105
Northern Community Land Trust Society's "Project 1096"	June 2024	December 2025	32
HIF-7 funding recipients	Spring 2024	Fall 2026	78
Total units			299

Rent subsidy programs to make life more affordable for renters and seniors

- July 2023, the corporation acquired an additional 16 units for lease from Normandy, for a total of 26 units to lease to clients through its rent supplement program.
- Since 2020, the corporation has supported over 300 households pay rent through the Canada-Yukon Housing Benefit. As of September 2024, 170 clients are receiving monthly support.

Support for homeowners

- March 8, the corporation announced the Canada-Yukon Housing Benefit Homeowner Stream for homeowners in severe core housing need³ with annual household incomes under \$100,000:
 - Clients received a one-time payment of \$1,000.00 for Whitehorse homeowners and \$1,500.00 for homeowners living outside of Whitehorse.
- June 2023, the Yukon government launched an \$8.25 million flood recovery program for residents and businesses affected by flooding in the Klondike Valley.
- April 2023, Yukon Housing Corporation launched the expanded Yukon Home Ownership Program to provide qualified households with mortgages to build or buy their homes across the territory, including Whitehorse.
- The program was recently discontinued due to low uptake and the corporation is currently exploring alternative program options to support homeownership.

³ Severe core housing need is spending 50% or more of a household's income on shelter costs.

- In 2020, Yukon Housing Corporation launched the revised Home Repair Program to support low to moderate-income Yukon homeowners to remain in their homes and age in place by providing funding to address mobility requirements, repairs or core housing needs.

Support for new residential land development

September 2024	<p>As part of the Government of Yukon's ongoing commitment to increase land and housing availability and support business growth, new residential and industrial lots were released in partnership with municipalities and Yukon First Nations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> seven residential lots in Haines Junction, Mayo and Watson Lake; and three industrial lots in Teslin and Haines Junction <p>This was the sixth lot release this year and is a direct result of the Government of Yukon's historic investment in land development. Through the lotteries and tenders process, the Government of Yukon has released 685 lots across the territory since 2021 and is on track to release over 1,000 lots by 2026 (TAB #59).</p>
August 2024	<p>As part of its efforts to work in collaboration with municipalities and Yukon First Nations governments to address housing and business space needs across the territory, the Government of Yukon released 33 new residential lots across the Yukon.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Twelve lots were made available in Carmacks and Faro 21 country residential lots were made available in the Lone Tree subdivision north of Teslin.
June 2023	Government of Yukon partnered with the Government of Canada and the City of Dawson to develop four new residential lots in Dawson.
February 2023	120 lots, including single family, multi-family and townhouse lots in Whistle Bend made available through public lottery.
March 2023	Government of Yukon partnered with Liard First Nation on developing 43 new residential lots on Frances Avenue in Watson Lake.
March 2023	74 residential lots in Logan, Mayo and in Whitehorse's Whistle Bend made available through public lottery.
November 2022	Signed a loan agreement with Kwanlin Dün First Nation's arm's-length development corporation, Chu Níkwän Limited Partnership, for a new

Session Briefing Note

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Fall 2024

Housing Issues

Yukon Housing Corporation

	residential land development project at Copper Ridge West in Whitehorse, the first large-scale residential land development on settlement land in the Yukon. An amended loan agreement was signed August 2023 with Chu Níkwän for the same development.
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25-09-24
Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Inflation and Affordability (Corporate Note)

Fall 2024

Finance

Recommended response:

- Inflation has continued to improve in recent months, but Yukon households continue to see their budgets stretched by elevated prices, with lower-income households often feeling the worst effects.
- The Government of Yukon continues to monitor inflation and its impact on Yukoners, so that we can take steps to ease the burden.
- As inflationary pressures continue to lessen, efforts to make life more affordable for Yukoners and to help industry are shifting from short-term assistance to measures with the potential to provide longer-term benefits, such as actions to improve home affordability.

Additional response:

- The Main Estimates for this year has continued to build on existing supports for Yukoners by making sure they can access essential services at prices they can afford.
- Budget 2024-25 included investments to advance affordable housing projects across the territory. From the Housing First Project in Watson Lake to the recently awarded replacement of the Ryder Apartments in Whitehorse, the Yukon government is taking action to build more affordable homes for Yukoners, especially those in vulnerable situations.

Session Briefing Note

Inflation and Affordability (Corporate Note)

Fall 2024

Finance

- There is also over \$42 million in continued funding for early learning and childcare. This includes funding for the universal childcare program, which has reduced childcare fees to less than \$10 per day, on average.
- We are also making life more affordable and leading the nation with our Yukon-wide dental program, which has \$5.4 million in continued funding for 2024-25.
- To make sure that more people have the option of staying home when they are sick, the Temporary Paid Sick Leave was extended.
- We also extended the Interim Electrical Rebate, which provides welcome relief from power bills to Yukoners across the territory.
- In addition to items included in the 2024-25 Main Estimates, additional initiatives in many departments are continuing to assist Yukoners with the cost of living.
- The Department of Community Services, for example, is developing a program that will see free transit passes provided to non-governmental organizations, vulnerable populations and youth.
- The Department of Health and Social Services will also provide additional funding of \$777,000 for Safe at Home to provide temporary supportive housing at 408 Alexander Street.

Session Briefing Note

Inflation and Affordability (Corporate Note)

Fall 2024

Finance

- These are just a few examples of the many programs and initiatives that continue to support Yukoners.

Third response

- The Government of Yukon has also remained responsive to higher inflation in recent years through its various grants and subsidies, which are indexed to inflation. These include:
 - Subsidies for medical travel
 - The Yukon Child Benefit
 - Social Assistance Payments
 - Student Financial Assistance
 - Seniors' benefits
 - The Pioneer Utility grant
 - The Comprehensive Municipal Grant Regulation
 - Residential rent caps
- The Yukon's minimum wage is also responsive to price changes, as its annual change is tied to inflation in the previous year.
- After growing 6.8 per cent in 2023, the minimum wage increased a further 4.9 per cent to \$17.59 per hour on April 1, 2024.
- The Yukon's minimum wage is the second highest wage in Canada, behind only Nunavut's minimum wage of \$19.00 per hour.

Session Briefing Note

Inflation and Affordability (Corporate Note)

Fall 2024

Finance

- These increases also contribute towards the strong earnings growth we continue to see in the territory, where average weekly earnings grew 6.1 per cent over the first half of 2024. This is the strongest growth in the country.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Inflation has fallen from historical highs, but Yukoners are still dealing with higher prices for a variety of goods and services following a lengthy period of elevated inflation.
- The moderation of inflationary pressures that began to take hold late last year has continued into 2024. Growth in the Whitehorse Consumer Price Index (CPI) has been much lower in every month in 2024, and inflation in recent months has been near or below the historic average of 2 per cent.

Background:

Inflation – Recent performance and outlook

- Following ten increases in the overnight rate since March 2022, the Bank of Canada has made three 25 basis point cuts in 2024, with the overnight rate dropping from 5.0 per cent to 4.25 per cent. Expectations of further rate cuts this year and in 2025, could further reduce pressure on shelter prices as mortgage rates decline.

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Inflation and Affordability (Corporate Note)

Fall 2024

Finance

- Both locally and nationally, price pressures have lessened, and inflation continues to trend towards historic norms. The current outlook for the Whitehorse CPI reflects expectations of a return to 'normal' levels of inflation, with the inflation forecast of 2 per cent in 2024, much improved from 4.9 per cent in 2023 and 6.8 per cent in 2022. Beyond 2024, annual inflation is expected to remain at 2 per cent over the remainder of the five-year forecast.

PROGRAMS AND OTHER MEASURES THAT SUPPORT AFFORDABILITY

Five-Year Capital Plan projects supporting housing affordability (Yukon Housing Corporation)

- The **Old Crow 10-Plex Mixed-Use Housing** facility is complete and opened in April 2024.
- Construction of the **10-plex Housing First Project in Watson Lake** began in the summer of 2023. It is scheduled to be completed in the fall 2024.
- Construction of the **Faro and Dawson Duplex** projects started in summer 2023 and is now complete.
- Groundwork began at the old **Ryder Apartments in Whitehorse** in September 2024 and we are aiming for completion in spring 2026. When completed, the new complex is anticipated to deliver over 45 new units.

Universal Child Care Program (Education)

- Universal child care is available to all Yukon families using licensed child care spaces. The universal child care program has reduced fees to less than \$10 per day, on average, for families across the Yukon.

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Inflation and Affordability (Corporate Note)

Fall 2024

Finance

Dental Care program (Health and Social Services)

- The Yukon's Dental Program was launched in 2023 and provides \$1,300 per year in dental benefits to Yukoners without dental coverage. The program will cover dental treatments necessary to relieve pain and infection, prevent disease, treat cavities, and restore chewing and social function. It will also offer full coverage for preventive care, such as routine dental cleaning.

Paid sick leave program (Economic Development)

- On April 1, 2023, the Department of Economic Development launched the Paid Sick Leave Rebate. The program runs for two 12-month blocks:
 - April 1, 2023 to March 31, 2024; and
 - April 1, 2024 to March 31, 2025
- The Paid Sick Leave Rebate is a temporary program that offers up to 40 hours of paid sick leave to employees and self-employed Yukoners that earn less than the average private-sector wage of \$33.94/hour. The program includes all illnesses (and injuries not covered by any other Act, benefit, or program). The program is available to employees regardless of whether their employer offers paid sick leave, though employees must use all paid sick leave available to them through their employer before they are eligible for the Paid Sick Leave Rebate. The program is still in effect and will run until March 31, 2025.

Yukon Child Benefit (Health and Social Services and Finance)

- The Yukon Child Benefit provides monthly payments to modest and low-income households who have children under 18. The maximum benefit per child is now tied to inflation, effective the 2023–24 benefit year.

Session Briefing Note

Inflation and Affordability (Corporate Note)

Fall 2024

Finance

Yukon Seniors' Income Supplement (Health and Social Services)

- The Yukon Seniors' Income Supplement provides a monthly income supplement for eligible Yukoner senior's receiving Old Age Security (OAS) and the Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS) from the federal government. This amount is adjusted for inflation in October, each year.

Inflation Relief Rebate and Interim Electrical Rebate (Yukon Development Corporation)

- The Inflation Relief Rebate, a \$50 rebate that was automatically applied to electrical customers' bills, was a temporary measure to address inflation. The Inflation Relief Rebate was most recently applied to all ATCO Electric Yukon and Yukon Energy bills for November and December 2023 and January 2024.
- The Interim Electrical Rebate continues to provide residential electrical customers with a maximum rebate of \$22.62 per month based on the electricity they consume, up to 1,000 kilowatt hours (up to \$271.44 per year). This affordability measure will continue until March 2025.

Social Assistance Review (Health and Social Services)

- Health and Social Services is undertaking a review of the Yukon's Social Assistance rates to inform options to improve the delivery of the program and ensure it is meeting the needs of program clients.
- While the review is underway, the department is providing a \$100 monthly increase to eligible Social Assistance recipients.

Out of Home Childcare Increases (Health and Social Services)

- To offset inflationary cost of living increases and provide sufficient financial resources to meet the needs of children placed in their care, Health and Social Services provided an ongoing 10 per cent increase to monthly payments to caregivers of children in out of home care in 2023-24, on top of the annual indexed increase.

Session Briefing Note

Inflation and Affordability (Corporate Note)

Fall 2024

Finance

- Combined, this amounted to a 16.46 per cent rate increase for community and extended family caregivers. The new rates are as follows:
 - o Whitehorse: \$46.86 per day
 - o Rural Communities: \$50.16 per day
 - o Old Crow: \$86.40 per day
- Rates are indexed annually to the Whitehorse Consumer Price Index, with an increase of 2.4% scheduled to take effect in October 2024.

Supportive Housing (Health and Social Services)

- \$777,000 for Safe at Home will go towards establishing temporary supportive housing at 408 Alexander Street.

Canada-Yukon Housing Benefit Rental Subsidy (Yukon Housing Corporation)

- The Canada-Yukon Housing Benefit offers a rental subsidy for low-to-moderate income renters.

Comprehensive Municipal Grant (Community Services)

- The Comprehensive Municipal Grant is how the Government of Yukon directly funds municipal governments. This core funding supplements municipal resources and pays for vital services, like the provision of fresh drinking water, the collection of solid waste and recycling, recreation programming and other services as required under the Municipal Act and other legislation.
- The high inflation seen in 2022 (6.8 per cent) increased the grant payments provided in April 2024. This resulted in a \$2.3 million increase for Yukon municipalities with overall contributions of over \$24.5 million for the 2024-25 fiscal year.

Session Briefing Note
Inflation and Affordability
(Corporate Note)

Fall 2024
Finance

Energy retrofits and funding to improve efficiency and offset costs (Energy, Mines and Resources)

- Energy efficiency rebate programs are available for the transportation sector, renewable heating sector, and the construction sector focusing on high efficiency buildings.
- For existing homes, the Energy Branch offers the Good Energy rebate program for high performance heating systems and upgrades to thermal enclosures including insulation and windows, and high-performance new homes. Taking these measures will save homeowners money on their energy costs.
- Between January 1, 2018, and June 30, 2024, 286 high-performance retrofits to residential, commercial and institutional buildings have been completed across the territory.
- Innovative programs like the Better Buildings Program that offer up-front funding, combined with our Good Energy rebates, make energy retrofits more accessible and affordable for Yukoners.

Approved by:	
Jessica Schultz	September 25, 2024
_____ Deputy Minister Department of Finance	_____ Date Approved

Session Briefing Note

Supplementary Overview (Corporate Note)

Fall 2024

Finance

Recommended response:

- The 2024-25 Supplementary Estimates No. 1 forecasts an overall gross increase of \$150.1 million in O&M spending, with an offsetting increase of \$20.7 million in recoveries. The net increase in new O&M spending is forecast at \$129.4 million.
- Capital spending for Supplementary Estimates No. 1 reflects a slight overall gross decrease of \$299,000 in spending and a \$4.2 million decrease in recoveries, resulting in a net increase in spending of \$3.9 million. These adjustments are mainly the result of updated cashflow forecasts for various projects.
- Revenues are projected to decrease by \$8.8 million, primarily due to a revenue forecast update from Canada which revised the projection for Corporate Income Tax downward by \$6.7 million as well as a reduction in royalty payments from Victoria Gold of \$2.5 million. This is partially offset by a \$350,000 increase for driver licenses due to recently increased fees.
- The Yukon government continues to maintain a surplus. As part of the 2024-25 Main Estimates, the Yukon government budgeted for a \$50 million contingency to address emergency pressures. \$50 million of the contingency has been applied towards the pressures identified in the Supplementary Estimates No. 1.
- The use of the contingency fund allows the government to present a revised surplus of \$75.4 million as part of these Supplementary Estimates. Changes in the Supplementary Estimates result in a revised year-end net debt of \$530.4 million

Session Briefing Note

Supplementary Overview

(Corporate Note)

Fall 2024

Finance

Additional response:

- The Supplementary Estimates reflect an O&M increase mainly for:
 - \$50 million for payments to the Receiver for environmental protection work at the Eagle Gold Mine;
 - \$34 million for pressures in Insured Health reflecting support for the wellbeing of Yukoners;
 - \$21 million for wildland firefighting costs in response to the significant fire season experienced in the territory and which helped ensure the safety of Yukoners; and
 - \$10 million for various Yukon Hospital Corporation funding requirements including the added O&M costs of converting ten beds at the Thompson Centre for Acute Care use.
- For the Supplementary Estimates, updates to the 2024-25 Capital Plan have resulted in a decreased allocation of \$299,000. Notable changes include:
 - \$1.9 million towards the completion of the Mental Wellness Unit at Whitehorse General Hospital;
 - \$1.9 million for long-term and acute care bed optimization at Whistle Bend Place and Whitehorse General Hospital;
 - Decrease of \$3.2 million due to cash flow revisions for the construction of the school in Burwash Landing;
 - Decrease of \$600 thousand for the creation of new campsites aligning costs with the revised project timeline.

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Supplementary Overview (Corporate Note)

Fall 2024

Finance

- There is an increase of 46.6 in FTEs (Full Time Equivalents) for Supplementary Estimates No. 1. These are primarily to hire new long-term care staff in support of additional care beds at Whistle Bend Place, for the Aging with Dignity initiative and new FTEs for schools including teachers, clerical and custodial staff.
- There is also an increase in FTEs related to a transfer in the Capital Planning Office from Highways and Public Works capital budget to Finance in the O&M budget.

Corporate approach to fiscal sustainability:

- We continue to work to ensure that government spending is allocated in a way that meets key priorities and long-term goals.
- To meet these priorities, departments continue to follow established processes to ensure that funding is distributed efficiently and effectively across public services and programs.
- This means regular financial scrutiny is applied to decision-making and that new requests for funding are approved in a financially sustainable way, while continuing to provide the services that Yukoners expect.
- This coordinated approach to funding ensures that government can respond to new and evolving challenges, while managing resources responsibly.

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Supplementary Overview (Corporate Note)

Fall 2024

Finance

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The 2024-25 Second Appropriation Act is tabled in the fall session and will be the subject of debate.
-

Background:

- Supplementary Estimates are used annually by a government to account for unforeseen spending at the time of tabling the annual Budget. It is common to have one or two spending updates throughout the fiscal year.
- They are tabled during the fall and spring sessions, debated and voted on in the legislature and provide departments with increased spending authority for O&M and Capital for the current fiscal year.

Approved by:

Jessica Schultz

September 19, 2024

Deputy Minister, Finance

Date approved

Truth and Reconciliation Commission – Update on Calls to Action

Executive Council
Office

Recommended response:

- Reconciliation is an ongoing process and a shared responsibility of all governments and individuals in the Yukon.
- Our government is deeply committed to advancing reconciliation through collaboration and partnership with Indigenous governments and groups.
- We continue to share our progress toward addressing the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action, most recently through a progress report and Pathways magazine both released in Fall 2023.
- The magazine and report provided an update on the actions being taken across the Yukon government and in collaboration with First Nation governments and groups in areas including child welfare, health, education and justice.

Additional response:

- The Government of Yukon and Yukon First Nation governments are leaders in demonstrating a collaborative approach to reconciliation.
- While there is still work to do, targeted investments are resulting in meaningful change and creating better programs and services for all Yukoners.
- We will continue our collaborative work to implement and report on the Calls to Action, including through work on the Yukon Forum joint priorities and by implementing the *Putting People First* recommendations.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The 2023 mandate letters include a commitment to fulfill the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's (TRC's) Calls to Action.
- The 2023 Confidence and Supply Agreement includes a commitment to working with Yukon First Nations to continue to implement the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission through targeted investments.

Truth and Reconciliation Commission – Update on Calls to Action

Executive Council
Office

Background:

- The TRC report *Honouring the Truth, Reconciling for the Future* was released in 2015 and contains 94 Calls to Action on redressing the harms resulting from Residential Schools and creating better relations between the federal, provincial and territorial governments and Indigenous Peoples. There are 32 Calls to Action that relate directly to YG.
- The Government of Yukon and Yukon First Nations (YFNs) collaborated on addressing the Calls to Action under the 2017 Yukon Forum Joint Priority Action Plan and through other reconciliation initiatives, such as supporting the important work of the YFN-led Yukon Residential Schools and Missing Children Project.
- The Government of Yukon has taken additional steps to address the Calls to Action, including:
 - establishing the position of Assistant Deputy Minister of First Nations Initiatives at the Department of Education, signing an agreement to establish a YFN School Board and entering into education agreements with all YFNs (speaks to Calls 7 and 10 directed to the federal government);
 - supporting Indigenous athletes and the North American Indigenous Games (Call 88);
 - implementing the YFN Procurement Policy (relates to Call 92) and the Representative Public Service Plan: *Breaking Trail Together* (relates to Call 7);
 - working with YFNs and Yukon Indigenous women's groups to implement the Yukon's *Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and 2-Spirit+ People Strategy* (MMIWG2S+ Strategy) (relates to Call 41);
 - participating at the Trilateral Table on the Wellbeing of YFN Children and Families to address gaps for culturally appropriate parenting programs (Call 5); and
 - receiving input from YFNs on Health and Social Services programming through the Mental Health Advisory Committee (relates to Call 19).

Approved by:

Justin Ferbey

2024 08 20

Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office

Date

Prepared for Premier Ranj Pillai
Executive Council Office

Date prepared: August 5, 2024
Last Updated: October 2, 2024
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Session Briefing Note

Fall 2024

Carbon Pricing (Corporate Note)

Environment & Finance

Recommended response:

- Since its introduction in 2019, the Government of Yukon has been supportive of carbon pricing as a policy to help us reduce emissions and move toward our ambitious climate targets.
- We take a balanced approach to carbon pricing in the territory, one which considers the need to reduce emissions as well as the fair return of carbon pricing revenues to Yukoners.
- The Yukon's carbon rebate is revenue neutral. We are committed to both reducing carbon emissions in the territory and to returning all the federal government's revenues to Yukoners.
- Returning proceeds to individuals, municipal governments, Yukon First Nations, businesses, and mining operations is a critical part of our approach to carbon pricing in the Yukon.
- We are returning 100 per cent of the federal carbon levy to these five rebate groups who receive more, on average, than they pay in carbon pricing levies.

Additional response:

- The departments of Environment and Finance work together to coordinate with our federal counterparts to assess the implications of carbon pricing in the territory and to ensure the needs of the territory are recognized in national policy.
- This includes retaining control over how revenues are distributed back to Yukon individuals, municipal governments, Yukon First Nations and businesses.

Session Briefing Note

Fall 2024

Carbon Pricing (Corporate Note)

Environment & Finance

- It also includes excluding the carbon price from electricity generation and aviation, in recognition of the unique constraints of our northern jurisdiction.

Third response:

- Carbon pricing is just one tool in our toolkit to address the climate emergency.
- We continue to implement Our Clean Future to reduce the Yukon's greenhouse gas emissions and, more broadly, to reduce the impact of the carbon levy on Yukoners.
- In December of last year, we announced 42 new actions under Our Clean Future as part of the third Our Clean Future annual report outlining the progress we have made on the strategy.
- Although we have made progress on many of our commitments, there is still significant work required to meet our target of reducing our emissions by 45 per cent by 2030.
- Ensuring that we utilize every policy lever at our disposal, including carbon pricing, is essential to meet our goals.
- Together, we are finding solutions to reduce our emissions while strengthening our economy and supporting our industry partners.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Carbon pricing remains a highly sensitive topic across the country with many provinces and territories voicing their own perspective on how they would like to see this pricing mechanism handled moving forward.

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Carbon Pricing (Corporate Note)

Environment & Finance

- In October 2023, the federal government announced a temporary 3-year exemption for home-heating oil from the federal carbon price, with the intention of helping Atlantic Canada in particular.
- While Atlantic Canada welcomed this change, the exemption has received considerable backlash. Most provincial governments (except for British Columbia) have called for extending the carbon price exemption to all home-heating fuels (including natural gas).
- Critics also argued that the exemption undermines the credibility of the carbon tax and may weaken the incentives to switch to lower carbon heating options.

Background:

- The federal Draft Regulations Amending the Fuel Charge Regulations stipulate that all heating oil will be exempt from the fuel charge starting November 8, 2023, until April 2027.
- This means that light fuel oil consumption in all buildings, including residential, commercial, and institutional, will be exempt from the fuel charge.
- Nearly half (49.2% in 2022) of Yukon homes use oil-based heating.
- In Yukon, individuals, businesses, placer/quartz mining operations, Yukon First Nations governments and municipal governments are all eligible for a rebate for carbon pricing.
- Individuals who live outside of Whitehorse receive a remote supplement, which was recently increased from 10 to 20% (and is now in line with the federal remote supplement for backstop jurisdictions including Alberta, Manitoba, Ontario, and Saskatchewan).
- On September 12, 2024, British Columbia's Premier David Eby announced that if the federal government were to remove the carbon pricing backstop, then British Columbia would end the carbon levy in the province.
- British Columbia has had its own carbon pricing system in place since 2008.

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Carbon Pricing (Corporate Note)

Environment & Finance

- British Columbia and the Yukon were the remaining supporters of carbon pricing as a climate change policy, with all other provinces publicly opposing the federal system. In late 2023, the newly elected Premier of the Northwest Territories also called for an exemption from the federal carbon levy for the territory.
- To date, Canada has been firm on granting no exception to the backstop.

Approved by:

Dennis Berry

October 2, 2024

A/Deputy Minister of Environment_____
Date approved

Jessica Schultz

October 1, 2024

Deputy Minister of Finance_____
Date approved

Eagle Gold Mine - Impacts

ECO-FIN-EMR

Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon recognizes the seriousness of the heap leach failure that occurred at the Eagle Gold mine on June 24 and is treating the response as a government priority that reflects the urgency of the situation.
- Our priorities are to ensure the health and wellbeing of Yukoners and to protect the environment.
- An Independent Review Board has been established to investigate the heap leach failure that occurred at the Eagle Gold mine. Three highly qualified experts are on the Independent Review Board. The objective of the investigation is to determine the causes of the heap leach facility failure.
- We are committed to working with the First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun to develop remediation strategies for the failure. A joint team of technical experts hired by the Government of Yukon and the First Nation meet on a regular basis to inform our actions.
- For the most up to date information on the situation at Eagle Gold Mine and actions we are taking, you can visit Yukon.ca/victoria-gold-updates.

Additional responses:

- On August 14, 2024, PricewaterhouseCoopers Inc. was appointed by the court as Receiver of the assets and property of Victoria Gold Corp.

Eagle Gold Mine -

ECO-FIN-EMR

Impacts

The Receiver is responsible for overseeing remediation of the heap leach failure and its environmental impacts, including compliance with territorial and federal orders.

- The Government of Yukon is committed to a thorough accounting of events leading up to the failure and the development of recommendations so that a similar event does not happen again in the Yukon.
- Once the causes of the failure are determined by the Independent Review Board, this information will inform the most appropriate subsequent steps and potential investigations, including consideration of a public inquiry.
- As of September 4, 2024, there are 27 liens against Victoria Gold worth over \$58.7 million.

Environmental and health impacts:

- The Department of Health and Social Services is monitoring impacts on human health. This includes ongoing review of any technical information and water sampling results, as well as situational reports, as they become available. Results from surface water samples taken show that the regulated drinking water system serving the area continues to meet the guidelines for drinking water quality.
- Water is sampled both at the site and downstream of Victoria Gold's Eagle Gold Mine. Water samples are collected regularly at select sites to monitor water quality. The results of the testing will let us know the

Eagle Gold Mine - Impacts

ECO-FIN-EMR

impacts and inform next steps.

- Technical experts from the Government of Yukon, the First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun and the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans are working closely together to monitor the fish and wildlife in the surrounding areas of the Eagle Gold Mine.

Economic and labour market impacts:

- Operations ceased at Eagle Gold Mine after the heap leach failure occurred. This situation has changed the outlook for mineral production in the Yukon and resulted in a notable downward revision in the medium-term outlook for the Yukon's real Gross Domestic Product (GDP). The 2024-25 Interim Fiscal and Economic Update released in early October includes the latest forecasts for real GDP.
- At the close of 2023, Victoria Gold had 471 direct hires and another 134 on contract.
- Of the more than 600 employed, the company reported that about 34 per cent were local, amounting to approximately 200 local workers. This represents about 0.8 per cent of the territorial labour force.
- Any possible negative impacts on the labour market are expected to be short-lived, as many displaced workers are likely to be reabsorbed into what is currently a tight labour market. The Yukon's unemployment rate is about half the national figure and the local job vacancy rate has been among the highest in the country throughout

Eagle Gold Mine -

ECO-FIN-EMR

Impacts

2024.

- Monitoring of labour market data, such as the number of unemployed and the number of Employment Insurance claimants, for potential impacts of the mine closure is ongoing.
- As the Eagle Gold situation continues to unfold, we should have a better understanding if there may be longer-term impacts for the local economy.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- The June 24, 2024 heap leach failure at the Eagle Gold Mine affects the environmental and socio-economic wellbeing of Yukoners – from an environmental and business perspective.

Background:

- On June 24, 2024, a failure occurred at the heap leach facility of the Eagle Gold Mine operated by Victoria Gold Corporation.
- On July 30, 2024, the Premier provided remarks to the Council of Yukon First Nations' General Assembly on a variety of topics including mining and the incident at Eagle Gold Mine
- On August 5, 2024, the Premier provided a statement on mining activity in the Traditional Territory of First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun.
- On August 14, 2024, the Government of Yukon with First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun, submitted an application for receivership of Eagle Gold Mine.
- On August 16, 2024, the receivership was granted. It was appointed to PricewaterhouseCoopers. Implementing a receiver is an established process under federal bankruptcy legislation. Decision making and responsibility has

Eagle Gold Mine - Impacts

ECO-FIN-EMR

shifted from Victoria Gold to PricewaterhouseCoopers, with direction from the Yukon government.

- As of September 20, 2024, the Government of Yukon has done 10 technical briefings to continue to keep Yukoners informed with up-to-date information.
- The Yukon.ca website is updated on a regular basis along with weekly information bulletins to inform the public on the Victoria Gold heap leach failure's current situation.

Approved by:

Justin Ferbey

October 9, 2024

Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office

[Date approved]

Lauren Haney

October 9, 2024

Deputy Minister, Energy, Mines and Resources

[Date approved]

Jessica Schultz

October 9, 2024

Deputy Minister, Finance

[Date approved]

Session Briefing Note

Fall 2024

EMR Accomplishments

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Energy and Climate Change:

- In early 2024, we passed a regulation that allows for the private sale of electricity through electric vehicle charging stations. The regulation is an important move to support EV infrastructure and our clean transportation goals.
- In early 2024 we launched a new rebate program to support diverse forms of electric transportation devices such as electric snowmobiles, and ATV's. At the same time, we have issued rebates for 1,300 electric bicycles.
- We have rebated over 500 energy-efficient new homes since 2020, surpassing our target five years ahead of schedule.
- As of June 30, 2024, our funding programs have supported 185 residential and commercial smart electric heating systems, 235 high performance home retrofits, 51 institutional building retrofits, and 518 new high efficiency homes. We have also supported the installation of 9 large scale biomass heating systems in commercial buildings.
- We continue to support electrification of transportation. As of June 30, 2024, there are 441 light-duty zero-emission vehicles, 22 medium-duty zero-emission vehicles and four electric motorcycles registered in the territory.

Mineral Resources and Geoscience Services:

- We continue to identify and monitor geohazards in and around our communities and along highway corridors: this past spring we

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Fall 2024

EMR Accomplishments

Energy, Mines and
Resources

released base geohazards maps for Haines Junction and Beaver Creek, and we are developing a geohazards database.

- Through our Yukon Mineral Exploration Program, we are providing \$1.4M to 43 early-stage exploration projects this year; collectively, these projects anticipate spending over \$4.1M this year in the Yukon.
- Following eight years of targeted geothermal studies, we have recently released a compendium of all geothermal data for the Yukon. The data will be useful for identifying opportunities for harnessing this renewable energy source.
- We are making excellent progress on the Minto Mine Reclamation and Closure Plan. We are using funds held in security to do this work.
- We are preparing for a 2025 water treatment campaign for the Wolverine mine tailings storage facility and a multi-year asset removal program by third-party groups has been initiated.
- We are prioritizing the protection of the environment and human health and safety at the abandoned Ketz River and Clinton Creek Type II mine sites. This work relies on activities such as access road bridge replacement, and operation of the arsenic water treatment plant at Ketz.
- We are finalizing agreements that will transition control of the Ketz River and Clinton Creek mines from the Government of Yukon to the Government of Canada.

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EMR Accomplishments

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Geothermal and Petroleum Resources:

- We continue to regulate liquid natural gas (LNG) and oil and gas related activities in the Yukon in a safe and environmentally responsible manner that considers socio-economic effects on Yukoners.
- We are committed to address oil and gas matters of shared priority with First Nations governments through the North Yukon Oil and Gas Memorandum of Understanding.
- We are meeting the Yukon's interests in future oil and gas activity in the Beaufort Sea at the Western Arctic Offshore (Tariuq) Oil and Gas Accord and legislation implementation table.
- In June 2024 we hosted representatives from the governments of Canada and the Northwest Territories, and the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation for a workshop to identify scientific and socio-economic studies for the Beaufort Sea region a part of commitments Canada made to northerners to understand the impacts of future oil and gas development.
- Geothermal policy development is underway with legislative development to occur in collaboration with First Nation governments.

Forest Management:

- We have made significant strides to ensure that Yukoners have a sustainable wood supply. By collaborating with industry and First Nations, we've submitted harvesting projects for the areas of Marsh

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EMR Accomplishments

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Lake, Lubbock Valley, Teslin, and Watson Lake to the Yukon Socio-economic and Environmental Assessment Board.

- We have secured an additional two years of funding for the Forestry Support Program through a partnership between the Government of Yukon and the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency. This program supports commercial harvesters and retailers by reducing barriers to getting firewood to market. Applicants have until March 31, 2025, or until the potential funding of up to \$200,000 in available funds is allocated to apply.
- On May 15, 2024, we launched a new online application system for personal use fuel wood and commercial morel mushroom permits. The new system is easy to use and accessible for users across the territory.
- We have restarted the Whitehorse and Southern Lakes Forest Resources Management Plan working group. On July 22, 2024, the group met to discuss timber harvest planning and wildfire risk reduction.

Land Planning:

- The Government of Yukon has concluded consultation with Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Government and affected First Nations on the Recommended Dawson Regional Land Use Plan. This concludes our careful review of the Recommended Plan and a response submission to the Planning Commission is anticipated Fall 2024.

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EMR Accomplishments

Energy, Mines and
Resources

- The Government of Yukon continues to work with the First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun, Carcross/Tagish First Nation, Teslin Tlingit Council, Kluane First Nation, and Champagne and Aishihik First Nations towards initiating regional land use planning processes.
- The Government of Yukon concluded engagement and consultation on local area planning and zoning including Golden Horn residential lot sizing, Kookatsoon wood processing, and both agriculture and biomass hubs in the Ibex Valley.
- The Government of Yukon continues to collaborate with First Nation partners to implement the Peel Watershed Regional Land Use Plan and the North Yukon Regional Land Use Plan.

Land Management:

- Over the spring and summer of 2024, we released land lots across the Yukon. We released lots in Whistle Bend, Grizzly Valley, Mendenhall, Golden Horn, Teslin, Carmacks, and Faro.
- We signed an Agreement for Sale with the Northern Community Land Trust Society for them to create over 30 affordable home ownership units.
- We also signed an Agreement for Sale with PCR Construction for them to develop the Macaulay Lodge property.
- We signed a Contract of Purchase and Sale with West End Developments for them to develop the 5th and Rogers property.

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EMR Accomplishments

Energy, Mines and
Resources

- On August 17 we released the What We Heard on the Resource Roads Regulation.
- We approved an OIC to transfer administration and control for parcel C16B in Beaver Creek to the Government of Canada as a way providing opportunity for White River First Nation to address housing needs.
- We approved an OIC that allowed us to refund the interest accrued for lots in the lottery phases 6B and 7 during the 2023 building season.
- We have been working towards meeting our Land Lottery Reform commitment in CASA 2023. Public engagement wrapped up in August and are working towards some modifications to the land lottery.

Agriculture:

- To date, the Sustainable Canadian Agriculture Partnership program has funded over 100 projects with more than \$1.8M dollars since April 2023 to support agriculture and agri-food projects.
- In Spring 2024, the *Animal Protection and Control Act and Regulations* were approved and are now in effect, providing standards of care and control of livestock.
- The Yukon co-chaired and hosted the Federal, Provincial and Territorial Ministers and Deputy Ministers of Agriculture this past year. It ended with successfully hosting the Annual Conference of Federal, Provincial and Territorial Ministers and Deputy Ministers of Agriculture

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EMR Accomplishments

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Conference in Whitehorse in July. This included hosting members of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture at the annual board meeting that saw 120+ agriculture industry delegates visit the Yukon.

- We successfully launched a pilot program with Highways and Public Works to increase Government of Yukon's locally produced food with a group of local farmers in an online Marketplace. Next steps are to launch this to a wider range of local producers.

Strategic Alliances:

- In August, we concluded a public engagement period about new public lands legislation. We visited 14 communities and had over 200 attendees throughout the Yukon. We have also met with and received letters from numerous stakeholder groups. Consultation with First Nations and Indigenous governments is continuing. This legislation is being developed by the Government of Yukon, working closely with Yukon First Nation governments, transboundary Indigenous governments, and the Council of Yukon First Nations.
- Together with Yukon First Nation governments, transboundary Indigenous governments, and the Council of Yukon First Nations, we continue to work toward an agreed legislative framework for new minerals legislation.
- A What We Heard report was released on August 27, 2024 that summarizes the feedback we received from the public on options for new minerals legislation, during a public engagement period in the spring of 2023.

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EMR Accomplishments

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Compliance, Monitoring and Inspections:

- Our major mines team has been diligently supporting the collective response to the Victoria Gold Corp. Eagle Mine Heap Leach failure, supported by additional resources re-assigned from within the branch.
- A new organizational structure was successfully implemented to improve operational effectiveness and ensuring consistency and accountability in delivering Branch programs.
- Through the Collaborative Stewardship Initiative, we continue to enhance water quality monitoring with Selkirk First Nation, and the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in. We are also collaborating with the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations on water quality monitoring.

Approved by:**Paul Moore**

Deputy Minister

Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

September 25, 2024

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Staffing Information

#53
Fall 2024

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- The Department of Energy, Mines and Resources provides a wide variety of services to the public, from agricultural leases to energy rebates to natural resource compliance checks.
- Our nine community offices across the territory directly support the Yukon's communities by offering department services on location. Throughout, we emphasize service, respect, leadership and safety.

Additional response:

- For the 2024-25 fiscal year, we are budgeted for 294.7 full-time equivalent positions. Staffing levels remain relatively consistent throughout the year, although they increase in summer due to student programs. Through these programs, students gain new experiences as they train for future careers within the public service.
- I would like to take this opportunity to thank department staff who continue to do great work every day across the Yukon.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- Questions have been asked about the number and make-up of the department's employee base.

Background:

- Energy, Mines and Resources is budgeted for 294.7 full-time equivalent positions in the 2024-25 fiscal year. This full-time equivalent number does not directly correspond to each position. For example, in the case of student or seasonal positions, one full-time equivalent position could support the hiring of multiple students in a summer program.

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Staffing Information

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Fall 2024

Energy, Mines and
Resources

- There has also been a slight increase in overall FTEs, with one permanent position in the Energy Branch supporting Our Clean Future.
- The department has 38 positions in the communities outside of Whitehorse in the district offices of the Compliance, Monitoring and Inspections branch and the Mineral Resources branch.
- As of September 20, 2024, the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources has 267 active employees, including 212 permanent employees, 30 employees in term or temporary assignment positions, nine casuals, two interns/students and 14 auxiliary on-calls. Shifts in the department's staffing levels occur seasonally.
- The department currently has 29 employees with approved remote work agreements in place.

Approved by:

Paul Moore

September 25, 2024

Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

FALL 2024

Energy Retrofits OCF Actions H1, H2, H30 and L4

Highways and
Public Works

Recommended response: Energy Retrofits (OCF Action H1)

- The Department of Highways and Public Works is making significant progress toward reducing the energy use of our public buildings and meeting the greenhouse gas reduction commitments in Our Clean Future (H30).
- Highways and Public Works is investing in retrofits to government buildings to reduce energy use and contribute to a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.
- Since the launch of Our Clean Future, 31 building energy retrofits have been completed using the Small Communities Fund. These projects are estimated to reduce 225 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions per year.
- The Yukon University roof replacement is also underway and is anticipated to be complete in 2026. This project is estimated to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 137 tonnes per year.
- As we complete the remaining energy assessments, we will incorporate the resulting projects into the existing project list and adjust the priority and sequencing as required.

Additional response:

- Highways and Public Works plans on spending approximately \$500 thousand in 2024-25 and \$450 thousand in 2025-26 on the design of energy retrofit projects to ramp up construction in future years.
- These designs will facilitate the construction of several energy retrofit projects planned for 2025-26. These projects include high efficiency boiler and furnace upgrades at various sites including Porter Creek

Session Briefing Note

FALL 2024

Energy Retrofits
OCF Actions H1, H2, H30 and L4

Highways and
Public Works

Secondary, Swift River Grader Station, JV Clark School, and Tantalus School.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Energy retrofits and assessments are action items under Our Clean Future.

Background:

- Completed retrofits include HVAC, lighting and envelope upgrades. The retrofits aim to improve equipment efficiency and reduce the amount of energy required to heat the buildings.

Approved by:

T. Allen

Deputy Minister, Highways and Public Works

October 7, 2024

Date Approved

Session Briefing Note**FALL 2024****Energy Assessments
OCF Action H2**Highways and
Public Works

Recommended response: Energy Assessments (OCF Action H2)

- The Department of Highways and Public Works is making significant progress toward reducing the energy use of our public buildings and meeting the greenhouse gas reduction commitments in Our Clean Future (H30).
- The department is continuing to complete energy assessments of Government of Yukon buildings to identify energy retrofits that reduce energy use and greenhouse gas emissions from buildings (OCF Action H2).
- To date, we have assessed 81 high-emitting Government of Yukon buildings. These assessments identified more than 600 possible building energy retrofit projects.
- Of these projects, 116 have been selected based on our prioritization methodology that looks at greenhouse gas emissions, business case, and operational improvements (OCF Action L4).

Additional response:

- In February 2024, the department awarded a project to conduct energy assessments on the 36 remaining buildings that are currently classified as high-emitting government buildings.
- The site visits for these energy assessments were completed in July 2024, and the development of the final reports is expected to be completed by December 2024.
- Once completed, we will have assessed all 117 high emitting buildings. These buildings account for over 90 per cent of our portfolio's total emissions.

Session Briefing Note

FALL 2024

**Energy Assessments
OCF Action H2**

Highways and
Public Works

- Highways and Public Works is also partnering with the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources and Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation to improve the energy use data in Old Crow.
- In 2023, fuel and electricity meters were installed in all 11 Government of Yukon buildings in Old Crow. This information will allow us to further identify energy conservation and renewable energy opportunities in Old Crow.
- As we finish the remaining energy assessments, we'll add the resulting projects to the current project list based on our prioritization methodology.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Energy assessments are action items under Our Clean Future.

Background:

- A building energy assessment identifies retrofits to reduce energy costs and lower greenhouse gas emissions, enhancing overall building energy efficiency.
- Energy Assessments create retrofit recommendations that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and save energy costs.
- Retrofits are scored and prioritized based on magnitude of greenhouse gas reductions, business case analysis and operational and reliability improvements. Retrofits that score highest are recommended for implementation.

Approved by:

T. Allen

October 7, 2024

Deputy Minister, Highways and Public Works

Date Approved

Session Briefing Note**FALL 2024****Solar Renewable Energy Projects**Highways and
Public Works

Recommended response: Renewable Electricity

- Investing in renewable energy projects is one of the many initiatives that the Yukon government is undertaking to meet the goals of *Our Clean Future*.
- One of the commitments of *Our Clean Future* (Action E4) is to install renewable energy systems in off-grid government buildings to reduce reliance on diesel-generated electricity.
- The final commissioning is underway at the Klondike and Ogilvie battery and solar power sites with substantial completion anticipated by the end of fall 2024.
- These two projects will offset approximately 103,000 litres of diesel fuel each year and reduce emissions by 270 tonnes.
- We are also moving forward with solar energy projects at the Tuchitua and Blanchard highway maintenance camps.
- A contract for the installation of these systems has been awarded to Solvest. These projects will offset approximately 98,000 liters of fuel and reduce emissions by 260 tonnes per year.

Additional response:

- Solar energy systems use the sun's energy to reduce reliance on fossil fuels and lower overall emissions. Inclusion of battery storage allows the system to optimize the reduction in generator use and prolong the availability of the energy captured by the solar panels.
- The four sites represent the most suitable locations for battery and solar power systems and ensure resources go toward providing the greatest impact for this action.

Session Briefing Note**FALL 2024****Solar Renewable Energy Projects**Highways and
Public Works

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Renewable energy systems are an important way for the Yukon government to reduce emissions from its buildings. They are also an OCF commitment.

Background:

- The four sites, Ogilvie, Klondike, Blanchard and Tuchitua, are not connected to the Yukon power grid or local community grids. Without these projects, all power would be provided by onsite generators at each location.
- The solar energy projects were initially identified during a solar feasibility study completed in 2021.
- The systems are designed to reduce the run time of the onsite generators. This results in reduced fuel consumption, fuel costs and greenhouse gas emissions.
- The solar projects involve installing photovoltaic solar panel arrays, battery energy storage systems and control apparatus as well as integration with onsite generators and commissioning.

Approved by:

T. Allen

October 7, 2024

Deputy Minister, Highways and Public Works

Date Approved

Session Briefing Note**FALL 2024****Biomass Renewable Energy
Projects**Highways and
Public Works**Recommended response:**

- Investing in renewable energy projects is one of the many initiatives that the Yukon government is undertaking to meet the goals of *Our Clean Future*.
- In 2023, we completed construction of the Elijah Smith Elementary School biomass system and partnered with Teslin Tlingit Council to heat the Khàtinas.àxh [Kaw keen ah sa] Community School with biomass heat.
- These biomass systems have been operational since October 2023 and are anticipated to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 259 tonnes per year.
- We are also excited to be nearing completion of the expansion of Whitehorse Correctional Centre's district biomass system, and the completion of two solar and battery systems in off-grid highway maintenance camps on the Dempster Highway.
- These projects together will offset a total of 541 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions annually, with 271 tonnes for the biomass project and 270 tonnes for the solar projects.
- We have completed 12 renewable energy feasibility studies to evaluate biomass, geothermal and other renewable heating options at 66 sites across the territory.
- These studies will identify several renewable energy projects that could be constructed over the next several years.

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FALL 2024

Biomass Renewable Energy Projects

Highways and
Public Works

Additional response:

- Biomass systems use renewable fuels to reduce reliance on fossil fuels and lower overall emissions.
- As part of our commitment to clean energy under *Our Clean Future* (Action H17), the Yukon government continues to invest in renewable energy projects, including installing renewable heating systems in government buildings.
- Highways and Public Works is moving ahead with projects based on the completed renewable energy feasibility studies.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Renewable energy systems are an important way for the Yukon government to reduce emissions from its buildings. They are also an OCF commitment.

Background:

Biomass systems:

- All new Biomass systems are designed to use either local wood chips or imported wood pellets. This provides the service provider with the flexibility to ensure reliable and sustainable operations of the biomass heating system.
- Locally and sustainably harvested wood chips are a good option for renewable heating in the Yukon.
- In 2023, wood pellets were 100 per cent sourced from waste wood or from a byproduct of lumber mills that is diverted from landfills.
- Although the use of biomass fuel will require more frequent deliveries compared to fossil fuels, the increased emissions from transportation are very small compared to the greenhouse gas emission reductions achieved from switching to a cleaner fuel source.

Session Briefing Note

FALL 2024

**Biomass Renewable Energy
Projects**

Highways and
Public Works

Biomass – Elijah Smith Elementary School

- In July 2021, we engaged with biomass contractors to discuss our plans for the Elijah Smith School biomass project and to listen to their suggestions and feedback.
- Construction of the Elijah Smith biomass system was completed by Budget Plumbing and Heating for \$2.5 million. The contractor is providing operations and maintenance services for the system going forward.

Biomass – Whitehorse Correction Centre

- In November 2022, a contract was awarded for the Whitehorse Correctional Center biomass expansion project.
- The project will connect underground piping from Takhini Haven and the Young Offenders Facility to the Whitehorse Correctional Centre that has an operational biomass boiler with additional capacity.
- The system currently uses low-carbon wood pellets made from the waste of a sawmill in Northern Alberta.
- The number of wood pellet deliveries will increase from 5 to 10 per year for this project. The emissions from these trips will be primarily offset by the corresponding reduction in heating oil and propane deliveries from Northern BC and Alaska.
- Final commissioning and substantial completion is anticipated for Fall 2024.

Approved by:

T. Allen

October 7, 2024

Deputy Minister, Highways and Public Works

Date Approved

Session Briefing Note

Fall 2024

Biomass

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon is taking action to reduce the Yukon's dependence on imported fossil fuels.
- We are supporting initiatives to maximize the use of locally harvested wood to meet our heating needs and grow our biomass industry.
- We are working to identify biomass opportunities and projects that align with our climate goals.

Additional response:

- Commercial timber harvesting activities, fuel abatement projects and other land clearings create opportunities for harvested materials to supply the Yukon's biomass industry.
- We are working with First Nations and industry to identify a sustainable, long-term timber supply to fulfill a variety of needs, including biomass business development.
- There are several examples of existing biomass facilities in Whitehorse, including the Whitehorse Correctional Facility, Yukon Gardens, Raven Recycling, Nuway Crushing, the Hobah Apartments and the Elijah Smith School.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- The public may be interested in how the Government of Yukon is supporting the growth of the Yukon's biomass energy industry including the use of waste products.

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Biomass

Energy, Mines and
Resources

- There is industry interest in developing biomass at a scale that provides sufficient investment opportunities.

Background:

- Biomass involves burning wood chips, pellets or fuel wood in a boiler system to generate heat. Biomass systems can use wood by-products from timber harvesting and land-clearing activities that would otherwise be wasted.
- Land clearing activities that may contribute to the availability of biomass include lot developments, highway right-of-way maintenance, and wildfire fuel abatement.
- The Government of Yukon is continuing to explore opportunities to grow the biomass industry to support the Yukon's climate change goals.
- The Forest Resources Act review provided an opportunity to ensure that the legislation supports the growth of a biomass industry. (See BN #3)
- Dawson City and the Village of Teslin currently use biomass boiler systems to provide heat to several buildings.

Approved by:

Dennis Berry**August 21, 2024**

Deputy Minister

Date approved

Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Session Briefing Note

Wood Supply and Planning

Fall 2024
Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- We are making timely progress working with industry and First Nations to develop new timber harvesting projects throughout the territory.
- We are developing new areas and supporting existing operations in communities throughout the territory.
- The volume of reported fuel wood harvest has increased from just over 10,000 cubic metres in 2021 to nearly 21,000 cubic metres in 2023.
- In 2024, there have been five timber harvesting projects submitted to the Yukon Environmental and Socio-Economic Assessment Board (YESAB) that will support wood supply throughout the Yukon.

Additional response:

- The Government of Yukon and Liard First Nation have approved the Scoby Creek Timber Harvest Plan making 17,100 cubic metres of timber available for harvesting in the Watson Lake area.
- We have significantly advanced new timber harvesting projects in the Southern Lakes.
- [Recently, the Forest Management Branch issued a YESAB decision to proceed with a timber harvesting project in the Marsh Lake area.](#) A project in the Lubbock area is in the 'seeking views and information' stage of YESAB.

Session Briefing Note

Wood Supply and Planning

Fall 2024
Energy, Mines and
Resources

- We are preparing for operations in a new timber harvesting project in the Teslin area. This is a joint project between The Government of Yukon and the Teslin Tlingit Council to harvest 17,348 cubic metres of timber.
- We have permitted over 43,000 cubic metres of timber to dozens of operators under the Quill Creek Timber Harvest Plan near Haines Junction.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Some larger operators have expressed concerns about the lack of wood supply in the Whitehorse and Southern Lakes area, and in Watson Lake.
- In previous years there has been a lack of fuel wood on the market, resulting in concerns from the public.

Background:

- The Yukon has four forest resource management plans and dozens of timber harvest plans which establish the framework for where and how timber can be harvested.
- Over the coming years, it is anticipated that fuel abatement projects throughout the territory will increase the amount of firewood and saw logs on the market.

Haines Junction

- We are working with industry, Champagne and Aishihik First Nations and the Alsek Renewable Resources Council on existing harvest operations (Quill Creek) and to plan new areas (Bear Creek II and MacIntosh East).

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Wood Supply and Planning

Fall 2024
Energy, Mines and
Resources

- In Quill Creek, we have completed a grizzly bear habitat assessment and consultation on a new access management plan. These steps are required to build a new road and operationalize new harvest blocks.

Southeast Yukon (Watson Lake)

- The Scoby Creek Timber Harvest Plan has been approved by the Government of Yukon and Liard First Nation and has been developed. New licenses were issued in late October 2024 for 10,000 cubic metres of sawlogs and fuelwood. First Kaska has applied for a licence for 5,000 cubic metres.
- In a July 5 letter, the Minister committed to developing a government-to-government forestry agreement with Liard First Nation.
- Planning is underway with the Yukon Wood Products Association and Liard First Nation to advance a timber harvest plan in the Poison Lake burn.
- We approved the Scoby Creek Small Volume Timber Harvest Plan last winter which provided 2,735 cubic metres of wood.

Whitehorse and Southern Lakes

- We reconvened the Whitehorse and Southern Lakes Forest Resources Management Plan Working Group (Government of Yukon, Ta'an Kwäch'än Council, Kwanlin Dün First Nation, and Carcross/Tagish First Nation (C/TFN)) in July. The working group met in October and will be meeting again in December.
- There are three wood supply projects undergoing Yukon Environmental and Socio-Economic Board (YESAB) assessment in the Southern Lakes area:
 - The Marsh Lake project for the harvest of 18,000 cubic metres of sawlogs and fuelwood. [The Forest Management Branch issued a YESAB decision document for the project to proceed. The branch is finalizing the timber harvest plan for approval.](#)

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Wood Supply and Planning

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- The Lubbock Valley project for the harvest up to 14,963 cubic metres of sawlogs and fuelwood. The project is currently seeking views in the YESAB process.
- A joint timber harvesting project with Teslin Tlingit Council in the Teslin north area. YESAB recommended the project proceed with no additional mitigations and the Forest Management Branch has issued the decision document.
- We are developing two new fuel abatement timber harvest plans near Whitehorse.
- In 2024, there are six companies permitted to harvest approximately 10,000 cubic metres through contracts on the Whitehorse fuel break. (See BN #58)

Northern and Central Yukon

- We are working with Arctic Inland and the Yukon Wood Products Association on a project for harvesting up to 17,547 cubic metres of sawlogs and fuel wood along the Dempster Highway. This project is in the adequacy stage of YESAB.
- Timber harvest planning includes:
 - The Patridge Creek area near Stewart Crossing for harvest of up to 19,000 cubic metres fuelwood and sawlogs.
 - The Crooked Creek burn near Stewart Crossing for harvest of up to 20,000 cubic metres of fuel wood.
- Commercial fuel wood harvesting opportunities are available in:
 - Dominion and French Gulch timber harvest plans near Dawson City.
 - Little Salmon River Burn near Carmacks with 12,000 cubic metres of fuelwood available. There are several operators working in this area and 6,000 cubic metres are permitted for harvesting.

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Wood Supply and Planning

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Approved by:

Paul Moore

November 13, 2024

Deputy Minister

Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Forestry Sector Status and Supports

#60
Fall 2024
Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- We are continuing to address and improve the conditions for the forest sector through a variety of initiatives.
- Between 2022 and 2024, we distributed more than half a million dollars through the Timber Harvest Incentive program to support timber harvesters and increase fuel wood supply.
- In fall 2023, we partnered with the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency to provide over \$210,000 to 51 timber harvester and fuel wood retail businesses through the Yukon Forestry Support Program.
- That program increased efficiency, operational safety and resiliency for those businesses. This program will not be continued this year.

Additional response:

- Securing sites for log processing and storage will help to support the supply chain for fuel wood and other timber products.
- We have explored potential sites in and around the City of Whitehorse and are now working towards developing these areas.
- We carefully consider public feedback before we make decisions regarding developments, and we are working closely with the Yukon Wood Products Association and with industry on these initiatives.

Session Briefing Note

Forestry Sector Status and Supports

#60
Fall 2024
Energy, Mines and
Resources

Context — this may be an issue because:

- There has been concern about access and affordability of firewood in the Yukon.
- Community members in the Mount Lorne area have expressed concerns about the potential development of a wood storage and processing site in the Kookatsoon area. First Nations and community members in the Ibex area have expressed concerns about the potential development of a wood storage and processing site.

Background:

- The Government of Yukon distributed \$315,000 in 2022-23 and \$237,541 in 2023-24 to dozens of Yukon businesses under the Timber Harvest Incentive program.
- The program provided registered Yukon businesses with \$10 for each cubic metre of timber harvested or sold between 2022 and 2024.
- In mid-October 2024, a decision was made not to extend the program due to fiscal constraints and pressures.
- In July 2023, the proposed Kookatsoon log yard for fuel wood processing and storage received the recommendation to proceed with terms and conditions from the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board.
- In October 2023, the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board recommended that the proposed Ibex Biomass Hub for firewood and biomass processing and storage proceed
- The Forest Management Branch issued the Decision Document for the Ibex Hub on January 22, 2024. A zoning amendment process is underway to enable industrial activity in the area.
- In April 2024, a zoning amendment was approved [for the Kookatsoon gravel pit](#) to allow industrial activity in the area. In response to community concerns, a decision was made to limit permitted activities to fuel wood storage and processing. Excluding saw milling from permitted activities in the area has

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Forestry Sector Status and
Supports

reduced the business case feasibility for the operator originally interested in the area.

- Log yards help businesses stockpile and maintain sufficient inventory of wood, reduce delivery time and fuel wood costs and provide a place to dry green timber.
- The Forest Management Branch is working to identify additional storage and processing locations around Whitehorse. A development permit application for public land in the McCrae area has been submitted and the city has requested a grading and drainage plan. The Forest Management Branch has engaged a contractor to complete this work.

Approved by:

Paul Moore

November 20, 2024

Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date approved

Session Briefing Note**Exploration Spending / Yukon
Minerals Exploration Program**Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- This year, we are spending \$1.4 million on the Yukon Mineral Exploration Program to support the mineral exploration industry.
- The Yukon Mineral Exploration Program provides part of the risk capital to support early-stage exploration for both hard rock and placer exploration projects.
- The program leverages private sector funding at an average ratio of more than 2:1.

Additional response:

- In 2024, the program is supporting 43 exploration projects, of which the proponents collectively anticipate spending over \$4.1 million.
- 63 applications were received this year: 40 for hard rock projects, and 23 for placer projects. Of these, 26 hard rock projects and 17 placer projects have been approved for funding.
- Similar to 2023, the Yukon Mineral Exploration Program's 2024 evaluation criteria are designed to encourage exploration for critical minerals.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- There is interest in how the Government of Yukon supports mineral exploration and a general interest in exploration statistics and trends.
- The First Nation of Nacho Nyäk Dun requested that we halt this program on their Traditional Territory.

Session Briefing Note**Exploration Spending / Yukon
Minerals Exploration Program**Energy, Mines and
Resources

Background:**Yukon Mineral Exploration Program**

- To stimulate investment in critical minerals in the Yukon, the evaluation criteria for the Yukon Mineral Exploration Program was recently updated to include extra weighting for projects that target critical minerals as the primary exploration target.
- For the 2024 exploration season, the program received 63 applications for funding (40 hard rock and 23 placer applications). Forty-three projects have been approved for funding (26 hard rock and 17 placer projects).
- This year's YMEP recipients expect to spend \$4.1M on their exploration projects this year. Total projected expenditures on hard rock projects are estimated at \$2.6M, and on placer is \$1.5M.

Mineral Exploration and Deposit Appraisal Expenditure Statistics

- Junior exploration companies conduct most of the mineral exploration in the Yukon. Exploration activities contribute significantly to the Yukon's annual economic activity.
- Of the 82 active hard rock exploration projects in 2023, 31 spent over \$500,000 on exploration.
- Just over half of the money spent in 2023 by explorers was invested in exploration for gold. Zinc-lead projects saw 25 per cent of spending, followed by copper (23 per cent) and silver (8 per cent). Just over one per cent of exploration spending was focused on tungsten, nickel and platinum group metals.
- The largest number of exploration projects occurred on the Traditional Territory of the First Nation of Nacho Nyäk Dun (27), followed by Kaska Nation's asserted territory (15), Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in (12) and Selkirk First Nation (11). All other Yukon First Nations saw fewer than 10 projects.

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Minerals Exploration Program

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- Actual exploration spending reported by Natural Resources Canada in the Yukon increased from \$166.2 million in 2019 to \$186.8 million in 2022, despite drops in 2020 and 2021, \$83.6 million and \$153.9 million, respectively.
- It is important to note 2023 exploration expenditures are not yet final, and \$164.3 million is only an estimate.

Approved by:

Lauren Haney

September 3, 2024

Deputy Minister,
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Landslide Monitoring

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- The Yukon has seen a recent increase in the frequency of landslides due to high snowpack, permafrost melt, wildfire activity, and heavy rains.
- The Government of Yukon is working with Yukon communities to mitigate landslide risks by investing in geohazard mapping and monitoring in and around communities and along highway corridors.
- The Yukon Geological Survey is on track to complete initial geohazard maps for all communities by the Our Clean Future 2025 deadline. A Yukon Permafrost Database is now publicly available online and is being updated as new monitoring wells are established.

Additional response:

- The Government of Yukon (Community Services, Highways and Public Works, and Energy, Mines and Resources) has established a working group with the City of Dawson and Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in to monitor the Moosehide and Sunnydale slides and develop response plans in case of a slide.
- We are monitoring landslides and thaw slumps along highways and our Geological Survey team is providing support to Highways and Public Works for mitigation planning.
- We will also be assessing landslide risk along highways where recent wildfires may have caused slope instability, particularly in areas with permafrost.

Session Briefing Note

Landslide Monitoring

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Context — this may be an issue because:

- Yukoners, particularly those in Whitehorse and Dawson City, may have concerns about the risk posed by landslides.

Background:

- In Dawson, the Moosehide Slide and the Sunnydale Slide represent potential hazards: in both cases, ground movement rates are cause for concern. Both slides are being observed with near real-time monitoring equipment to provide advance warning if ground movement accelerates.
- The multiple landslides on the North Klondike Highway were triggered in 2022 by heavy rainfall on permafrost slopes. Some of these slopes are now being observed with monitoring equipment.
- In Whitehorse, elevated groundwater levels have caused several slides along the downtown clay cliffs.
- The Takhini permafrost thaw slump along the Alaska Highway has increased in size since it first formed in 2014. Advancement of the thaw slump required re-routing of the highway in 2023.
- In July 2024, a large debris flow closed the South Klondike Highway.
- Collectively, these events highlight the increasing need for geohazard mapping and monitoring per commitments in Our Clean Future. (See BN # 33)
- Energy, Mines and Resources are continuing to invest in LiDAR surveys and instrumented boreholes to monitor permafrost.

Approved by:

2024.08.20

Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date approved

Prepared for Minister Streicker
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date prepared: August 8, 2024
Last Updated:

Session Briefing Note

Fall 2024

Chance Oil and Gas

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- Chance Oil and Gas Ltd. holds 10 active oil and gas permits and licences for eight existing wells in the Eagle Plains area.
- Chance Oil and Gas Ltd. has obligations with respect to these permits and wells under the *Oil and Gas Act* which include reporting and compliance.
- We continue to meet with Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, and the First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun on oil and gas matters, including Chance Oil and Gas' obligations, through the North Yukon Intergovernmental Oil and Gas Forum.

Additional response:

- Chance Oil and Gas' oil and gas permits do not authorize the company to carry out any oil and gas exploration or development activities.
- Any oil and gas activities must be licensed consistent with the Yukon's oil and gas regulatory framework, which includes consultation with affected First Nations.
- The Government of Yukon has consistently and publicly stated that it will not approve hydraulic fracturing for oil and gas development in the Yukon.
- There are no active oil and gas operations or applications for hydraulic fracturing in the Yukon.

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Chance Oil and Gas

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Context — this may be an issue because:

- There may be questions pertaining to Chance Oil and Gas' permits and wells.
- There may be questions on the Government of Yukon's position on hydraulic fracturing.

Background:**Compliance orders under the Oil and Gas Act**

- In 2021, the Government of Yukon issued two orders under the Oil and Gas Act for Chance Oil and Gas to abandon or put back into production its eight wells by May 31, 2023. Chance Oil and Gas did not comply with the orders by the deadline.
- New orders were issued under the Oil and Gas Act to Chance Oil and Gas on April 5, 2024. These orders have conditions of enhanced reporting requirements and require the company to abandon, partially abandon, or return to operation its eight wells by May 31, 2027.
- All of Chance Oil and Gas' eight wells are currently suspended.

Well maintenance and flow test program

- To comply with an Order from Energy, Mines and Resources Chief Operations Officer, Chance is intending to perform well activities (abandonment and flow-testing) on their eight Eagle Plains oil and gas wells.
- In July 2022, the Government of Yukon issued a decision to support Chance Oil and Gas' well abandonment and flow test work program based on a review under the *Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act*.
- A benefits agreement between affected First Nations, the Government of Yukon, and Chance Oil and Gas was signed in December 2023 for their abandonment and flow test work program. A benefits agreement is required prior to issuing a licence for oil and gas activities.

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Chance Oil and Gas

Energy, Mines and
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- They have received a water licence for their camp and have submitted applications for a land use permit. They were denied access to land an airplane on the Dempster Highway near their camp by the Department of Highways and Public Works.
- Chance Oil and Gas conducts annual inspections on their eight suspended wells.

Oil and gas permits in Eagle Plain Basin

- Chance Oil and Gas has ten oil and gas permits in Eagle Plain Basin, and three Significant Discovery Licences.
- Two of Chance Oil and Gas' permits are set to expire in 2027. Eight permits were granted a 30-month extension in February 2024 and are set to expire in August 2026.
- The Significant Discovery Licences were granted prior to devolution of oil and gas resources to the Government of Yukon from Canada and have no expiration dates.

YESAB Executive Committee proposed exploration program

- Chance Oil and Gas has proposed a 30 well and seismic exploration program on their Eagle Plain permits. In August 2024, the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board Executive Committee determined that the company's project proposal did not comply with requirements of section 50(3) of the *Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act* related to consultation with First Nations and communities; the company will now have the opportunity to conduct additional consultation and submit a revised project proposal
- Northern First Nation governments have expressed opposition to Chance Oil and Gas' proposed exploration program
- The Government of Yukon discusses matters related to Chance Oil and Gas through the North Yukon Intergovernmental Oil and Gas Forum Working Group.
(See BN #106)

Session Briefing Note

Chance Oil and Gas

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Resources

Chance Litigation

- In 2017, Chance Oil and Gas sought legal action against the Government of Yukon regarding its moratorium on hydraulic fracturing. This matter is currently before the Supreme Court of Yukon.

Approved by:

Pau I Moore

November 13, 2024

Deputy Minister_____
Date approved

Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Session Briefing Note Geothermal Energy and Legislation

Fall 2024
Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- Geothermal resources are a source of renewable energy that could potentially reduce our greenhouse gas emissions and reliance on fossil fuels.
- We recognize the commitment in *Our Clean Future* to develop legislation to regulate geothermal energy development by 2023.
- Yukon First Nations governments have shown interest in collaborating on the development of new geothermal resources legislation and participating in scientific research initiatives to understand the resource potential.
- As we are committed to do this in partnership with First Nation and transboundary Indigenous governments, we acknowledge that advancing this legislation must align with the pace and capacity of our partners.

Additional response:

- Between 2020 and 2023, the Government of Yukon invested \$3.4 million to assess geothermal potential in the territory, with financial support from the Government of Canada.
- We have recently completed geothermal studies in collaboration with Liard First Nation, Kluane First Nation, Teslin Tlingit Council, and Champagne and Aishihik First Nations, and an assessment of the Whitehorse area is currently underway.
- While geothermal research is underway, geothermal resource production is several years away for the Yukon.

Session Briefing Note

Geothermal Energy and Legislation

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Energy, Mines and
Resources

If asked about Canada's recent announcement on draft regulations:

- Canada's recent announcement of draft regulations to cap greenhouse gas emissions from oil and gas does not affect this sector or the geothermal sector in the Yukon as there has been no oil and gas production in the territory since 2012.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- There may be a request for an update on geothermal research and progress on the new geothermal legislation.

Background:

- Under Our Clean Future, the Government of Yukon committed to developing geothermal legislation by 2023 and to researching the potential to develop geothermal energy for heating and electricity by 2025. (See BN #33 and #34)
- Between June and September 2022, we held a public engagement on geothermal resource legislation. The resulting What We Heard Report was released in February 2023.
- As of fall 2024, work to develop geothermal legislation is in the preliminary research and policy development stage.
- First Nations have shared that pressure on their capacity impacts their involvement in the development of successor natural resource legislation and has subsequently extended the timeline for a geothermal regulatory framework.
- Aside from power generation, potential uses of geothermal energy include heating for greenhouses (food security), aquaculture, heating, municipal drinking water, de-icing runways, and food processing.
- Research on geothermal potential indicates the southwestern and south-central regions have higher potential than other regions of the territory.
- Studies have been recently published on the geothermal potential near the communities of Burwash Landing, Watson Lake, Teslin and Haines Junction, and research is underway to assess the potential around Whitehorse.

Session Briefing Note Geothermal Energy and Legislation

Fall 2024
Energy, Mines and
Resources

Canada's proposed GHG regulations on the Oil and Gas Sector

- The Government of Canada recently initiated a 60-day public comment period for draft regulations to cap greenhouse gas emissions from the oil and gas sector.
- While the oil and gas sector is a different sector than the geothermal sector, some of the technologies used to access geothermal resources are similar.
- Capping greenhouse gas pollution from the oil and gas sector is one of the key measures outlined in Canada's 2030 Emissions Reduction Plan.
- The proposed regulations establish a greenhouse gas emissions cap-and-trade system for oil and gas and liquified natural gas production.
- The regulations will not affect Yukon as there is no current oil and gas production in the territory.
- The Yukon produced natural gas from the Kotaneelee gas field in southeast Yukon from 1979 – 2012; no other oil or gas has been produced in the territory since that time.

Approved by:**Paul Moore****November 05, 2024**

Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Kotaneelee Gas Field

Fall 2024Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- Kotaneelee Well L-38 is an orphaned [natural gas](#) well that transferred to the Government of Yukon in 2017.
- The Government of Yukon is responsible for the Kotaneelee Well L-38 well abandonment process. [It is the only well that the Government of Yukon is responsible for.](#)
- We continue to inspect Well L-38 annually with the last inspection conducted in September 2024.

If asked about the current regulatory process in Northwest Territories:

- [We are in the process of applying for permits to the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board in order to access the well site.](#)
- [Access to the well site requires barging on the Liard River and the use of the Kotaneelee Road.](#)
- [The previous Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board permit for the barge landing did not belong to the Government of Yukon and has expired.](#)

Additional response:

- All other wells in the Kotaneelee gas field have been properly abandoned by their operators.
- The Kotaneelee gas field plant has been decommissioned by its primary operator and the area will be reclaimed in the future.

Session Briefing Note

Kotaneelee Gas Field

Fall 2024

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Context — this may be an issue because:

- The Government of Yukon receives periodic questions about Kotaneelee gas field.
 - [A recent media inquiry was made from applications to the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board and a CBC story published on November 12, 2024.](#)
-

Background:

Kotaneelee gas field [and Kotaneelee Well L-38:](#)

- The Kotaneelee gas field is located in the Liard basin in southeast Yukon. Infrastructure included a gas plant, pipelines and natural gas wells. The Kotaneelee field no longer produces gas and all facilities have been suspended or abandoned.
- The L-38 well licensee ([EFLO Energy Inc.](#)) declared itself insolvent in 2015. On January 3, 2017, the Chief Operating Officer issued an order for the L-38 well to be abandoned at government expense.
- [Well abandonment involves sealing the well at depth and removing equipment on site so that the site will naturally revegetate over time.](#)
- The L-38 well is a sour gas, high temperature and high pressure well. It is shut-in but has not been suspended or abandoned.
- The Government of Yukon holds \$625,000 in security money for the abandonment of L-38.
- [A proposed plan to have Apache Canada Ltd. \(now Paramount Resources Inc.\) perform the work in 2018 did not proceed as a liability agreement with the company was not secured.](#)
- [Efforts were made to secure a contractor to perform the abandonment work through the procurement process. The Government of Yukon issued tenders for the work in 2018 and 2019 but there were few bidders. The bids that were submitted did not advance through the procurement process.](#)

Session Briefing Note

Fall 2024

Kotaneelee Gas Field

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Current Regulatory Process in the Northwest Territories (Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board)

- The Kotaneelee gas field is remote and requires either barge access through the Northwest Territories or a winter road from British Columbia.
- The Government of Yukon had previously planned to access the Kotaneelee L-38 through the Northwest Territories using permits acquired through the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board by Apache Canada Ltd. in 2015. Apache completed their work in the area in 2018 and their permits have since expired.
- The current permitting applications are being made in preparation for future work. Any licensing through the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board is expected to last for five years, with the ability to extend.

The Kotaneelee Gas Plant

- The Kotaneelee field gas plant facility has been decommissioned. The remaining gas plant site facilities will be removed and the area will be reclaimed in the future. The Government of Yukon holds \$7,468,483 in security for the remediation of the gas plant.
- Joint owners of the gas plant facility included Paramount, Imperial Oil, ExxonMobil and Repsol, with Paramount as the majority owner and primary contact for regulatory matters. Repsol has since liquidated its share of Kotaneelee assets, of which it owned approximately 2 per cent. The assets were sold to Peyto Energy Corporation in 2023.

The Pointed Mountain Pipeline:

- The Pointed Mountain Pipeline was the Kotaneelee gas transmission line. It ceased operation in 2015 when the Kotaneelee gas field ended production.
- In 2022, Enbridge, the current owner of the Pointed Mountain Pipeline, received the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board's recommendation to proceed with abandoning the pipeline.

Session Briefing Note

Kotaneelee Gas Field

Fall 2024Energy, Mines and
Resources

- In 2023, the Government of Yukon issued a decision document authorizing Enbridge to proceed with abandoning the pipeline.
- In December 2023, Enbridge submitted a proposal to the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board expanding the scope of their 2022 submission to include an additional winter road, use of an additional water source, and ice bridge construction.
- In July 2024, the Government of Yukon issued a joint decision document with Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada authorizing Enbridge to proceed with the additional scope to abandon the pipeline.
- Enbridge is currently awaiting a further decision from the Canadian Energy Regulator that would allow it to proceed with the work, which is planned for winter 2025-26.

Approved by:

Paul Moore

November 13, 2024

Deputy Minister

Date approved

Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Session Briefing Note**Lot Sales and Support for
Housing and Development**Energy, Mines and
Resources**Lots released for sale this year:**

- On September 17, we released six residential lots in Haines Junction and Mayo and one country residential lot in Watson Lake by lottery. We also released three industrial lots in Haines Junction and Teslin by tender.
- On August 21, we released 21 country residential lots in Lone Tree subdivision and 12 residential lots in Carmacks and Faro through lottery.
- On July 16, we released 20 country residential lots in Grizzly Valley, Golden Horn and Mendenhall through lottery. Of those, 19 were newly developed lots.
- On April 17 we released 130 new lots through lottery and tender in Phase 7 of Whistle Bend.
- As of mid-September, there have been lots available for over-the-counter sale in Haines Junction, Watson Lake, the Silver Trail subdivision north of Mayo, Faro, Carmacks, Mendenhall, and Lone Tree Subdivision north of Teslin.

Support for housing and development:

- 5th and Rogers, now known as Kèjān and Rogers, is in a contract for sale to West End Developments. Site planning has been ongoing through permitting with the City of Whitehorse.

Prepared for Minister Streicker
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date prepared: August 8, 2024
Last Updated: November 6, 2024

Page 1 of 4

Session Briefing Note**Lot Sales and Support for
Housing and Development**Energy, Mines and
Resources

- The conditions of the sale have almost all been satisfied; the title is expected to be transferred in the next few weeks.
- The Agreement for Sale was signed with Northern Community Land Trust Society for the start of construction for over 30 units as affordable home ownership. The development agreement has been completed in preparation to transfer title.
- The tender for the former Macaulay Lodge closed on April 4, 2024. The site is now in an Agreement for Sale with PCR Construction. The lot is rezoned for mixed-use residential and commercial development with supportive housing as a secondary use.
- Several significant projects in the City of Whitehorse are in the planning, design or construction stage which will help address housing pressures. With our colleagues at Community Services, we are supporting the rezoning of Lots 519 and 520 in Copper Ridge for future residential development and working through subdivision for Range Point.
- We continue to work towards our CASA 2023 commitment on the lottery reform. Public engagement wrapped up in August and work continues to determine how to modify the lottery process. (See BN # 77)

Session Briefing Note**Lot Sales and Support for
Housing and Development**Energy, Mines and
Resources**Lots released for sale last year:**

- In spring 2023, we released 117 Whistle Bend lots. Of those, 82 lots were for single-family homes, 33 lots for townhouse development and two newly developed lots for multi-residential development.
- In spring we released 28 residential, country residential, and industrial lots in the communities. Of those, 17 were newly developed lots.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- There continues to be high demand for building lots within Whitehorse and across the territory for residential, commercial, and industrial developments.

Background:**Development and sale process**

- Energy, Mines and Resources continues to work in partnership with Community Services, municipalities, and First Nations on land development projects to meet lot supply needs.
- Energy, Mines and Resources releases new lots for sale across the territory that have been developed by Community Services Land Development Branch.
- The sale of developed lots occurs once development work is complete. Before lots can be sold, legal requirements such as registering the legal survey and titling the lot must be met.
- Working with the City of Whitehorse's Housing and Land Development Advisory Committee, we revised requirements for title transfer under Agreements for Sale. This provides title transfer at an earlier stage in the building process while still ensuring Agreements for Sale building commitments are linked to building safety.

Prepared for Minister Streicker
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date prepared: August 8, 2024
Last Updated: November 6, 2024

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Session Briefing Note**Lot Sales and Support for
Housing and Development**Energy, Mines and
Resources**Additional work to support housing**

- In July 2022, Lot 335 in Whistle Bend was sold to Council of Yukon First Nations for a nominal amount to build a shelter for Indigenous women and children fleeing violence. Construction is ongoing on this project.
- The Government of Yukon and Da Daghay Development Corporation completed the Agreement for Sale for Lot 120 in Whistle Bend in February 2024. This sale includes the requirement to develop affordable rental housing units on the lot in exchange for a reduced lot sale price.

Approved by:**Paul Moore****November 07, 2024**

Deputy Minister, Paul Moore
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Resource Roads Regulation

#72

Fall 2024

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- We are developing a new regulation for the construction, operation and decommissioning of resource roads in the Yukon.
- The resource roads regulation will clarify how resource roads are accessed and provide consistent rules for permit-holders under a new management regime.
- We are working with Yukon First Nations, transboundary Indigenous groups and governments as well as industry [as we progress towards implementation](#).

Additional response:

- Feedback from the public, stakeholders, Yukon First Nations and transboundary Indigenous groups and governments has informed the content and implementation of the regulation.
- A What We Heard report on the second round of public engagement and First Nation consultation for the resource road regulation was released in August 2024.
- The final regulation will include planning and managing how resource roads are accessed. It will also incorporate objectives for building, operating and decommissioning roads.
- [We also commit to reviewing the Resource Roads Regulation as part of our ongoing work on the Public Lands Act.](#)

Session Briefing Note

Resource Roads Regulation

#72

Fall 2024

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Context — this may be an issue because:

- Access management for resource industries has been a challenge for many years in the Yukon because of a lack of regulatory tools for resource roads.
- Environmental groups along with Yukon First Nations and transboundary Indigenous groups and governments have expressed concerns regarding a lack of regulation, and unauthorized roads and trails.

Background:

- A land use permit issued under the *Land Use Regulation* is the only current regulatory tool for roads developed to access resources. A land use permit regulates road construction but not the use, maintenance or decommissioning of roads.
- Longstanding challenges associated with resource roads in the Yukon include:
 - ensuring resource roads are decommissioned at the end of service life to prevent permanent public access to the hinterland; and
 - managing access for multiple and varied users on permitted roads.
- The resource roads regulation will provide a new way to permit resource roads and clarify responsibilities related to road construction, operation and decommissioning phases.
- The new regulation will provide safeguards to enforce restoration and reclamation of resource roads by enabling the collection of security.
- [Enforcement of access restrictions will be carried out by Natural Resource Officers. Permittees will be required to take reasonable measures to restrict access, as deemed appropriate on a road-by-road basis \(signage, mandatory reporting of unauthorized users, gates and staffed gate-houses are all potential measures\).](#)
- The Government of Yukon completed an initial 60-day public engagement and First Nations consultation in July 2018, which included a two-day workshop with First Nations and industry. A second round of public engagement and First Nation consultation occurred from March to May 2023.

Session Briefing Note

Resource Roads Regulation

#72

Fall 2024

Energy, Mines and
Resources

- The Department of Energy, Mines and Resources is completing consultation with Yukon First Nations and transboundary Indigenous groups on the draft regulation and has engaged with the public and industry.
- In 2021, amendments were made to the *Territorial Lands (Yukon)* Act that focused on providing authority for the resource roads regulation to be enacted and administered.
- The resource roads regulation will be further reviewed during the successor lands legislation process now underway.
- The Government of Yukon continues to work with Yukon First Nations through a Resource Roads Regulation Implementation Working Group.

Approved by:

Paul Moore

Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

November 18, 2024

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Fall 2024

Whitehorse Gravel Availability

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- We are assessing and managing gravel and other granular materials in the territory to meet the long-term needs of Yukoners.
- The Whitehorse area continues to experience intense development, including building and road construction.
- With this development comes a corresponding increase in the demand for granular material.

Additional response:

- We are working with the City of Whitehorse to find new areas for quarry development and to optimize existing quarry lease sites.
- Quarry leases provide economic opportunities for Yukon First Nations development corporations that own gravel operations and other local businesses to provide granular material for a wide range of needs.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- The rapid development of Whitehorse is increasing the demand for granular material.

Background:

Current granular resources

- Energy, Mines and Resources manages 18 privately held quarry leases in Whitehorse. Another application has been approved on the Copper Haul Road and is awaiting rezoning through the City of Whitehorse before the lease can be issued.

Session Briefing Note

Fall 2024

Whitehorse Gravel Availability

Energy, Mines and
Resources

- The department also manages four public gravel pits in the Whitehorse area that provide Yukoners with up to 35 cubic metres of free granular material for personal non-commercial use.
- The City of Whitehorse leased two quarries near Ear Lake to private industry; both are now depleted.
- A review of granular resources in Whitehorse and updated surficial mapping has been completed and will inform future planning for gravel.

Stevens Quarry

- The City of Whitehorse approved its Official Community Plan on March 27, 2023, changing the designation of the Stevens Quarry area from Natural Resource Extraction to Future Planning.
- Development at Stevens Quarry is not expected in the near future.
- Two projects have been submitted to YESAB for the development of Stevens Quarry; the first in 2012 by the Government of Yukon and a second project in 2020 by a private proponent, Norcope Enterprises. Neither project received regulatory approval to proceed.

Approved by:**Dennis Berry****August 15, 2024**

Deputy Minister

Date approved

Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Recommended Response:

- Whitehorse is a growing community, and we expect long-term demand for housing to continue. The Land Development branch (LDB) continues to work with the City of Whitehorse as the main developer for Whistle Bend to meet this demand, by creating this beautiful and vibrant neighbourhood.
- This construction season saw continued work in the next phases of Whistle Bend. Phases 9A, 9B, 12, and 13 along with two lift stations and the associated landscaping of these areas. This year's work will result in another 108 lots being ready for release in 2025 that could provide over 500 housing units.
- When complete, Whistle Bend will provide a full-service, sustainable neighbourhood of about 2,000 lots providing homes for 10,000 people to accommodate our growing population.

Additional response:

- We continue to work with the Ta'an Kwäch'än Council and the Kwanlin Dun First Nation to support their land development objectives, like Range Point Road.
- Detailed design and tendering of the Yukon government - Kwanlin Dun First Nation Range Point Project is underway with construction start up in 2025.

Context:

- Increasing lot availability and addressing housing pressures in Whitehorse is of high interest to the public.

Background:

Whistle Bend Subdivision

- Construction of Phases 9A, 9B and the Midnight Sun lift station (commissioning in Spring 2025) is expected to be finalized this construction season. Phases 12 and 13 and the Evelyn lift station will continue for completion in 2025. Together these phases will provide 108 lots - 81 single/duplex, 8 townhouse, 17 multi-family and 2 commercial lots.
- Detailed design and tendering of Phase 10 and 11 (~225 lots) and stormwater outfalls are planned for 2025.

Copper Ridge Parcels 519/520

- Whitehorse City Council approved the master plan for this site in Spring 2024. City approval to transfer Lot 520 to Yukon government (YG) is underway. Energy, Mines and Resources will lead the release of this parcel to target private sector developers.

Joint YG- Kwanlin Dun First Nation Range Point Road

- The Land Development branch (LDB) and the Kwanlin Dun First Nation (KDFN) have worked in partnership to complete the master plan, along with Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board and zoning for this medium to high density development. This partnership will continue through detailed design and construction, clearing, and spring 2025 construction start up.
- This unique partnership will provide 73 lots (65 single/duplex, 8 multi) and up to 400 units of housing.

Whistle Bend South Bench

- This site, located between Whistle Bend Way and Range Road, is identified as a future development site in the City's Official Community Plan (OCP).
- LDB completed feasibility work (geotechnical, noise and dust studies, heritage).
- The project could be brought forward for high-level master plan process including public engagement if the City of Whitehorse chooses to proceed.

North/South Future Growth Areas

- These two areas – Long Lake and Maclean Lake – are identified in the City's OCP as future development areas in Whitehorse.
- LDB is coordinating feasibility studies, building on initial feasibility reports completed in 2017. The work is being carried out under a Joint-KDFN-Ta'an Kwäch'än Council -City-YG Memorandum of Understanding, through a joint work plan and working group.
- Completion of feasibility work is targeted for winter 2025 to enable high-level master plan process and public engagement to potentially start later in 2025.

Valleyview South Master Plan (including Tank Farm)

- The City-led multi-owner master plan was approved by the City in 2024.
- The site is identified in the OCP to provide a significant source of housing units up until 2040. The City is advancing infrastructure cost-sharing and development guidelines to facilitate the project next steps.
- To date, YG has participated in the planning as a minor landowner within the plan area. YG's contribution has been land (in the plan area) for common infrastructure such as storm water bioswale and lift stations sites.

September 6, 2024

Date approved

Recommended response:

- Yukon's vibrant and growing communities require a supply of available buildings so families and businesses can grow and thrive. We collaborate with municipalities, First Nations, and the private sector to help meet this need.
 - This season more than 60 lots outside of Whitehorse were released, including the Carmacks Prospector extension, various Faro, Haines Junction and Mayo infill lots, the Lone Tree subdivision near Teslin, and the last phase of Grizzly Valley.
 - Community Services is advancing projects in every municipality in the Yukon, helping to guide the land development process from feasibility, to planning, to construction, and final lot preparation.
 - Construction highlights this summer include the 43-lot Francis Avenue Extension in Watson Lake, and the 44 lots in the first phase of the Dahl-Gahy Mountain Ridge subdivision in Haines Junction.
-

Context:

- Increasing lot availability and addressing housing pressures in all Yukon communities is of high interest to the public.
-

Background:

- Community Service's Land Development Branch (LDB) works with municipal, First Nation and private sector partners to determine site suitability, plan, design, and construct subdivisions. Energy, Mines and Resources' Land Management Branch (LMB) takes the lots to market for sale.

Community Summaries

Carmacks

- Six (6) serviced (part) Prospector Extension lots were released in Summer 2024.
- Feasibility and planning work is advancing for 2 country residential sites.

Dawson

- Dredge Pond II (~40 lots) YESAA, regulatory approvals and detailed design is advancing to begin construction in 2025.
- Feasibility and planning are underway for Callison East Industrial and infill lots.

Faro

- Six (6) serviced Ladue South infill lots were released in Summer 2024.
- Mitchell Industrial planning is underway, and Rose & Ladue (~17 lots) serviced residential YESAA and detailed design is beginning.

Haines Junction

- Two (2) urban lots were released in Summer 2024. One (1) lot is currently available over the counter.
- The serviced Dahl Gahy-Mountain Ridge subdivision (Willow Acres) is underway (44 lots).
- The master plan for the Area 3 country residential (~63 lot) subdivision is underway.

Mayo

- Five (5) infill lots were released in Summer 2024. There are currently two (2) lots available over the counter.
- 7th Ave North urban expansion YESAA and detailed design advancing.
- Exploring means to advance planning for Upper Bench with or ahead of First Nation of Na-Cho Nyak Dun.

Teslin

- Twenty-one (21) Lone Tree and 2 large Airport industrial lots were released in Summer 2024.

Session Briefing Note

EMR # 75 **TAB# LD-02**

Fall 2024

Rural Land Development

Community Services

Watson Lake

- One (1) vacant infill lot was released in Summer 2024. There is currently one (1) lot available over the counter.
- Francis Avenue 43 lot extension and lift station construction is targeted for completion in Fall 2024. Under the agreement, 18 lots will be transferred to Liard First Nation.

Whitehorse Periphery

- Twenty lots (16 Grizzly Valley, 2 Golden Horn, 2 Mendenhall) were released in summer 2024.

September 4, 2024

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Managing Unauthorized Occupancies

#76
Fall 2024

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- The Department of Energy, Mines and Resources is aware of cabins, docks and other structures built without authorization in the Yukon's wilderness areas.
- Illegal occupancies negatively impact Yukon First Nations rights and titles, alienate other users from using public land, and are often associated with other illegal activities such as cutting trees or creating unauthorized roads and trails.
- Unauthorized occupancies impact the Yukon's wilderness and create liabilities for Yukon citizens and governments.
- We continue to address unauthorized structures on public land.

Additional response:

- Regulation of unauthorized occupancy is important for Yukoners' safety, environmental health, and to preserve the respectful use of the land.
- We are modernizing our land legislation and creating a strong framework to give us the tools needed to manage land use in Yukon wilderness areas.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- There may be interest due to media attention on the unauthorized cabins at Ensley Creek and in Carcross/Tagish Traditional Territory.

Session Briefing Note

Managing Unauthorized Occupancies

#76
Fall 2024

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Background:

- Energy, Mines and Resources' Land Management Branch is aware of nearly 500 documented unauthorized occupancies across the Yukon that have infrastructure including cabins, fuel storage and other structures. There are likely additional, undocumented sites.
- Addressing unauthorized occupancies is prioritized based on risk and available resources.
- High-profile occupancies, such as those at Ensley Creek, may encourage additional ones if not actioned promptly.
- Education and seeking voluntary compliance are the first approaches when dealing with unauthorized occupancies.
- Enforcement is a necessary response when there is no voluntary compliance. Enforcement measures protect public land, maintain the public's ability to access land, and address risks to human safety and environmental damage.
- The Government of Yukon works proactively with Yukon First Nations and municipalities regarding structures built on public land.

Approved by:

Dennis Berry

Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

August 15, 2024

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Land Lottery Reform

Fall 2024Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- This fall, we are bringing forward actions to reform the land lottery system within the framework of existing legislation. We are doing this now in preparation for the spring 2025 public land lotteries.
- We are looking at how often successful candidates can re-apply for a residential lottery, conditions for lot sales, Agreement for Sale terms, and deposits that apply to a land lottery.
- We continue to develop new public land legislation in partnership with First Nations through the Successor Resource Legislation Working Group to address the legislative aspects of the land lottery system.

(BN #6)

Additional response:

- We completed public engagement for land lottery reform this August as part of the broader engagement on a new Public Lands Act.
- The What We Heard from the Public Lands Act engagement will be released publicly once it is ready.
- We continue to work closely with the City of Whitehorse and Yukon communities to develop and release lots. (BN #71)

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Section 4F of the Confidence and Supply Agreement (CASA) sets out a commitment to: “Reform the land lottery system through a process that includes public engagement.”

Session Briefing Note

Land Lottery Reform

Fall 2024

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Background:

- The sale of public land is administered through the *Lands Act*, via the *Financial Administration Act*.
- Under the *Lands Act*, the *Lands Regulation* speaks to how residential land lotteries are implemented with the intention that each lot would be purchased by individuals for the purpose of developing their own home.
- Recent trends have identified that builders apply for multiple residential lots through proxies.
- Non-legislative opportunities to reform the land lottery system identified through the public engagement and jurisdictional scan work include:
 - Restrict land lotteries so that successful candidates can only re-apply after a certain number of years.
 - Allow for conditional lot sales, for example to enable the Government of Yukon to suspend interest payments until successful applicants who have signed an Agreement for Sale can access their lots.
 - Allow for variance in Agreement for Sale terms so that applicants can receive more of their 20% down payment back for unforeseen issues (e.g. health emergency).
 - [Make the process to collect and return deposits for lottery applications more efficient.](#)

Approved by:

Paul Moore

November 18, 2024

Deputy Minister,
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date approved

Recommended response:

- Construction is now underway on Northern Community Land Trust Society's "Project 1096", a 32-unit affordable homeownership development that will remain permanently affordable for all current and future buyers.
- We commend the Northern Community Land Trust Society on this transformative initiative and its aim to make home ownership more accessible for low-income families and individuals.
- To support this development, the Yukon government has donated the parcel of land in Whistle Bend, and Yukon Housing Corporation will be contributing up to \$5 million in construction funding.
 - We are ensuring this innovative affordability model can stand the test of time, and that legal mechanisms are in place to preserve the long-term affordability.

Additional response:

- We know from the recent Office of the Auditor General's report that addressing the Yukon's housing needs will require us to adopt innovative approaches that leverage the strength of partnerships.
 - Our support for this project demonstrates our commitment to backing innovative, made-in-Yukon solutions to meet our housing needs.
-

Context:

- Mandate commitment: Supporting the community land trust to advance its project in Whitehorse.

Session Briefing Note

EMR # 78 TAB #37

**Northern Community
Land Trust Society**

Fall 2024

Yukon Housing Corporation

Background:

- The Northern Community Land Trust Society is a Whitehorse-based non-profit organization that aims to build affordable housing in the territory.
- Using a price-restricted sales model protects the affordability of the home by allowing the owner to resell at prices that can increase over time only at the rate of inflation.
- The development will operate as a condominium corporation whose legally binding bylaws will be bolstered by planned changes to the *Land Titles Act* to support ongoing affordability using statutory restrictive covenants.
- The Northern Community Land Trust Society provides an opportunity for households earning less than 80 per cent of the Yukon median income to achieve home ownership and, over time, build equity.
- The Northern Community Land Trust Society intends to use statutory covenants registered on title to limit the increase in resale pricing of the homes to the rate of inflation, to maintain long term affordability.
- The Government of Yukon is preparing amendments to the *Land Titles Act*, which are planned to be tabled in the fall 2024 sitting of the Yukon Legislative Assembly.
 - The Department of Justice is leading this work which, when complete, will enable the enforcement of statutory restrictive covenants.
- Northern Community Land Trust Society entered into a purchase and sale agreement with EMR for lot 1096 in Whistle Bend for a nominal fee of \$1.
 - The appraised market value of the land is \$1.2 million.

August 30, 2024

Date approved

Session Briefing Note
First Nation of Nacho Nyak
Dun Regional PlanningEnergy, Mines and
Resources
and Environment

Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon is committed to working with the First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun to advance land use planning in their Traditional Territory, including the Beaver River watershed.
- Regional planning with the First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun is in the pre-planning stage.
- The Government of Yukon and First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun are actively discussing how the Beaver River planning process may interact with the Chapter 11 regional land use planning process.

Additional response:

- The Government of Yukon remains dedicated to prioritizing the important work of land planning. The ongoing emergency response to the situation at Victoria Gold's Eagle Mine is a priority for both Yukon government and the First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun. (See EMR # 1)
- The outcomes of the recent appeal decision regarding the proposed Metallic Metals exploration project in the Traditional Territory of the First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun highlight the important role of land use planning.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- There may be questions regarding land use planning in First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun's Traditional Territory.

Session Briefing Note

First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun Regional Planning

Energy, Mines and
Resources
and Environment

Background:

- The Government of Yukon and First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun continue to discuss the Beaver River planning process and linkages to the Chapter 11 regional planning process.
- The Beaver River land use planning process is not an Umbrella Final Agreement Chapter 11 sub-regional planning process. Rather, it comes out of the 2018 Intergovernmental Agreement between the First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun and the Government of Yukon, which supports the proposed ATAC all-season tote road.
- The Agreement states that a land use plan must be finalized before any road construction occurs.
- ATAC Resources Ltd. has sold many of its mineral holdings in the Yukon to Hecla Mining, including its Rackla Gold and Connaught projects.
- On March 15, 2021, the First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun petitioned the Supreme Court of Yukon to set aside the Government of Yukon's issuance of a Decision Document for the Metallic Minerals proposed exploration project in the Beaver River Watershed in part due to the ongoing Beaver River Land Use Planning process.
- On January 31, 2023, the Supreme Court of Yukon ruled consultation with the First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun to be inadequate and overturned the Government of Yukon's decision document for the Metallic Minerals project. The Government of Yukon appealed this court decision to the Yukon Court of Appeal. The Court of Appeal largely dismissed the Government of Yukon's appeal in a decision released on April 9, 2024. (See EMR BN #90)
- The heap leach failure at Victoria Gold Corporation's Eagle Mine on June 24, 2024, and ongoing emergency response has required a significant diversion of Government of Yukon and First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun personnel and resources.

EMR #80 / ENV #80

Fall 2024

Session Briefing Note First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun Regional Planning

Energy, Mines and
Resources
and Environment

Approved by:

Heather Mills A/DM

Deputy Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources

September 5, 2024

Date approved

Briar Young

A/Deputy Minister of Environment

September 5, 2024

Date Approved

Session Briefing Note

Fall 2024

Local Area Planning

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- We are working with First Nations governments and Yukon communities to create local area plans and zoning regulations that reflect local contexts, guide development and help to resolve competing land uses.
- We are currently working with First Nations governments on local area plans for Łu Zil Män (Sloo-Zill-Mun, or Fish Lake), the Alaska Highway West, and Marsh Lake areas.
- We are working to update zoning regulations in the Golden Horn and Shallow Bay areas and working with the Ibex Valley Local Advisory Council to explore potential zoning updates. (See BN #82)

Additional response:

- In fall 2023, we worked with Teslin Tlingit Council to create zoning for the Lone Tree residential development near Teslin to provide a total of 40 new residential lots.
- It is important to understand and reflect local contexts in the development of local area plans. We value the voices and ideas of each community.
- Gladiator Metals recently staked claims in the Łu Zil Män (Fish Lake) area but has not submitted applications for mineral exploration work. Should the company submit an application like a Class 1 Notification for review, the Mineral Resources Branch would review the proposed mineral exploration activities.

Session Briefing Note

Fall 2024

Local Area Planning

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Context — this may be an issue because:

- Community members regularly seek updates on the status of community planning processes.

Background:

- Local area plans are policy documents developed with First Nations and communities. Steering committees typically guide local area plan development.
- The policies and land use designations in a local area plan are implemented through area development (or zoning) regulations.
- The Mount Lorne Local Area Plan does not advance the McGowan rural residential land development project, in accordance with residents' interests. When amendments to the plan were proposed in 2010 and 2015, local residents and the public raised significant concerns around the project's potential impact on caribou habitat, wildfire risk, cost, sustainability and local watersheds.
- The Government of Yukon and Kwanlin Dün First Nation are developing the Łu Zil Män (Fish Lake) Local Area Plan. A steering committee composed of local residents and Kwanlin Dün citizens is guiding the planning process. Before the plan is approved by both governments, the public will have an opportunity to provide feedback on the draft plan, which will be released in winter 2024.
- In February 2024, the Government of Yukon and Champagne and Aishihik First Nations co-hosted public engagement events in Haines Junction, Champagne and Takhini areas to gather input on the Alaska Highway West Background Report. The report is now being finalized.
- In spring 2024, public input was collected for a potential zoning change in the Golden Horn area that could allow smaller lot sizes and more flexibility to build additional housing.
 - Most respondents did not support reducing the minimum lot size from 3 to 2 hectares (of 99 responses, 44 supported and 55 opposed). There was a slight

Session Briefing Note

Fall 2024

Local Area Planning

Energy, Mines and
Resources

majority support for increased setbacks (56 supported, 43 opposed) and broad support for the residential use of guest cabins (70 supported, 29 opposed).

- For the Lone Tree development project near Teslin, the Government of Yukon established zoning and has released 21 country residential lots by lottery in August 2024. Teslin Tlingit Council will lease an additional 17 lots.

Approved by:**Paul Moore****September 17, 2024**

Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Shallow Bay Zoning Amendments

#82
Fall 2024

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon values the voices of local residents and First Nations regarding the potential re-zoning of the Shallow Bay area.
- In 2021, the rezoning process for the area was paused to enable the Department of Environment to complete flood hazard mapping for the area, which could inform the riparian buffer needed.
- This flood hazard mapping was completed in summer 2024 and found flood prone areas ranging in size from 30 to 800 metres from the shoreline.
- The Government of Yukon is reviewing the completed flood hazard mapping alongside the Shallow Bay What We Heard report to inform next steps on the potential re-zoning of the Shallow Bay area.

Additional response:

- The Shallow Bay What We Heard report, summarizing feedback from the 2021 public engagement, is available online.
- Flood hazard mapping completed by the Department of Environment is also available online.
- The Government of Yukon is also working on developing guidance for development within flood-prone areas.
- Potential hazards, such as flooding, continue to be considered when the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources reviews subdivision applications.

Session Briefing Note

Shallow Bay Zoning Amendments

#82
Fall 2024

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Context — this may be an issue because:

- Community members may have questions about the Shallow Bay zoning process.

Background:

- Between 2015 and 2017, residents of Shallow Bay expressed an interest in lowering the minimum lot size for rural residential properties and requested that zoning changes reflect the unique social, cultural, and ecological values of the Shallow Bay area.
- In May 2018, the Government of Yukon and Ta'an Kwäch'än Council established the Shallow Bay Zoning Committee to assist with the development of draft zoning regulations for the area. The committee includes representation from property owners and Ta'an Kwäch'än Council.
- The committee reached a consensus on the proposed new zoning in December 2020. Input on the zoning was received from the public and Ta'an Kwäch'än Council citizens. A What We Heard report is available on Yukon.ca.
- Public engagement in 2021 on proposed Shallow Bay zoning amendments found strong local interest in maintaining the current minimum lot size of 6 hectares and diverging local stances on inclusion of a 60 metre riparian buffer zone to protect the bay.
- The Shallow Bay What We Heard report, summarizing feedback from the 2021 public engagement, is available online. 72 per cent of respondents had concerns with 4 hectare lot sizes and 81 per cent had concerns with 3 hectare lot sizes. Concerns regarding the lack of supporting studies to justify why 60 metres was used for the riparian buffer were also noted.

Approved by:

Dennis Berry

Deputy Minister

Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

2024.08.29

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Peel Implementation

Fall 2024Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- We continue to meet regularly with our First Nations partners from Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun, Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation and Gwich'in Tribal Council to implement the Peel Watershed Regional Land Use Plan.
- Implementation includes managing permanent and temporary staking prohibitions within conservation areas identified in the plan.
- Mineral projects proposed on existing claims only proceed if they meet the requirements of the Plan and the Yukon's assessment and regulatory regimes.
- We are working with our First Nations partners to protect conservation areas in the plan, including work toward legal designations for these areas.

Additional response:

- We worked with our First Nations partners to include the Peel region's special management areas as interim protected areas under the Canadian Protected and Conserved Areas Database, which is a federal conservation area accounting initiative. We are also working with the Government of Canada on a potential National Park in the area. (See ENV BN# 81 - Peel Land Use Plan Implementation)
- Through the Peel Plan Implementation Committee, we are clarifying the Peel Plan recommendations of adequate baseline data required for evaluating proposed projects.

Session Briefing Note

Peel Implementation

Fall 2024Energy, Mines and
Resources

- More than 6,500 out of almost 9,000 mineral claims in the Peel have either lapsed or been relinquished in exchange for non-monetary compensation.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- There may be questions about implementation of the Peel Watershed Regional Land Use Plan.

Background:

- In 2021, Silver47 Exploration Corp. submitted a proposal for a Class 3 quartz exploration program on their Michelle Creek property, overlapping several Landscape Management Units within the Peel Watershed region. (See BN #85)
- Three types of conservation areas in the Peel Watershed Region have been withdrawn from staking under the *Quartz Mining Act* and the *Placer Mining Act*. Special Management Areas have been withdrawn indefinitely and represent 55 per cent of the region. Wilderness Areas and Wilderness Areas-Boreal Caribou are withdrawn until January 1, 2030, representing 28 per cent of the region.
- We provide opportunities for relinquishment of mineral claims for eligible claim holders in the designated Peel conservation areas in exchange for non-financial incentives, such as a period of relief from assessment on mineral claims in other regions of the territory. (See BN #99)

Approved by:**Paul Moore**Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources**September 17, 2024**

Date approved

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2024****Peel Land Use Planning Implementation** Environment

Recommended response:

- We continue to work with our First Nation partners, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun, Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation and the Gwich'in Tribal Council to implement the Peel Watershed Regional Land Use Plan.
- Our governments have been working together to designate specific Special Management Areas identified in the Peel Plan as protected areas under legislation.
- We are working with the federal government on a feasibility assessment for a national park for the areas including Turner Lake Wetlands, Caribou River, and the Peel River corridor.
- We are also working toward designating Special Management Areas that cover the Wind, Snake, Bonnet Plume, and Vittrekwa Rivers as territorial parks.
- Combined, these three areas will cover over seven percent of the Yukon.

National Park Feasibility Assessment in the Peel Watershed

- Recently, the Government of Yukon, in close partnership with the Gwich'in Tribal Council, the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun and Parks Canada, announced that we are working together on a feasibility assessment for a new national park in the Peel Watershed.
- The national park feasibility assessment will provide the opportunity to consider a national park as the permanent protected area designation, determine the protected area boundaries and discuss longer term management of this area.

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2024****Peel Land Use Planning Implementation** Environment

- A feasibility assessment for a national park in this area is a key step toward implementing the Peel Watershed Regional Land Use Plan and supports the conservation and protection goals of the Canada-Yukon Nature Agreement.
- If established, a new national park would permanently protect this area, which includes 3,000 square kilometres of rich and diverse landscapes.
- All governments involved in the feasibility assessment are preparing for upcoming public engagement as part of the work to determine whether a national park is feasible and desirable.

Peel Territorial Parks:

- The Parties to the Peel Plan (the governments of First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation, the Gwich'in Tribal Council and Yukon) have recommended that two natural environment parks be established under the Yukon's *Parks and Land Certainty Act*.
- We are working together to designate these parks, and hope to have them established next year. Once designated, the Yukon will work with our First Nation partners to co-develop the management direction for these protected areas, which will include an opportunity for the public to provide input.
- One park will include the Wind and Bonnet Plume Watersheds and will be known as Tagé Héninlin (Nijin Han Niinlaih) (*Ta-gay Hen-in-lin Ni-jin Hahn Ni-inlay*) Territorial Park.
- This Territorial Park will cover about 6 per cent of the Yukon and will be 14 times larger than Tombstone Park.

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2024****Peel Land Use Planning Implementation Environment**

- The second park, which has not been named yet, will include the Richardson Mountains and Vittrekwa River.

Additional response:

- Other implementation activities from the Peel Plan include the establishment of two hydrometric stations on the Snake and Wind Rivers. These stations monitor water levels and flow, and the data can be accessed by the public in real time.
- Accessible water data increases safety of river users and is valuable for understanding environmental change in the area.
- We have also produced publicly-available mapping products, which used satellite imagery to map wetlands and areas of existing disturbance. These products can be used to inform future land management planning and decision-making.
- Two areas within the Peel Watershed have been nominated by the Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute to be National Historic Sites. These are areas of great cultural importance to the Tetlit Gwich'in. The nominations are supported by all five parties to the Peel Plan.
- We look forward to continuing collaborative work with First Nations partners to implement the Peel Watershed Regional Land Use Plan.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The public continues to show interest in the implementation of the Peel Watershed Regional Land Use Plan.
-

Background:

- The Peel Plan Implementation Committee consists of representatives from all five governments who are signatories to the Peel Plan and are responsible for overseeing the Plan's implementation.
-

Prepared for Minister Clarke
Department of Environment

Date prepared: August 22, 2024
Last Updated:

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Session Briefing Note**Fall 2024****Peel Land Use Planning Implementation Environment**

- The two areas nominated to be National Historic Sites are Tshuu tr'adaojich'uu and Teetl'it njik. They are culturally significant locations along the Peel River.
- The First Nations Parties have expressed interest and expectations in jointly working to designate the two territorial parks due to the commitments in the Peel Plan to jointly manage the Special Management Areas.
- In the proposed territorial park areas, non-industrial land uses, such as hunting, trapping, outfitting, and commercial tourism will be allowed to continue within the parks. Commercial tourism will be respected and allowed to continue, although operators may require a park permit prior to visiting the parks. As per the Peel Plan, no new industrial development or new surface access will be allowed. Existing mining claims will be recognized.
- The proposed national park area does not overlap with any outfitting concession and licensed resident hunters rarely visit the area because of its remoteness. Subsistence harvest rights in this area will not be affected should it become a national park.
- Between 1995 and 2023, three animals were harvested by licensed resident hunters in the area identified in the national park feasibility study assessment, with the last animal harvested being a caribou in 2022.
- As the Game Management Subzones where these three animals were harvested have minimal overlap with the area of the national park feasibility assessment, in addition to Tetlin Gwich'in lands where permission to hunt is required, it is probable that there were no animals harvested within the potential national park area.

Approved by:

Shehnaz Ali

September 13, 2024

A/Deputy Minister of Environment_____
Date approved

Session Briefing Note

10 Mile Policy

#84
Fall 2024

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon established the 10 Mile Road Area Future Planning Policy following conversations with Carcross/Tagish First Nation concerning the impacts of development on caribou.
- The Government of Yukon and Carcross/Tagish First Nation recognize that the area between Tagish and Carcross provides a migration corridor and core winter habitat for the Carcross caribou herd.
- In recognition of the particular importance of caribou to their traditional way of life, the Carcross/Tagish First Nation requested that the Government of Yukon protect this area from further development.

Additional response:

- The policy is an interim measure to restrict additional subdivision of lots while future planning takes place.
- The 10 Mile policy will remain in place until it is replaced by a land use plan, development area plan, or another planning scheme. Public engagement will occur during the land use planning process.
- The Government of Yukon is advancing regional land use planning in partnership with local First Nations and exploring the establishment of a Special Management Area in the area.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The 10 Mile Road Area Future Planning Policy was established in July 2024 and notices were sent to the affected property owners.

Session Briefing Note

10 Mile Policy

#84
Fall 2024

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Background:

- The 10 Mile Road Area Future Planning Policy was established under the Area Development Act.
- The 10 Mile Road Area Future Planning Policy establishes that the minimum lot size for the area is 35 hectares or the size of an existing lot, whichever is larger.
- The policy is in response to Carcross/Tagish First Nation (C/TFN) opposition to new subdivision applications in this area and concerns about impacts of development on the Carcross caribou herd.
- Much of the area is already reserved for the purpose of protecting caribou habitat and no new land dispositions are currently considered.

Approved by:

Dennis Berry

2024.09.04

Deputy Minister,
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Fall 2024

Michelle Creek Project

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- The Yukon government is seeking a judicial review of the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board assessment of the Michelle Creek mineral exploration project.
- The Yukon government depends on the Board's environmental and socio-economic assessments of projects to make decisions on whether they should proceed and what terms or conditions may be necessary.
- If there are flaws in the assessment process leading to the recommendation, the Yukon government cannot make a fully informed decision to accept, reject or vary the recommendation.
- As this matter is currently before the courts, we will not comment on the proceeding.

Additional response:

- We are committed to implementing the Peel Watershed Regional Land Use Plan and advancing work on other regional land use plans.
- Advancing regional land use planning and implementing existing regional land use plans through the Final Agreements of Yukon First Nations helps reduce land use conflicts, and provides more certainty for industry.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- There may be questions on the judicial review of the Michelle Creek mineral exploration project announced in May 2023.

Session Briefing Note

Michelle Creek Project

Fall 2024Energy, Mines and
Resources

Background:

- On December 16, 2022, the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board recommended that the Michelle Creek Project not be allowed to proceed due to significant adverse effects to wildlife and First Nation wellness, and lack of adequate baseline data to effectively mitigate the adverse effects.
- The proposed Michelle Creek Project is a mineral exploration project on claims within the Peel Watershed region. The claims were staked and existed before the Peel Watershed Regional Land Use Plan was approved in August 2019.
- This is the first mineral project proposed in an area with an approved Regional Land Use Plan under Chapter 11 of a Final Agreement that has undergone an environmental assessment by the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board.
- The Peel Watershed Regional Land Use Plan respects existing mineral claims and leases. It provides directions on mineral development and management of lands and resources in the Peel River watershed. (See BN #83)
- The proposed mineral exploration project overlaps several Landscape Management Units designated for conservation and development, increasing the complexity of analysis.
- During the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board's evaluation of the Michelle Creek Project, two affected Yukon First Nations submitted comments that the proposed project did not conform to the approved regional land use plan; whereas the Yukon Land Use Planning Council, who is designated by Parties as responsible for conformity checks, submitted comments through its own analysis that the project did conform.
- On May 29, 2023, the Yukon government applied for a judicial review of the assessment of the Michelle Creek Project after several flaws were identified in the evaluation report, which impacted the government's ability to make an informed decision.
- The *Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act* does not allow for a reconsideration of the Board's evaluation report except through a judicial review.

Session Briefing Note

Michelle Creek Project

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Resources

- The Michelle Creek Project is the first time that the Yukon government has requested a judicial review of the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board's recommendation for a project.

Approved by:**Dennis Berry****2024.09.05**

Deputy Minister

Date approved

Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Session Briefing Note Hecla - Keno Hill

#88
Fall 2024
Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- Hecla Mining Corporation put the Bermingham Mine into production in 2023, producing 1.5 million ounces of silver over nearly six months that year. Outputs are expected to increase during 2024.
- Hecla Mining will begin construction on Phase 2 of the Dry Stack Tailings Facility during the Fall of 2024.
- The Government of Yukon is currently reviewing the Reclamation and Closure Plan and security requirements for this site.
- First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun was consulted on the Reclamation and Closure Plan, security requirements, and Phase 2 Dry Stack Tailings Facility construction prior to the heap leach failure at the Eagle Gold Mine and has provided comments following their review.

Additional response:

- Hecla Mining acquired the Keno Hill Silver Project from Alexco Resource Corp in late 2022.
- In May 2024, Alexco Keno Hill Mining Corp. was charged and fined \$100,000 for two violations that occurred in 2022 and 2023 related to hazardous materials storage and exceeding effluent discharge standards. The company paid the fine within the specified deadline.
- The Government of Yukon holds \$11.3 million in financial security for the mining operations in the Keno Hill Silver District.

Session Briefing Note

Hecla - Keno Hill

#88
Fall 2024
Energy, Mines and
Resources

- The Government of Yukon is working with Hecla to address a crack in buttress of the Dry Stack Tailings Facility Phase 1. We have contracted a geotechnical engineer to ensure our response is guided by expertise.
- I would like to thank Hecla for their diligence in contacting the Government of Yukon immediately after identifying the crack and for working to build a preventive buttress, as recommended by their Engineer of Record.
- The last inspection of the site occurred on September 5, 2024 to monitor the issues with the Dry Stack Tailings Facility Phase 1 and more inspections are planned.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- Questions may be raised about the status of the site and the implications of the Premier's response letter to First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun on July 31, 2024.
- On August 14th, Hecla was authorized to begin constructing the Dry Stack Tailings Facility Phase 2, per the Premier's letter on July 31st.
- Questions may be raised about what Government of Yukon is doing to ensure stability of dry stack tailings at Keno Hill.

Background:

- Alexco Keno Hill Mining Corp. began mine production at Keno Hill in 2010. The site went into temporary closure from 2013 to 2019 due to low metal prices.
- The Keno Hill Silver District hosts numerous historical mining developments that are federal liabilities.

Session Briefing Note

Hecla - Keno Hill

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Fall 2024
Energy, Mines and
Resources

- The Elsa Reclamation and Development Company, a Hecla subsidiary, is under contract with the Government of Canada to carry out the site-wide closure and reclamation plan for these historical liabilities.
- The Government of Yukon and Yukon Water Board are currently reviewing the 2023 Reclamation and Closure Plan, including financial security requirements.

Compliance and Enforcement Status

- Natural Resource Officers conduct inspections to ensure compliance with licence conditions and legislative requirements.
- Major mine sites are inspected regularly with officers on site approximately every 6 to 8 weeks.
- Inspection reports are publicly available on Waterline, the Yukon Water Board's public registry.

Dry Stack Tailings Facility Phase 1

- On August 27th, Yukon government was notified of a crack that had formed in the buttress of the Dry Stack Tailings Facility Phase 1. With approval from Mineral Resources Branch, Hecla began constructing a preventative buttress, as recommended by their Engineer of Record, on August 28th.
- Hecla is providing daily reports to Yukon government and the First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun on this matter. Buttress construction is expected to be complete in mid-September 2024.
- The September 5th inspection confirmed the crack in the original buttress had not increased in size since construction began on the preventative buttress.

Approved by:

Lauren Haney
Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

September 10, 2024
Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Fall 2024

Critical Minerals

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- In June 2024, the Government of Canada updated the list of Canada's critical minerals to include 34 minerals.
- Yukon hosts deposits of 14 of these critical minerals, and occurrences of an additional 13.
- In 2023, the Yukon saw exploration activity for the following critical minerals: copper, zinc, tungsten, nickel, cobalt, and platinum group metals.
- We are supporting the development of the Yukon's critical minerals by advancing an electrical grid intertie with British Columbia, looking to secure continued tide water access in Skagway, and making improvements to our road infrastructure through the Yukon Resource Gateway Project. (See BN#107)

Additional response:

- To stimulate investment in critical minerals in the Yukon, we updated the evaluation criteria for the Yukon Mineral Exploration Program to include extra weighting for projects that target critical minerals.
- We are working with Natural Resources Canada on the implementation of Canada's Critical Minerals Strategy and looking at other made-in-Yukon solutions for critical minerals opportunities.
- Canada's critical mineral list now includes high purity iron (used for steel), phosphorus (used for fertilizers/food security) and silicon metal (used for semi-conductors).

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Fall 2024

Critical Minerals

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Context — this may be an issue because:

- Geopolitical tensions have increased the focus on securing domestic supply chains for critical minerals. Questions may be raised on whether the development of critical minerals is prioritized in the Yukon.

Background:

- As defined by Canada, critical minerals must meet the following two criteria:
 1. the supply chain is threatened, and
 2. there is a reasonable chance that Canada can produce the mineral.
- Critical minerals must also meet one of the following criteria:
 1. it must be essential to Canada's economic or national security,
 2. it is required to transition to a sustainable low-carbon and digital economy, or
 3. it will position Canada as a strategic partner in the global supply chain.
- Canada's Budget 2022 identified major investments (\$3.8 billion over eight years) to implement Canada's first Critical Minerals Strategy. This includes:
 1. Up to \$1.5 billion over seven years, starting in 2023-24, for infrastructure investments that would support the development of the critical minerals supply chains, with a focus on priority deposits;
 2. \$79.2 million over five years, starting in 2022-23, for Natural Resources Canada to provide public access to integrated data sets to inform critical mineral exploration and development; and
 3. The introduction of a new 30 per cent Critical Mineral Exploration Tax Credit for specified mineral exploration expenses incurred in Canada and renounced to flow-through share investors. This targets nickel, lithium, cobalt, graphite, copper, rare earths elements, vanadium, tellurium, gallium, scandium, titanium, magnesium, zinc, platinum group metals, or uranium.

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Fall 2024

Critical Minerals

Energy, Mines and
Resources

- In June of 2024, Canada added three new commodities to their critical mineral list: high purity iron (green steel), phosphorus (fertilizers/food security) and silicon metal (chips, semi-conductors), as well as the 31 commodities on the original list.
- In the lead-up to the updated list, the Government of Yukon advocated for the inclusion of silver on the critical minerals list. Silver was not added to the list.
- Of the 34 critical minerals on Canada's list, Yukon has deposits for 14, including significant deposits of copper (electrical transmission), zinc (anode in material batteries), tungsten (strengthening metals), nickel (metal coatings), cobalt (batteries), platinum group metals (catalytic agents), molybdenum (alloy steel), and iron.
- The Yukon's endowment of critical minerals represents both economic opportunities and an opportunity to contribute to the renewable energy/green economy in Canada.
- Yukon Geological Survey has received \$200,000 over three years (2024-2027) from Natural Resources Canada's Critical Minerals Geoscience and Data Program to support the digitization of critical mineral exploration data from assessment files. This will facilitate access to the data and support the assessment of mineral potential for land use planning.

Approved by:

Lauren Haney
Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

September 3, 2024
Date approved

**Kudz Ze Kayah Mine
Project (BMC Minerals)**

Recommended response:

- BMC Minerals' quartz mining licence and lease applications for the Kudz Ze Kayah Mine Project are undergoing regulatory review.
- We are committed to continued consultation with the Kaska First Nations as we consider these applications to construct and bring the mine into production.
- The governments of Yukon and Canada jointly issued the March 8, 2024 Decision Document following full consideration of the potential impacts of the project on asserted Kaska rights, which approved the project to proceed to licensing and included a number of mitigations intended to limit impacts to those rights.
- The Government of Yukon remains committed to deep and meaningful consultation with the Kaska throughout the appeal process and once a decision is rendered by the Court of Appeal.
- Outside of these applications, we continue to consult with the Kaska First Nations throughout the project's lifetime, in line with our commitment to reconciliation and to building strong relationships with First Nations governments.

Additional response:

- We are committed to meaningful consultation and reconciliation with the Ross River Dena Council, Liard First Nation, Dease River First Nation, and Kwadacha Nation.

**Kudz Ze Kayah Mine
Project (BMC Minerals)**

ECO – EMR - ENV

- The Government of Yukon expects proponents to build relationships with and provide funding to First Nation governments and communities impacted by development projects.
- We look forward to the clarity that the Court of Appeal decision is expected to provide.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- During the project assessment and subsequent consultation, Ross River Dena Council and Liard First Nation identified impacts from the project to their asserted Aboriginal rights. The First Nations oppose the project being licensed.
- Ross River Dena Council filed an appeal to the January 2, 2024, Supreme Court of Yukon decision. The appeal was heard in September 2024. The judges reserved their judgment.

Background:

- On June 15, 2022, the Governments of Canada and Yukon issued a joint decision document to vary the Executive Committee's recommendations to allow the Project to proceed, subject to terms and conditions specified in the Final Screening Report.
- On July 20, 2022, the Ross River Dena Council, on its own behalf and on behalf of the Kaska First Nations, filed a petition for judicial review of the decision.
- In August of 2022, BMC Minerals submitted applications to the Yukon government for a quartz mining license and land leases. A Type-A water licence application was submitted to the Yukon Water Board.
- The Supreme Court of Yukon hearing for the petition was held in April of 2023.
- On January 2, 2024, the Supreme Court of Yukon issued its Reasons for Decision on the judicial review of the decision document for the Kudz Ze Kayah mine project.

**Kudz Ze Kayah Mine
Project (BMC Minerals)**ECO – EMR - ENV

- The Supreme Court of Yukon concluded that the governments of Yukon and Canada failed to consult Ross River Dena Council and Liard First Nation's concerns raised in the June 14, 2022 submission.
- The Yukon government's regulatory review of BMC's regulatory applications was paused as a result of the Court's Decision, which set aside the June 15, 2022 decision document until consultation obligations are fulfilled and a new decision document issued.
- As directed in the January 2, 2024 Supreme Court of Yukon's decision, the Government of Yukon and Government of Canada consulted on the Project with Ross River Dena Council and Liard First Nation on February 7 and 8, 2024 in Ross River.
- In February of 2024, Ross River Dena Council filed an appeal to the January 2, 2024 decision from the Supreme Court of Yukon.
- In their appeal of the Supreme Court's decision, the Kaska First Nations requested:
 - That both the January 2, 2024, Supreme Court decision and the June 15, 2022, decision document be set aside;
 - That decision bodies complete meaningful and deep consultation with the Kaska First Nations on the Project; and
 - That the court refers the project back to Decision Bodies for reconsideration or to a Panel review by YESAB (Yukon Environmental & Socio-economic Assessment Board).
- On March 8, 2024, decision bodies issued a Decision Document recommending the project proceed to the regulatory phase.
- The appeal was heard in September of 2024. The judges reserved their judgment.
- (See **ECO TAB 37** Ross River Dena Council – Issues and Initiatives).

**Kudz Ze Kayah Mine
Project (BMC Minerals)**

ECO – EMR - ENV

Approved by:

Justin Ferbey

October 15, 2024

Deputy Minister of the Executive Council Office

Date approved

Lauren Haney

October 14, 2024

Deputy Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date approved

Dennis Berry

October 9, 2024

A/Deputy Minister of Environment

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Fall 2024

Coffee Gold Mine

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- We continue to consult with affected First Nations on the Coffee Gold Mine project to ensure the project is developed and operated in a sustainable manner, based on strong environmental and social principles and performance.
- We are aware that Newmont intends to sell the Coffee Gold Mine project. The commitments and assurances made by Newmont during the environmental assessment process and specific agreements with affected First Nations will be conditions of any future sale.
- As a proposed heap leach operation, the Coffee Gold mine is subject to the Premier's commitment to not license another heap leach until the Independent Review of the Eagle Gold heap leach failure is complete.

Additional response:

- The outcomes of the Independent Review Board's review of the Eagle Gold Mine failure [will help inform next steps](#).
- The Coffee Gold Mine is planned as a heap leach project and therefore licensing will be delayed due to this commitment.
- We are working with Newmont to review and consult on the non-heap leach components of the Coffee Gold Mine licence application while the Independent Review Board is completing its work.

Session Briefing Note

Fall 2024

Coffee Gold Mine

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Context — this may be an issue because:

- The Coffee Gold Mine Project generates broad interest as it progresses closer to mine development and eventual operations.
 - There is increased scrutiny of heap leach mine projects in the Yukon as a result of the June 24 Eagle Gold Mine heap leach failure.
-

Background:

- The Coffee Gold Mine is located approximately 130 kilometres south of Dawson City.
- The project is planned as an open pit and heap leach gold mine with a 30-month construction period followed by a 10-year operation phase and an 11-year closure phase.
- The access road to the project is proposed to be a 214-kilometre all-season road with barge crossings at the Stewart and Yukon rivers. The access route is a combination of existing roads, roads that require improvements, and new construction.
- The Government of Yukon, Transport Canada and Natural Resources Canada issued a joint Decision Document on March 3, 2022. This Decision Document accepted all terms and conditions in the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board (YESAB)'s Final Screening Report and accepted the recommendation that the project proceed.
- The Decision Document included several monitoring requirements and socio-economic terms and conditions that fall outside of the typical regulatory authorizations. The Government of Yukon is developing an approach to address all the recommendations.
- On November 23, 2023, Newmont submitted a water licence application to the Yukon Water Board.
- On November 27, 2023, Newmont Corporation submitted its quartz mining licence application for the Coffee Gold Mine project. The Mineral Resources Branch began reviewing the licence application, and will consult with Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, Selkirk First Nation and White River First Nation. Authorizations for the proposed access road also include consultation with the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun.

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Fall 2024

Coffee Gold Mine

Energy, Mines and
Resources

- Newmont announced its plan to divest many of its properties following the acquisition of Newcrest; one of these properties is the Coffee Gold Mine project. Newmont has indicated that the property will only be sold to companies that can demonstrate they have the capability to undertake the project and will uphold the values of Newmont.
- Newmont plans to continue with regulatory applications in 2024 with the expectation that a sale will occur within the calendar year.
- Newmont has agreements with all affected First Nations on the project and is actively engaging with First Nations on regulatory application materials. A new owner of the project will be required to take on and uphold these agreements in the event of a sale.
- Newmont continues to explore the Coffee Gold property to expand its resources.

Approved by:**Lauren Haney****November 21, 2024**_____
Deputy Minister_____
Date approved

Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Session Briefing Note

Fall 2024

Metallic Minerals

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- Since the Court of Appeal's decision on April 9, 2024, Metallic Minerals has informed the Government of Yukon it has no plans to proceed with the Class 3 – LOTR Quartz Mining Land Use Project in the Beaver River area north of Keno City.
- Based on this information, the Government of Yukon has not re-initiated consultation with First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun on the decision document and is waiting for Metallic Minerals to withdraw the project.

Additional response:

- The Government of Yukon is committed to implementing the Final and Self-government Agreements and to conducting meaningful consultation with Indigenous governments and groups.
- We continue to consult with First Nations on every mining project application that may impact Aboriginal and Treaty rights.
- We apply mitigations both in the Decision Documents and in any future mining land use approvals.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- There may be interest in the Metallic Minerals court case and implications for First Nations and project proponents.

Background:

- In 2020, Metallic Minerals applied for a Class 3 exploration permit for the LOTR project in the Beaver River area north of Keno City.

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Fall 2024

Metallic Minerals

Energy, Mines and
Resources

- The LOTR project consists of 52 claims located approximately 64 kilometres from Keno City and 103 kilometres from Mayo within the Traditional Territory of the First Nation of Na-cho Nyak Dun (FNNND).
- The project proposal received a “proceed with terms and conditions” recommendation from the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board.
- The Government of Yukon consulted FNNND on the project's potential impacts. FNNND expressed the project should not proceed until the Beaver River Land Use Plan is complete.
- The Government of Yukon added several terms and conditions in response to FNNND concerns and issued a decision document in February 2021 to allow the project to proceed. In March 2022, FNNND filed a petition against the Government of Yukon’s issuance of the decision document in the Yukon Supreme Court.
- The petition references a 2018 intergovernmental agreement between the Government of Yukon and FNNND that contains a commitment to complete a sub-regional land use plan for the Beaver River watershed. (See BN #80)
- On January 31, 2023, the Supreme Court of Yukon ruled consultation with the FNNND to be inadequate and overturned the Government of Yukon’s decision document for the Metallic Minerals Project.
- The Government of Yukon filed an appeal with the Yukon Court of Appeal in March 2023. On April 9, 2024, the Yukon Court of Appeal dismissed the appeal and directed the Government of Yukon to consult the FNNND on the decision document again.

Approved by:

Lauren Haney
Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

September 3, 2024
Date approved

Prepared for Minister Streicker
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date prepared: August 8, 2024
Last Updated:

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**Session Briefing Note
Yukon Wetland Policy
and Status**Environment and
Energy, Mines and Resources

Recommended response:

- I am pleased to share that we are making progress on several initiatives to implement the wetland stewardship policy.
- All projects undergoing environmental assessment by the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board (YESAB) are reviewed for potential impacts to wetlands.
- We are working to improve guidance for operators and project proponents to identify and mitigate potential impacts to wetlands during the environmental assessment stage.
- We are in year two of a four-year project to complete territory-wide wetland mapping. So far, we have established a partnership with Environment and Climate Change Canada, evaluated our existing data and methodologies, and completed extensive field data collection.
- Through this partnership we have developed a draft wetland map. This is a working product that is intended to inform future work as we continue to develop a full territory-wide wetland map.
- Guided by this draft map, we've further advanced territory wide mapping with an extensive wetland data collection in central Yukon.
- The territory-wide wetland map will be made available online to the public once it has been completed.
- We have developed a draft guidance document for the nomination and evaluation of Wetlands of Special Importance. Once the guidance

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document is finalized, we will be able to accept the first intake of nominations for Wetlands of Special Importance.

- We have also drafted Yukon-specific wetland classification standards. These standards will establish a common foundation for all future work relating to wetlands in the territory. We intend to engage with First Nations and other interested parties on both documents in late 2024.
- We are working toward the first intake of Wetlands of Special Importance nominations, pending the outcome of this engagement.

Additional response:

- During the summer of 2023 and 2024, we collected aerial imagery to support local-scale wetland mapping and vegetation mapping in the Klondike goldfields region. This information is needed to support more detailed local-scale wetland mapping.
- We also supported Ducks Unlimited Canada to develop an accessible and user-friendly field guide to identify wetlands. This document is now available through Ducks Unlimited Canada.
- We are supporting a new research effort led by the Wildlife Conservation Society Canada that looks at how carbon is stored and released in Yukon wetlands and how it may be impacted by industrial activities.
- You can now find information about Yukon wetlands, how the policy is being implemented, and guidance for industry on Yukon.ca. We are

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also developing a new public-facing information hub for wetlands maps and related spatial information.

Third response:

- We acknowledge the importance of responding to new information as we continue to improve our understanding of the Yukon's wetlands through scientific, traditional and local knowledge.
- We will continue to engage with other governments, departments, agencies, regulatory bodies, and external partners to discuss specific aspects of wetland stewardship policy implementation.
- We remain committed to addressing wetland stewardship and protection within land use planning discussions and project reviews.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- Implementation of the Wetlands Policy and the ongoing management of wetlands is of significant interest to Yukoners.

Background:

- On January 10, 2023 we released A Policy for the Stewardship of Yukon's Wetlands. The goal of the policy is to ensure the benefits of Yukon's wetlands are sustained.
- The Government of Yukon committed \$1.68 million over two fiscal years (2023-24 to 2024-25) for the departments of Environment and Energy, Mines and Resources to begin jointly implementing the wetland stewardship policy.
- In January 2023, the Government of Yukon formed an internal working group to advance and coordinate the implementation of the wetland stewardship policy.
- The working group is composed of members of Environment, Energy, Mines and Resources, Executive Council Office, and Highways and Public Works.

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- The group meets monthly to advance various aspects of policy implementation and ensure a whole-of-government approach to policy implementation.
- See [Appendix A](#) for updates on implementation status.

Approved by:

Dennis Berry

November 21, 2024

Deputy Minister, Environment

Date approved

Lauren Haney

November 21, 2024

Deputy Minister, Energy, Mines and Resource

Date approved

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Appendix A: Actions within the wetland stewardship policy			
Policy Actions (bold = near-term priorities)	Timeline * priority adjusted	Lead	Status update Not Started Initiated Underway Near_Complete
1. Develop guidance for the evaluation of wetland benefits in the Yukon	Long-term	ENV	We have completed some initial work comparing processes in other jurisdictions.
2. Update and finalize a Yukon wetland classification system	Near-term	ENV	A draft Yukon Wetlands Classification Standards document will be shared with management partners and stakeholders when it is ready.
3. Develop an accessible and easy to use guide to identifying Yukon's wetlands for proponents and the public	Mid-term	External	We supported Ducks Unlimited Canada in developing an accessible field guide for public use, aligned with our classification system (action 2). Ducks Unlimited Canada released this field guide in July 2024.
4. Develop wetland mapping standards for regional, local, and project specific mapping applications	Near-term	ENV	We are continuing to develop a draft wetland mapping standards document. Following internal government review, we will circulate the draft to management partners and interested stakeholders for review.
5. Create a broad scale territory-wide wetland inventory	Near-term	ENV	In 2023/24 (Year 1 of this work), we evaluated our predictive wetland mapping methodology and compiled existing wetland field information. We are collaborating with Environment and Climate Change Canada to advance this territory-wide wetland mapping. The draft wetland map (level 1: wetland / not wetland) is complete. In 2024/25 we completed an extensive field data collection campaign which will be used to produce a wetland map for the Northern Tutchone region. Future mapping work will expand into other regions.

Prepared for Minister Clarke and Streicker,
Environment and Energy, Mines and Resources

Date prepared: August 22, 2024
Last Updated: November 6, 2024

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6. Support local scale wetland mapping, where needed	Near-term*	ENV	We have partnered with EMR's Forest Management Branch, to collect stereo (3D) aerial imagery for the Yukon Plateau region.
7. Promote northern wetland research	Near-term*	EMR/ENV	Environment is supporting a three-year research project that began in summer 2024, led by the Wildlife Conservation Society, with funding support from Environment and Climate Change Canada.
8. Promote public awareness of wetlands	Long-term	ENV	We anticipate that the release of the Wetlands of Special Importance Guide and the Yukon Wetland Classification Standards will provide some awareness, as will the future launch of the wetlands information hub at Yukon.ca and the first designations of wetlands of Special Importance. Longer-term public information actions are not yet planned.
9. Develop guidance for the application and use of the mitigation hierarchy	Near-term	EMR/ENV	EMR is leading the development of guidance for the application and use of the mitigation hierarchy. ENV is continuing to work with regulatory agencies, particularly related to mining activity, to address wetland impacts during project assessment and regulatory approvals.
10. Update or develop proponent guidance to be used when submitting wetland impact mitigation information	Near-term	EMR	Plans are in place to develop proponent guidance on how to communicate impact mitigation plans.
11. Update or develop Standard Operating Procedures / Preferred Management Practices for	Long-term	EMR	EMR has developed standard terms and conditions for Class 1 mining activities. These are now being applied at the regulatory stage. EMR will review the effectiveness of these standard terms and revise as necessary. EMR

Prepared for Minister Clarke and Streicker,
Environment and Energy, Mines and Resources

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different activities impacting wetlands			has also developed draft standard terms and conditions for higher impact mining activities that will be applied at the regulatory stage once finalized.
12. Update or develop general wetland reclamation guidelines, and, where required, sector specific guidelines	Near-term*	EMR	EMR continues to apply the Ruby Creek reclamation plan guidelines for placer activities in the Indian River area. During the initial policy implementation phase, reclamation plans are not currently required outside of this area.
13. Develop guidance for offsetting wetland impacts	Long-term	ENV/EMR	A long-term objective that will be explored after near-term and midterm priorities have been advanced.
14. Develop specific and measurable guidance for the interpretation and application of Wetland of Special Importance nomination criteria	Near-term	ENV	We have completed a draft implementation document: <i>Wetlands of Special Importance: Nomination and Evaluation</i> . We intend to share this document with our management partners, for review.
15. Establish a process for legal designation of Wetlands of Special Importance (e.g., through existing legislation such as application of Wilderness Management Areas under the <i>Environment Act</i>).	Mid-term*	ENV	The Department of Environment is evaluating how existing legislative and policy tools can be applied to Wetlands of Special Importance.
16. Create a publicly accessible catalogue of Wetlands of Special Importance.	Mid-term	ENV	In advance of the first call for Wetlands of Special Importance (WSI), we are developing the tools and systems to support a public catalogue. This will be available on the wetland hub at Yukon.ca, once complete.

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Recommended response:

- We recognize industry's concerns about the timelines for regulatory approvals and we are committed to making improvements to our processes where possible.
- Each year, the Mineral Resources Branch is responsible for consulting with affected First Nations on around 600 projects. Consultation must meet government's duty to consult on Aboriginal and Treaty rights. To meet our duty to consult and commitments to First Nations, project consultations sometimes takes longer than statutory timelines.
- In response to the heap leach failure at Eagle Gold Mine, we have paused consultations on existing projects and will not commence new consultations for two months in First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun's Traditional Territory. The two-month pause starts from July 31, 2024 and ends on September 30, 2024.
- Premier Pillai also committed to not licensing another heap leach until the Independent Review Board has completed its work. This will affect the Coffee Gold Mine, which is currently in the Quartz Mine Licensing process.

Additional response:

- We are engaging with the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board and the Yukon Water Board to improve our regulatory systems.

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- There will be an influx of project applications in the next three years, due to expiring authorizations. We are working on solutions to ensure regulatory reviews are not delayed unnecessarily.
- Yukon's mining and mineral exploration industry remains robust. More claims were staked in 2023 than in 2022. The number of notifications, decision documents and permits issued is at a steady, high volume.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- Industry may have questions on timelines for the issuance of permits.

Background:

- The Mineral Resources Branch is the Decision Body for most mining and exploration projects assessed under the *Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act* and is the regulator for exploration programs and major mines.
- Mineral Resources Branch administers and manages mineral tenure and provides direct support to claim holders and operators.
- The Yukon Water Board has delegated authority to act as the Chief of Placer Land Use and is the regulator for Class 4 placer projects. It is responsible for issuing Class 4 placer permits.
- On occasion, project consultations take months to conclude. At times there are issues that warrant significant discussion around potential impacts on Aboriginal and Treaty rights and therefore more consultation is required to resolve them.
- Our government's decision to pause consultation in First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun's Traditional Territory will be applied to 45 proposed projects. The pause applies to the following projects at various stages of environmental assessment and regulatory reviews:
 - Class 1 Notification (25 placer and 2 quartz);

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- Designated Office assessments (5 placer and 1 quartz);
- Decision Documents (5 placer and 1 quartz);
- Mining Land Use Approvals (1 placer and 1 quartz); and
- Operating plans (1 placer and 3 quartz).
- The following table includes the number of notifications, Decision Documents, and approvals that the Mineral Resources Branch has issued, by year, since 2019:

	Number issued per year					Avg. # of days to issue
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023 (as of December 31)	
Placer Class 1 Notifications	126*	282	415	332	353	36
Quartz Class 1 Notifications	53*	130	128	82	96	48
Placer Class 3 and 4 – Decision Documents	68	55	50	62	39	49
Quartz Class 3 and 4 Decision Documents	15	20	19	16	6	55
Quartz Mining Land Use Approvals	14	19	17	12	8	61

* Class 1 exploration notifications were implemented after the Ross River Dena Council (RRDC) vs. Yukon court decision in spring 2020. Prior to this court decision, Class 1 notification was required only within the RRDC area and if projects overlapped with First Nation's Settlement Lands.

- On November 27, 2023, Newmont Corporation submitted its quartz mining licence application for the Coffee Gold Project. The Mineral Resources Branch

Prepared for Minister Streicker
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date prepared: August 8, 2024
Last Updated: November 20, 2024
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began reviewing the license application, and will consult with Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, Selkirk First Nation and White River First Nation. Authorizations for the proposed access road also include consultation with the First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun.

- The Government of Yukon has committed to not licensing another heap leach facility in the Yukon until the outcomes of [the Independent Review Board for the Eagle Gold Mine heap leach failure are complete](#).
- Mineral Resources Branch's review of the quartz mining licence application for Coffee Gold Project is focused on non-heap leach component of the project while the Independent Review is underway.

Approved by:

Lauren Haney

November 21, 2024

Deputy Minister

Date approved

Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

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Mineral Sector Status and Supports

Fall 2024

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- The Yukon continues to attract interest from investors, explorers and miners due to the territory's mineral potential, resources and stability as a mining jurisdiction.
- Natural Resources Canada announced in the fall of 2023 that the 2024 spending intentions for mineral exploration in the Yukon is \$147.1 million; their preliminary estimate of 2023 exploration spending in the Yukon is \$164.3 million and will be finalized later this Fall.
- In 2023, the reported placer gold production in the Yukon was 73,823 crude ounces worth \$158 million, down from 80,165 crude ounces in 2022.
- From January to July in 2024, there have been 1,327 placer claims and 5,050 new quartz claims staked. In 2023, the total number of placer and quartz claims staked were 2,016 and 5,743, respectively.

Additional response:

- The territory ranked 16th in the world as a desirable mining jurisdiction according to the Fraser Institute's 2023 survey. This is an improvement from when Yukon ranked 20th in 2022.
- We are also working with First Nations partners to develop new minerals legislation. One goal is increased certainty for the industry on rules and processes that better align with Final Agreements and best practices.
- In 2023, there were 82 hard rock exploration projects active in the territory.

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Mineral Sector Status and Supports

Fall 2024

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Context — this may be an issue because:

- There may be questions about the health of the mineral and exploration in the Yukon and what the Government of Yukon is doing to support the sector.

Background:

- Indicators of the general health of the quartz and placer mining sectors include exploration expenditures, increases in mineral and metal production, new mineral claims staked, the total number of existing claims, and strong commodity prices.
- Because most mineral discoveries do not progress to advanced stages, and only a small proportion of advanced-stage projects go into production, another indicator of a healthy sector is a high ratio of early-stage projects relative to advanced projects.
- The Yukon Mineral Exploration Program provides part of the risk capital to support early-stage exploration for both hard rock and placer exploration projects. (See BN #63)
- The reported placer gold production for 2023 was 73,823 crude ounces worth \$158 million, down from 80,165 crude ounces in 2022.
- Our work to create a modern minerals legislation realizes a 30-year promise made to First Nations and will create an effective and sustainable framework for the mining industry and the territory.

Placer and Quartz Production

- Natural Resources Canada valued quartz mineral and metal production in 2022 at approximately \$491 million. This is less than \$499 million in 2021 but more than in previous years: \$458 million in 2020, \$157 million in 2019, and \$218 million in 2018.
- In recent years, annual placer production has been approximately 75,000 ounces of gold

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- As of December 31, 2023, the total gold production from the Yukon's placer mines was 73,823 crude ounces. This represents an approximate value of about \$158 million (based on an average gold price of CDN\$2620.27 in 2023).
- In 2023, the total value of metals reported by Yukon hard rock mine operators for was \$513 million. Production included gold, silver, lead, zinc and copper.

Staking Activity —2023 and 2024 Comparison (January 1 – July 31)

- From January to July 2024, 5,050 quartz claims have been staked, and 170,662 total quartz claims are in good standing. In 2023, 5,743 quartz claims were staked.
- From January to July in 2024, 1,327 placer claims have been staked, and 30,034 total placer claims are in good standing. In 2023, 2016 placer claims were staked.
- Overall, we are seeing an increase in the number of quartz and placer claims that have remained in good standing and have not lapsed.

Fraser Institute 2023 Survey of Mining Companies

- Yukon ranked 16th (out of 86 jurisdictions) in the 2023 overall Investment Attractiveness Index, an improvement from 20th spot in 2022.
- The Yukon was in the top 10 as a jurisdiction whose geology encourages mineral investment, once again leading the three Northern territories and ranking above our neighbours to the south, British Columbia.
- Yukon ranked 28th (out of 86 jurisdictions) in the Policy Perception Index, which examines the attractiveness of mining policies for exploration companies to invest.

Approved by:

Lauren Haney

September 3, 2024

Deputy Minister

Date approved

Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

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Security for Mineral Projects

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon requires financial security for all quartz mines, most large quartz exploration projects and certain placer projects.
- Security for quartz mines is reviewed at least once every two years and yearly for applicable quartz exploration projects. We also conduct a full review during applicable quartz license amendments or renewals.
- Security is calculated based on the anticipated cost for the government of reclaiming and closing the site should it be necessary. The Government of Yukon currently holds \$201.6 million in financial security for quartz mines and mineral exploration projects.

Additional response:

- In consultation with Selkirk First Nation, we are implementing the reclamation and closure plan for the abandoned Minto Mine using the security we currently hold.
- The Minto Mine is the first time we have drawn on a surety bond to respond to an abandoned mine and implement reclamation and closure.
- Victoria Gold posted security to the Government of Yukon of just under \$104 million. Security has not been accessed to fund remediation or response costs incurred to date. (See BN # 1)

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Security for Mineral Projects

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Context — this may be an issue because:

- Questions have been raised about the Yukon's financial security process and outcomes for major quartz mines. This is of particular interest since Minto Metals Corporation abandoned the Minto Mine in spring 2023 and the recent incident at Eagle Gold site. (See BN #21 & #1)

Background

Process Improvements

- Energy, Mines and Resources is exploring legislative options to ensure adequate security and reclamation and closure planning as part of developing new minerals legislation. (See BN #6)
- Energy, Mines and Resources published the updated financial guidelines for quartz mining licences in May of this year. These updates include more clarity and direction on the forms of security and the circumstances under which they are permissible.

Mine Reclamation and Closure

- The Government of Yukon reviews and approves a mine operator's security and reclamation and closure plan before issuing a quartz mining licence and on a regular basis afterwards.
- Every year mine operators must produce a report on progressive reclamation, the results of monitoring programs and the effectiveness of mitigation measures.

Financial Security for Quartz Mines

- For quartz mining projects, the Government of Yukon holds approximately \$197 million in security. This includes \$1.7 million held for Brewery Creek, \$80,000 for Carmacks Copper, \$103.7 million for Eagle Gold Mine, \$11.3 million for Keno Hill Silver District, \$75.2 million for Minto Mine (original amount, currently being expended to support active closure and remediation) and \$4.9 million held for Sä Dena Hes.

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- Financial security for quartz mines is determined by both the Government of Yukon and the Yukon Water Board. The Yukon Water Board determines security requirements under the Yukon Waters Act, and the Government of Yukon determines security under the *Quartz Mining Act*.
- The Government of Yukon collects whichever security determination amount is higher between the Yukon Water Board and the Government of Yukon. The Government of Yukon is responsible for holding the financial security.

Financial Security for Placer Projects

- The Government of Yukon currently holds \$4.6 million in financial security for placer projects.
- The Yukon Water Board can also require financial security for Class 4 placer mines.

Approved by:

Lauren Haney
Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

September 3, 2024
Date approved

Recommended Response:

- The Yukon *Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act* Oversight Group is a joint effort between the Governments of Canada and Yukon and Yukon First Nations to oversee the YESAA process and promote its ongoing improvement.
- It is a priority for the YESAA Oversight Group to seek efficiency and certainty of assessment processes under the Yukon *Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act* and support the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board's ability to fulfil their legislated responsibilities.
- The Oversight Group is making progress on an amendment to the Yukon *Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act*.
- This amendment would provide a mechanism in which existing projects requiring amendments or renewals of their authorizations could be exempted from a new assessment if certain criteria are met and affected First Nations consent.
- The Oversight Group continues to work with the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board to identify and advance other improvements to the YESAA process and is supportive of YESAB's efforts to address their ongoing capacity challenges

Additional Response:

- The Oversight Group committed to a comprehensive review of YESAA by 2027, as outlined in their Terms of Reference.
- The Oversight Group will define the scope and approach for this review.

YESAA Reset Oversight Group

Executive Council
Office

Context - this may be an issue because:

- Industry representatives are monitoring progress on the proposed amendment to the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act (YESAA).
- On May 5, 2024, the Yukon Chamber of Mines sent a letter to the Chair of the Oversight Group outlining concerns with YESAB's notice on YESAB's current organizational challenges and anticipated impacts on assessment timelines.

Background:

- The Oversight Group was established because of the YESAA Reset Memorandum of Understanding ("Reset MOU"), signed in November 2017.
- The Oversight Group is composed of representatives from Canada, YG and the CYFN. A representative from ECO represents YG.
- In 2018, the Oversight Group adopted joint priorities which focus on three main areas:
 - revitalizing the YESAA Forum;
 - improvements to consultation and engagement; and
 - policy development and targeted technical working groups.
- YG and CYFN sent a joint letter to the federal Minister of Northern Affairs in December 2020 requesting a focused review of the YESAA.
- In February 2021, the Minister of Northern Affairs indicated his commitment to working with members of the Oversight Group on amendments and renewals.
- The purpose of the review will be to propose amendments to address the need for an assessment when a project's authorization is amended or renewed.
- Yukon First Nations maintain that any decisions concerning determining the need for an assessment of project amendments and renewals within First Nations' traditional territories will require the agreement of that First Nation. YG supports their position.
- The Technical Working Group, supporting the Oversight Group, held engagement workshops with industry, First Nations, and other organizations on the targeted YESAA amendment to address the assessment of amendments and renewals on October 25 and November 16, 2022.
- The engagement period closed December 2, 2022. A What We Heard report was developed and shared with the Oversight Group.

YESAA Reset Oversight Group

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Office

- In fall 2023, the Technical Working Group completed a guidance document that would address concerns identified during engagement and recommended to the Oversight Group a small revision to the proposed amendment.
- The Oversight Group continues to advance the targeted amendment, while taking steps to identify the requirements and process for initiating the full review of YESAA and the Regulations to follow.
- A federal Memorandum to Cabinet is expected to be submitted by the Government of Canada for the targeted amendment to YESAA in fall 2024; the federal government is currently completing Crown consultation with First Nations on the proposed concept.

Approved by:

Justin Ferbey

2024 08 20

Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office

Date

Notable Yukon Water Board Applications

Executive Council
Office

Topic: Current Yukon Water Board ("Board") licence applications of note.

QUARTZ UNDERTAKINGS	
APPLICANT	DETAILS
BMC – Kudz Ze Kayah	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A new Decision Document (DD) was issued for the project on March 7, 2024. The Type A water licence application went to public comment in January 2023 with a deadline for interventions of May 5, 2023. The applicant responded to interventions and submitted updated documents to the Board on July 15, 2024. The updated documents are being reviewed for adequacy.
Goldcorp Kaminak Ltd.- Coffee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The company submitted a Type A water licence application in November 2023. Adequacy review of the application is underway with technical review supported by external consultants.
Alexco Keno Hill Mining Corp.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The company has a Type A Water Licence and pursuant to its water licence, submitted an updated Reclamation and Closure Plan (RCP) and security costing on November 27, 2023 The Board is reviewing the RCP and security costing with the support of external technical consultants.

CHAPTER 14 WATER USE DISPUTE	
APPLICANT	DETAILS
Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In February 2023, Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation ("LSCFN") submitted a water-use dispute application under the Waters Act and Chapter 14 of the First Nation Final Agreement regarding the water licence at the Mt. Nansen mine site. The Parties to the Chapter 14 dispute are the LSCFN, Government of Canada, Government of Yukon and Mount Nansen Remediation Limited Partnership (licensee). Technical and compensation review is supported by external consultants. A public hearing is tentatively scheduled for Q1 2025.

**Notable Yukon Water Board
Applications**Executive Council
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HYDRO UNDERTAKINGS	
APPLICANT	DETAILS
Yukon Energy Corp. – Aishihik - Five-Year Monitoring & Adaptive Management Plan – Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Yukon Energy Corporation (“YEC”) has a Type A licence for the Aishihik Generating Station.The Board’s review of the Five-Year Monitoring & Adaptive Management Plan (“MAMP”) is currently underway.Pursuant to the water licence, YEC must submit a long-term MAMP for review by December 31, 2024.
Yukon Energy Corporation – Whitehorse Rapids	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Yukon Energy Corporation’s (“YEC”) current Type A water licence expires May 31, 2025.A water licence application has not been submitted to the Board.An external technical consultant will be required to support the Board’s review of the application.

MUNICIPAL UNDERTAKINGS	
APPLICANT	DETAILS
Town of Watson Lake	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The Town of Watson Lake’s current water Type A water licence for the municipal water use and deposit of waste expires January 24, 2025.The Town of Watson Lake has not yet submitted an application to the Board.

Notable Yukon Water Board Applications

Executive Council
Office

PLACER UNDERTAKINGS	
APPLICANT	DETAILS
Fellhawk Enterprises Ltd.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On October 6, 2021, the company submitted an application to the Board for a Type B Water Licence and Class 4 placer land use approval. The mining plan proposed works on mining grants currently granted in another company's mining land use approval. The Board denied the application for a Water Licence and Approval. The company filed a petition filed in Supreme Court of Yukon on August 30, 2022. The YSC found the Board's reasons for decision were not adequate and as a result the Court found the Board's decisions were not reasonable. The YSC ordered the Board to reconsider the application. The reconsideration is underway.

Statistics - Water Licence Applications 2013 to Date			
Year	Type B	Type A	Total
2014	120	4	124
2015	133	2	135
2016	123	8	131
2017	135	7	142
2018	121	5	126
2019	102	7	109
2020	116	5	121
2021	93	6	99
2022	108	3	111
2023	88	4	92
2024	78	0	78

Statistics do not include plans submitted for review and approval by the Board.

Notable Yukon Water Board
Applications

Executive Council
Office

Approved by:

Justin Ferbey

2024 09 18

Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office

Date

Session Briefing Note

Compensation for Mineral Claims

Fall 2024

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- The Steering Committee for the development of new minerals legislation is considering how to best incorporate clear and fair compensation rules for claims impacted by changes in allowable land use. (See BN #6)
- Currently, the Government of Yukon works with mineral claim holders to consider compensation requests on a case-by-case basis.
- In some cases, we provide opportunities for eligible claim holders to relinquish their mineral claims in exchange for non-monetary benefits, such as a period of relief from annual requirements to work or provide payment on mineral claims in other regions of the territory.

Additional response:

- As regional land use planning is advanced, it offers more clarity on where development is and is not permitted and to what degree.
- Mineral activities in areas with new or approved land use plans and in municipalities must comply with all legislation, land use plans and other requirements for that area.
- We are finalizing information materials for the Yukon's planned and zoned communities to clarify the tools available to them under the current legislative framework and to help reduce land-use conflicts within municipal boundaries.

Session Briefing Note

Compensation for Mineral Claims

Fall 2024

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Context — this may be an issue because:

- The mining and exploration sector is interested in the approach to compensation for mineral claim holders when land use planning, regulatory decisions, changes to municipal boundaries or other initiatives affect its interests.
- There may be requests from claim holders for compensation as the Government of Yukon considers relinquishing claims in areas overlapping the Dawson Sewage Lagoon Project, proposed McIntyre Creek Park, and proposed national and territorial parks in the Peel Watershed Regional Land Use Plan.

Background:

- In the past, Energy, Mines and Resources has received compensation requests from claim holders who feel the regulatory process has slowed or denied their ability to work their claims.
- At times, non-monetary compensation has been provided for mineral claims affected by federally and territorially imposed land use changes (e.g., Peel Watershed Regional Land Use Plan). (See BN #83)
- No expropriations of placer or quartz mining claims have resulted from implementing the Peel Watershed Regional Land Use Plan. No claims have been expropriated to date in the Yukon.

Claims within Municipalities

- The Government of Yukon recently renewed a quartz mineral staking prohibition order for the municipal boundary of the City of Dawson. A similar quartz mineral staking prohibition order is in place until July 2027 for most of the City of Whitehorse in order to align with the Official Community Plan.
- The *Placer Mining Act* prohibits staking mineral claims within municipal boundaries and the land immediately surrounding a dwelling. Due to the expansion of the municipal boundaries, there are existing placer claims within some municipal boundaries, notably the City of Dawson.

Session Briefing Note

Compensation for Mineral Claims

Fall 2024

Energy, Mines and
Resources

- The Department of Community Services is working with the City of Dawson to plan for land development. In certain areas, conflicts have arisen due to active placer claims in future development areas.

Approved by:

Lauren Haney
Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

September 5, 2024
Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Placer Mining in Wetlands

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- In 2023, we released A Policy for the Stewardship of Yukon's Wetlands to increase knowledge about wetlands and to guide how we protect and make decisions for wetland use and conservation.
- We are working in partnership with First Nations, industry and environmental non-government organizations to implement the policy.
- The interim approach for placer mining in the Indian River remains in place to protect the most sensitive wetland types (all bogs and 40 per cent of fens) and requires a wetland protection and reclamation plan for placer mines.

Additional response:

- The Departments of Energy, Mines and Resources and Environment work together on this initiative, and each lead several actions.
- The Department of Energy, Mines and Resources is creating guidance for wetland reclamation in placer mining and how to manage the loss or reduction of wetland benefits.
- The Department of Environment is advancing wetland mapping in priority areas, developing wetland classification and mapping standards, and creating guidance for nominating and reviewing Wetlands of Special Importance.
- The Yukon Water Board has published draft wetland information guidelines for water licence applications, these are available online.

Session Briefing Note

Placer Mining in Wetlands

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Context — this may be an issue because:

- Implementation of A Policy for the Stewardship of Yukon's Wetlands and the ongoing management of wetlands is of interest to Yukoners, First Nations, environmental groups, and the mining industry.

Background:

- Development of the wetlands stewardship policy began in late 2017. The Government of Yukon developed the policy through an inclusive process with Indigenous governments and groups, boards and councils, municipal and federal governments, industry representatives and non-government organizations.
- A Policy for the Stewardship of Yukon's Wetlands was released in January 2023. It contains 16 implementation actions with near-term, mid-term and long-term implementation targets over the next 10 years.
- The Government of Yukon previously completed regional-scale wetland mapping for the Peel Watershed planning region and more detailed mapping in the Beaver River, Mayo/McQuesten and Indian River watersheds.
- The Department of Environment is working to understand wetland soil carbon and emissions from land use changes, such as placer mining (See BN #93)
- The Yukon Water Board has drafted wetland information guidelines for placer mining applications based on the feedback from the board's public interest hearing on placer mining in wetlands held in 2020.

Approved by:

Lauren Haney
Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

September 5, 2024
Date approved

Prepared for Minister Streicker
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date prepared:
Last Updated:

Session Briefing Note**Yukon Minerals Advisory Board**Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- Each year, the Yukon Minerals Advisory Board produces an annual report to provide recommendations to the Minister related to increasing mineral exploration and development, attracting investment, and reducing constraints on mineral development.
- We are in the process of reviewing the 2023 Annual Report which makes four important recommendations to which we are responding.
- We greatly appreciate the insights and perspectives from Yukon Minerals Advisory Board.
- [We are currently in the process of reviewing proposed new appointments to the Board.](#)

Additional response:

- Our current work to ensure Yukon's electrical grid is predominantly renewable is aligned with the annual report's recommendation to expand power generation and low greenhouse gas emitting electricity distribution to all Yukoners.
- Ongoing initiatives such as collaborating with Yukon First Nations governments on project agreements for components of the Yukon Resource Gateway Program is an opportunity to address the annual report's recommendation on infrastructure and road improvement.
(See BN #107)

Session Briefing Note**Yukon Minerals Advisory Board**Energy, Mines and
Resources

- Developing new minerals legislation is a key action to address the annual report's recommendations, for example on how resource revenues and benefits stay in the territory.
- Made-in-Yukon legislation will improve our regulatory system, respect First Nations' relationships with the land, protect the environment and strengthen our economy.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- There may be questions raised on how the Yukon government is addressing the Board's 2023 Annual Report four key recommendations.

2023 Annual Report:

- The Board's 2023 report attributes gaps in infrastructure and the regulatory environment as major contributors to the challenges the industry faces in operating in the territory and makes four recommendations to the Minister:
 - (1) Expand Yukon with power generation and distribution: increase availability of low cost and low greenhouse gas emitting electricity for Yukoners. (See BN #32)
 - (2) Roads and aerodromes, then resources: road improvements and aerodrome operation should be influenced by natural resource projects but must broadly benefit all Yukoners.
 - (3) Yukon's revenues for Yukon's infrastructure: allow Yukoners to access the benefits of their resources, resource revenues must stay in the territory.
 - (4) Permitting; infrastructure improvement: major infrastructure improvement is an urgent generational challenge. The regulatory environment needs to respond.

Session Briefing Note**Yukon Minerals Advisory Board**Energy, Mines and
Resources**Background:**

- The Yukon Minerals Advisory Board (YMAB) was created under the *Economic Development Act* by a 1999 Ministerial Order (MO 1999/06).
- The Board provides advice and makes recommendations on measures to:
 - increase potential for mineral exploration and development in the territory;
 - attract capital for exploration and development of new mining projects;
 - improve viability of producing mines; and
 - ensure mines can be developed feasibly and in a timely fashion.
- The Board also makes recommendations regarding outreach to First Nations to explore opportunities and benefits of mineral exploration and development in the territory.
- The Board is made up of 12 member positions, each with two-year terms, who are appointed by the Minister of EMR.
- The Board currently has 8 out of 12 positions filled. There are [two](#) applications pending.
- The Board is required to submit an annual report of activities by May 1 that, if requested by the Minister, can include a report on the board's recommendations from the previous year.
- Outcrop Communications Limited has been contracted (\$21,750 to March 30, 2025) to provide ongoing administrative support for the Board.

Approved by:

____Lauren Haney_____

Deputy Minister,
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

____October 23, 2024_____

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Collaborative Stewardship

#104
Fall 2024

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- Since 2020, we have been advancing the Collaborative Stewardship Initiative with Kluane First Nation, Kwanlin Dün First Nation, Selkirk First Nation and Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in.
- This year, the Compliance, Monitoring and Inspections Branch continued to work with our First Nations partners with a focus on water quality monitoring.
- We value working together with Yukon First Nations to enhance environmental stewardship, information sharing, and monitoring across the Yukon.

Additional response:

- Over the summer, the Compliance, Monitoring and Inspections Branch facilitated training sessions with Selkirk First Nation and Champagne and Aishihik First Nation on water quality monitoring.
- We also supported Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in-led water sampling by providing water monitoring equipment and training. Some of our team attended the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Science and Technology Camp and Moosehide gathering.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- Yukon First Nations have expressed interest in participating in joint compliance monitoring and inspection efforts under the Yukon's natural resource legislation.

Prepared for Minister Streicker
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date prepared: August 8, 2024
Last Updated:

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Session Briefing Note

Collaborative Stewardship

#104
Fall 2024

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Background:

- The Collaborative Stewardship Initiative is in its fifth year. Activities focus on inspection processes and procedures, information-sharing, water quality monitoring, cross-training and joint fieldwork.
- The success of the Collaborative Stewardship Initiative has resulted in additional interest in participation from other Yukon First Nations such as Champagne and Aishihik First Nations, as we are working with them in a similar capacity.
- The initiative does not cover investigations, enforcement, or reciprocal legal action (i.e., prosecution) under either Yukon or Yukon First Nations laws, nor does it involve wildlife management or harvesting issues.
- Through the work with our Yukon First Nations partners, we believe that the initiative could expand in four areas:
 - Additional participation
 - Knowledge and skill transfer related to compliance promotion;
 - Training opportunities for Yukon First Nations; and
 - Yukon First Nations-led, community-based water quality monitoring.

Approved by:

Lauren Haney

September 3, 2024

Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date approved

Prepared for Minister Streicker
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date prepared: August 8, 2024
Last Updated:

Page 2 of 2

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2024****Mineral Staking Prohibitions
in Response to Litigation**Executive Council Office
and Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- Our government has continued the mineral staking prohibition within the Kaska asserted traditional territory in the Yukon to allow time to address the court declarations made in the Ross River Dena Council and Kaska Dena Council mining cases.
- We also instituted a mineral staking prohibition for the Áashú (a-shoo) Lands and surrounding area in the asserted traditional territory of the Taku River Tlingit First Nation to support our ongoing discussions.
- We have committed to establishing mineral staking prohibitions for areas of cultural or environmental significance within the Traditional Territory of the First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun. We look forward to working with the First Nation to advance regional land use planning and protect those areas.
- Our goal is to identify solutions that address our shared interests in land and resource matters, provide certainty to industry and benefit all Yukoners.
- We are working collaboratively with First Nations to develop new mineral legislation to replace the *Quartz Mining Act* and *Placer Mining Act*. In that process, we are considering many of the issues raised in the court cases and anticipate the new legislation will help address those issues and the declarations. (See EMR #6)

Additional response:If asked about the Ross River Area:

- The mineral staking prohibition in the Ross River Area was initiated on March 27, 2013, and is in place until April 30, 2026. This is intended to

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2024****Mineral Staking Prohibitions
in Response to Litigation**Executive Council Office
and Energy, Mines and
Resources

allow time to advance consultation with the Ross River Dena Council and the other Kaska First Nations on how best to address the court declarations regarding mineral staking, exploration and development.

- Discussions on the development of new mineral legislation will create the foundation to address the issues covered by the court Declarations, after which we will be able to re-assess the need for the mineral staking prohibition in the Ross River area and in other areas in the Yukon.
- These important discussions about Yukon's mining legislation are ongoing. On behalf of the Yukon government, I would like to extend my thanks to the representatives from Ross River Dena Council and all our First Nations partners for their valuable input to date.

If asked about the southern Yukon portion of the Kaska asserted traditional territory:

- The mineral staking prohibition in the southern portion of the Kaska asserted traditional territory in the Yukon was initiated on February 1, 2017, and is in place until April 30, 2026.
- Liard First Nation is actively participating in the work to develop new mineral legislation.

If asked about White River First Nation:

- We are addressing a range of issues through bilateral negotiations with White River First Nation, including consultation obligations related to the mineral declarations.

Session Briefing Note**Fall 2024****Mineral Staking Prohibitions
in Response to Litigation**Executive Council Office
and Energy, Mines and
ResourcesIf asked about Taku River Tlingit First Nation:

- We are advancing discussions with the Taku River Tlingit First Nation on several matters including the mineral declarations, consultation, and their land interests in the Yukon.
- To support these discussions, our government withdrew land associated with the former Áashú Village site from land disposition and mineral staking on March 28, 2019. This withdrawal is in place until December 31, 2024.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- Mineral staking prohibitions in asserted traditional territories remain a focus of discussions with affected First Nations and are of interest to other First Nations, industry and stakeholders.
- The Official Opposition raised the staking prohibitions in the Legislative Assembly on March 25, 2024. The mineral staking prohibitions in the Kaska asserted traditional territory were extended for a two-year period in April 2024.

Background:

- In 2012, the Yukon Court of Appeal made two declarations with respect to the *Ross River Dena Council v. Yukon* (2012 YKCA 14) mining case: (1) the Yukon government (YG) has a duty to consult with Ross River Dena Council (RRDC) in determining whether mineral rights on Crown lands within the Ross River Area are to be made available to third parties under the provisions of the *Quartz Mining Act*; and, (2) YG has a duty to notify and, where appropriate, consult with and accommodate RRDC before allowing any mineral exploration activities to take place within the Ross River Area.
- In 2013, YG took steps to comply with the second declaration by amending the *Quartz Mining Act* and *Placer Mining Act* to implement a new regime for Class 1 mining activities.
- In 2014, both the Taku River Tlingit First Nation (TRTFN) and Kaska Dena Council (KDC)

TAB 27 ECO/EMR #105**Session Briefing Note****Fall 2024****Mineral Staking Prohibitions
in Response to Litigation**Executive Council Office
and Energy, Mines and
Resources

started court proceedings seeking the same mineral declarations granted in the Ross River Area for their respective asserted traditional territories in the Yukon. The declarations were granted by consent.

- The three mineral staking prohibitions in the Kaska and Taku River Tlingit First Nation asserted traditional territories cover approximately 23 per cent of the Yukon.
- Additional staking prohibitions are in place for reasons such as land use planning, to create parks and protected areas, or to disallow staking within municipal boundaries. About 53 per cent of the total area of the Yukon is currently under a prohibition.

Approved by:

Justin Ferbey

2024 10 02

Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office_____
Date approved

Lauren Haney

October 1, 2024

Deputy Minister, Energy, Mines and Resources_____
Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Fall 2024

North Yukon Oil and Gas Memorandum of Understanding

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- We are committed to collaborative and sustainable resource management in the best interest of Yukoners.
- In 2019, the Government of Yukon signed the North Yukon Oil and Gas Memorandum of Understanding with Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and the First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun.
- Through the Memorandum of Understanding, the Government of Yukon committed to collaborate with the affected First Nations governments to review decision-making processes and tools under the *Oil and Gas Act*.
- We are completing this work through the North Yukon Intergovernmental Oil and Gas Forum and Working Group, established under the Memorandum of Understanding, which includes all signatories.

Additional response:

- The North Yukon Intergovernmental Oil and Gas Forum advances the goals of reconciliation and economic development for the territory.
- Our joint approach respects environmental stewardship, including the protection of the Porcupine Caribou Herd.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- The First Nations in northern Yukon have expressed a desire to see a collaborative approach to any future oil and gas development in their Traditional Territories.

Session Briefing Note

Fall 2024

North Yukon Oil and Gas Memorandum of Understanding

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Background:

- The North Yukon Oil and Gas Memorandum of Understanding established the North Yukon Intergovernmental Oil and Gas Forum ("Forum"), consisting of the Chief of each of the First Nation Parties and the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, and the North Yukon Intergovernmental Oil and Gas Working Group ("Working Group"), appointed by the Forum.
- In 2022, the Forum developed and signed a work plan to address priority issues.
- On July 25, 2022, the Forum decided to defer discussions regarding dispositions until the Successor Resource Legislation process for new minerals legislation concludes to avoid overlap in the engagement processes.
- In June 2023, the Forum met to discuss:
 - Chance Oil and Gas Ltd.'s permit extension request;
 - the Oil and Gas Act Section 68 Benefits Agreement; and
 - the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act Screening Committee Assessment Process steps.
- In 2024, the Working Group has continued to meet monthly. Matters related to Chance Oil and Gas Ltd. have been a focus of recent discussions, [including the status for compliance of orders issued under the Oil and Gas Act, the well maintenance and flow testing program, and the proposed exploration program in Eagle Plains basin. \(See BN #67\)](#)
- North Yukon has the only active oil and gas permits in the territory. These occur within the Traditional Territories of Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and the First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun.

Approved by:

Paul Moore

November 13, 2024

Deputy Minister

Date approved

Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Prepared for Minister Streicker
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date prepared: August 8, 2024
Last updated: November 12, 2024
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Session Briefing Note**FALL 2024****Gateway (Yukon Resource Gateway Program)**Highways and
Public Works**Recommended response:**

- The Yukon Resource Gateway Program supports infrastructure upgrades for up to 650 kilometres of existing roads in areas with high mineral potential and active mining in the Yukon.
- Jointly funded by the Government of Canada, the Government of Yukon and the mining industry, the program aims to improve safety, reliability and accessibility of the Yukon's road network.
- These upgrades will create short and long-term employment, training opportunities and benefits for Yukon First Nations, Yukoners, local communities, and industry.
- In August 2024 we awarded a contract to replace a culvert at kilometre 23.2 on the Silver Trail to a First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun business.
- A Regional Economic Development exemption was used for this procurement as agreed in the Project Agreement signed with the First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun.
- The existing culvert at this location was failing and putting the road at risk.
- The department plans to fully spend the \$4.2 million budget on the Yukon Resource Gateway Program this year.
- This year's budget has also funded Silver Trail heritage studies, fish studies, and an engineering assessment of the Mayo River Bridge.
- In October 2024, we submitted the Silver Trail component, between kilometre 0 and kilometre 57, to the Yukon Environmental and Socio-Economic Assessment Board.

Session Briefing Note

FALL 2024

Gateway (Yukon Resource Gateway Program)

Highways and
Public Works

Additional response:

- In 2025, efforts will be focused on preparing for construction on the Silver Trail and advancing construction of a section of the Robert Campbell Highway between Ross River and Faro.
- In addition, preparation is underway to support the environmental assessment of the Robert Campbell Highway component, which runs just past the Tuchtua River Bridge to the Frances Lake campground, from kilometre 114 to kilometre 171.
- This preparation work is focused on collecting environmental information in the project area to ensure responsible and informed decision making.

Third response:

- For each component identified, the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources negotiates a project agreement with the affected Yukon First Nation in whose Traditional Territory the project resides.
- These agreements provide a process by which the Government of Yukon and Yukon First Nation governments will work collaboratively.
- They also outline how we will structure procurements to align with the Yukon First Nations Procurement Policy and to ensure there are benefits for each community.
- Once an agreement is signed, the Department of Highways and Public Works starts implementing the agreement.
- This process involves continued planning and collaboration with the affected Yukon First Nation. It encompasses key steps like project planning and design, YESAB assessment, regulatory review and permitting.

Session Briefing Note

FALL 2024

Gateway (Yukon Resource Gateway Program)

Highways and
Public Works

-
- Implementation work is crucial. Once the foundational work is complete, project procurement and construction can begin.
-

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The Yukon Resource Gateway Program includes several high-profile projects with multiple stakeholders and First Nations involvement.
 - The Victoria Gold Eagle Gold Mine failure might negatively impact the perception of road improvements undertaken through this Program.
-

Background:

Silver Trail km 0 to km 110 (Stewart Crossing to Keno City)

- A Project Agreement for the Silver Trail component was signed with the First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun in February 2021.
- The Silver Trail component includes the rehabilitation of the Mayo River bridge as well as road reconstruction and spot repairs from kilometre 0 to kilometre 110 between Stewart Crossing and Keno City.
- Officials from the Department of Highways and Public Works are working with the First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun through a committee and are meeting monthly to collaboratively develop an implementation plan.

Robert Campbell Highway km 354.9 to km 414.4 (Ross River to Faro) and the North Canol Road

- In April 2020, a Project Agreement was signed for two projects within the traditional territory of the Ross River Dena Council: highway reconstruction between Ross River and Faro on the Robert Campbell Highway, and bridge upgrades and safety improvements on the North Canol Highway.
- Officials from the Department of Energy, Mines, and Resources, and the Department Highways and Public Works have been working with the Ross River Dena Council to determine the next steps of the Robert Campbell Highway project over the summer months.

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FALL 2024

Gateway (Yukon Resource Gateway Program)

Highways and
Public Works

- Currently a 4-kilometre section of this project is designed and permitted. The aim is to tender this piece of work for construction to start next year.
- The department is advancing work to tender the clearing of this 4-kilometer section of highway, with the work to be completed before spring 2025.

Robert Campbell Highway km 114 to km 171

- In June 2020, a Project Agreement was signed with the Liard First Nation for this section of the Robert Campbell Highway.
- In July 2024 we awarded two contracts to a Liard First Nation business for vegetation control and clearing work along Robert Campbell Highway.

Nahanni Range Road Phase 1

- In January 2020, a Project Agreement with Liard First Nation was signed for the first phase of the Nahanni Range Road component.
- In July 2023 we awarded a contract to a Liard First Nation business to replace the timber deck for the bridge located at kilometre 143 on the Nahanni Range Road.

Yukon First Nations involvement

- The Government of Yukon is working in collaboration with Yukon First Nation governments to seek input and finalize Project Agreements for components of the Yukon Resource Gateway Program within their respective Traditional Territories.
- Five Project Agreements have been signed with Yukon First Nations for six components to date.
- The program will provide opportunities to Yukon First Nations through short and long-term employment opportunities, training, and benefit agreements.

Funding

- A Contribution Agreement between the Government of Yukon and the Government of Canada resulted in the Yukon Resource Gateway Program's completion date being extended from 2025 to March 2031.
- The program budget for the 2024-25 fiscal year is approximately \$4.2 million and as project agreements are implemented, spending is expected to increase in 2025-

Session Briefing Note**FALL 2024****Gateway (Yukon Resource Gateway Program)**Highways and
Public Works

26 to \$14.5 million and continue to grow in following years as construction advances.

Carmacks Bypass

- The Carmacks Bypass officially opened on Friday October 27, 2023. This project is the first to be completed under the Yukon Resource Gateway Program and is jointly funded by the Government of Canada. The road connects the existing Freegold Road with the Klondike Highway.
- The project was a collaborative effort between Pelly Construction, the Yukon government and Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation.
- Pelly Construction was awarded the \$29.6 million contract to construct the new road and bridge on November 3, 2021.
- The project was successfully finished a year in advance of the designated timeframe and within budget.

Freegold Road Phase II – Termination of the Project Agreement with Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation

- Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation recently made the decision to terminate the Freegold Road Phase II Project Agreement.
- Nothing precludes our governments from working together on a new agreement for the Freegold Road, and we will be reaching out to the First Nation to discuss a path forward.
- The recent completion of the Carmacks Bypass route is an example of how the Yukon Resource Gateway Program can ensure Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation participation in infrastructure projects.

Approved by:

T. Allen

November 7, 2024

Deputy Minister, Highways and Public Works

Date Approved