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DRAFT Work Plan

File Number	Water Licence MV2023L2-0006
Applicant	North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd.
Project	Cantung Mine Site – Renewal Application
Location	Cantung Mine, NT
Activity	Mining and Milling
Date of Work Plan	October 17, 2023
Work Plan Version	5

Purpose of the Work Plan

To outline the processes and timelines to be followed for this regulatory proceeding.

Background

On July 6, 2023, the Applicant submitted a Renewal Application for a type A Water Licence (Licence) (the Application Package) for the Project to the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board (Board). On July 14, 2023, the Application Package was deemed complete.

Scope of the Project

The scope of the Project includes the same scope as the current Licence MV2015L2-0003¹, as outlined in the Application Package. The Applicant is requesting no changes to the current Licence MV2015L2-0003 terms and conditions.

Guiding Principles

The following principles will guide the Board's regulatory proceeding:

- The Board will carry out the regulatory proceeding in a timely manner and in accordance with the Land and Water Board (LWB) [Rules of Procedure](#);
- The Board shall consider the impacts of the proposed Project on and the importance of conservation to the wellbeing and way of life of the Indigenous peoples of Canada (section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*);

¹ See the MVLWB Online Registry (www.mvlwb.com) for the current Licence MV2015L2-0003 – [NATCL – Cantung – Approval – Modification Request – Dec21_22](#).

- The Board will review the Application Package and develop the Licence based on the evidence and rationale submitted by the Applicant and other Parties; and
- The Board will develop the Licence in accordance with the Board’s mandate and applicable policies to ensure protection of the environment and, where possible, consistency in decision-making throughout the Mackenzie Valley.

Work Plan Objectives

The Work Plan objectives are:

- Compile a broad range of input through the review process;
- Ensure adequate information is gathered to complete the Board’s regulatory proceeding; and
- Facilitate a thorough, inclusive, and timely regulatory proceeding.

Opportunities for Community Engagement

- The Board requires the Applicant to engage with potentially affected parties – including communities and Indigenous organizations and governments – regarding the Application Package prior to submission;
- The Board will distribute the Application Package, a draft Work Plan, and a draft Licence for public review using the LWB Online Review System (ORS);
- The Board will place a notification(s) regarding the review process in the newspaper;
- The Board will hold a public hearing, if required, and will place a notification regarding the hearing in the newspaper; and
- The Board will hold any other consultation or engagement activity that the Board considers appropriate.

Regulatory Proceeding Timelines

Subsection 72.18(1) of the MVRMA requires the Board to make a decision on a water licence application within a period of nine months after the day on which an application is deemed complete and the review process begins. Based on section 28 of the *Federal Interpretation Act*, this is equivalent to 275 calendar days. The Board’s day count stops whenever the Board requires the Applicant to provide information for the regulatory proceeding to continue (signified by the red shading in the table below). Once that information has been provided, the Board’s day count resumes (signified by the green shading in the table below). Significant milestones have also been bolded in the table below.

The Work Plan table below sets out the main process steps and indicates the responsible Party and the anticipated completion date for each item.

Work Plan

Task	Responsible Party	Date Due (Date Completed)
Application Package Submitted	Applicant	(July 6, 2023)

Task	Responsible Party	Date Due (Date Completed)
Application Package Complete and Distributed for Review with Draft Work Plan	Board staff	(July 14, 2023)
Deadline for Comments on Draft Work Plan	All Parties	(July 28, 2023)
Deadline for Comments on Application Package and for Notices of Compensation Claims	Reviewers	(August 4, 2023)
Deadline for Applicant's Responses to Comments	Applicant	(August 11, 2023)
Preliminary Screening Determination	Board	(August 2023)
Technical Session	All Parties	Not proposed given the Applicant is requesting no change to Licence terms and conditions
Pre-Hearing Conference	All Parties (Yellowknife, NT and remotely)	(September 25, 2023)
Deadline for Interventions and for Compensation Claims	Interveners and Compensation Claimants	(September 27, 2023)
Deadline for Applicant's Response to Interventions	Applicant	(October 4, 2023)
Deadline for Interveners' Public Hearing Presentations	Interveners	(October 11, 2023)
Deadline for Applicant's Public Hearing Presentation	Applicant	(October 13, 2023)
Public Hearing Cancelled	All Parties	October 17, 2023
Draft Licence Distributed for Review	Board Staff	October 18, 2023
Deadline for Comments on Draft Licence	Reviewers	November 8, 2023
Deadline for Applicant's Comments on Draft Licence	Applicant	November 15, 2023
Deadline for Closing Arguments	Reviewers	November 22, 2023
Deadline for Applicant's Closing Arguments	Applicant	November 29, 2023
Board Meeting	Board	December 2023/January 2024

Task	Responsible Party	Date Due (Date Completed)
Board Recommendation to the Minister	Board	December 2023/January 2024
Minister's Decision	Minister	Up to 90 days

Please note that the Work Plan has been created based on the information available and is subject to change at any time.

Work Plan Revision History

Version	Date	Rationale for Revision
2	August 2, 2023	To reflect comments from NATCL regarding the draft Work Plan. ²
3	September 13, 2023	To account for the ongoing wildfire situation in the Northwest Territories.
4	September 19, 2023	To avoid overlap with a Technical Session scheduled by the Wek'èezhì Land and Water Board.
5	October 17, 2023	To reflect the cancellation of the Public Hearing.

² See MVLWB Online Registry for [NATCL – Type A Renewal Application – NATCL Comments on Work Plan – July 28 23](#).