

CLOSURE AND RECLAMATION PLAN

Gwich'in Rachel Reindeer Wellness Camp



Updated 2022

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1 CLOSURE AND RECLAMATION PLAN PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this document is to describe proposed abandonment and restoration strategies in the event that the Rachel Reindeer Wellness Camp (the Wellness Camp) is no longer in use and there are plans for its closure.

This Closure and Reclamation (the Plan) includes an overview of the Wellness Camp, camp facility closure plans, reclamation strategies for the site, and a description of site inspections to be undertaken.

2 WELLNESS CAMP - OVERVIEW

This Plan has been developed specifically for the Gwich'in Tribal Council's (GTC) Wellness Camp. The Wellness Camp is utilized as a wellness / healing camp, providing programs and services to the people in the Beaufort Delta.

The camp site facility is located at: 68°16'2.95"N, 133°46'15.32"W.

The land use area is approximately 0.5 ha in size and is located on Gwich'in Private Lands on the east bank of the Mackenzie River's East Branch. It is located within Parcel B and is approximately 10.4 km S/SW of Inuvik, NT (Figure 1).



Figure 1 – Location of the Gwich'in Wellness Camp relative to Inuvik, NT

2.1 Facility Description

The camp contains five buildings as described in the Land Use Permit Application. These include the main building, the power plant, the drinking water treatment plant, the wastewater treatment plant and the maintenance person's living quarters (Figure 2). Please see the Wellness Camp's Fuel Spill Contingency Plan for further details on the site's characteristics and facilities.



Figure 2 – Locations of Wellness Camp infrastructure

2.2 Current Facility Management

2.2.1 Site Management

The Wellness Camp and its facilities are currently owned, operated and managed by the Gwich'in Tribal Council.

The GTC Wellness Camp's Project Supervisor is:

Sharla Greenland, GTC Chief Operating Officer
PO Box 1509
Inuvik, NT X0E 0T0

The GTC's goal is to carry out all operations in an environmentally responsible manner, in compliance with all federal and territorial regulatory requirements.

Regular maintenance duties are contracted to a dedicated Camp Maintainer who remains on-

site during all camp activities. The Camp Maintainer reports to the Project Supervisor and will be a key advisor and participant in any abandonment and restoration plans and actions.

2.2.2 Water Management

Water uses and management are authorized through the Gwich'in Land and Water Board through their issuance of a Type B Water Licence for the Wellness Camp.

The Camp Maintainer is the person primarily responsible for ensuring on-site compliance with all terms and conditions of the Water Licence.

2.3 Future Land Management

Upon completion of abandonment and restoration procedures, to the satisfaction of all relevant regulators and stakeholders, the Wellness Camp site area will be managed by the GTC as part of the Gwich'in Settlement Region's privately owned lands. Future activities in the area would require a new Authorization to Access Gwich'in Private Lands through the GTC and may also trigger requirements for other permits (e.g., through the Gwich'in Land and Water Board).

3 CAMP FACILITY CLOSURE PLANS

3.1 General Closure Plans

The Project Supervisor, regular Camp Maintainer, and other persons knowledgeable of the site (e.g., GTC management personnel, contractors) will work together to assess this Closure and Reclamation Plan and determine the best course of action when it comes time to deactivate the Wellness Camp.

This Plan is intended to present best practices that will prevent and/or mitigate any negative, ongoing or cumulative impacts to the land and environment, including wildlife and affected persons.

3.1.1 Buildings

All infrastructure / camp buildings will be removed completely from the site. This will include extensive consultation with contractors and regulatory agencies to ensure compliance with current best practices. It is anticipated that demolition contractors will be brought to the site for the strategic deconstruction of all buildings.

Building materials will be carefully segregated for appropriate recycling or disposal. Consideration will be given to materials that can be donated and/or upcycled (e.g., appliances, kitchen cupboards, wooden lumber).

Building equipment such as generators, motors, pumps, and pipes will be drained prior to disassembly and be handled with care to ensure they do not leak any hazardous materials.

Given the year of the building's construction (2008), it can be assumed that there will be minimal hazardous building components in its construction (e.g., no asbestos).

Any hazardous materials that are encountered will be handled with extra care to ensure they are appropriately contained for transport away from the site (e.g., in sealed drums, wrapped in tarps).

It is anticipated that the removal of building materials will take place during the winter months when machinery and equipment on-site would cause minimal damage to the site's soils and vegetation (due to compaction, rutting, etc.) because of the insulative layer of snow. The site would be accessible by the ice road and waste materials trucked off-site,

The primary disposal facility will be the Inuvik Solid Waste Disposal Facility; this landfill will be contacted prior to dumping to obtain complete instructions on how to dispose of large volumes of the various building and waste materials.

3.1.2 Water and Wastewater Systems

All water and wastewater pumps, tanks, and lines will be disassembled and removed from the site during abandonment procedures. General materials will be segregated and disposed of as described above; solid human waste materials will be removed from the site and disposed of at the Inuvik sewage lagoon (see the Wellness Camp's Waste Management Plan for further details).

3.1.3 Fuel and Fuel Storage Sites

All leftover fuel will be pumped into inventoried drums, sealed tightly, and the drums taken off-site by truck along the winter ice road. If possible, waste fuels and/or oils will be donated for burning in a waste-fuel furnace; otherwise, the Inuvik Solid Waste Disposal Facility will be contacted for instructions on how to dispose of the waste materials appropriately.

Refer to the Wellness Camp's Fuel Spill Contingency Plan and Waste Management Plan for further details.

The old fuel storage tanks (for diesel and propane) will be removed from the site through appropriate transportation means and in accordance with all regulatory and safety procedures, by persons certified to do such work (e.g., for Transportation of Dangerous Goods).

3.1.4 Chemicals

All chemicals such as cleaning supplies and mechanical supplies will be disposed of appropriately during abandonment procedures. Chemicals will be packaged securing for transporting away from the site in sealed, leak-proof containers, then trucked to Inuvik for appropriate disposal (e.g., at the Solid Waste Disposal Facility or as instructed by relevant regulators).

3.1.5 Domestic Wastes

All domestic waste products (e.g., food, garbage and household waste) are regularly bagged

and shipped to the Inuvik and brought to the Inuvik landfill. During any abandonment activities, it is not anticipated that there would be a large volume of such wastes due to the fact that they are regularly removed. However, any remaining domestic wastes will be bagged and transported from the site for appropriate disposal off-site; see the Wellness Camp's Waste Management Plan for more details.

3.1.6 Contamination

Any fuel spills at the Wellness Camp will be reported in accordance with the site's Fuel Spill Contingency Plan, including the completion and submission of an NWT Spill Report Form as required.

Response procedures and reclamation activities for spills are described in the Fuel Spill Contingency Plan but include a dedication to ensuring that environmental damage is minimized, and monitoring is completed until the site is considered at an acceptable restoration standard, in consultation with environmental specialists and regulatory agencies.

4 RECLAIMED TO THE ORIGINAL STATE

Upon removal of all site structures and man-made objects, the Wellness Camp site will be reclaimed as close to as possible to the original condition, with considerations and provisions given to any minor land re-contouring required, replacement of overburden, and/or replanting / re-vegetation strategies.

The GTC will consult with restoration and reclamation experts (e.g., environmental scientists, environmental regulators and authorizing agencies) to ensure compliance with current policies, standards and procedures.

5 FINAL SITE INSPECTIONS

The Wellness Camp site will be subject to thorough and complete final site inspections as required. Inspections may be conducted by the GTC Lands & Resources Inspector, the GLWB Regulatory Specialist, the GNWT Environment and Natural Resources Inspector, the GNWT Lands Inspector, and/or others.

Final photos will be taken of the site by GTC, and a final closure report prepared as needed for any authorities requiring it.