



Tłıchq Government

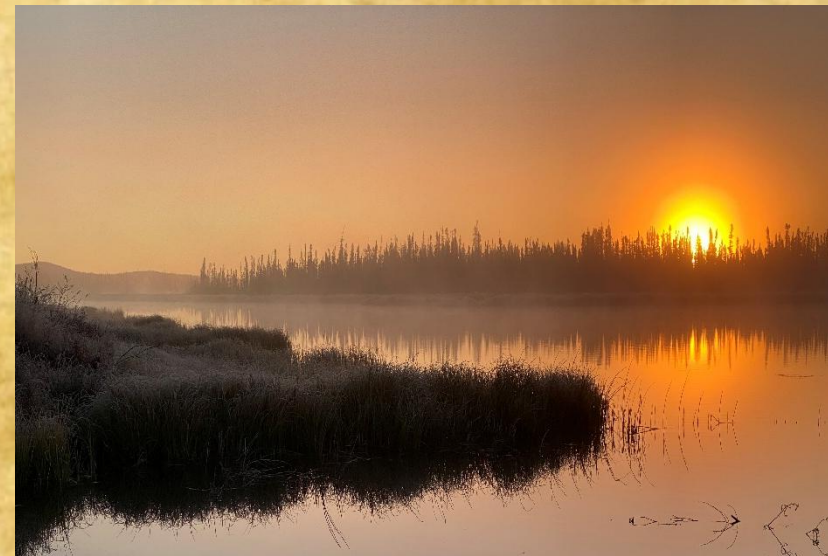


Fortune Minerals NICO Mine
Water Licence Renewal Application
Public Hearing Presentation
April 21-22, 2026

Main Focus: Responsible Mining

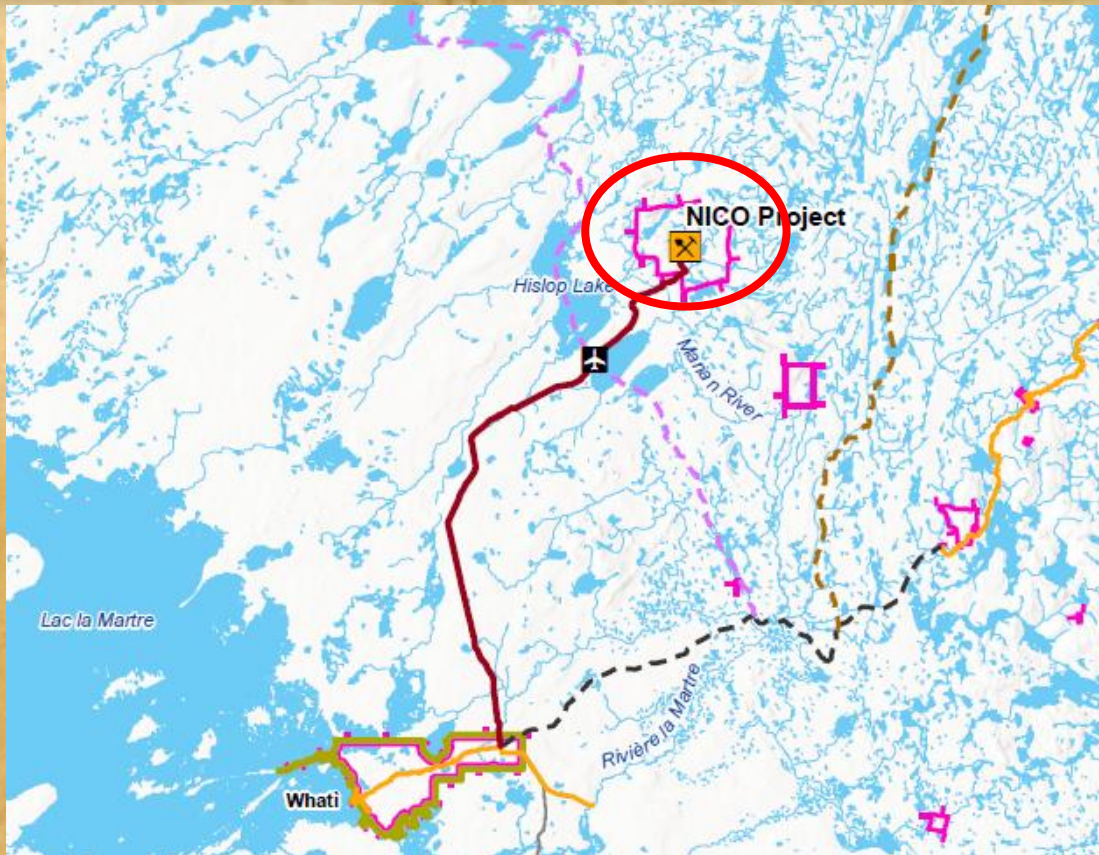


Tent on Hislop Lake

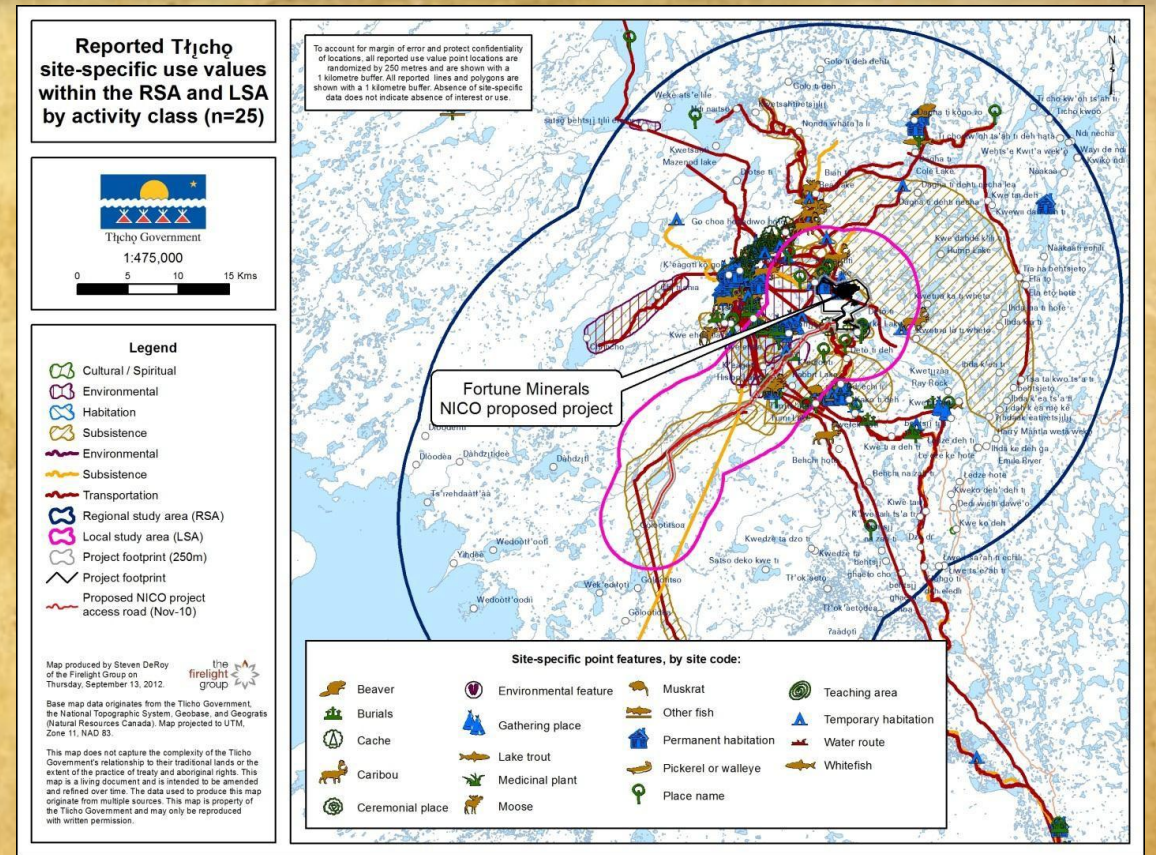


Hislop Lake Shoreline

Main Focus: Responsible Mining



NICO Mine Location



Tłı̨chǫ Use of the Area

Responsible Mining: Learning from the Past



Rayrock Mine, 1958
NWT Archives



'Hot' area—one reading 30 uS/hr (PWGSC)

Rayrock "Hot Area"

Responsible Mining: Mine Finances

The Waters Act requires a mining company to show that it can cover these costs:

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1. "Completion of the undertaking", meaning building and carrying out the mining project described in the Licence;
2. Required mitigative measures; and
3. Maintenance and restoration of the site if it is closed or abandoned

Financial Responsibility: Mine Finances

Recommendation #1

Fortune should submit evidence that it has adequate financial responsibility, as outlined in the Waters Act.

- Submit before Construction
- Possible verification by an independent party
- Demonstrate ability to pay any phased security payments

Responsible Mining: Good Governance

Recommendation #2

We recommend the Water Licence require Fortune should to submit, for approval, evidence that it maintains good governance practices, including membership in any industry associations and/or following relevant industry guidelines.



New cabin at Hislop Lake

Progressive Reclamation (Early Clean-up)

Recommendation #3

We recommend that the Water Licence require Fortune to carry out progressive reclamation on a schedule in the approved Closure and Reclamation Plan.



Source: Rio Tinto

Caribou on Diavik's progressively reclaimed waste rock pile

Cultural Use Criteria for Water

Tłıchǫ Land Claims and Self-Government Agreement:

"The Tłıchǫ First Nation has the right to have waters which are on or flow through or are adjacent to Tłıchǫ lands remain substantially unaltered as to quality, quantity and rate of flow when such waters are on or flow through or are adjacent to Tłıchǫ lands."



Testing Diavik Cultural Use Criteria on Lac de Gras, 2025

Cultural Use Criteria for Water

Recommendation #4

- Require Fortune to propose cultural use criteria (CUC), for Board approval, before discharging effluent to Peanut Lake, based on engagement, AND meet CUCs during operations, closure, and post-closure.
- Environmental Assessment Measures about water are for ALL project stages



Testing Diavik Cultural Use Criteria
on Lac de Gras, 2025

Water: Effluent Quality Criteria

Recommendation #5

Re-evaluate effluent quality criteria (EQC) before Fortune discharges effluent to Peanut Lake.



Security Deposit \$\$

Recommendation #6a: Update security before Construction

Recommendation #6b: Include all potential closure-related costs.

Security Deposit \$\$

Recommendation #6c: Improve the Water Licence milestones for the phased security deposit.

- Combine construction phases
- Keep the CDF Construction milestone
- Add a final milestone

Security Deposit \$\$

Recommendation #6d: If net present value calculations are used, use accurate, conservative information.

Recommendation #6e: Increase security deposit regularly for inflation.

Best Practices and the Water Licence Term

Recommendation #7

We recommend that the Water Licence require:

- a climate change report
- a Water Licence Review Report
- regular EQC Re-Evaluation Reports
- cultural use criteria for closure
- Tłıchǫ Traditional Knowledge Monitoring Framework.

These recommendations may support a longer Licence term.



Tent in Hislop Lake

Risk Assessment and Emergency Response

Recommendation #8: The Water Licence should require Fortune to submit an updated risk assessment at all major project milestones or changes, from design to post-closure.

Recommendation #9: The Water Licence should include a requirement for an Emergency Response and Spill Contingency Plan (ERSCP) for approval.

Water Withdrawals from Lou Lake

Recommendation #10: Fortune should provide better evidence that the increased water withdrawal from Lou Lake will not substantially alter water quantity in Lou Lake and water quantity or rate of flow in Marian River.



Tłıchq Government Marian
Watershed Stewardship
Program

Constructed Wetlands for Water Treatment

Recommendation #11: We recommend that the Board ensure there is good oversight of when the pilot-scale, demonstration-scale, and full-scale wetlands are built.



Wetlands Study
www.new.reviewboard.ca

On-site Waste Disposal

Recommendation #12

We recommend that Fortune engage with TG about on-site waste disposal.

How the Mine Site Looks and Feels

Recommendation #13

We recommend that all relevant designs describe how the design ensures that there will be an aesthetically pleasing final landscape, and acknowledge that Tłı̨chǫ Citizens are the intended audience who will need to judge whether this commitment is satisfied.



Tent on Hislop Lake

Summary

- **Responsible Mining**
- Protection of Tłıchǫ rights and land, air, water, plants, fish, animals
- Financial responsibility
- Good governance
- Progressive Reclamation
- Best regulatory practices
- Defensible security deposit
- Good risk management





Masi Cho

