



# CMD 25-H9.D - CNSC Staff Submission

## Denison Mines Corp. Licence Application to Prepare Site and Construct the Wheeler River Project – Supplemental Information for Part 2

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|------------------------------|--|
| <b>Classification</b>        | Unclassified   |
| <b>CMD Type</b>              | Supplemental   |
| <b>CMD Number</b>            | 25-H9.D  |
| <b>Reference CMD(s)</b>      | 25-H9  |
| <b>Type of Licensing CMD</b> | A new licence  |
| <b>Hearing</b>               | Commission Public Hearing – Part 2   |
| <b>Date of Hearing</b>       | December 8, 2025, to December 11, 2025   |
| <b>SharePoint Links</b>      | <a href="#">CMD 25-H9.D - Supplemental Submission from CNSC Staff for the Denison Wheeler River Project.DOCX</a>   |
| <b>Summary</b>               | <p>This CMD presents information regarding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Updated consultation and Rights Impact Assessments</li><li>- Progress on EA conditions and regulatory commitments</li><li>- Updates to Denison’s Financial Guarantee</li><li>- Corrections to the EA Report</li><li>- Updated licence with corrections</li></ul> |



## 25-H9.D – Mémoire du personnel de la CCSN

### Demande de permis de préparation de l'emplacement et de construction du projet de Wheeler River présentée par Denison Mines Corp. – renseignements supplémentaires

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Classification                               | NON CLASSIFIÉ  |
| Type de CMD                                  | Renseignement supplémentaire   |
| Numéro de CMD                                | 25-H9.D  |
| CMD(s) de référence                          | 25-H9  |
| Type de CMD relatif à une décision de permis | Nouveau permis   |
| Audience                                     | Audience publique de la Commission – Partie 2 (intervention publique)  |
| Date de l'audience                           | 9-11 décembre, 2025  |
| Liens SharePoint                             | <a href="#">CMD 25-H9.D - Supplemental Submission from CNSC Staff for the Denison Wheeler River Project.DOCX</a>   |
| Sommaire                                     | <p>Ce CMD présente des informations concernant :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• La mise à jour des consultations et des évaluations des répercussions sur les droits</li><li>• Les progrès réalisés en matière de conditions d'évaluation environnementale et d'engagements réglementaires</li><li>• Les mises à jour de la garantie financière de Denison<br/>Les corrections apportées au rapport d'évaluation environnementale</li><li>• Permis actualisé avec des corrections</li></ul> |



## **CMD 25-H9.D**

# **Denison Mines Corp. Licence Application to Prepare Site and Construct the Wheeler River Project – Supplemental Information for Part 2**

**Signed by:**

X

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Kimberley Campbell

Acting Director General, Directorate of Nuclear Cycle and Facilities  
Regulation



# **Denison Mines Corp. Licence Application to Prepare Site and Construct the Wheeler River Project – Supplemental Information for Part 2**

Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission



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## Land acknowledgement

Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) staff would like to acknowledge that the Wheeler River Project is situated within historic Treaty 10 (1906) and Homeland of the Métis and is within the traditional territories of the Dene, Cree, and Métis peoples.

## Plain language summary

CNSC staff submitted Commission Member Document 25-H9, *Denison Mines Corp. Licence Application to Prepare Site and Construct the Wheeler River Project* for consideration by the Commission. It was posted publicly on August 19, 2025. The submission included CNSC staff's analysis, conclusions and recommendations for Denison's environmental assessment under the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* 2012, and the licence application under the *Nuclear Safety and Control Act* (NSCA). The submission also included CNSC staff efforts to date on consultation and engagement with Indigenous Nations and communities potentially impacted by the proposed project. Additionally, CNSC staff submitted Commission Member Documents 25-H9.A and 25-H9.B for further consideration by the Commission. Part 1 of the Commission Hearing to consider the Denison Mines Corp. (Denison) application to prepare site and construct the Wheeler River Project took place on October 8, 2025.

Denison recently submitted a draft financial guarantee in support of their application, which is under review by CNSC staff. Comments will be provided to Denison to ensure accessibility of the funds when needed.

Furthermore, the draft licence has been revised to better define the licensed activities proposed by Denison's application, including a condition to ensure that an appropriate Financial Guarantee is in place.

Since posting the EA Report, within CMD 25-H9, CNSC staff noted a few errors, and made corrections to the EA Report. CNSC staff conclude that these errors do not impact the conclusions and reiterate Environmental Assessment conclusions presented in the initial submission that the proposed Wheeler River Project is not likely to cause significant adverse environmental effects, taking into account the implementation of all identified mitigation and follow-up monitoring measures.

CNSC staff reiterate conclusions presented in the initial submission that the applicant proposed adequate provisions for the protection of persons and the environment, and that CNSC staff are satisfied that the information presented addresses regulatory requirements set out in the NSCA and its regulations.



Denison Mines Corp. Licence Application to Prepare Site and Construct the Wheeler River Project – Supplemental  
Information for Part 2

Part 1 focused on the EA and licensing requirements for the application and did not discuss Indigenous consultation and engagement efforts by either Denison or CNSC staff. This supplemental CMD, along with the Indigenous Consultation Report Supplemental Submission, provide CNSC staff's conclusions and recommendations regarding consultation with Indigenous Nations and communities potentially impacted by the proposed Wheeler River Project.

CNSC staff recommend that the Commission determine the duty to consult under section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982* has been appropriately and adequately discharged. This recommendation is based on the information available to date and notwithstanding the opportunities for Indigenous Nations and communities to express their views to the Commission during the public hearing.

Referenced documents in this CMD are available to the public upon request, subject to confidentiality considerations.



# 1 Overview

## 1.1 Background

This supplemental Commission Member Document (CMD) provides an update to CMD 25-H9 and CMD 25-H9.B, which were posted on [the CNSC website](#) August 19, 2025 and September 26, 2025, respectively, for the licence application for Denison Mines Corp. (Denison). This CMD also provides updates since the Part 1 Hearing that took place on October 8, 2025. This CMD contains information on corrections to the Environmental Assessment (EA) Report, updates to Denison's work on the proposed EA conditions and regulatory commitments, and CNSC staff's final conclusions and recommendations on Indigenous consultation and engagement efforts.

## 1.2 Highlights

The Commission has 3 separate decisions to render with respect to the proposed Wheeler River Project:

1. An EA decision under *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012* (CEAA 2012),
2. a licensing decision under the NSCA, and
3. a decision on whether the honour of the Crown has been met in fulfilling CNSC's duty to consult obligations

For the EA decision, in order to grant a licence, the Commission must be satisfied, pursuant to section 7 of CEAA 2012, that the Wheeler River Project is not likely to cause the significant adverse environmental effects set out in section 5 of CEAA 2012 or that the significant adverse environmental effects that it is likely to cause are justified in the circumstances.

Since the posting of the EA Report, CNSC staff noted errors in the EA Report. CNSC staff corrected these errors and included the EA Report to this CMD for the record. The changes do not change CNSC staff's conclusions originally submitted to the Commission.

CNSC staff's conclusions on the EA decision under CEAA 2012 as well as the licensing decision under the NSCA have been described in CNSC staff's CMD 25-H9, which also included proposed EA conditions and regulatory commitments. Since the submission, Denison submitted documents and information related to the proposed EA conditions and regulatory commitments, which is outlined in section 4 of this document. CNSC staff also reviewed the interventions submitted. CNSC staff reviewed each intervention in detail and considered them against our assessment of Denison's application. Intervention themes in fact aligned closely to areas CNSC staff assessed as part of our work on the Denison's project. CNSC staff's position is that the information provided in interventions does not alter conclusions and recommendations on EA matters, licensing, or Indigenous consultation.



The Commission may impose a requirement that Denison provide a financial guarantee for the decommissioning of the project. Denison has provided a draft Financial Guarantee instrument [1] for review by CNSC staff. CNSC staff's review of the proposed financial guarantee is ongoing. Further information can be found in section 5 of this CMD.

Furthermore, the draft licence has been revised to better define the licensed activities proposed by Denison's application. The proposed licence can be found in appendix A of this CMD.

## 1.3 Overall Conclusions

The conclusions presented in CMD 25-H9 have not changed as a result of staff's ongoing work on the licence application reviews.

An EA under CEAA 2012 was conducted for the proposed Wheeler River Project. Based on the regulatory review and technical assessments of Denison's EIS and supporting documentation, CNSC staff determined that there is sufficient evidence for the Commission to conclude that the proposed Wheeler River Project is not likely to cause significant adverse environmental effects, taking into account the implementation of all identified EA regulatory commitments, proposed mitigation and follow-up monitoring program measures.

Based on the licensing regulatory review and technical assessments, CNSC staff concluded that Denison's licence application to prepare site and construct the Wheeler River Project complies with all applicable regulatory requirements.

With respect to the financial guarantee, CNSC staff recommend that the Commission require that Denison provide an acceptable financial guarantee instrument within 60 days of the issuance of a licence, and prior to the commencement of any licensed construction activities.

With respect to the CNSC's duty to consult and accommodate obligations, CNSC staff conducted extensive consultation activities with identified Indigenous Nations and communities to ensure their full participation in the regulatory review process, and to ensure their concerns were heard and addressed by Denison and the CNSC in a meaningful way. CNSC staff consider that the consultation and engagement process for the Wheeler River Project was meaningful, reasonable, responsive, and followed best practices. Taking into consideration the location of the Wheeler River site and Denison's identified mitigation and follow-up program measures, CNSC staff conclude that there is sufficient evidence on the record for the Commission to find that there will be no residual impacts to any potential or established Indigenous and/or treaty rights as a result of the Wheeler River Project.



## 1.4 Overall Recommendations

Taking into consideration updates since the initial submission, CNSC staff recommend that the Commission:

1. Determine that the Wheeler River Project is not likely to cause significant adverse environmental effects referred to in section 5 of CEAA 2012
2. Conclude, pursuant to paragraphs 24(4)(a) and (b) of the *Nuclear Safety and Control Act* in that the applicant:
  - a. Is qualified to carry on the activities that the licence will authorize the licensee to carry on, and
  - b. Will make adequate provision for the protection of the environment, the health and safety of persons and the maintenance of national security and measures required to implement international obligations to which Canada has agreed.
3. Issue the proposed licence, including conditions and regulatory commitments with which Denison must comply as articulated in appendix D of CMD 25-H9.
4. Delegate authority to staff as set out in section 5.5 of CMD 25-H9.
5. Include in the licence a condition that requires Denison to submit an acceptable financial guarantee within 60 days of the issuance of this licence and prior to the commencement of licensed construction activities.
6. Determine that the CNSC, as an agent of the Crown, has upheld the honour of the Crown and has fulfilled its common law obligations to consult, and where appropriate accommodate, Indigenous peoples, pursuant to section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982.

Please note that recommendations 1-4 were initially presented in CMD 25-H9, and no changes have been made to CNSC staff recommendations.



## 2 Environmental Assessment

Since the publishing of the EA report, minor errors have been identified. The errors that follow, along with minor administrative errors like hyperlinks, have since been corrected and posted publicly in a stand alone version of the EA report on the [Canadian Impact Assessment Registry](#) (the Registry).

Here is a summary of the corrections made:

### Executive Summary, page ii:

- The link in the following sentence was incorrect: “The Wheeler River Project is subject to CEAA 2012 because it qualifies as a designated project as per section 31 of the [Regulations Designating Physical Activities](#)”.
- The link has been corrected to direct readers to: <https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/regulations/SOR-2012-147/FullText.html>.

### Executive Summary, page iv:

- The original text contained a duplicative paragraph and minor omissions, stating: “Should the Commission determine that the Project is not likely to cause significant adverse environmental effects, CNSC staff propose that Denison be required by a licence condition to further design and implement an EA Follow-Up Monitoring Program to verify the accuracy of the EA predictions for the Project, determine the effectiveness of measures taken to mitigate the potential adverse environmental effects and support the implementation of adaptive management measures to address unanticipated adverse environmental effects. Other environmental monitoring will be required under permits, licences and authorizations that may be issued upon completion of the EA, and what is outstanding as part of regulatory oversight for the Project.

Should the Commission determine that the Project is not likely to cause significant adverse environmental effects, Denison will be required to further design and implement an EA Follow-Up Monitoring Program to verify the accuracy of the EA predictions for the Project, determine the effectiveness of measures taken to mitigate potential adverse environmental effects and support the implementation of adaptive management measures to address unanticipated adverse environmental effects. The Follow-Up Monitoring Program will form part of the licensing basis, should the Commission issue a licence to prepare site and construct the Project, and will be part August 2025 Environmental Assessment Report – Wheeler River Project v of the planned regulatory oversight along with environmental monitoring programs required by the licence.”



- The text has been corrected to: “Should the Commission determine that the Project is not likely to cause significant adverse environmental effects, **or that such effects are justified**, CNSC staff **recommend** that Denison be required, **pursuant to paragraph 53(4)(b) of CEAA 2012**, to further design and implement an EA Follow-Up Monitoring Program to verify the accuracy of the EA predictions for the Project, determine the effectiveness of measures taken to mitigate the potential adverse environmental effects and support the implementation of adaptive management measures to address unanticipated adverse environmental effects. **Further to this determination by the Commission**, other environmental monitoring will be required under permits, licences and authorizations that may be issued, as part of regulatory oversight for the Project.

~~Should the Commission determine that the Project is not likely to cause significant adverse environmental effects, Denison will be required to further design and implement an EA Follow-Up Monitoring Program to verify the accuracy of the EA predictions for the Project, determine the effectiveness of measures taken to mitigate potential adverse environmental effects and support the implementation of adaptive management measures to address unanticipated adverse environmental effects. The Follow-Up Monitoring Program will form part of the licensing basis, should the Commission issue a licence to prepare site and construct the Project, and will be part August 2025 Environmental Assessment Report – Wheeler River Project v of the planned regulatory oversight along with environmental monitoring programs required by the licence.~~

Section 1.1, page 14:

- The link in the following sentence was incorrect: “On May 15, 2019, following Denison’s submission of the Project Description (PD), the CNSC issued the Notice of Commencement of a federal EA for the Project pursuant to CEAA 2012. The Project is subject to an EA under CEAA 2012, as it constitutes a designated activity under item 31 of the [Regulations Designating Physical Activities](#):”
- The link has been corrected to direct readers to: <https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/regulations/SOR-2012-147/FullText.html>

Section 6.5.2.2, Mitigation Measures for Vegetation and Ecosystems, page 141:

- The original text incorrectly referenced water quantity, stating: “CNSC staff have assessed the mitigation measures proposed by Denison and have concluded that they are adequate to manage potential significant adverse effects to water quantity.”
- The text has been corrected to: “CNSC staff have assessed the mitigation measures proposed by Denison and have concluded that they are adequate to manage potential significant adverse effects to ~~water quantity~~ **vegetation and ecosystems**.”





Section 12, p. 270:

- The original text contained unnecessary text, stating: “the Commission’s decision should be based on the description of effects under subsections 5(1) and 5(2) of CEAA 2012, as well as the scope of factors defined in paragraphs 19(1) (a) to (h) of CEAA 2012, as determined in the Commission’s decision on the scope of the EA for Wheeler River of March 8, 2017”
- The text has been corrected to: “the Commission’s decision should be based on the description of effects under subsections 5(1) and 5(2) of CEAA 2012, as well as the scope of factors defined in paragraphs 19(1) (a) to (h) of CEAA 2012, as determined in the Commission’s decision on the scope of the EA.” ~~for Wheeler River of March 8, 2017~~

These errors have no bearing on CNSC staff’s review, assessment or recommendations to the Commission in CMD 25-H9.

The EA Report has also been translated into French. This was posted on November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025 to the Registry: [French translation of the EA report](#).



### 3 Indigenous Consultation and Engagement

The common-law duty to consult with Indigenous Nations and communities applies when the Crown contemplates actions that may adversely affect potential or established Indigenous and/or treaty rights. The CNSC ensures that all of its licence decisions under the NSCA, and other applicable legislation, uphold the honour of the Crown and uphold Indigenous peoples' potential or established Indigenous and/or treaty rights pursuant to section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*.

Appended to this CMD is the Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Report Supplemental Submission. This report provides an update on CNSC staff's efforts with regards to Consultation and engagement activities with Indigenous Nations and communities on the Denison EA and Licence to Prepare Site and Construct application as well as recommendations related to the duty to consult and, where appropriate, accommodate. Information included in the report should be considered in addition to the information in CNSC staff's Indigenous Consultation Report for the Denison Wheeler River Project (the Project), submitted as a supporting document to CMD 25-H9.



## 4 Updates Since October 8, 2025

CNSC staff and Denison presented their CMD submissions to the Commission during the Commission Hearing on October 8, 2025. In staff's original submission, CNSC staff presented a list of EA conditions and regulatory commitments that CNSC staff propose be included as requirements for Denison to complete. The timelines are specific to milestone activities in the proposed schedule of licensed activities, and the criteria must be met before the activities can be started. These are currently not requirements and are not required to be completed prior to the Commission issuing a licence to prepare site and construct the Wheeler River Project.

Following the Hearing, Denison has proactively provided information and document submissions to CNSC staff related to the EA conditions and regulatory commitments that contain closure criteria to be met prior to site preparation activities, and early phases of construction activities. CNSC staff's final update to these will be provided to the Commission during Part 2 of the Hearing process.

As of the posting of this supplemental CMD, CNSC staff are currently reviewing the submissions related to the following proposed EA conditions and regulatory commitments:

### EA Conditions:

- **EA3:** The licensee shall submit a woodland caribou mitigation and offset plan based on site-specific information to evaluate effects to woodland caribou and includes a plan for habitat offsetting. The plan must ensure that measures are taken to avoid or lessen any adverse effects to woodland caribou and monitor those effects. The plan shall be consistent with the [Government of Canada's Amended Recovery Strategy for Woodland Caribou \(\*Rangifer tarandus caribou\*\), Boreal Population, in Canada.](#)
- **EA4:** The licensee shall conduct additional bat baseline surveys to supplement existing baseline characterization data in order to obtain a basic understanding of within-year and between-year variation for bat species, and to inform the environmental risk assessment.
- **EA5:** The licensee shall submit plans for the monitoring of adverse effects of the project on listed wildlife species and their critical habitat over the lifecycle of the project.



- Regulatory Commitments:
  - **PD-01:** The licensee shall provide the detailed design of the monitoring wells for the freeze wall.
  - **PD-02:** The licensee shall provide the detailed design of the ISR wellfield, including surface infrastructure.
  - **PD-03:** The licensee shall provide:
    - 1) The detailed site surface water management plan incorporating an updated Probable Maximum Precipitation (PMP) assessment.
    - 2) The climate change resiliency assessment of the Project.
  - **PD-04:** The licensee shall provide detailed design for the mill as further detailed information is available.
  - **PD-05:** The licensee shall provide the detailed requirements for the various cementitious-based materials to be used, with regards to their rheological properties, durability and resistance to aggressive environments, integration into the overall design, and QA/QC.
  - **EMFP-01:** The licensee shall provide updated fire protection design criteria.

CNSC staff are satisfied that Denison has met the closure criteria for regulatory commitments PD-04 and EMFP-01. The EA conditions and regulatory commitments remain open.

CNSC staff will provide an update on CNSC staff's review during Part 2 of the Commission Hearing.



## 5 Financial Guarantee

Subsection 24(5) of the NSCA provides that the Commission may require as a condition of a licence that Denison provide a Financial Guarantee in a form that is acceptable to the Commission. Paragraph 3(1)(l) of the *General Nuclear Safety and Control Regulations* (GNSCR) requires that Denison submit, as part of its application, “a description of any proposed financial guarantee relating to the activity to be licensed”. Denison’s submission of their Preliminary Decommissioning Cost Estimate and Financial Guarantee Memo [3] meets the requirement in GNSCR paragraph 3(1)(l).

On November 20, 2025, Denison submitted their draft Financial Guarantee instrument [1], a surety bond, for review by CNSC staff, and for consideration by the Commission. While CNSC staff’s review was ongoing at the time of finalization of this CMD, CNSC staff note that most requirements in [REGDOC-3.3.1, \*Financial Guarantees for Decommissioning of Nuclear Facilities and Termination of Licensed Activities\*](#) are met by Denison’s draft instrument, and that the value of the instrument is equal to the value committed to by Denison, and accepted by CNSC staff, in Denison’s Financial Guarantee Memo. However, CNSC staff also noted two concerns, namely:

- The instrument is unclear on the conditions that must be met for the Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment to draw on the bond, and
- The draft Financial Guarantee instrument submitted does not include CNSC decommissioning obligations, meaning Denison would only need to satisfy provincial requirements in order for the bond to become null and void (i.e.: no further financial obligation on the part of the surety). Note that the MoU between the CNSC and the MOE makes it clear that financial guarantees for decommissioning are a shared area of regulatory responsibility.

CNSC staff continue to work with Denison to address these two concerns and will provide a verbal update to the Commission during Part II of Denison’s licensing hearing.

Should the Commission issue a licence, CNSC staff recommend that the Commission include a condition that requires Denison to submit an acceptable Financial Guarantee instrument within 60 days of the issuance of the licence, and which prohibits licensed construction activities until the instrument is accepted by the Commission. Condition 16.1 in the proposed licence in Appendix A of this CMD reflects these recommendations. The draft Licence Conditions Handbook submitted as part of CMD 25-H9 will be updated to reflect this change.



## 6 Conclusions and Recommendations

CNSC staff reaffirm that the conclusions presented in CMD 25-H9 have not changed as a result of staff's ongoing work on the licence application reviews.

An EA under CEAA 2012 was conducted for the proposed Wheeler River Project. Based on the regulatory review and technical assessments of Denison's EIS and supporting documentation, CNSC staff have determined that there are grounds on which the Commission may find that the proposed Wheeler River Project is not likely to cause significant adverse environmental effects, taking into account the implementation of all identified EA regulatory commitments, proposed mitigation and follow-up monitoring program measures. The errors identified in the EA were minor and do not impact CNSC staff's conclusions in relation to the EA for the Wheeler River Project.

Based on the licensing regulatory review and technical assessments, CNSC staff have determined that Denison's licence application to prepare site and construct the Wheeler River Project complies with all applicable regulatory requirements and that the proposed Wheeler River Project is protective of people and the environment.

With respect to the financial guarantee, CNSC staff recommend that the Commission require that Denison provide an acceptable financial guarantee instrument within 60 days of the issuance of a licence, and prior to the commencement of any licensed construction activities.

With respect to the CNSC's duty to consult obligations, CNSC staff conducted extensive consultation activities with identified Indigenous Nations and communities to ensure their full participation in the regulatory review process, and to ensure their concerns were heard and addressed by Denison and the CNSC in a meaningful way. CNSC staff consider that the consultation and engagement process for the Wheeler River Project was meaningful, reasonable, responsive, and followed best practices. CNSC staff are of the view that, based on information currently available to CNSC staff, the potential impacts of the Wheeler River Project on Aboriginal and/or Treaty rights have been appropriately assessed, considered and mitigated based on the proposed mitigations, follow-up measures, commitments and accommodation measures proposed by Denison and CNSC staff.



## Overall Recommendations

Taking into consideration updates since the initial submission, CNSC staff recommend that the Commission:

1. Determine that the Wheeler River Project is not likely to cause significant adverse environmental effects referred to in section 5 of CEEA 2012.
2. Conclude, pursuant to paragraphs 24(4)(a) and (b) of the *Nuclear Safety and Control Act* in that the applicant:
  - a. Is qualified to carry on the activities that the licence will authorize the licensee to carry on, and
  - b. Will make adequate provision for the protection of the environment, the health and safety of persons and the maintenance of national security and measures required to implement international obligations to which Canada has agreed.
3. Issue the proposed licence, including conditions and regulatory commitments with which Denison must comply as articulated in appendix D of CMD 25-H9.
4. Delegate authority to staff as set out in section 5.5 of CMD 25-H9.
5. Include in the licence a condition that requires Denison to submit an acceptable financial guarantee within 60 days of the issuance of this licence and prior to the commencement of licensed construction activities.
6. Determine that the CNSC, as an agent of the Crown, has upheld the honour of the Crown and has fulfilled its common law obligations to consult, and where appropriate accommodate, Indigenous peoples, pursuant to section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982.

Please note that recommendations 1-4 were initially presented in CMD 25-H9, and no changes have been made to CNSC staff recommendations.



## 7 References

[1] Denison Mines Corp. Wheeler River Operation, *Draft Financial Guarantee*, Version 1, November 2025 (e-Doc 7605644) **confidential**

[2] Denison Mines Corp. Wheeler River Operation, *Preliminary Decommissioning Plan*, Version 1, July 2023 (e-Doc 7211378) **confidential**

[3] Denison Mines Corp. Wheeler River Operation, *Wheeler River Preliminary Decommissioning Cost Estimate and Financial Guarantee Memo*, June 2025 (e-Doc 7551762) **confidential**





## 8 Glossary

For definitions of terms used in this document, see [REGDOC-3.6, Glossary of CNSC Terminology](#), which includes terms and definitions used in the [Nuclear Safety and Control Act](#) and the [Regulations](#) made under it, and in [CNSC regulatory documents](#) and other publications.

Additional terms and acronyms used in this CMD are listed below.

| Acronym | Term   |
|---------|--|
| CMD     | Commission Member Document                   |
| CNSC    | Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission           |
| CEAA    | <i>Canadian Environmental Assessment Act</i> |
| EA      | Environmental Assessment                     |



## Appendix A: Amended Proposed Licence



**URANIUM MINE LICENCE  
DENISON MINE CORP.  
WHEELER RIVER PROJECT**

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**I) LICENCE NUMBER:** UML-MINEMILL-WHEELER-00/20##

**II) LICENSEE:** Pursuant to section 24 of the *Nuclear Safety and Control Act*, this licence is issued to:

**Denison Mine Corp.  
345 4th Avenue South  
Saskatoon, SK  
Canada, S7K 1N3**

**III) LICENCE PERIOD:** This licence is valid from XXXX to XXXX, unless suspended, amended, revoked or replaced.

**IV) LICENSED ACTIVITIES:**

This licence authorizes the licensee to:

- a) prepare site and construct a nuclear facility (hereinafter, “the facility”) for the mining of uranium ore and the production of uranium concentrate at a site known as the Wheeler River Project in the province of Saskatchewan, as defined in appendix A to this licence
- b) possess, use and store nuclear substances and radiation devices that are required for or associated with laboratory studies, field studies, fixed gauge use and borehole logging devices necessary or incidental to the conduct of the activities in paragraph (a).

**V) EXPLANATORY NOTES:**

- a) Unless otherwise provided for in this licence, words and expressions used in this licence have the same meaning as in the *Nuclear Safety and Control Act* and its associated Regulations.
- b) The Wheeler River Operations Licence Conditions Handbook (LCH) identifies the criteria used to meet the conditions of this licence. The LCH also provides information regarding delegation of authority and document version control.

**VI) CONDITIONS:**

**G. GENERAL**

**G.1 Licensing Basis for Licensed Activities**

The licensee shall conduct the activities described in Part IV of this licence in accordance with the licensing basis, defined as:

- (i) the regulatory requirements set out in the applicable laws and regulations
- (ii) the conditions and safety and control measures described in the facility's or activity's licence and the documents directly referenced in that licence
- (iii) the safety and control measures described in the licence application and the documents needed to support that licence application

unless otherwise approved in writing by the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (hereinafter "the Commission").

**G.2 Notification of Changes**

The licensee shall give written notification of changes to the facility or its operation, including deviation from design, operating conditions, policies, programs and methods referred to in the licensing basis.

**G.3 Financial Guarantee**

The licensee shall maintain a financial guarantee for decommissioning that is acceptable to the Commission.

**G.4 Public Information and Disclosure**

The licensee shall implement and maintain a public information and disclosure program.

**1.     *MANAGEMENT SYSTEM***

**1.1    Management System**

The licensee shall implement and maintain a management system.

**2.     *HUMAN PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT***

**2.1    Training Program**

The licensee shall implement and maintain a training program.

**3.     *OPERATING PERFORMANCE***

**3.1    Operations Program**

The licensee shall implement and maintain an operating program, which includes a set of operating limits.

**3.2    Reporting Requirements**

The licensee shall implement and maintain a program for reporting to the Commission or a person authorized by the Commission.

**3.3    Nuclear Substances and Radiation Devices**

The licensee shall implement and maintain a program for nuclear substances and radiation devices.

**4.     *SAFETY ANALYSIS***

**4.1    Safety Analysis Program**

The licensee shall implement and maintain a safety analysis program.

**5.     *PHYSICAL DESIGN***

**5.1    Design Program**

The licensee shall implement and maintain a design program.

**6.     *FITNESS FOR SERVICE***

**6.1    Fitness for Service Program**

The licensee shall implement and maintain a fitness for service program.

## **7. *RADIATION PROTECTION***

### **7.1 Radiation Protection Program**

The licensee shall implement and maintain a radiation protection program, which includes a set of action levels. When the licensee becomes aware that an action level has been reached, the licensee shall notify the Commission within 24 hours.

## **8. *CONVENTIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY***

### **8.1 Conventional Health and Safety Program**

The licensee shall implement and maintain a conventional health and safety program.

## **9. *ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION***

### **9.1 Environmental Protection Program**

The licensee shall implement and maintain an environmental protection program, which includes a set of action levels. When the licensee becomes aware that an action level has been reached, the licensee shall notify the Commission within 24 hours.

## **10. *EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND FIRE PROTECTION***

### **10.1 Emergency Preparedness Program**

The licensee shall implement and maintain an emergency preparedness program.

### **10.2 Fire Protection Program**

The licensee shall implement and maintain a fire protection program.

## **11. *WASTE MANAGEMENT***

### **11.1 Waste Management Program**

The licensee shall implement and maintain a waste management program.

### **11.2 Decommissioning Plan**

The Licensee shall maintain a decommissioning plan

## **12. *SECURITY***

### **12.1 Security Program**

The licensee shall implement and maintain a security program.

**13. SAFEGUARDS AND NON-PROLIFERATION**

**13.1 Safeguards Program**

The licensee shall implement and maintain a safeguards program.

**14. ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT CONDITIONS**

**14.1 Environmental Assessment Conditions and Commitments**

The licensee shall implement the Wheeler River Project Environmental Assessment (EA) conditions and regulatory commitments.

**15. INDIGENOUS ENGAGEMENT**

**15.1 Indigenous Engagement**

The licensee shall implement and maintain an Indigenous engagement program.

**16. SITE SPECIFIC FINANCIAL GUARANTEE**

**16.1 Submission of an Acceptable Financial Guarantee**

The licensee shall submit an acceptable financial guarantee within 60 days of the issuance of this licence, and prior to the commencement of licensed construction activities. The financial guarantee shall be updated to the full amount of the Preliminary Decommissioning Cost Estimate within 1 year of the issuance of this licence.

SIGNED at OTTAWA, this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2026.

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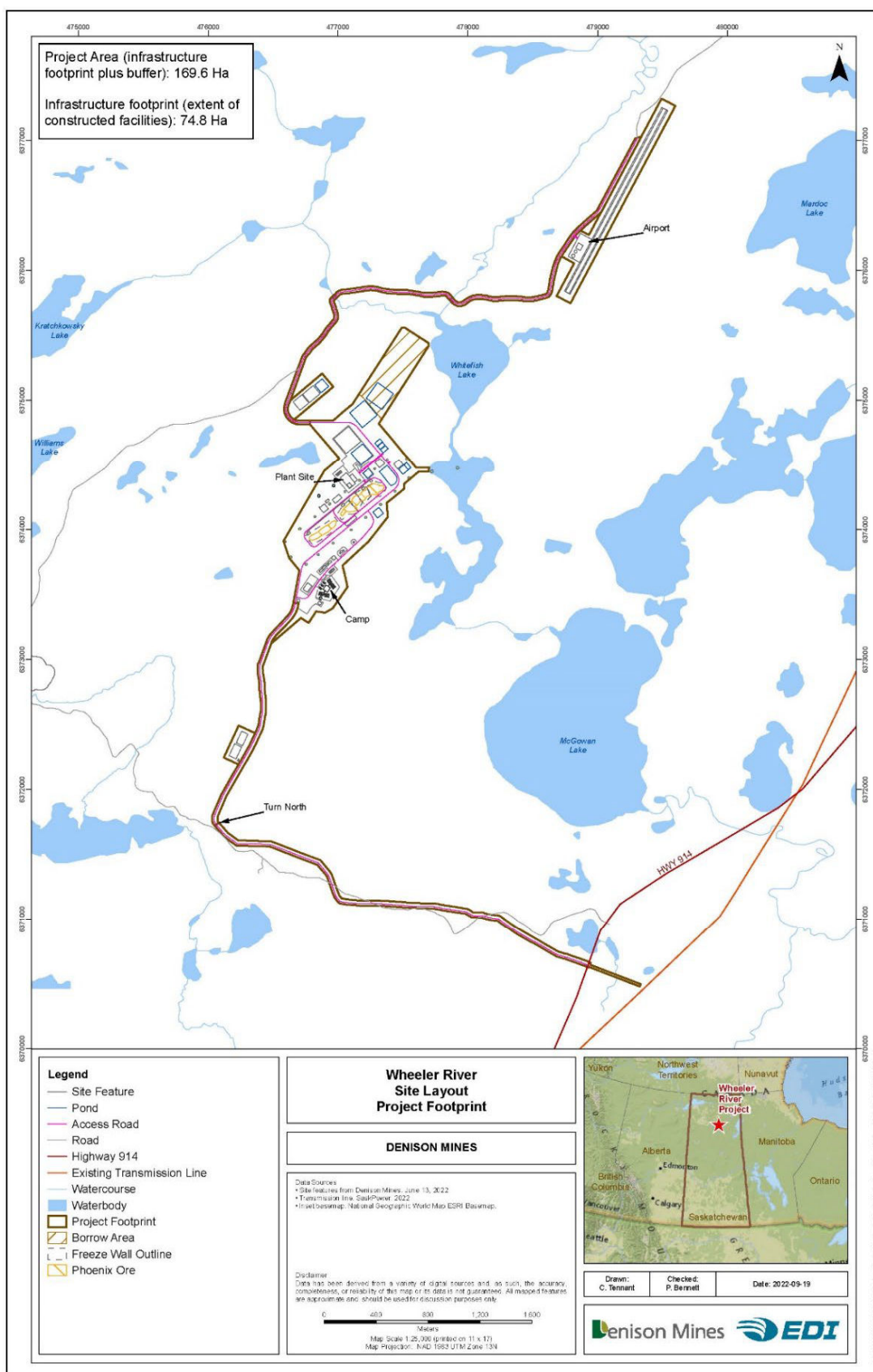
Pierre Tremblay, President  
on behalf of the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission

## **APPENDIX A**

### **LOCATION OF THE WHEELER RIVER PROJECT**

The site of the Wheeler River Project includes the area shown on the map below, where applicable, the land on which the facility is located, a building that forms part of, or equipment used in conjunction with, the facility and any system for the management, storage or disposal of a nuclear substance, as is shown on the map below.







# Indigenous Consultation Report Supplemental Submission:

## **Wheeler River Project**

**November 2025**



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# 1 Indigenous Consultation and Engagement

## 1.1 Introduction

This supplemental report provides an update on CNSC staff's consultation and engagement activities with Indigenous Nations and communities on the Denison EA and Licence to Prepare Site and Construct application, as well as recommendations related to the duty to consult and, where appropriate, accommodate. Information included in this report should be considered in addition to the information in CNSC staff's Indigenous Consultation Report for the Denison Wheeler River Project (the Consultation Report), submitted as a supporting document to CMD 25-H9.

Included in the supplemental report is:

- Update to CNSC staff's continued Consultation and engagement efforts with Indigenous Nations and communities, as listed in the Consultation Report.
- CNSC staff conclusions on Denison's Indigenous engagement activities
- CNSC staff recommendations related to the duty to consult, and where appropriate, accommodate.
- Rights Impact Assessments (RIAs)
- Updated issues tracking tables

CNSC staff made efforts to collaboratively draft key sections of this report with Indigenous Nations and communities, including the assessment of potential impacts to rights which are included in Appendix A.

## 1.2 Update on CNSC staff's Consultation and engagement activities

Since June 2025, CNSC staff continued to consult, engage, collaborate and share information with all identified Indigenous Nations and communities (as listed in the Consultation Report). CNSC staff have maintained a flexible and customized approach to Consultation, being mindful to each Indigenous Nation and community's specific rights, interests and requests. CNSC staff consulted and engaged through multiple phone calls, correspondence, and in-person and virtual meetings with leadership and community representatives (Table 1 to Table 8 below).

CNSC staff have undertaken Consultation and engagement activities on:

- Issues, interests or concerns raised by the identified Indigenous Nations and communities
- CNSC staff's technical review, assessments and recommendations



- CNSC staff's submissions to the Commission
- Potential impacts on Indigenous and/or Treaty rights and potential measures, commitments and/or conditions to work towards addressing impacts and concerns identified by the Nations

CNSC staff have continued Consultation efforts leading up to the Part 2 Commission Hearing with an aim to achieve consensus on the key issues and concerns raised by the Indigenous Nations and communities, and on the proposed measures and commitments to meaningfully address the issues and concerns, aiming to secure Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) on the Project of potentially impacted Indigenous Nations and communities.

CNSC staff heard concerns from Indigenous Nations and communities regarding the need to ensure Denison's commitments are enforceable and that Denison will be held accountable if they do not meaningfully work with Indigenous Nations and communities. In response to this, CNSC staff proposed Licence Condition (LC) 15.1 and the Compliance Verification Criteria (CVC) included in the draft Licence Condition Handbook (LCH). CNSC staff shared the proposed LC with English River First Nation (ERFN), Kineepik Métis Local (KML), Métis Nation – Saskatchewan (MN-S) and Ya'thi Néné Lands and Resources (YNLR) on August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2025, and encouraged feedback on the proposed condition, either through the intervention process or by sharing comments directly with CNSC staff to consider and incorporate. The proposed LC was also discussed at meetings with Indigenous Nations throughout August and September 2025. CNSC staff have not received any comments to date on the proposed LC and draft LCH but encourage ERFN, KML, MN-S and YNLR to share their views as part of the Part 2 Commission hearing, should they wish. In CMD 25-H.9, CNSC staff have included updated text under the compliance verification criteria section for the proposed LC 15.1 in the draft LCH. More information about these efforts and the commitments made are included in Section 1.2.1 to 1.2.8 and Appendix A of this CMD.

Since June 2025, only Birch Narrows Dene Nation (BNDN) have raised new concerns about the Denison Wheeler River Project. Accordingly, the only updated Issues Tracking Tables included in this supplemental submission pertain to BNDN (see Appendix B).

CNSC staff note that the recommendations made in this report are based on the information provided to CNSC staff to date. CNSC staff acknowledge the opportunities for Indigenous Nations and communities to express their views to the Commission during the public hearing process. The hearing process is an important part of the Consultation process for Project. The Commission will consider and incorporate information provided by the Indigenous Nations and communities through their oral and written intervention as well as CNSC staff and Denison submissions to inform their decision.

Details about the Consultation and engagement efforts with Indigenous Nations and communities are included in Sections 1.2.1 to 1.2.8 below. Key correspondence sent to or received by Indigenous Nations and communities is included in Appendix C.

## 1.2.1 Consultation and engagement activities with English River First Nation (ERFN)

Information about consultation activities and engagement conducted with ERFN since June 2025 is included in the table below. Due to ERFN not raising any new concerns on the Project since June 2025, CNSC staff did not include an updated Issues Tracking Table for ERFN in this supplemental submission.

**Table 1 Summary of Consultation activities with ERFN since submission of the CNSC’s Consultation Report in August 2025**

| Date                      | Consultation activity  |
|---------------------------|--|
| June 2025 – December 2025 | <p>In June 2025, CNSC staff shared an updated copy of the issues tracking table with ERFN for their review and comment. CNSC staff also provided ERFN with the PFP contribution agreement and funding amounts for their participation in the Part 2 hearing.</p> <p>CNSC staff continued regular monthly meetings with ERFN to provide updates on the upcoming hearings, share information on documents for review and answer any questions ERFN had on the Commission and regulatory process.</p> <p>In August 2025, CNSC staff shared the draft LC on Indigenous Engagement for review and comment. CNSC staff also provided ERFN with the links to the Consultation Report, EA Report and CMD.</p> <p>In September 2025, ERFN hosted CNSC for an in-person meeting as part of regular meetings as per the ERFN-CNSC Terms of Reference for long-term engagement and the CNSC Listening Tour where the Project was also discussed. CNSC also shared information posters with ERFN on how to get involved in the hearing process. These posters were created in English, French, Cree and Dene to be shared widely with the communities.</p> <p>CNSC staff held the annual in-person ROR engagement session on September 17<sup>th</sup> in Saskatoon, SK where ERFN was invited and updates on the EA and regulatory review process for the Project were provided by CNSC staff.</p> |





| Date | Consultation activity  |
|------|--|
|      | <p>In October 2025, CNSC staff shared the draft Rights Impact Assessment (RIA) with ERFN for review and comment.</p> <p>CNSC staff sent a reminder to all Indigenous Nations and communities regarding the deadline to submit a written intervention for the Part 2 hearing.</p> |

### 1.2.1.1 ERFN's views on the Project and FPIC position

ERFN's shared the following statement within their written intervention for the Denison Wheeler River Project:

*English River First Nation held a ratification vote on whether or not to consent to the Wheeler River Mine. Ultimately, a strong majority of ERFN people voted in favour of consenting to the Wheeler River Mine. For the first time in my lifetime, Free Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) by ERFN was recognized as a requirement and was obtained in an ethical, inclusive, and transparent process prior to a new mine on ERFN Ancestral Lands being sanctioned by the regulator.*

*After a thorough exercise in cooperative, comprehensive environmental assessment and protection mitigations, ERFN can confidently say that we are in Support of the Denison Wheeler River Mine and its opportunity for shared prosperity. [1]*

### 1.2.2 Consultation and engagement activities with Kineepik Métis Local (KML)

Information about consultation and engagement activities conducted with KML since June 2025 is included in the table below. Due to KML not raising any new concerns on the Project since June 2025, CNSC staff did not include an updated Issues Tracking Table for KML in this supplemental submission.





**Table 2 Summary of Consultation activities with KML since submission of the CNSC's Consultation Report in August 2025**

| Date                                 | Consultation activity   |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| <b>June 2025 –<br/>December 2025</b> | <p>In June 2025, CNSC staff shared an updated copy of the issues tracking table with KML for their review and comment. CNSC staff also provided KML with the PFP contribution agreement and funding amounts for their participation in the Part 2 hearing.</p> <p>CNSC staff continued regular monthly meetings with KML to provide updates on the upcoming hearings, share information on documents for review and answer any questions KML had on the Commission and regulatory process.</p> <p>In July 2025, CNSC staff met virtually with KML staff, land users and Elders as part of the CNSC 's Listening Tour where concerns were raised by KML on the Project including the poor quality of Highway 914 and how Denison plans to mitigate KML's road safety concerns.</p> <p>In August 2025, CNSC staff shared the draft LC on Indigenous Engagement for review and comment. CNSC staff also provided KML with the links to the Consultation Report, EA Report and CMD.</p> <p>In September 2025, CNSC shared information posters with KML on how to get involved in the hearing process. These posters were created in English, French, Cree and Dene to be shared widely with the communities.</p> <p>CNSC staff held the annual in-person ROR engagement session on September 17<sup>th</sup> in Saskatoon, SK where KML was invited and updates on the EA and regulatory process for the Project were provided by CNSC staff.</p> <p>In October 2025, CNSC staff shared the draft Rights Impact Assessment (RIA) with KML for review and comment.</p> <p>CNSC staff sent a reminder to all Indigenous Nations and communities regarding the deadline to submit a written intervention for the Part 2 hearing.</p> |

### **1.2.2.1 KML's views on the Project and FPIC position**

KML's shared the following statement within their written intervention for the Denison Wheeler River Project:



*I am writing to reaffirm our continued support for Denison Mines Corp. and the Wheeler River uranium project. KML has entered into a Mutual Benefit Agreement (MBA) with Denison and are pleased to report that key commitments within that agreement continue to be upheld. Denison has demonstrated a consistent and respectful approach to engagement, maintaining strong and transparent communications with KML and the Northern Village of Pinehouse. This open dialogue has fostered trust and collaboration, and we view it as a cornerstone of our relationship.*

*Beyond financial contributions, Denison's support for community initiatives has been meaningful and visible. Their team is not only present at major cultural and community events – such as our annual Elders Gathering, the KM 67 cultural camp and the Polar Plunge – but they actively participate and build relationships with our members. This presence reflects a genuine commitment to community well-being and cultural respect.*

*Through consistent communication and follow-through, Denison has earned our confidence. Their actions show a clear commitment to safety, accountability, and community well-being, principles that align closely with the CNSC's objectives. We see their ongoing work in our region as a foundation for long-term opportunity and prosperity for Métis people and northern communities alike.*

*We appreciate Denison's ongoing efforts and look forward to continuing our collaboration as the Wheeler River Project progresses. We appreciate the CNSC's rigour and welcome the opportunity to publicly support Denison at the December hearing. [2]*

### **1.2.3 Consultation and engagement activities with Ya'thi Néné Lands and Resources (YNLR)**

Information about consultation and engagement activities conducted with YNLR since June 2025 is included in the table below. Due to YNLR not raising any new concerns in relation to the Project since June 2025, CNSC staff did not include an updated Issues Tracking Table for YNLR in this supplemental submission.



**Table 3 Summary of Consultation activities with YNLR since submission of the CNSC's Consultation Report in August 2025**

| Date                         | Consultation activity   |
|------------------------------|---|
| June 2025 –<br>December 2025 | <p>In June 2025, CNSC staff shared an updated copy of the issues tracking table with YNLR for their review and comment. CNSC staff also provided YNLR with the PFP contribution agreement and funding amounts for their participation in the Part 2 hearing.</p> <p>In August 2025, CNSC staff shared the draft LC on Indigenous Engagement for review and comment. CNSC staff also provided YNLR with the links to the Consultation Report, EA Report and CMD.</p> <p>In September 2025, CNSC staff hosted YNLR for an in-person regular meeting in Saskatoon where both the CNSC's Listening Tour was discussed and project updates on the Project were provided.</p> <p>CNSC shared information posters with YNLR on how to get involved in the hearing process. These posters were created in English, French, Cree and Dene to be shared widely with the communities.</p> <p>CNSC staff held the annual in-person ROR engagement session on September 17<sup>th</sup> in Saskatoon, SK where YNLR was invited and updates on the EA and regulatory process for the Project were provided by CNSC staff.</p> <p>In October 2025, CNSC staff shared the draft Rights Impact Assessment (RIA) with YNLR for review and comment.</p> <p>CNSC staff sent a reminder to all Indigenous Nations and communities regarding the deadline to submit a written intervention for the Part 2 hearing.</p> |

### **1.2.3.1 YNLR's views on the Project and FPIC position**

YNLR's shared the following statement within their written intervention for the Denison Wheeler River Project:

*YNLR's initial concerns regarding the Wheeler River mine centered on the issues of:*

- *The nature of Indigenous consultation*
- *Cumulative effects, especially for woodland caribou*
- *Water quality and fish health*
- *Environmental monitoring*



*Numerous meetings between YNLR, Denison and the CNSC have contributed significantly to a greater understanding of these concerns for all parties, and we look forward to further working with Denison and the CNSC should the Project be approved. [3]*

Although YNLR has not provided a specific position with regards to their FPIC for the project to date, CNSC staff are committed to ongoing engagement and collaboration with YNLR to ensure that any outstanding concerns or questions they have with regards to the project are adequately addressed and managed.

## 1.2.4 Consultation and engagement activities with Métis Nation – Saskatchewan (MN-S)

Information about consultation activities and engagement conducted with MN-S since June 2025 is included in the table below. Due to MN-S not raising any new concerns on the Project since June 2025, CNSC staff did not include an updated Issues Tracking Table for MN-S in this supplemental submission.

**Table 4 Summary of Consultation activities with MN-S since submission of the CNSC's Consultation Report in August 2025**

| Date                      | Consultation activity   |
|---------------------------|---|
| June 2025 – December 2025 | <p>In June 2025, CNSC staff met with MN-S staff and regional leadership in-person in Saskatoon, SK to discuss MN-S' outstanding concerns in relation to the Project and to collaborate on a path forward. CNSC staff also shared an updated copy of the issues tracking table with MN-S for their review and comment as well as the PFP contribution agreement and funding amounts for their participation in the Part 2 hearing.</p> <p>In July 2025, MN-S hosted CNSC staff for an in-person meeting to discuss the CNSC's Listening Tour. Concerns were raised by MN-S on the consultation and engagement regarding the Project.</p> <p>In August 2025, CNSC staff shared the draft LC on Indigenous Engagement for review and comment. CNSC staff also provided MN-S with the links to the Consultation Report, EA Report and CMD.</p> <p>On August 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025, MN-S reached out to CNSC regarding their issues tracking table and raised that the version of the table did not incorporate all edits provided by MN-S. CNSC updated the table accordingly. The updated issues tracking table was included in a supplemental submission for the Part 1 hearing.</p> <p>On August 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025, CNSC staff sent MN-S a disposition table which highlighted all of MN-S' outstanding concerns and a proposed path</p> |



| Date | Consultation activity  |
|------|--|
|      | <p>forward to address them. This included an invitation to meet to discuss the concerns and how to collaborate on addressing them in advance of the Part 2 Commission hearing.</p> <p>In September 2025, CNSC shared information posters with MN-S on how to get involved in the hearing process. These posters were created in English, French, Cree and Dene to be shared widely with the communities.</p> <p>CNSC staff held the annual in-person ROR engagement session on September 17<sup>th</sup> in Saskatoon, SK where MN-S was invited and updates on the EA and regulatory process for the Project were provided by CNSC staff.</p> <p>On September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025, CNSC staff met with MN-S staff virtually to discuss the disposition table that was provided by CNSC staff and a path forward on addressing MN-S' outstanding concerns. This meeting mainly focused on MN-S' outstanding concern on selenium levels with an understanding that a follow up meeting would be scheduled to discuss the remaining outstanding concerns. CNSC staff shared the notes with MN-S staff with an invitation for a follow up meeting. CNSC staff have not received a request for a follow up meeting to date. MN-S also shared additional traditional land use maps with CNSC staff which were considered when drafting the Rights Impact Assessment (RIA) in collaboration with MN-S.</p> <p>In October 2025, CNSC staff shared the draft RIA with MN-S for review and comment.</p> <p>CNSC staff sent a reminder to all Indigenous Nations and communities regarding the deadline to submit a written intervention for the Part 2 hearing.</p> |

#### 1.2.4.1 MN-S' views on the Project and FPIC position

MN-S' shared the following statement within their written intervention for the Denison Wheeler River Project:

*The Métis Nation has a significant interest in ensuring the Project is developed responsibly. The Project has potential to impact the exercise of Métis Citizen's Aboriginal rights and impact the Métis Nation's Aboriginal title. Those impacts must be considered through the interpretive lens of UNDRIP.*

*Denison and the Métis Nation are currently in discussions regarding the potential for Métis consent for the Project. However, if Denison is unwilling to commit to acceptable terms for*



*recurring the consent of the Métis Nation, the Commission, as the presentative of the Crown, must take responsibility for protecting the rights and interests of the Métis Nation and seeking in good faith to secure such consent. Protecting the rights and interests of the Métis Nation would likely require Denison to conduct additional assessments and develop additional mitigations, and would involve the Commission's participation in understanding Métis concerns and identifying measures to accommodate those concerns. [4]*

Although MN-S has not provided a specific position with regards to their FPIC for the project to date, CNSC staff are committed to ongoing engagement and collaboration with MN-S to ensure that any outstanding concerns or questions they have with regards to the project are adequately addressed and managed.

## 1.2.5 Engagement activities with Lac La Ronge Indian Band (LLRIB)

Information about engagement activities conducted with LLRIB since June 2025 is included in the table below. Due to LLRIB not raising any new concerns on the Project since June 2025, CNSC staff did not include an updated Issues Tracking Table for LLRIB in this supplemental submission.

**Table 5 Summary of Engagement activities with LLRIB since submission of the CNSC's Consultation Report in August 2025**

| Date                      | Engagement activity   |
|---------------------------|---|
| June 2025 – December 2025 | <p>In June 2025, CNSC staff shared an updated copy of the issues tracking table with LLRIB for their review and comment. CNSC staff also provided LLRIB with the PFP contribution agreement and funding amounts for their participation in the Part 2 hearing.</p> <p>In August 2025, CNSC staff provided LLRIB with the links to the EA Report.</p> <p>In September 2025, CNSC shared information posters with LLRIB on how to get involved in the hearing process. These posters were created in English, French, Cree and Dene to be shared widely with the communities. CNSC also shared the links and agenda with LLRIB for the Denison Part 1 hearing.</p> <p>In October 2025, CNSC staff sent a reminder to all Indigenous Nations and communities regarding the deadline to submit a written intervention for the Part 2 hearing.</p> |



### 1.2.5.1 LLRIB's views on the Project

LLRIB's shared the following statement within their written intervention for the Denison Wheeler River Project:

*LLRIB has been engaged with the Denison Mines Corp. (Denison) Wheeler River Mine and Mill Project (the Project) since 2019. As part of the CNSCs' licensing process, Denison has provided an Indigenous Engagement Report (IER) as part of their Environmental Assessment. LLRIB has focused their written submission on concerns and comments related to the IER. Following LLRIB's review of Denison's criteria to evaluate Indigenous communities', LLRIB seeks a re-evaluation of the category in which LLRIB has currently been placed in relation to the Project. LLRIB is currently listed in the "Other Indigenous Communities" category which is described as having a potential interest in the Project. LLRIB has assessed the Project location and various study areas presented in the EIS and deems LLRIB to instead be classified as an Indigenous Community of Interest. LLRIB requests that Denison work with LLRIB to complete a re-evaluation of LLRIB's level of involvement in the Project. [5]*

CNSC staff are committed to ongoing engagement and collaboration with LLRIB to ensure that any outstanding concerns or questions they have with regards to the project are adequately addressed and managed.

### 1.2.6 Engagement activities with Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation (PBCN)

Information about engagement activities conducted with PBCN since June 2025 is included in the table below. Due to PBCN not raising any new concerns on the Project since June 2025, CNSC staff did not include an updated Issues Tracking Table for PBCN in this supplemental submission.





**Table 6 Summary of Engagement activities with PBCN since submission of the CNSC's Consultation Report in August 2025**

| Date                                 | Engagement activity  |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| <b>June 2025 –<br/>December 2025</b> | <p>In June 2025, CNSC staff met with PBCN in-person in Saskatoon, SK to discuss PBCN's engagement with Denison, outstanding concerns and overview of monitoring initiatives and options for collaboration on addressing PBCN's concerns regarding downstream impacts from the Project. CNSC staff and PBCN also discussed PBCN's claims regarding traditional land use in and around the Project area. PBCN committed to providing CNSC staff with more specific information regarding their use and rights in relation to the Project area. CNSC staff also shared an updated copy of the issues tracking table with PBCN for their review and comment as well as the PFP contribution agreement and funding amounts for their participation in the Part 2 hearing.</p> <p>Following this meeting, CNSC staff reached out to PBCN regarding setting up technical meetings with PBCN's consultants however, CNSC have not received a request from PBCN for these meetings to date.</p> <p>In July 2025, CNSC staff sent PBCN a copy of the EA report including where their edits were incorporated. PBCN replied to that email with an updated draft map with additional inputs where PBCN mentioned they were still working on cross referencing activities in relation to the map. CNSC staff have not received a response or updated information from PBCN, to date.</p> <p>In August 2025, CNSC staff provided PBCN with the links to the EA Report.</p> <p>In September 2025, CNSC shared information posters with PBCN on how to get involved in the hearing process. These posters were created in English, French, Cree and Dene to be shared widely with the communities. CNSC also shared the links and agenda with PBCN for the Denison Part 1 hearing.</p> <p>CNSC staff followed up with PBCN in early September regarding the map that was shared in July 2025, but have no received a response, to date.</p> <p>In October 2025, CNSC staff sent a reminder to all Indigenous Nations and communities regarding the deadline to submit a written intervention for the Part 2 hearing.</p> |





### **1.2.6.1 Assessment of Impacts to PBCN's Indigenous and/or Treaty Rights**

In response to PBCN sharing their known historical and contemporary land use in relation to the Project, CNSC staff completed an assessment of the potential impacts to PBCN's Aboriginal rights as affirmed in Section 35 of the *Constitution Act*, 1982. Based on the assessment of Project residual impacts and factoring in the predominant areas of traditional use identified by PBCN members, CNSC staff do not predict any direct impacts to PBCN's Indigenous and treaty rights as a direct result of the Project if approved, based on the information shared to date. Further details of the assessment and correspondence with PBCN can be found in Appendix C.7.

CNSC staff remain committed to continuing to engage and work with PBCN to address any outstanding concerns and questions with regards to the Project and are committed to engaging on monitoring activities to ensure that PBCN and its members have confidence that their traditional territory continues to be healthy and safe for traditional practices and activities.

### **1.2.6.2 PBCN's views on the Project**

PBCN's shared the following statement within their written intervention for the Denison Wheeler River Project:

*CNSC has not fulfilled its duty to consult PBCN with respect to this Project. Further, PBCN's vital input has not been responded to or included in the Final EA Report or the EIS. The Crown has breached its duty to consult PBCN, and the record before this Commission is inadequate, meaning the requirements of s. 24(4)(b) of the NSCA have not been met. Issuing a license in these circumstances would breach both statutory and constitutional requirements.*

*The inadequacy of the materials before the Commission also means the Commission cannot be satisfied the project will not cause significant adverse environmental effects, as required under the CEAA 2012. [6]*

CNSC staff are committed to ongoing engagement and collaboration with PBCN to ensure that any outstanding concerns or questions they have with regards to the project are adequately addressed and managed.



## 1.2.7 Engagement activities with Birch Narrows Dene Nation (BNDN)

Information about engagement activities conducted with BNDN since June 2025 is included in the table below. Additional details about issues, concerns and requests raised by BNDN as well as CNSC staff's responses and effort to address the concerns in included in the issues tracking table in Appendix B.

**Table 7 Summary of Engagement activities with BNDN since submission of the CNSC's Consultation Report in August 2025**

| Date                             | Engagement activity   |
|----------------------------------|---|
| <b>June 2025 – December 2025</b> | <p>In May 2025, BNDN sent a letter to CNSC staff and Denison indicating that they do not support the Project and have outstanding concerns. CNSC responded to this letter on June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025, with an offer to meet and continue discussing BNDN's outstanding concerns on the Project. CNSC staff also shared an updated copy of the issues tracking table with BNDN for their review and comment as well as the PFP contribution agreement and funding amounts for their participation in the Part 2 hearing.</p> <p>In August 2025, CNSC staff provided BNDN with the links to the EA Report.</p> <p>On August 29<sup>th</sup>, 2025, BNDN sent CNSC, the Province of Saskatchewan and Denison a letter stating the failure of the Crown's duty to consult and accommodate BNDN. This letter outlined BNDN's concerns with the Project including not being identified by Denison as a Community of Interest (COI) and that the DTC with BNDN has not been met by the Crown.</p> <p>On September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025, CNSC staff responded to the letter and on September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025, CNSC staff held a meeting virtually with BNDN to discuss BNDN's outstanding concerns and a path forward.</p> <p>In September 2025, CNSC staff shared information posters with BNDN on how to get involved in the hearing process. These posters were created in English, French, Cree and Dene to be shared widely with the communities. CNSC also shared the links and agenda with BNDN for the Denison Part 1 hearing.</p> <p>CNSC staff also followed up with BNDN to provide CNSC confidentiality form to protect traditional knowledge shared with CNSC.</p> |



| Date | Engagement activity  |
|------|--|
|      | <p>In October 2025, CNSC staff sent a reminder to all Indigenous Nations and communities regarding the deadline to submit a written intervention for the Part 2 hearing.</p> <p>On October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025, CNSC staff met virtually with BNDN where BNDN provided CNSC staff with confidential traditional land use information related to the Project via a presentation. BNDN shared the presentation materials with CNSC staff following the meeting for CNSC staff's review and a path forward.</p> |

### 1.2.7.1 BNDN's views on the Project

BNDN's shared the following statement within their written intervention for the Denison Wheeler River Project:

*We provided a technical review of the Wheeler River project identifying serious gaps, and we still await answers to 64 outstanding comments. We are now completing Indigenous Knowledge and land use research, which will confirm what we have said all along: this Project will cause adverse impacts to our Treaty rights, to our way of life, and to the land and waters we hold sacred. If Denison expects BNDN to even consider supporting this Project, then it must mitigate those impacts and accommodate our Nation in a meaningful way. Anything less will never secure our consent. [7]*

CNSC staff are committed to ongoing engagement and collaboration with BNDN to ensure that any outstanding concerns or questions they have with regards to the project are adequately addressed and managed.

## 1.2.8 Engagement activities with Prince Albert Grand Council (PAGC)

Information about engagement activities conducted with PAGC since June 2025 is included in the table below. Due to PAGC not raising any new concerns on the Project since June 2025, CNSC staff did not include an updated Issues Tracking Table for PAGC in this supplemental submission.



**Table 8 Summary of Engagement activities with PAGC since submission of the CNSC's Consultation Report in August 2025**

| Date                         | Engagement activity   |
|------------------------------|---|
| June 2025 –<br>December 2025 | <p>In June 2025, CNSC staff shared an updated copy of the issues tracking table with PAGC for their review and comment.</p> <p>In August 2025, CNSC staff provided PAGC with the links to the EA Report.</p> <p>In September 2025, CNSC shared information posters with PAGC on how to get involved in the hearing process. These posters were created in English, French, Cree and Dene to be shared widely with the communities. CNSC also shared the links and agenda with PAGC for the Denison Part 1 hearing.</p> <p>In October 2025, CNSC staff sent a reminder to all Indigenous Nations and communities regarding the deadline to submit a written intervention for the Part 2 hearing.</p> |

#### **1.2.8.1 PAGC's views on the Project**

PAGC did not provide a written intervention on this Project and will not be intervening at this time.

### **1.3 Assessment of potential impacts on Indigenous and/or Treaty rights**

In order to fulfill the Crown's duty to consult for the decision for the Project, CNSC staff considered potential impacts to Aboriginal and/or Treaty rights related to the Project, as described under Section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982* [8], by completing Rights Impact Assessments (RIAs) for potentially impacted Indigenous Nations and communities who have potential and/or established Indigenous and/or treaty rights that could be impacted by the Project. Upon review and analysis, the following Indigenous Nations and communities were noted as having Indigenous and/or Treaty Rights in the Project area: ERFN, KML, YNLR and MN-S. For the other Indigenous Nations and communities, CNSC staff did not obtain information through Denison's engagement or CNSC staff's consultation activities that identified any potential impacts to their Indigenous and/or Treaty rights as a result of the Project.



The purpose of an RIA is to assess the potential impacts of the Project on the Indigenous and/or Treaty rights of an Indigenous Nation or community. The RIA also identifies any potential mitigation, follow-up measures, commitments or accommodation measures that could help to avoid, reduce, or accommodate for any identified impacts and communicate the process, outcomes and recommendations in a collaborative way to the Commission as part of its decision-making process. CNSC staff took a collaborative approach to the RIAs and related analysis and ensured that each Indigenous Nation and community had the opportunity to review and provide input into the RIA specific to their Nation and rights.

### 1.3.1 Summary of findings on impacts on Rights

CNSC staff considered potential impacts to Indigenous and/or treaty rights by completing a specific RIA with potential and/or established Indigenous and/or treaty rights in the Project area. As such, RIAs were completed in collaboration with ERFN, KML, YNLR representing the Denesuline First Nations, and MN-S captured in separate RIA Reports (see Appendix A). The identified Indigenous Nations and communities assert and exercise rights and interests throughout their traditional and/or treaty territories that includes the Project site. For the RIAs conducted with the potentially impacted Indigenous Nations and communities, a variety of harvesting, governance and stewardship, and cultural continuity rights were identified as the principle asserted or established rights that could potentially be impacted by the Project.

Project impacts on rights include the following pathways of effects:

- Changes in the Quantity and Quality of Resources Required for the Exercise of Rights
- Changes in Access to Areas of Cultural Importance and Resource Use
- Changes to Governance, Laws and Cultural Traditions

In the assessment of impact to rights of each identified Indigenous Nation and community, the CNSC staff used the following definitions to describe the magnitude of impacts to rights:

**Low** – Impacts results in small or no changes to biophysical effects, access to areas relied upon for the exercise of rights, cultural and spiritual experiences and decision-making for culturally important lands. The activity or area used to exercise rights could be practiced in the same or similar manner as before. Culturally important sites, and access thereof does not place the Indigenous land user in the vicinity of or requires the Indigenous land user to pass the Project site. Location of culturally important sites are minimally impacted by increased activity in the Project area.



**Medium** – Impacts result in moderate changes to biophysical effects, access to areas relied upon for the exercise of rights, cultural and spiritual experiences and decision-making for culturally important lands. The activity or area used to exercise rights may be modified or altered. Culturally important sites, and access thereof places the Indigenous land user in the vicinity of or requires the Indigenous land user to pass directly past the Project site. Location of culturally important sites are moderately impacted by increased activity in the Project area.

**High** - Impacts result in significant changes to biophysical effects, access to areas relied upon for the exercise of rights, cultural and spiritual experiences and decision-making for culturally important lands. The activity or area used to exercise rights is no longer available. Culturally important sites are located at the Project site, and access thereof places the Indigenous land user at the Project site, or directly adjacent to the Project site. Location of culturally important sites are heavily impacted by increased activity in the Project area and permanently changes the Indigenous land user experience.

CNSC staff's view is that, when considering the proposed mitigations, follow-up measures, commitments and accommodation measures made by CNSC staff and Denison that the potential impacts to Indigenous and/or treaty rights for the identified and potentially impacted Indigenous Nations and communities have been appropriately assessed, mitigated and accommodated, should the Commission grant a licence.

The detailed Rights Impact Assessments outlining the proposed Project, discussing the potential impacts to each Nation's and community's impacts to rights, and detailing the proposed mitigations, follow-up measures, commitments and accommodations proposed by Denison and the CNSC to avoid, reduce, and where appropriate, accommodate for impacts to rights are included in Appendix A.

CNSC staff's commitments and accommodations include:

- Continuing to collaborate with Indigenous Nations and communities on ongoing oversight of Denison's commitments to address concerns and recommendations identified. CNSC staff are proposing a Licence Condition 15.1 for Indigenous engagement which includes requirements for Denison to report annually on their engagement activities and progress on implementing their commitments to Indigenous Nations and communities. The proposed Licence Condition includes EA follow up actions that address issues and concerns raised by Indigenous Nations related to their practice of Aboriginal and treaty rights as outlined in Section 35 of the *Constitution Act*, 1982 as well as ensures that all commitments made to Indigenous Nations and communities regarding environmental monitoring and oversight of Nation members are honoured.
- Continuous engagement and discussions on ongoing environmental monitoring programs such as site specific Independent Environmental Monitoring Program (IEMP) and the regional Eastern Athabasca Regional Monitoring Program (EARMP) results



- Sharing environmental compliance and performance reports, environmental risk assessments, and other health related studies with interested Indigenous Nations and communities
- Ongoing engagement, communication, information sharing and collaboration with Indigenous Nations and communities through long-term engagement TOR's
- Continuing ongoing community visits and engagements with community members and leadership

## 1.4 Denison's Indigenous engagement

CNSC staff determined that the Denison Wheeler River Project raised the legal duty to consult and, where appropriate, accommodate, potentially affected Indigenous Nations and communities. As such, Denison was required to follow REGDOC-3.2.2, *Indigenous Engagement* [9]. To assist the CNSC in meeting its duty to consult and, where appropriate, accommodate, the CNSC will consider engagement undertaken by Denison, including with respect to avoidance, mitigation or other measures and commitments adopted or proposed by Denison in an effort to accommodate and address the concerns raised by potentially impacted Indigenous Nations and communities. This consideration does not mean that the Consultation undertaken by CNSC staff stops or is replaced by Denison's engagement activities, but rather that both occur concurrently and aim to complement each other to ensure the CNSC's consultation obligations are fulfilled.

In August 2025, Denison submitted an update to its Wheeler River Indigenous Engagement Report (IER), covering the period from July 2016 to July 2025 to the Commission and CNSC staff on the record for the Part I Hearing in October 2025. CNSC staff reviewed this version of the IER and will continue to monitor and assess Denison's engagement related to the Wheeler River Project. CNSC staff and Denison continue to meet frequently, at the executive and working level, for CNSC staff to receive updates from Denison and discuss its Indigenous engagement activities.

CNSC staff note that as per Denison's IER submitted in August 2025, Denison has continued efforts for engagement with the identified Indigenous Nations and communities and has been working to advance commitments made to the potentially impacted Indigenous Nations and communities. Denison continues dialogue with MN-S in working to address outstanding concerns. Denison has also continued engagement with PBCN and BNDN with an aim to reach consensus on issues and concerns raised by both Nations.



CNSC staff note that through proposed LC 15.1, Denison will be required to continue to engage with all Indigenous Nations and communities identified in the Consultation Report and report to the CNSC on their engagement activities throughout the subsequent licencing phases of the Wheeler River Project, should the Commission grant a licence. CNSC staff encourage Denison to collaboratively develop an approach to engagement and communication that meets the needs of each Indigenous Nation and community.

CNSC staff note that, to date Denison's engagement and reporting in relation to the Wheeler River Project has been in accordance with REGDOC-3.2.2, *Indigenous Engagement* [9]. CNSC staff note that Denison has made several specific commitments publicly and through direct agreements with the potentially impacted Nations and communities to address their concerns, comments and requests.

Denison's commitments include:

- Ongoing engagement throughout the lifecycle of Project, if approved
- Opportunities for document review throughout each phase of the Project including decommissioning
- Participation in environmental monitoring
- Prioritize Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities in the Local Study Area (LSA) for employment and training opportunities
- Committed to maintaining positive relationships with Indigenous Nations and communities
- Committed to considering local and traditional knowledge in all facets of the Project

For a full list of Denison's commitments and mitigations to the Indigenous Nations and communities see below in Appendix A.

CNSC staff are satisfied with Denison's engagement program and activities to date and will continue to monitor Denison's engagement activities and implementation of all regulatory commitments outlined in the draft LCH under the site-specific LC 15.1 as well as the [Commitments Register](#) [10], should the Commission grant a licence. CNSC staff are committed to working collaboratively with the potentially impacted Indigenous Nations and communities on regulatory oversight and follow-up activities related to their concerns and Denison's commitments, to ensure their rights and interests are protected.





## 1.5 Conclusions and recommendations related to Indigenous consultation and engagement

CNSC staff aimed to conduct a thorough, transparent, flexible, and collaborative Consultation process for the Wheeler River Project. Denison has made several specific commitments to address the concerns, comments and requests from the potentially impacted Indigenous Nations and communities and CNSC staff's view is that to date, Denison has met the requirements and guidance of REGDOC-3.2.2, *Indigenous Engagement* [9].

CNSC staff proposed several mitigation and accommodation measures in response to concerns raised by the Indigenous Nations and communities and recommend that the Commission direct staff to implement these measures and commitments. CNSC staff also proposed LC 15.1 and the associated CVC in the draft LCH to ensure there is a mechanism for oversight and enforcement of Denison's ongoing engagement and commitments to Indigenous Nations and communities.

CNSC staff's approach to consultation and engagement was informed by the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). CNSC staff worked to understand the potentially impacted Indigenous Nations and communities process and position for FPIC in relation to the Project and incorporated it into the process for consultation and CNSC staff's recommendations through focused efforts in reaching consensus on the issues and concerns raised by the Nations and communities. CNSC staff continue to encourage the potentially impacted Indigenous Nations and communities to share their FPIC position with CNSC staff and the Commission, to inform their decision.

CNSC staff are of the view that, based on information currently available to CNSC staff, the potential impacts of the Wheeler River Project on Aboriginal and/or Treaty rights have been appropriately assessed, considered and mitigated based on the proposed mitigations, follow-up measures, commitments and accommodation measures proposed by Denison and CNSC staff.

Based on the information to date and acknowledging the opportunities for Indigenous Nations and communities to express their views to the Commission during the public hearing process, CNSC staff recommend to the Commission that they determine the duty to consult, and where appropriate, accommodate under section 35 of the *Constitution Act*, 1982 [8] as having been discharged in an appropriate and adequate manner.

Should the Commission grant a licence and accept the recommendations of CNSC staff, CNSC staff and Denison will be required to conduct ongoing engagement, collaboration and communications with identified Indigenous Nations and communities throughout the licence period and implement the commitments, mitigations and accommodations identified.



## Appendix A Right Impact Assessments

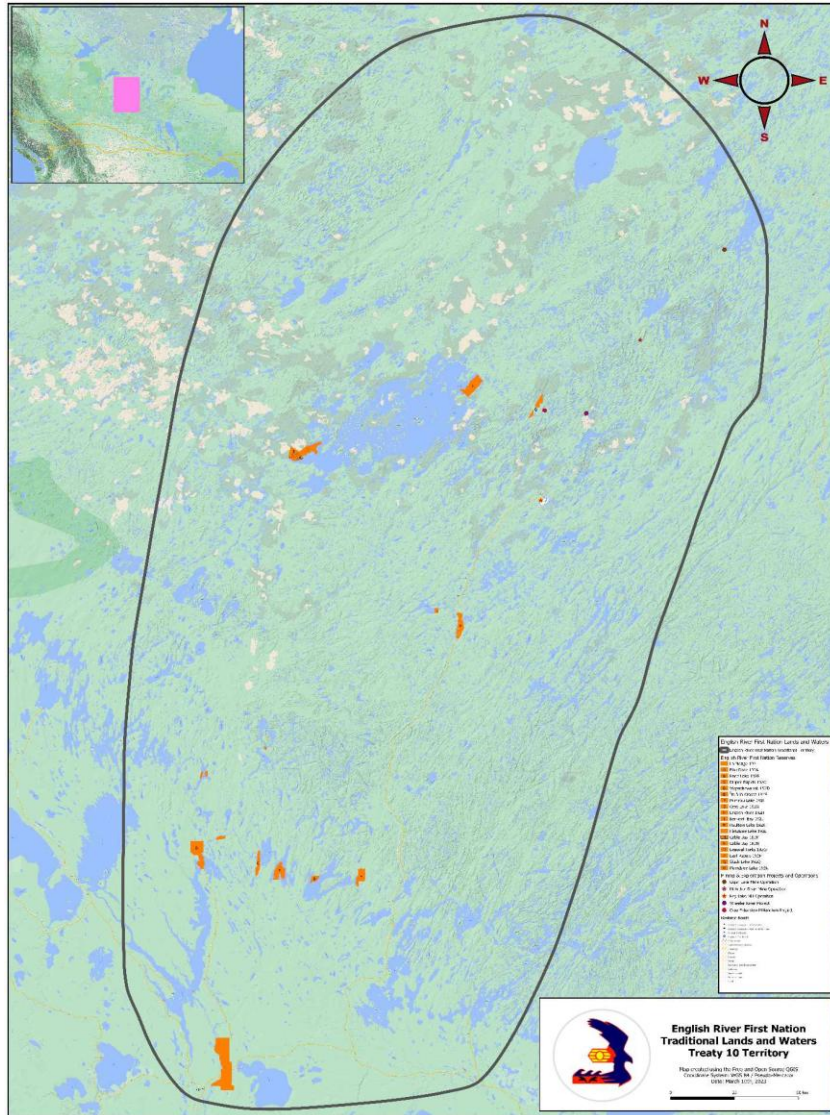
### A.1 Rights Impact Assessment with English River First Nation

#### 1. Description of English River's Traditional Use and Rights-Exercising Areas

English River First Nation (ERFN) is a Dene and Cree First Nation and is a signatory of Treaty 10. ERFN has 19 reserves located throughout northern Saskatchewan with an overall population of 2,100 members with 1,100 members living on reserve. The closest reserve to the Project is Slush Lake Reserve No. 192Q which is approximately 16 km from the Project site. Barkwell Bay Reserve No. 192I is approximately 39 km northwest of the site. ERFN is a First Nation whose members have used and occupied their Ancestral Lands in northern Saskatchewan for thousands of years to sustain themselves, to carry out their livelihood, and to practise and pass down their culture. In its Dene language, ERFN refers to its Ancestral Lands as Nuhtsiye-kwi Benéne. ERFN's use of the Nuhtsiye-kwi Benéne, and the corresponding responsibility to protect Nuhtsiye-kwi Benéne for future generations, is inherent and sacred. ERFN's principal reserve is Wapatuanak that includes the hamlet of Patuanak, which is located 90 km north of Highway 165, near Beauval, Saskatchewan. The Wheeler River Project is located within both the traditional and treaty territory of ERFN and ERFN maintains that it is the most directly impacted First Nation in relation to the proposed Project.

CNSC staff understand that ERFN members have been living, travelling, hunting, trapping, fishing, gathering and carrying out other cultural and/or commercial activities in their Ancestral Lands for thousands of years. These activities and the resources that support them are key to maintaining ERFN's strong connection to Nuhtsiye-kwi Benéne today and for future generations.

The map below showcases ERFN's traditional lands and waters territory in relation to the Wheeler River Project Site including ERFN reserve lands highlighted in orange. The ERFN culture camp is also highlighted on this map along the Key Lake highway 914 [11].



**Figure 1: English River First Nation Traditional Lands and Waters Territory – Nuhtsiye-kwi-Benéne Territory**

ERFN shared the results of two studies with CNSC staff – a Traditional Knowledge Study and a Health & Socio-Economic Study. The Traditional Knowledge Study (TK Study) provides CNSC staff with information and insight into the past, present and envisioned future of ERFN in the vicinity of the proposed Wheeler River Project, as well as cumulative impacts they have noted from past mining and other developments in the area. The Health & Socio-Economic Study provides CNSC staff with information and insight into the past, present and envisioned future of ERFN in the vicinity of the proposed Wheeler River Project, including ERFN rights and values, existing and potential impacts on valued components (VC's), and recommendations for further collaborative work.



The geographic scope of the Study (TK Study Area) was focused on the Nuhtsiye-kwi Benéne, the Ancestral Lands of ERFN. ERFN representatives developed the TK Study Area based on the area they feel has the potential to be influenced by the Wheeler River Project. This area includes a 20 km buffer of the proposed Project site, and a 20 km buffer of the Key Lake highway south to ERFN's Mawdsley reserve (which is approximately 100 km from the Project Site), a key cultural centre for the ERFN community. This encompasses the Wheeler River system where it flows to the northwest of the Key Lake highway. Please note that the TK Study Area identified by ERFN may be different from the Study Area defined by Denison's environmental impact statement. The map below includes the TK Study Area as identified by ERFN.

The TK Study identified:

- A total of 384 land use and occupancy features were mapped by participants and 129 of those occurred within the TK Study Area. A breakdown of the different categories that were mapped and the number of each feature are as follows: Ecological Knowledge (42), Personal Harvesting (41), Commercial Harvesting (13), Access Routes (7), Cultural Sites (10), Overnight Locations (6), Changes (9), and Demographics (1).
- 42 Ecological Knowledge features were identified in the broad TK Study Area with in-depth features of the northern and southern regions of the study area. These consisted of mainly fish spawning areas, mammal habitats and wildlife corridors.
  - The most common fish species identified were lake whitefish, northern pike, walleye (pickerel), and sucker, although some areas for burbot, grayling and lake trout were identified as well.
  - All mammal habitats and wildlife corridors mapped were identified as important areas for either woodland caribou or moose. These included birthing and mating areas, important feeding grounds and in some cases, general year-round habitat.
  - Bird habitats were also mapped, and included habitats of the bald eagle, osprey and waterfowl.
  - Other ecological features that were mapped include salt/mineral licks, species at risk (barn swallow, buff-breasted sandpiper, common nighthawk and woodland caribou) and locations where fresh spring water was collected at waterways near the proposed Wheeler River Project site, as identified by Denison.
- Harvesting activities occur across Nuhtsiye-kwi Benéne, with key areas of harvesting activity around the Patuanak/Churchill River area, Cree Lake, and the Key Lake highway corridor. The heaviest concentration of contemporary harvesting areas is found between the Mawdsley Lake reserve and the McArthur River mine, on both sides of the Key Lake highway.



- Closest to the proposed mine, participants indicated fishing locations for whitefish in Russell Lake; pickerel at the Wheeler River bridge; and whitefish, jackfish in the smaller lakes and creeks located close to the development site.
- Moose hunting locations were mapped along the Wheeler River mine site access road, and in the area surrounding McDougall Lake.
- A blueberry gathering area was mapped around the Fox Lake Road close to the proposed mine site.
- Hunting areas for moose and woodland caribou, trapping areas for wolf and beaver, and gathering areas for blueberries and cranberries across a large stretch of land adjacent to the Key Lake highway and Fox Lake Road, which includes the proposed Project area, were identified.
- Commercial harvesting takes place around the lakes of the Churchill River system.
- 61 cultural sites were mapped overall with 10 of those occurring in the Study Area.
  - Cultural sites mapped included birth sites, burial sites, historic family village sites, historically significant sites, contemporary gathering places, ERFN recreation areas, and other sites culturally significant to ERFN people.
  - Key cultural areas for the ERFN people are concentrated at Cree Lake, the Haultain, Mawdsley and Costigan lakes area, Russell Lake, Wheeler River, and the Patuanak and Churchill River area.
  - Sites close to the proposed Wheeler River Project site include an historical family village site and birth site and an overnight location on an unnamed lake just east of the Project site. Two participants spoke of an historic winter trail nearby along the Wheeler River, through Russell Lake, and on to Wollaston Lake that is still used today.
- A total of 22 overnight locations (cabins and temporary structures) were mapped, with six in the TK Study Area.

The LSA and RSA are important hunting areas for large game such as moose and gathering areas for berries and medicinal plants. ERFN maintains a culture camp in the RSA at kilometre 160 of Highway 914, approximately 100 km south of the Project where the highway crosses the Haultain river. ERFN land users gather at the culture camp several times a year with Elders and youth to carry out land use activities such as berry picking, fishing, moose hunting, cultural teachings, and other activities. Moose hunting locations and woodland caribou harvesting sites were mapped along the Wheeler River mine site access road and adjacent to the Key Lake highway corridor in the LSA and RSA. The heaviest concentration of contemporary harvesting by ERFN in the region is between the Haultain Lake reserve lands and the McArthur River mine, and on both sides of the Key Lake highway located within LSA/RSA. ERFN, as well as the village of Pinehouse have unrestricted access through the Key Lake Gate to use the semi-public Highway 914.

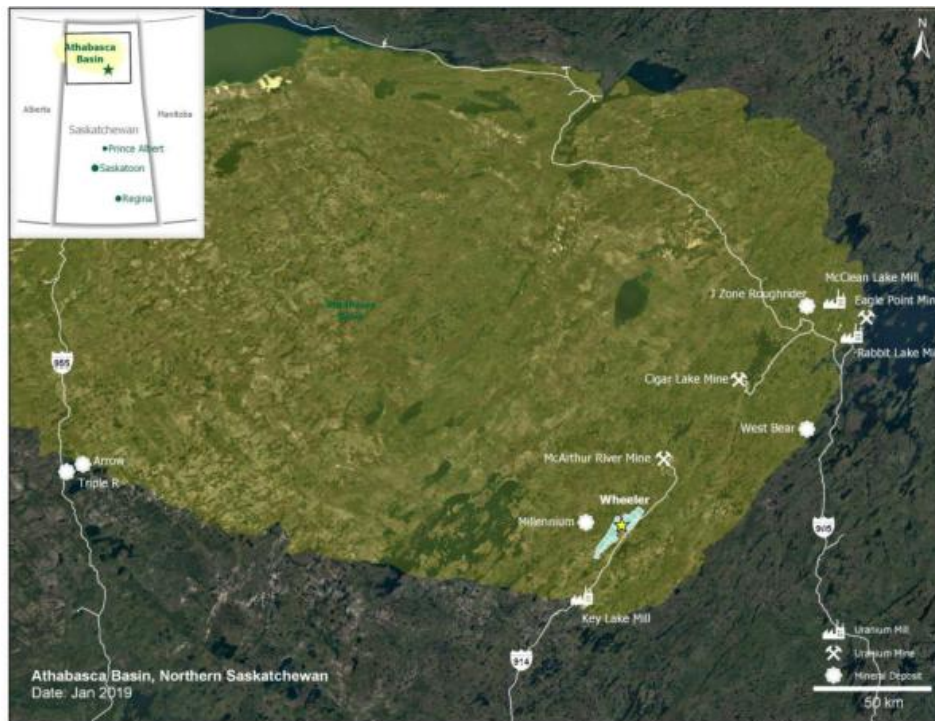




Closer to the Project site, ERFN IK study participants identified fishing locations in the LSA at Russell Lake and in the smaller lakes and creeks close to the Project site. Plant and berry harvesting areas were also mapped in the LSA around the Fox Lake Road close to the proposed Project site and near the Wheeler River bridge. ERFN also documented a multigenerational history of trapping in the RSA east of the proposed Project, and these same trails are now used currently for subsistence hunting. ERFN reported that lynx, muskrat, fisher, fox, otter, and mink were trapped in the RSA within the last 10 years. ERFN also mapped 61 cultural sites overall in the region, with 10 of those occurring within the LSA. Cultural sites mapped included a birth site, historic family village sites, historically significant sites, ERFN recreation areas, and culturally significant travel routes to ERFN.

## 2. Denison Wheeler River Project Setting

The Wheeler River Project is a proposed in situ recovery (ISR) uranium mine and processing plant in northern Saskatchewan. It is located in Saskatchewan's Athabasca Basin approximately 4 km west of Highway 914. The Project falls within the boundaries of Treaty 10, the Nuhtsiye-kwi Benéne (Ancestral Lands) of ERFN, the homeland of the Métis, and within the traditional territories of the Dene, Cree and Métis peoples. Treaty 10 (1906) covers the northeast quadrant of Saskatchewan and is bordered by Manitoba and Northwest Territories to the east and north, while the south and west border extends to central Saskatchewan and Alberta. Treaty 10 (1906) includes the signatories of seven First Nations and contains a provision that establishes treaty rights to hunt, fish and trap throughout the Treaty territory.





### **Figure 3: Denison Wheeler River Project Site in Relation to Other Mine Sites in Northern Saskatchewan**

The Denison Project location is divided into three separate areas:

- **Site study area (SSA):** The SSA (referred to as Project Area in the EIS) is the Wheeler River Project footprint (the area where all Project activities are proposed to be undertaken, including facilities, buildings, and infrastructure).
- **Local study area (LSA):** The LSA is the area existing outside the SSA, where measurable changes to the environment may be anticipated due to Project activities. These changes may occur during any phase of the Project, either through normal activities or from possible accidents or malfunctions.
- **Regional study area (RSA):** The RSA is the maximum area within which the potential effects of the Project may interact with the effects of other projects and activities (or anticipated projects and activities), resulting in a potential for cumulative effects.

The Project Area's direct physical disturbance covers an area approximately 1.75 km<sup>2</sup>, (not including the airstrip), while the LSA is approximately 84 km in length by 42 km in width, covering approximately 2,620 km<sup>2</sup>, and the RSA has a maximum length of 338 km and maximum width of 163 km, covering approximately 29,754 km<sup>2</sup>

The Project site is located in the Boreal Shield Ecozone and contains the Phoenix and Gryphon uranium deposits. This area is typical of the continental sub-arctic region, characterized by short, cool and moist summers with cold, dry winters. The Wheeler River site has been shaped by glacial and fluvial processes, with drumlins and eskers separated by lowland areas of well drained glaciofluvial outwash sands and gravels and associated wetlands. The ground surface elevation in the area varies from 494-600 metres above sea level (masl) for the Project Area and 520-550 masl for the Phoenix deposit range.

The Project is proposed to be located in the Athabasca Basin of Saskatchewan, 4 km west of Highway 914. The proposed Project is located within the Northern Saskatchewan Administration District, which includes approximately 250,000 km<sup>2</sup> (44% of Saskatchewan's land area) and approximately 36,000 residents. No communities are located within the immediate proximity (<100 km) of the Wheeler River property. Ground access to the Project is through Highway 914, with control managed by the Cameco Key Lake Operation gatehouse.



ERFN is one of the communities with the closest population centres to the proposed Project location. The proposed Project site is located within trapping blocks N-16 and N-18 as part of the partitioning of fur conservation areas in 1946, which are managed by ERFN. The area has been used by outfitters and cabin lease holders, fishing, hunting and harvesting by resource users as well as for navigation and travel along waterbodies and roads by Indigenous peoples. Four ERFN members are permanent residents on the land surrounding the Wheeler River Project: Barb George, Richard Gardiner, Doreen Biller and Louis John. They live full-time at cabins that are between 28 and 40 km from the Wheeler River. The primary land uses within the region include fishing, hunting, harvesting, mining and exploration.

The LSA and RSA are accessed and used by Indigenous Nations and communities for traditional and/or cultural and ceremonial activities. The primary Indigenous land use activities carried out within the LSA and broader RSA by Indigenous land users include hunting, trapping, fishing, and berry picking. There are also recreational and traditional resource user leases in the LSA and RSA. In addition, there are also important cultural heritage sites in the LSA and RSA, such as archaeological sites, historic travel and canoe routes, seasonal camps and traplines, all of which have cultural significance to Indigenous Nations and communities. All the potentially impacted Indigenous Nations and communities have identified the importance of protecting the existing environment within the LSA and RSA so that they can continue to hunt, trap, and fish and carry out their traditional activities safely into the future.

### 3. Effects Pathways

Potential effects on the rights and interests of Indigenous Nations and communities, including ERFN, may occur from the proposed Wheeler River Project through effects pathways that include:

- Biophysical effects (effects on wildlife, aquatic resources, fish and fish habitat, vegetation and ecosystems)
- Access to lands and waters relied upon to access resources required for the exercise of rights
- Cultural/spiritual/experiential (activities and/or behaviours that may disrupt or cause disturbances related to activities carried out for the exercise of rights)
- Governance, stewardship and decision-making on culturally important lands

The assessment of effects to determine the potential impacts to rights considers valued components where quantifiable analyses have been conducted and contained in the CNSC Environmental Assessment Report. However, when assessing potential impacts to rights, some effects pathways are assessed qualitatively as not all effects have a quantifiable and related valued component(s).





### **3.1 Changes in the Quantity and Quality of Resources Relating to the Exercise of Rights**

The Indigenous and/or treaty rights exercised in the Project area include fishing, hunting, trapping and gathering. The exercise of Indigenous and/or treaty rights related to changes in the quantity and quality of resources related to the exercise of rights is directly influenced by environmental conditions related to aquatic resources, fish and fish habitat, wildlife, soils and vegetation and ecosystems. The exercise of ERFN rights is also informed by each ERFN member's culture, history, and protocols.

#### **3.1.1 Changes in the Quantity and Quality of Resources Relating to the Exercise of Fishing Rights**

The heaviest concentration of contemporary fishing by ERFN in the region is between the Haultain Lake reserve lands and the McArthur River mine, and on both sides of the Key Lake highway located within LSA/RSA. Closer to the Project site, ERFN IK study participants identified fishing locations in the LSA at Russell Lake and in the smaller lakes and creeks close to the Project site. The right to fish is extremely important to ERFN members for both sustenance and cultural purposes. Any impacts to water and the aquatic environment that may impact fish species has been noted as concerns and issues that ERFN has brought forward to both Denison and the CNSC as part of the regulatory review and consultation process.

ERFN expressed concerns that the Project may adversely impact or contaminate the aquatic environment, waterways, fish, and fisheries, affecting their traditional way of life, including water use, fishing, and land harvesting practices tied to "Nuhtsiye-kwi Benéne" (Traditional Lands). Specifically, ERFN was concerned by the potential risk of hazardous materials from the Project contaminating the surrounding environment, particularly in the event of underground spills to a groundwater aquifer that may not be immediately visible or detectable. ERFN also highlighted the importance of safeguarding waterways and fish spawning areas to prevent contamination. Furthermore, members of ERFN perceive risks associated with the uranium mining industry, including catastrophic accidents, which could significantly impact their way of life and connection to Nuhtsiye-kwi Benéne.

ERFN also expressed specific concerns that the presence of molybdenum and sulfate in effluents from the mine could significantly impact the current environment by influencing pH levels and potentially leading to acidification downstream. ERFN has emphasized the importance of understanding the local hydrogeological setting to assess potential risks associated with water quality and groundwater flow.



ERFN has expressed concerns regarding the long-term transport of groundwater solutes during operation, particularly in relation to potential progressive decommissioning of the mining area, and during the decommissioning and post-closure phases of the Project. Central to these concerns is the general lack of control over groundwater seepage as compared to surface water discharge. Further, ERFN has communicated their preference to protect groundwater quality to the extent reasonable, rather than limiting protection to subsequent VCs (i.e., surface water quality and fish habitat). Additionally, ERFN has remaining questions regarding the feasibility of capturing groundwater monitoring data during the operation phase of the Project to confirm predicted effects from long-term groundwater migration prior to decommissioning. Commitments between ERFN and Denison acknowledging these concerns have been captured in the Agreement, ERFN will engage with Denison on continued characterization of decommissioning water quality targets and the foreseeable process to progress decommissioning the mining area. ERFN feels these commitments are adequate as the potential effects would be limited to the LSA and ERFN accepts the responsibility of its important, ongoing role in terms of confirming realized effects will meet or be below those described in Denison's EIS.

Potential impacts to surface water quality and quantity, fish and fish habitat, and potential impacts to sediment quality and invertebrate communities may ultimately lead to potential impacts to ERFN members' right to fish. CNSC staff have evaluated Denison's assessment of Project-related impacts and conducted an independent assessment of potential impacts that may arise from the Project with the findings discussed below.

### **3.1.1.1 Assessment of Project Effects on Surface Water Quantity and Quality as they Pertain to the Exercise of Fishing Rights**

CNSC staff reviewed the assessment of predicted residual effects on the aquatic environment due to changes in surface water quantity and quality from Project-related effects.

For surface water quantity, assessed Project-related effects included Project overprinting of drainage areas, surface water taking and surface water discharge. CNSC staff reviewed Denison's conclusions that with the implementation of appropriate design and mitigation measures, and the effects being characterized as low magnitude, localized, and fully reversible, the residual effects on surface water quantity are predicted to be not significant. Denison's conservative assessment determined that the largest predicted changes to stream flow is limited to 3% while changes in lake water levels were predicted to be negligible and remain below the natural range of variability considering waterbodies immediately downstream of the Project facility.



For surface water quality, assessed Project-related effects included mobilization of suspended materials, controlled discharge to the receiving environment, and long-term transport of groundwater solutes to Whitefish Lake in a future centuries' scenario. CNSC staff reviewed Denison's conclusions that with the implementation of appropriate mitigation measures, and the effects being characterized as low magnitude, localized, and fully reversible, the residual effects on surface water quality from mobilization of sediment and long-term transport of groundwater solutes are predicted to be not significant. CNSC staff verified Denison's determination that surface water quality in the receiving environment is likely to be moderately adversely impacted by the controlled discharge of effluent from the Project throughout the operation and decommissioning phases. However, residual effects are expected to be localized and fully reversible following post-decommissioning, and the aquatic environment will likely be resilient to potential changes. Surface water quality is an intermediate VC and is assessed further as a KI of potential residual adverse effects significance determinations for the receptor VCs Fish and Fish Habitat, Sediment Quality and Benthic Invertebrates, and Fish Health.

CNSC staff reviewed Denison's models and predictions for effects to surface water quantity and quality considering input from other federal departments, provincial ministries, Indigenous Nations and communities and the public. CNSC staff confirmed that Denison conducted a sufficient analysis of these effects to determine predicted levels of risk, however CNSC staff have proposed an EA Condition ([Table 12.1](#)) that Denison collect additional baseline data and reduce uncertainty in modelling of risk predictions (EA2).

ERFN has expressed concerns regarding the predicted effects to surface water quantity and quality; however, they recognize the proven nature of surface water monitoring programs and general conservatism of the freshwater guidelines for protection of drinking water and aquatic life. Further, ERFN acknowledges the mechanisms to confirm measured effects are comparable to predicted effects during the operations phase and potential effects would be limited to the LSA.

CNSC staff reviewed Denison' identified mitigation and follow-up monitoring program measures for the identified effects and have found that they are adequate.

### **3.1.1.2 Assessment of Project Effects on Fish and Fish Habitat as they Pertain to the Exercise of Fishing Rights**

CNSC staff conclude the Project is not likely to cause significant adverse effects on fish and fish habitat from changes in fish habitat, changes in flows or water levels in lakes and rivers, or from changes in surface water quality due to the mobilization of suspended materials, controlled discharge to the receiving environment, or the long-term transport of groundwater solutes to Whitefish Lake in a future centuries scenario so long as mitigation measures and follow-up program measures are implemented.



Taking into account the implementation of mitigation measures and recommended follow-up program measures, CNSC staff conclude the Project is not likely to cause significant adverse effects on fish health from changes in water and sediment quality, and changes in constituent concentrations in fish tissues due to the mobilization of suspended materials, controlled discharge to the receiving environment, or the long-term transport of groundwater solutes to Whitefish Lake in a future centuries scenario. Overall, changes to fish and fish habitat are expected to be non-significant. Fish and Fish Habitat has a high resiliency with respect to physical disturbance in the context of a small, localized area being altered or disturbed. It is not expected that the ecological integrity of the areas adjacent to the infrastructure will be affected and, as such, will provide for sources of re-distribution and recolonization.

ERFN has expressed concerns regarding potential direct and indirect effects to fish and fish habitat in Whitefish Lake as a result of effluent discharge (e.g., temperature changes, entrainment, impingement); however, ERFN acknowledges the mechanisms to confirm measured effects are comparable to predicted effects during the operations phase and recognize potential effects would be limited to Whitefish Lake in the LSA.

To ensure that the aforementioned assessment conclusions remain valid, CNSC staff recommended that the Commission include the following EA Condition, should it issue a licence. If accepted, Denison will be required to address EA Condition EA2 in Table 12.1 of the Environmental Assessment Report related to IRs carried over from the EA Review into licensing. CNSC's assessment conclusions are contingent on the establishment of these EA Conditions.

### **3.1.1.3 Assessment of Project Effects on Sediment Quality as they Pertain to the Exercise of Fishing Rights**

CNSC staff reviewed the assessment of predicted residual effects on sediment quality and benthic invertebrates due to change in sediment quantity and particle size, change in sediment quality (chemical), change in aquatic habitat (area), and change in water level or flow. CNSC staff reviewed Denison's conclusions that with the implementation of appropriate mitigation measures and the effects being characterized as low magnitude, localized, and fully reversible, the residual effects on sediment quality and benthic invertebrates are predicted to be not significant. CNSC staff verified Denison's determination that surface water quality in the receiving environment is likely to be moderately adversely impacted by the controlled discharge of effluent from the Project throughout the operation and decommissioning phases and that there are potential low levels of risk to benthic invertebrates from surface water quality. However, residual effects are expected to be localized and fully reversible following Project post-decommissioning, and benthic invertebrate communities will likely be resilient to potential changes (see Section 6.3.6 for more details).



ERFN has conveyed that based on their experience with past and ongoing mining operations they expect sediment chemistry to be highly sensitive to mine influence and that changes can persist for decades following closure. ERFN notes that commitments have been made for ongoing refinement of predictions commensurate to the potential risks, and ERFN agrees that potential effects would be limited to Whitefish Lake in the LSA.

CNSC staff reviewed Denison's models and predictions for effects to sediment quality and benthic invertebrates and confirmed that Denison conducted a comprehensive analysis of these effects. Furthermore, CNSC staff reviewed Denison's identified mitigation and follow-up monitoring program measures for the identified effects and have found that they are adequate.

CNSC staff also conducted an effects significance determination for the identified effects, taking into account input from other federal departments, provincial ministries, Indigenous Nations and communities and the public, and determined that the identified changes to sediment quality and benthic invertebrates are expected to be not significant due to the implementation of mitigation measures and not cause significant changes to the sediment quality or benthic invertebrate population health.

#### **3.1.1.4 Potential Impacts to the Quantity and Quality and Resources Relating to the Exercise of Fishing Rights**

ERFN members rely on fishing to provide a balanced diet of foods that have sustained their People for millennia. In addition, fishing is a cultural practice that allows for the transfer of traditional knowledge from member to member, and generation to generation. Spawning habitat, rearing areas, and areas where fish species congregate at particular times of the year is cultural knowledge that is transferred among the ERFN community that is critical to the sustenance of ERFN members. ERFN members have identified important fishing areas in the LSA and RSA used to catch lake whitefish, northern pike, pickerel, and sucker, although some areas for burbot, arctic grayling and lake trout were identified as well.

ERFN maintains a culture camp in the RSA at kilometre 160 of Highway #914, approximately 100 km south of the Project where the highway crosses the Haultain river. ERFN land users gather at the culture camp several times a year with Elders and youth to carry out land use activities such as fishing and other activities. ERFN TK study participants identified fishing locations in the LSA at Russell Lake and in the smaller lakes and creeks close to the Project site.



Many of the locations used by ERFN members to exercise their right to fish are found within the LSA, and not directly at the Project Site. Predicted impacts to surface water quantity and quality, fish and fish habitat, and sediment quality and invertebrate communities are expected to extend minimally into the LSA and impacts to areas closest to the Project Site (e.g., Russell Lake) that have been identified for use by ERFN members are not predicted. However, industrial activities, such as uranium mining, carry social stigma for Indigenous Peoples and can create a perception that potential contamination to the environment and residing species from an operating uranium mine may lead to negative health impacts by consuming traditional foods such as fish. This perception can ultimately lead to avoidance behaviours and could lead to ERFN members to seek out fishing areas that are deemed to be more pristine and this disruption may limit areas of use relied upon for sustenance activities and disrupt transference of cultural knowledge.

ERFN continues to pursue opportunities to demonstrate to community members the value and quality of resources within the Nuhtsiye-kwi Benéne (e.g., Country Food Study, Medicinal Plant Quality and Cancer Rate Study). ERFN agrees that potential effects would be localized to the LSA.

All mitigation measures, follow-up activities, and commitments to ERFN proposed by Denison, and CNSC proposed commitments and accommodation measures are contained within Table 1 and Table 4, and referenced in Section 4 of this report that address potential impacts to surface water quantity and quality, fish and fish habitat, and sediment quality and the invertebrate community which could lead to impacts to the rights to fish.

### **3.1.2 Changes in the Quantity and Quality of Resources Relating to the Exercise of Hunting and Trapping Rights**

The heaviest concentration of contemporary hunting and trapping by ERFN in the region is between the Haultain Lake reserve lands and the McArthur River mine, and on both sides of the Key Lake highway located within LSA/RSA. ERFN IK study participants identified moose hunting locations that were mapped along the Wheeler River mine site access road, and in the area surrounding McDougall Lake. In addition, areas for moose and woodland caribou, and trapping areas for wolf and beaver across a large stretch of land adjacent to the Key Lake highway and Fox Lake Road, which includes the proposed Project area, were identified. The right to hunt and trap is extremely important to ERFN members for both sustenance and cultural purposes. When fur prices are favourable, trapping can be an important source of income for members who harvest commercially. Any impacts to wildlife and wildlife habitat have been noted as concerns and issues that ERFN has brought forward to both Denison and the CNSC as part of the regulatory review and consultation process.



ERFN expressed several concerns on the topic of wildlife and wildlife habitat. First, they emphasized the importance of documenting woodland caribou and moose calving locations and participating in mitigation efforts. The loss of wetland areas and lichen could significantly impact habitat and food availability during critical life stages for these species. Additionally, noise generated by Project-related activities may affect ungulates. ERFN noted concerns that increased access to Cree Lake could adversely impact woodland caribou and moose populations.

ERFN noted that many important furbearing species (e.g., lynx, muskrat, fisher, otter, mink, etc.) were omitted from the wildlife valued component given these are culturally important species. Further, ERFN believed that monitoring changes in wetland aerial extent alone (as a single monitoring point) was insufficient, given that wetlands serve as key lifecycle habitats for species of concern, including furbearing species such as beaver and mink.

Given the cultural connection and importance, ERFN indicated to Denison that reclamation priorities should include meeting objectives for woodland caribou and that any work related to woodland caribou must consider the federal recovery strategy for the species. ERFN has made a commitment to Denison to participate in the development of the Woodland Caribou Management Framework.

Potential impacts to furbearers, moose and woodland caribou may ultimately lead to potential impacts to ERFN members' right to hunt and trap. CNSC staff have evaluated Denison's assessment of Project-related impacts and conducted an independent assessment of potential impacts that may arise from the Project with the findings discussed below.

### **3.1.2.1 Assessment of Project Effects on Furbearers as they Pertain to the Exercise of Hunting and Trapping Rights**

CNSC staff reviewed Denison's effect assessment for alteration and/or loss of habitat to pine marten, mink, and muskrat, and confirmed that Denison conducted a comprehensive analysis of these effects and that identified mitigation and follow-up monitoring program measures are adequate.

Wolverines need large, undisturbed areas to survive. The proposed Project may affect about 8.2% of their habitat in the region, but it's unclear if this will impact their ability to maintain healthy populations. Since wolverines are a species at risk, the CNSC asked Denison for more details on how the Project might overlap with wolverine home ranges and whether enough suitable habitat will remain. Denison replied that no wolverines were seen during earlier studies, and much of the Project area was already disturbed. They believe any impacts to wolverine will be small due to the species' low density and large home ranges. Denison has committed to monitoring wildlife, including wolverines, but hasn't yet provided full details of their monitoring plans. The CNSC has proposed a condition that requires Denison to submit a





monitoring plan for species at risk, including wolverine, to ensure any negative effects are tracked and managed properly. Considering this information, and the proposed EA condition, CNSC staff concluded that Denison's mitigation and follow-up monitoring program measures for the identified effects on wolverine are adequate.

### **3.1.2.2 Assessment of Project Effects on Moose as they Pertain to the Exercise of Hunting and Trapping Rights**

CNSC staff reviewed Denison's effect assessment for alteration and/or loss of habitat to moose and acknowledged the concerns from ERFN about declining moose populations. CNSC staff requested more information from Denison on how to mitigate any residual Project impacts. Denison responded that mitigations to minimize potential effects on moose include minimizing the extent of the Project Area and associated disturbances to the extent practicable, standard mitigation measures to minimize air emissions, dust, light and noise, exclusion fencing around waste pads and ponds, and measures to minimize direct mortality from vehicle collisions through driver training and safety practices. Moreover, CNSC staff advised Denison to clarify how IK on moose calving sites and corridors in the RSA is incorporated into the residual effects assessment. Denison explained that the sites identified by Indigenous Nations and communities, including ERFN, through sharing of IK were explicitly considered in the assessment as indicated by their identification as overlapping with the Terrestrial RSA, however, the areas were not expressly discussed in the residual effects assessment because there is no anticipated spatial overlap of those areas with direct or indirect Project effects. Considering this information, CNSC staff concluded that Denison's effect assessment, mitigation and follow-up monitoring program measures for the identified effects on Moose are adequate and the effects to Moose are predicted to be non-significant.

### **3.1.2.3 Assessment of Project Effects on Caribou as they Pertain to the Exercise of Hunting and Trapping Rights**

Denison conducted surveys to detect woodland caribou presence but didn't specifically study how woodland caribou use habitat across seasons or during sensitive life stages like calving. CNSC asked for more detail, and Denison responded with updated maps showing seasonal habitat use and potential for feeding, shelter, and calving. The updated information provided by Denison helped address concerns raised by ERFN.

CNSC noted that forest fires can damage woodland caribou habitat, which may take decades to recover and questioned Denison whether certain regenerating forest types are suitable year-round for woodland caribou. Denison indicated caribou were observed in these regenerating forest areas and included them as available habitat. Denison also considered habitat connectivity in their analysis and indicated woodland caribou can move freely across the landscape, with no known barriers or corridors in the Project area.





CNSC and ECCC raised concerns about noise from the Project's airstrip. Denison expects approximately five flights per week will result from the Project being developed and has committed to minimize wildlife disturbance by following best practices, including adjusting flight paths when needed.

Denison estimated the Project adds only 0.001% disturbance to the broader woodland caribou range. They used a 500 m buffer around Project features to assess habitat loss, in line with federal guidance. CNSC noted that not all disturbances may be visible in satellite imagery but acknowledged Denison's efforts to study how linear features affect wildlife. Denison plans to restore old roads and trails as part of woodland caribou habitat offset efforts.

CNSC staff reviewed Denison's assessment of risks to woodland caribou, especially from consuming potentially contaminated lichen, which makes up most of their diet. Lichen can absorb airborne pollutants from up to 40 km away, so CNSC requested Denison explain how this was factored into their analysis. Denison indicated their environmental study showed low risk from contaminants, but CNSC noted the model used for diet contained only 20% lichen. Since caribou may eat up to 70% lichen, CNSC requested more evidence to determine woodland caribou have a low risk from contaminants to ensure woodland caribou and their primary food source would be protected. Denison updated their analysis model using a 70% lichen diet and found that even with higher exposure, radiation and contaminant levels stayed well below environmental guidelines. This indicates that woodland caribou are expected to be safe from dietary exposure to Project-related contaminants.

Considering this information, CNSC staff concluded that Denison's assessment and mitigation measures for the identified effects on woodland caribou mortality are adequate.

### **3.1.2.4 Potential Impacts to the Quality and Quantity of Resources Relating to the Exercise of Hunting and Trapping Rights**

ERFN members rely on hunting and trapping to provide a balanced diet of foods that have sustained their People for millennia. In addition, hunting and trapping is a cultural practice that allows for the transfer of traditional knowledge from member to member, and generation to generation. Moose browse habitat, woodland caribou migration routes, and where furbearers will travel and use important habitat is cultural knowledge that is transferred among the ERFN community that is critical to the sustenance of ERFN members. ERFN members have identified important hunting and trapping areas in the LSA and RSA used to harvest deer, moose, woodland caribou, muskrat, mink and many other species such as otter and spruce grouse.

ERFN maintains a culture camp in the RSA at kilometre 160 of Highway #914, approximately 100 km south of the Project where the highway crosses the Haultain river. ERFN land users gather at the culture camp several times a year with Elders and youth to carry out land use activities such as berry picking, fishing, moose hunting, cultural teachings, and other activities.



ERFN IK study participants identified hunting and trapping locations in the LSA and RSA along the Wheeler River mine site access road and adjacent to the Key Lake highway corridor close to the Project site. ERFN also documented a multi-generational history of trapping in the RSA east of the proposed Project, and these same trails are now used currently for subsistence hunting. ERFN reported that Lynx, Muskrat, Fisher, Fox, Otter, and Mink were trapped in the RSA within the last 10 years.

Many of the locations used by ERFN members to exercise their right to hunt and trap are found within the LSA, and not directly at the Project Site. Predicted impacts to furbearers, moose, and woodland caribou are expected to extend minimally into the LSA and impacts to areas closest to the Project Site that have been identified for use by ERFN members are not predicted. However, industrial activities, such as uranium mining, carry social stigma for Indigenous Peoples and can create a perception that potential contamination to the environment and residing species from an operating uranium mine may lead to negative health impacts by consuming important traditional foods such as moose and caribou. This perception can ultimately lead to avoidance behaviours as ERFN land users may seek out hunting and trapping areas that are deemed to be more pristine and this disruption may limit areas of use relied upon for sustenance activities and also disrupt transference of cultural knowledge.

Mitigation measures, follow up activities and commitments to ERFN proposed by Denison, and CNSC commitments and proposed accommodation measures are contained within Table 1 and Table 4 and referenced in Section 4 of this report that address potential impacts to furbearers, moose and woodland caribou which could lead to impacts to the rights to hunt and trap.

### **3.1.3 Changes in the Quantity and Quality of Resources Relating to the Exercise of Gathering Rights**

The heaviest concentration of contemporary gathering by ERFN in the region is between the Haultain Lake reserve lands and the McArthur River mine, and on both sides of the Key Lake highway located within LSA/RSA. ERFN IK study participants identified gathering areas for blueberries and cranberries across a large stretch of land adjacent to the Key Lake highway and Fox Lake Road, which includes the proposed Project area. The right to gather is extremely important to ERFN members for both sustenance and cultural purposes. Traditional foods, plants and medicines play a central role in ERFN cultural, traditional and spiritual practices. Any impacts to culturally important plants and vegetation have been noted as concerns and issues that ERFN has brought forward to both Denison and the CNSC as part of the regulatory review process.

ERFN raised concerns about Denison's Environmental Risk Assessment, where samples of terrestrial lichens, blueberries and soils showed consistent radionuclide levels when compared to Rio Tinto's Roughrider Project; however, several metal parameters for these samples were elevated in comparison.



ERFN requested that in addition to committing to using seed mix that is certified weed-free for revegetation/reclamation, that Denison should also include plants of medicinal and traditional importance in revegetation/reclamation plans. In addition, ERFN requested Denison prepare the site in ways that will promote natural revegetation of areas that will not need to remain cleared.

Potential impacts to soil quantity and quality, and vegetation and ecosystems may lead to potential impacts to ERFN members' right to gather. CNSC staff have evaluated Denison's assessment of Project-related impacts and conducted an independent assessment of potential impacts that may arise from the Project with the findings discussed below.

### **3.1.3.1 Assessment of Project Effects on Soil Quantity and Quality they it Pertain to the Exercise of Gathering Rights**

CNSC staff reviewed Denison's effect assessment to soil quantity and quality and confirmed that Denison conducted a comprehensive analysis of these effects and that identified mitigation measures are adequate. CNSC staff sought clarification regarding Denison's follow-up monitoring of soil stockpiles. Since Denison plans to use stockpiled soil in reclamation activities, CNSC staff asked whether Denison's periodic monitoring includes analysis of contaminants of potential concern (COPCs) that could be deposited from dust-generating Project activities. Denison clarified that monitoring of COPCs in soil stockpiles is not planned, but the need could be revisited in case COPCs in sources are detected at concentrations exceeding predictions. In addition, Denison proposed to support reclamation research including investigations into soil conditions which may include analysis of COPCs as warranted. CNSC staff verified in the appendix 10A assessment that COPC concentrations in soil on-site from atmospheric deposition are predicted to be below soil quality guidelines for protection of human health and environmental health. In addition, Denison proposed to support research on soil preparation techniques and amendments to inform the revegetation strategy. CNSC staff note that this research will support reclamation given that soil suitability is expected to be poor, due to the predominance of sandy soils characterized by a thin surface organic layer and low fertility. Considering this information, CNSC staff concluded that Denison's follow-up monitoring program measures for the identified effects are adequate and the effects to soil quantity and quality are predicted to be non-significant.

### **3.1.3.2 Assessment of Project Effects on Vegetation and Ecosystems as they Pertain to the Exercise of Gathering Rights**

CNSC staff reviewed Denison's effect assessment to the areal extent of habitat types and confirmed that Denison conducted a comprehensive analysis of these effects and that identified mitigation and follow-up monitoring program measures are adequate.



CNSC staff reviewed Denison's assessment of contaminants in plants, especially those eaten by woodland caribou and people, such as lichen and blueberries. They noted that lichen can absorb airborne pollutants, not just soil-based ones, and often had higher contaminant levels than blueberries in past studies. CNSC asked Denison to include air deposition as a key exposure pathway for lichen, which Denison confirmed was already considered and updated their documentation to reflect this.

During the environmental assessment, concerns about berry quality were raised. CNSC confirmed that Denison's assessment looked at all major sources of pollution and found no harmful levels of radiation or COPCs in vegetation, including berries, during any phase of the Project or in the long term. Denison committed to ongoing monitoring, including testing blueberries, and will update risk assessments as new data becomes available.

Considering this information, CNSC staff concluded that Denison's mitigation and follow-up monitoring program measures for the identified effects are adequate and the effects to vegetation and ecosystems are predicted to be non-significant.

### **3.1.3.3 Potential Impacts to the Quantity and Quality and Resources Relating to the Exercise of Gathering Rights**

ERFN members rely on gathering traditional plants to provide a balanced diet of foods, provide medicines, and provide traditional plants that are central to cultural and spiritual practices that have sustained their People for millennia. In addition, gathering is a cultural practice that allows for the transfer of traditional knowledge from member to member, and generation to generation. Important berry picking spots, timing of plant flowering and seed phases, and the optimum timing for plant harvesting is cultural knowledge that is transferred among the ERFN community that is critical to the sustenance of ERFN members. ERFN members have identified important gathering areas in the LSA and RSA used to collect blueberries, cranberries, willow and other important traditional plants.

ERFN maintains a culture camp in the RSA at kilometre 160 of Highway #914, approximately 100 km south of the Project where the highway crosses the Haultain river. ERFN land users gather at the culture camp several times a year with Elders and youth to carry out land use activities such as berry picking, fishing, moose hunting, cultural teachings, and other activities. ERFN IK study participants identified gathering locations in the LSA and RSA identified gathering areas for blueberries and cranberries across a large stretch of land adjacent to the Key Lake highway and Fox Lake Road, which includes the proposed Project area.



Many of the locations used by ERFN members to exercise their right to gather are found within the LSA, and not directly at the Project Site. Predicted impacts to soils and vegetation are expected at the Project site and may extend into the LSA but are not to significantly impact areas ERFN members have identified as traditional plant harvesting locations. ERFN agrees that potential effects would be localized to the LSA.

Industrial activities, such as uranium mining, carry social stigma for Indigenous Peoples and can create a perception that potential contamination to the environment and residing species from an operating uranium mine may lead to negative health impacts by consuming important traditional foods such as berries. This perception can ultimately lead to avoidance behaviours as ERFN land users may seek out gathering areas that are deemed to be more pristine, and this disruption may limit areas of use relied upon for sustenance and cultural activities and disrupt transference of cultural knowledge.

ERFN continues to pursue opportunities to demonstrate to community members the value and quality of resources within the Nuhtsiye-kwi Benéne (e.g., Country Food Study, Medicinal Plant Quality and Cancer Rate Study). ERFN agrees that potential effects would be localized to the LSA.

Mitigation measures, follow up activities and commitments to ERFN proposed by Denison, and CNSC commitments and proposed accommodation measures are contained within Table 1 and Table 4, and referenced in Section 4 of this report that address potential impacts to soil quantity and quality, and vegetation and ecosystems which could lead to impacts to the rights to gather.

### **3.2 Changes in Access to Areas of Cultural Importance and Areas Containing Resources that Support the Exercise of Rights**

The Indigenous and/or treaty rights exercised in the Project area rely on the ability for Indigenous Nations and communities to access land to exercise their rights. The exercise of Indigenous and/or treaty rights related to changes in access to areas of cultural importance and areas containing resources which supports the exercise of rights is directly influenced by the ability to access lands and resources for fishing, hunting, trapping, gathering and accessing areas of cultural and spiritual importance for cultural and spiritual practices. The exercise of rights is also informed by each Indigenous Nation's culture, history, and protocols.



### **3.2.1.1 Changes in Access to Areas of Cultural Importance and Access to Areas Containing Resources that Support the Exercise of Rights**

ERFN provided the CNSC with traditional land use data that includes 61 cultural sites that were mapped across their traditional land use area with 10 of those sites occurring in the Study Area. Cultural sites mapped included birth sites, burial sites, historic family village sites, historically significant sites, contemporary gathering places, ERFN recreation areas, and other sites culturally significant to ERFN people.

Key cultural areas for the ERFN community members are concentrated at Cree Lake, the Haultain, Mawdsley and Costigan lakes area, Russell Lake, Wheeler River, and the Patuanak and Churchill River area. Sites close to the proposed Wheeler River Project site include an historical family village site and birth site and an overnight location on an unnamed lake just east of the Project site. Two participants spoke of an historic winter trail nearby along the Wheeler River, through Russell Lake, and on to Wollaston Lake that is still used today.

At the initial Project stage ERFN expressed concerns that increased access to the Cree Lake area could adversely impact woodland caribou and moose populations, potentially affecting members' ability to engage in traditional hunting practices. Specifically, ERFN is concerned about Province of Saskatchewan's plan to redesign and provide unimpeded road access to the north, which may lead to an influx of people into the Cree Lake area to set up cabins and fishing lodges. This potential influx of people into the area may threaten the region's remoteness, tranquility, and the quality of fishing. Moreover, it could erode the practice of traditional activities and subsistence harvesting.

ERFN expressed concerns that mine truck traffic would impact access to blueberry harvesting areas and impact the berries themselves, that access to hunting areas would be cut off, and that potential mine contamination could impact moose, woodland caribou, and/or fish in the area. Additionally, ERFN raised concerns about the potential blocking of Fox Lake Road by the Project—a road that holds contemporary cultural significance as a gathering place for ERFN people.

### **3.2.1.2 Potential Impacts to Indigenous Land and Resource Use**

CNSC staff reviewed Denison's assessment of potential effects to Indigenous Land and Resource Use (ILRU) due to decreased access to areas of cultural importance, including areas used for fishing, hunting, trapping and gathering activities, as well as ceremonial practices, during all phases of the Project and considered the views shared by Indigenous Nations and communities. CNSC staff have also reviewed and considered all ERFN's Indigenous Knowledge that was provided in Denison's EIS, as well as the documents and maps that have been shared directly with CNSC staff that were requested to remain confidential.



CNSC staff have also travelled to the Project site and region on several occasions, visited multiple cultural camps, met and engaged directly with ERFN land users, Elders, and leadership related to the Project to hear and respond to their concerns. In addition, CNSC staff have also reviewed the mitigation measures that were proposed and applied by Denison in atmospheric and acoustic environment, geology and groundwater, aquatic environment, terrestrial environment, and human health sections as well as the mitigation and follow-up commitments made by Denison for the Project that would minimize impacts to ERFN land users.

The Projects effects of potential changes to the physical and cultural heritage of Indigenous Nations and communities, including ERFN, were also assessed for issues related to the loss, change, or alteration of archaeological and heritage resources of the current use of lands and resources for traditional purposes of culturally/spiritually sites. When considering the mitigation measures proposed and applied to Heritage Resources, CNSC staff conclude that there will be no residual adverse effects to changes in access to cultural and heritage resources for ceremonial purposes. With respect to potential effects on other cultural resources including archaeology, and considering ERFN's views, CNSC staff have found that Denison's mitigation measures listed and their commitments to follow the guidance under the *Saskatchewan's Heritage Property Act* (Government of Saskatchewan 2017) pertaining to archaeology sites, built heritage sites and structures of historical and/or architectural interest, and paleontological sites will mitigate any potential effects. Denison has completed the required archaeology assessments in accordance with provincial regulations and has also committed to developing a Heritage Resources Management Plan (HRMP) to help protect and mitigate any potential effects of the Project to Heritage Resources with potentially affected Indigenous Nations and communities to ensure the Project effects are being monitored and appropriately mitigated. ERFN agrees that potential effects would be localized to the directly impacted areas within the LSA.

Taking into account the implementation of mitigation measures and recommended follow-up program measures, as well as input received from Indigenous Nations and communities, including ERFN, CNSC staff conclude that there are grounds for the Commission to find that the Project is not likely to cause significant adverse effects on access to cultural sites of importance to Indigenous peoples.

CNSC staff are committed to working with ERFN to collaborate on follow-up and monitoring activities for the Project, as well as enhance engagement, outreach and information sharing regarding uranium mining and related environmental, health, safety and regulatory measures to mitigate and protect ILRU in the Project Area region and build trust with ERFN members moving forward.





### **3.2.1.3 Discussion on the Potential Impacts to Changes in Access to Areas of Cultural Importance and Access to Areas Containing Resources that Support the Exercise of Rights**

Cultural and spiritual practices are central to Indigenous ways of life and being. The transfer of cultural knowledge in Indigenous culture is shared from generation to generation via stories and these stories speak of important moments, places and activities that describe the origins and history of Indigenous Nations and communities, such as ERFN.

The stories of ERFN are inextricably tied to the 61 cultural sites that were mapped across their traditional land use area. These cultural sites tell the stories of birth sites, burial sites, historic family village sites, historically significant sites, contemporary gathering places, and ERFN recreation areas that are part of ERFN history and culture that has been cultivated since time immemorial.

Key cultural areas for the ERFN people are concentrated at Cree Lake, the Haultain, Mawdsley and Costigan lakes area, Russell Lake, Wheeler River, and the Patuanak and Churchill River area. Sites close to the proposed Wheeler River Project site include an historical family village site and birth site, and an overnight location on an unnamed lake just east of the Project site. In addition, there is an historic winter trail nearby the Project site along the Wheeler River, through Russell Lake, and on to Wollaston Lake that is still used today. In total, 10 cultural sites are located within the Study Area of the Project.

Many of the locations used by ERFN members to access areas of cultural importance and areas containing resources to support exercise their right to gather are found within the LSA, and not directly at the Project Site. While access to the cultural sites, including the historic winter trail nearest the Wheeler River, Russell Lake, and the unnamed lake just east of the Project area will remain, the experience of accessing important cultural sites will be changed with the physical presence of the Project. In addition, given the increased industrial activity associated with the Wheeler River Project, improvements to roads, bridges and related transportation infrastructure may allow and promote access to the Study Area by non-Indigenous land users. Non-Indigenous land users may also access the area to fish and hunt which puts further pressure on fish and wildlife resources that ERFN members rely upon. Both a change in viewscape when accessing culturally important sites, and an increase in non-Indigenous land users may potentially impact the frequency in which ERFN members access areas of cultural importance and access to areas containing resources which supports the exercise of rights. This can ultimately disrupt cultural activities and the transference of cultural knowledge by ERFN members.





CNSC staff are committed to working with Denison and ERFN to ensure that access to culturally important areas and areas required for fishing, hunting, trapping and gathering are maintained. In addition, CNSC commits to work with Denison and ERFN during the decommissioning phase of the Project to ensure that views and access are restored, to the extent possible, to pre-development conditions so that ERFN members are able to continue accessing areas of importance in ways that sustain their cultural continuity.

Mitigation measures, follow up activities and commitments to ERFN proposed by Denison, and CNSC commitments and proposed accommodation measures are contained within Table 2 and Table 4 in Section 4 of this report that address potential impacts to access to areas of cultural importance and access to areas containing resources which supports the exercise of rights.

### **3.3 Changes to Governance, Laws, and Cultural Traditions that Inform the Exercise of Rights**

The Indigenous and/or treaty rights exercised in the Project area are tied to the ability for Indigenous Nations and communities to make decisions on how they will access and use the land to exercise their rights. The exercise of Indigenous and/or treaty rights related to changes to governance, laws and cultural traditions that informs the exercise of rights is directly influenced by the ability to make community-based decisions on how to care for the lands and how the lands will be used, and ways in which cultural knowledge and tradition will be transferred. The exercise of rights is also informed by each Indigenous Nation's culture, history, and protocols.

#### **3.3.1 Changes to Governance, Laws and Cultural Traditions that Inform the Exercise of Rights**

In its Dene language, ERFN refers to its Ancestral Lands as Nuhtsiye-kwi Benéne. ERFN's use of the Nuhtsiye-kwi Benéne, and the corresponding responsibility to protect Nuhtsiye-kwi Benéne for future generations, is inherent and sacred. ERFN provided the CNSC with traditional land use data that includes 61 cultural sites that were mapped across their traditional land use area with 10 of those sites occurring in the Study Area. Cultural sites mapped included birth sites, burial sites, historic family village sites, historically significant sites, contemporary gathering places, ERFN recreation areas, and other sites culturally significant to ERFN community members.



Key cultural areas for the ERFN people are concentrated at Cree Lake, the Haultain, Mawdsley and Costigan lakes area, Russell Lake, Wheeler River, and the Patuanak and Churchill River area. Sites close to the proposed Wheeler River Project site include an historical family village site and birth site and an overnight location on an unnamed lake just east of the Project site. Two participants spoke of an historic winter trail nearby along the Wheeler River, through Russell Lake, and on to Wollaston Lake that is still used today. In addition, there are a total of 22 overnight locations (cabins and temporary structures) that were mapped by ERFN, with six overnight locations located in the TK Study Area.

ERFN had initially expressed concern about Denison's understanding of their land use. Specifically, ERFN noted there is a discrepancy between individual and collectively held rights, inaccurately represented as "limited" or "absent" in the study. ERFN also emphasizes that their actual current use of the land is much more extensive than portrayed. ERFN had expressed concerns around cumulative effects of industry fragmenting the landscape impacting environment and community health as well as ability to practice traditional activities through harvesting, trapping, fishing or hunting. ERFN had expressed concerns around decommissioning, remediation and the reclamation process at the end of the mining process. There are questions about the management of financial guarantees, cavities and wells once mining is complete. This could result in long-term effects on the land and the potential for these effects to negatively affect traditional ways of life.

ERFN raised general concerns regarding the Project's impact on air quality in the area as increased traffic, and site preparation and construction activities can increase dust and emissions due to the increased levels of activity. In addition to the general concerns raised, ERFN were concerned where there were exceedances of NO<sub>x</sub>, PM<sub>10</sub> and uranium that these constituents were not identified as part of the Human Health Risk Assessment. ERFN expressed concerns that noise from the Project has potential to affect human health and change animal behaviours. ERFN also indicated that baseline data was not sufficient to assess the potential impacts of noise.

ERFN expressed concerns regarding the protection of the community's collective rights to hunt, fish and harvest and want to ensure all Rights will remain unchanged. ERFN also feels they have a stronger land claim than other Indigenous Nations and communities within the Project Area and want to ensure ERFN Treaty Rights and interests are protected and prioritized. ERFN also expressed concern that potential effects on the Traditional Economy are underestimated and erosion of traditional economic practices from cumulative effects of resource projects will occur.



### **3.3.2 Discussion on the Potential Impacts to Changes to Governance, Laws and Cultural Traditions that Inform the Exercise of Rights**

Indigenous Nations' governance, laws and cultural traditions are core rights protected under Section 35 of the *Constitution Act*, 1982, and Indigenous Nation governance forms the basis of the 'Nation-to-Nation' relationship between Indigenous Nations and the Crown. The ability of Indigenous Nations to have a level of decision-making on lands that support the exercise of their rights, while also using internal laws and cultural traditions which informs how lands will be used is important to an Indigenous Nations' autonomy.

ERFN's governance, laws and cultural traditions are inextricably tied to the cultural and ecological sites identified by ERFN and include those areas that are of importance to ERFN members for the exercise of their rights and for sustaining their culture. If developed, the Project changes ERFN's collective decision-making abilities of how the Project site will used and limits access to the specific site to ERFN members. In addition, development of the Wheeler River Project will result in ERFN members not possessing stewardship over the Project Site and will change ERFN members relationship with the lands encompassing the Project Site until such time that the Project Site is decommissioned, and the lands are restored.

The proposed Project has the potential to impact generational knowledge sharing and cultural continuity through a change in the cultural experience. The development of the Wheeler River Project is predicted to increase the activity of vehicle use and access to the area. Given the heaviest concentration of contemporary harvesting areas is found between the Mawdsley Lake reserve and the McArthur River mine, on both sides of the Key Lake highway, and that the ERFN Culture Camp is located off Highway 914, the predicted increase of road use is anticipated to increase residual impacts to noise and dust in the area. ERFN members have noted direct concerns related to noise and dust emission and members' experience related to their exercise of rights may be adversely impacted.

As previously discussed, industrial activities, such as uranium mining, carry social stigma and can create a perception that potential contamination to the environment and residing species from an operating uranium mine may lead to negative health impacts by consuming important traditional foods such as berries. When this stigma is coupled with potential adverse impacts to the quality of the experience in exercising rights, the Project may potentially impact the timing/seasonality and frequency in which ERFN members access areas that support their exercise of rights. Changes to the timing/seasonality and frequency of accessing areas to exercise rights can ultimately disrupt cultural activities and the transference of cultural knowledge by ERFN members.



Many of the locations of cultural and ecological importance to ERFN members are found within the LSA, and not directly at the Project Site. ERFN access to the fishing spots, hunting grounds, traplines, gathering locations and cultural sites, including the historic winter trail nearest the Wheeler River, Russell Lake, and the unnamed lake just east of the Project area will remain. As such, ERFN community members will continue to be able to access those lands identified to be of importance to ERFN members and to continue to make community-based decisions of how the identified lands of importance will be used in maintaining cultural traditions that helps inform ERFN's collective exercise of rights.

CNSC staff's assessment determined the Project's effects to Indigenous Land and Resource Use are predicted to be indirect effects to the quality of the perceived experience may be affected due to hazards related to road safety and the perceived risk to the contamination of traditional foods. The effects of potential changes to the health of Indigenous Nations and communities, including ERFN members, were assessed for issues related to changes in air quality, noise levels, visual quality, human health and perceived risk to the contamination of traditional foods. When taking into consideration the combined magnitude, geographic extent, duration, and context of the potential residual adverse effects on Indigenous health, and the mitigation measures to address effects on exposure to the traditional land user, CNSC staff have determined that the magnitude of these residual effects are expected to be low.

CNSC staff are committed to working with Denison and ERFN to ensure, where possible, ERFN members are able to access and use lands of ecological and cultural importance and that ERFN maintain collective decision-making abilities to lands of ecological and cultural importance. CNSC, as an agent of the Crown, will work with ERFN to minimize disruptions to generational knowledge sharing and cultural continuity through the identification of mitigations and accommodations should these be necessary.

Mitigation measures, follow up activities and commitments to ERFN proposed by Denison, and CNSC commitments and proposed accommodation measures are contained within Table 3 and Table 4, and referenced in Section 4 of this report that address potential impacts to noise, air quality, and Indigenous land and resource use which informs potential impacts to changes in governance, laws and cultural traditions that informs the exercise of rights.

## **4. Mitigations, Follow-Up Activities and Commitments**

The following section outlines Denison's proposed mitigation measures, follow-up activities and commitments, and proposed conditions and accommodation measures by the CNSC to reduce residual effects from the Project that may impact Indigenous and/or treaty rights.

## 4.1 Changes to the Quantity and Quality of Resources Relating to the Exercise of Rights

In addition to the applicable commitments contained within the Commitments Registry and the related conditions noted in the EA Report, CNSC staff have identified the mitigation measures and follow-up activities from the following tables of the EA Report that help effectively manage and minimize impacts to the changes to the quantity and quality of resources related to the exercise of rights:

- Aquatic Environment, Surface Water Quantity and Quality: Tables 6.14, 6.15, 6.19, and 6.20.
- Fish and Fish Habitat: Tables 7.5 and 7.6.
- Fish Health: Tables 7.10 and 7.11.
- Sediment and Invertebrates: Tables 6.24 and 6.25.
- Terrestrial Environment, Effects on Soil: Tables 6.26, 6.27
- Terrestrial Biota, Furbearers, Ungulates, and caribou: Tables 7.15 and 7.16.
- Terrestrial Environment, Vegetation and Ecosystems: Tables 6.28, 6.29

Additionally, Table 1 below contains Denison's commitments and CNSC staff's proposed conditions and accommodation measures for the Project to eliminate or minimize residual effects from the Project that may result in changes to the quantity and quality of resources related to ERFN members' exercise of rights.

**Table 1: Changes in Quantity and Quality of Resources Relating to the Exercise of Rights**

| Changes in the Quantity and Quality of Resources Relating to the Exercise of Rights | Commitments   |
|---|---|
|   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Denison has committed to collaborating with Indigenous Nations and communities, including ERFN, on the Environmental Management Plan (EMP), Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan (EPRP), and the Environmental Effects Monitoring (EEM). Note, details of these plans will be developed during the licensing/permitting phase of the process.</li> </ul>   |
|   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Denison has also committed to considering local and TK, including that of ERFN, in all areas of the Project through continued engagement.</li> </ul>   |
|   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Denison has committed to working with Indigenous Nations and communities, including ERFN, to develop and implement the monitoring approach and the framework for sharing monitoring results. The monitoring and follow-up program will also measure fish health, including measuring the potential bioaccumulation of non-radiological (e.g., molybdenum, selenium, mercury, and other metals) and radiological parameters.</li> </ul> |



|  |   |
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|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Denison has committed to working with its Indigenous communities of interest to develop and implement the monitoring approach and the framework for sharing monitoring results. This commitment includes collaborating with ERFN on developing a monitoring regime suited to their interests and needs (Commitment 10). As part of these programs, Denison will share information in an agreed-upon fashion, including the results of fish tissue monitoring. It is expected that the data collected through these monitoring regimes would also be relevant to other Indigenous Nations.</li> </ul>   |
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The FIRT also raised concerns related to mercury and methylmercury concentrations in the receiving environment and for Project related activities to increase the risk for bioaccumulation of methylmercury in fish tissues. Denison has committed to monitoring mercury and methylmercury in the aquatic environment over the life of the Project to determine the potential changes in mercury concentrations in fish tissue over time (Commitments 8-42 and 8-44). Denison will assess health risks from fish consumption by comparing fish tissue data collected during operations from the monitoring program against applicable human health risk-based maximum permissible concentrations. As part of the country food monitoring document developed to support operational licensing, any site-specific contaminant criteria or trigger mechanisms will be developed in consultation with Indigenous Nations and communities, including ERFN.</li> </ul> |
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Denison and ERFN have reached an agreement regarding radionuclide concentrations in the ERA.</li> </ul>  |
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Denison has also committed to working with its Indigenous communities of interest to develop and implement the monitoring approach and the framework for sharing monitoring results. This commitment includes collaborating with ERFN on developing a monitoring regime suited to each of their interests and needs (Commitment 10).</li> </ul>  |
|  | <p><b>EA Conditions</b></p> <p><i>*Further licence conditions can be found in Section 1.2.3 of the CMD and Section G (General) of the licence and the associated LCH. CNSC staff are proposing a Licence Condition for Indigenous engagement which includes requirements for Denison to report annually on their engagement activities and progress on implementing their commitments to Indigenous Nations and communities. The proposed Licence Condition includes EA follow up actions that address issues and concerns raised by Indigenous Nations related to their</i></p>  |



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|  | <i>practice of Aboriginal and treaty rights as outlined in Section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982.</i> |
|--|--|

## 4.2 Changes in Access to Areas of Cultural Importance and Areas Containing Resources that Support the Exercise of Rights

In addition to the applicable commitments contained within the Commitments Registry and the related conditions noted in the EA Report, CNSC staff have identified the following mitigation measures, follow-up activities, and commitments Denison has made, as well as CNSC staff's proposed conditions to effectively manage and minimize residual effects from the Project that may result in changes in access to areas of cultural importance and areas containing resources which supports ERFN members' exercise of rights in Table 2 below.

**Table 2: Changes in Access to Areas of Cultural Importance and Areas Containing Resources that Support the Exercise of Rights**

| Changes in Changes in Access to Areas of Cultural Importance and Areas Containing Resources that Support the Exercise of Rights | Changes to Access   |
|---|---|
|   | Mitigation Measures   |
|   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Denison will follow the Human Resources Management Plan which has been developed to mitigate potential effects of the Project to Heritage Resources. The plan outlines steps Denison will take if a new heritage site is identified during activities taking place over the life of the Project. The management of archaeological resources includes the assessment of the discovery by a qualified archaeologist and mitigation measures including avoidance of the site, shovel testing, systematic and intensive shovel testing, excavation, and/or construction monitoring. The HRMP outlines mechanisms for Indigenous engagement, including that of ERFN, including the communities, implementation of appropriate cultural protocols, the potential for storage of artifacts outside of the Royal Saskatchewan Museum, and the inclusion of Indigenous field assistants when possible.</li> </ul> |
|   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Access north of the Key Lake gatehouse on Highway 914 is restricted and provides for controlled access for employees of northern mines, Indigenous resource harvesters from select communities, cabin owners, and lease holders.</li> </ul>  |
|   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mitigation measures associated with potential effects to cultural continuity (including knowledge transfer and language) are described in Section 12.1.5 and include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implementation of Denison's Indigenous Peoples Policy and advancement of reconciliation</li> <li>Using a commuter rotation system has also shown to be effective in allowing Indigenous employees, including any from</li> </ul> </li> </ul>  |





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|  | <p>ERFN, continued opportunities to spend time on the land, and important factor in the transmission of knowledge and language.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Encouragement to speak languages of choice while at the site, except during safety sensitive situations, will be made.</li></ul>  |
|  | <b>Follow-up Measures</b>   |
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Denison has completed the required archaeology assessments in accordance with provincial regulations and has also committed to developing a Heritage Resources Management Plan (HRMP) to help protect and mitigate any potential effects of the Project to Heritage Resources with potentially affected Indigenous Nations and communities, including ERFN, to ensure the Project effects are being monitored and appropriately mitigated.</li></ul>  |
|  | <b>Commitments</b>  |
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Surface lease agreements, which are required to conduct mining in Saskatchewan, also contain commitments for environmental protection, occupational health and safety, and socio-economic benefits for residents of Saskatchewan's North (Government of Saskatchewan 2018). One provision within surface lease agreements is compensation for commercial loss of income. Payments are typically made to individuals who: 1) held a lease or permit to use the lands immediately prior to the establishment of the mine's surface lease; and 2) used the land to generate commercial income, such as from trapping (Government of Saskatchewan 2018b). Should the need arise, compensation for loss of income may be disbursed to the trapper selected to take up trapping in the Project Area, including ERFN community members.</li><li>• Denison is committed to engagement with ERFN where input will be solicited and opportunity for document review will be provided, as necessary, for the Environmental Management Program, including development of the Heritage Resource Management Plan, Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan, and Environmental Effects Monitoring Programs. Denison and ERFN have an agreed upon process for such activities in the future.</li><li>• Denison is committed to including a consultation element with ERFN in the Heritage Management Plan, should an artifact be found during the development of the Project.</li></ul> |





### 4.3 Changes to Governance, Laws and Cultural Traditions

In addition to the applicable commitments contained within the Commitments Registry and the related conditions noted in the EA Report, CNSC staff have identified the mitigation measures and follow-up activities from the following tables of the EA Report that help minimize impacts to the changes to governance, laws and traditions:

- Atmospheric and acoustic environment: Tables 6.3, 6.4, 6.5, and 6.6.

Additionally, Table 3 below contains Denison's commitments and CNSC staff's proposed conditions for the Project to effectively manage and minimize residual effects from the Project that may result in changes to ERFN's governance, laws and traditions:

**Table 3: Changes to Governance, Laws and Cultural Traditions**

| Changes to Governance, Laws and Cultural Traditions | Commitments  |
|---|--|
|   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Require Denison truck traffic to slow to 40 km/hr for a minimum of 2.5 km on either side of the culture camp(s), including that of ERFN, in September and October (dates may be adjusted at the communities' direction).</li> </ul>   |
|   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Denison will provide space for an on-site Elder counsellor to provide culturally relevant programing and support.</li> </ul>  |
|   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In 2023, ERFN and Denison concluded an Agreement in respect of the Project that provides, among other matters, various procedural and substantive commitments by Denison to ERFN and the support and consent of ERFN for the development and operation of the Project in a sustainable manner which respects ERFN's inherent, Aboriginal and Treaty rights, advances reconciliation with Indigenous peoples, and provides economic opportunities and other benefits to ERFN.</li> </ul>   |
|   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prior to executing decommissioning activities, Denison shall prepare and submit a detailed decommissioning plan (DDP) to regulators for acceptance. In this case the DDP would reflect input that will be solicited from ERFN and others prior to its submission and would also be informed by conditions on the ground at the Project site at that time, operational experience that has been gained and the regulatory landscape at that time. The decommissioning plan, including the mining area decommissioning objectives, will evolve over time becoming more detailed and specific as the Project advances. Denison is committed to working with ERFN to solicit input through this process.</li> </ul> |
|   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Denison has made commitments (Commitments 6-4 &amp; 6-5) to mitigate any potential adverse effects resulting from increased</li> </ul>  |



|  |   |
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|  | noise emissions and the sensory disturbance these emissions may cause for wildlife and traditional land users, including those from ERFN.   |
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Denison has committed to developing an Environmental Management System (EMS) that will incorporate a comprehensive noise management and monitoring plan in collaboration with ERFN.</li> </ul> |

#### 4.4 CNSC Commitments and Proposed Accommodation Measures

The CNSC have identified the following commitments and proposed accommodation measures to help minimize impacts to ERFN members' rights.

**Table 4: CNSC Commitments and Proposed Accommodation Measures**

|  |
|--|
| 1. CNSC staff are proposing a Licence Condition for Indigenous engagement which includes requirements for Denison to report annually on their engagement activities and progress on implementing their commitments to Indigenous Nations and communities. The proposed Licence Condition includes EA follow up actions that address issues and concerns raised by Indigenous Nations related to their practice of Aboriginal and treaty rights as outlined in Section 35 of the <i>Constitution Act</i> , 1982 as well as ensures that all commitments made to ERFN made by Denison regarding environmental monitoring and protection of Nation members and rights are honoured. |
| 2. CNSC staff, in collaboration and engagement with ERFN, will have oversight on all conditions contained within the Licence Condition Handbook. Compliance and verification of conditions will be completed by CNSC staff to ensure the health, safety and protection of workers, ERFN members and the environment.   |
| 3. CNSC staff are committed to the involvement of ERFN members in the Independent Environmental Monitoring Program (IEMP) for the Denison Wheeler River site. CNSC staff will collaborate on reporting on monitoring results to the Nation.  |
| 4. As a member partner, CNSC staff will recommend the inclusion of the Denison Wheeler Project for acceptance into the Eastern Athabasca Regional Monitoring Program (EARMP). This program contains a community-based monitoring program which directly engages with Nation-members and helps address avoidance behaviours through participation in regional environmental effects monitoring. CNSC is committed to including ERFN as part of EARMP, should ERFN wish to participate.  |
| 5. CNSC staff are committed to ongoing engagement on the Denison Wheeler River Project as part of the CNSC-ERFN Terms of Reference of long-term engagement. The long-term engagement ToR will continue work plan activities and funding for ERFN and CNSC to work on issues, concerns and activities related to the nuclear sector, including uranium mining and milling in their territory, as identified by ERFN. In addition, CNSC is committed to ongoing engagement, outreach and communication with ERFN community members to ensure that their concerns regarding the Project and the CNSC's regulatory oversight are addressed.  |



## 5. Conclusions on Impacts to Rights

### 5.1 Changes to the Quantity and Quality of Resources Relating to the Exercise of Rights

Many of the locations used by ERFN members to exercise their right to fish, hunt, trap and gather are found within the LSA, and none directly at the Project Site. Predicted impacts to the VCs of surface water quantity and quality, fish and fish habitat, sediment quality and invertebrate communities, furbearers, moose, caribou, soil quantity and quality and vegetation and ecosystems are directly related to changes in the quantity and quality of resources related to the exercise of rights. As discussed in the EA Report, the residual impacts from the aforementioned VCs are expected to extend minimally into the LSA and with the application of mitigation measures, follow-up activities and commitments outlined in the EA Report, these residual impacts predicted to be non-significant.

Project-related activities during site preparation, construction and operation have the potential to alter fish and animal use, as well as wildlife travel patterns, generally for short durations. The magnitude of Project impacts to ERFN's rights, particularly the right to fish, hunt and trap can be described as low to medium due to potential changes in wildlife (i.e., fish and animals) use and travel, as well as ERFN members' extensive land use in the LSA. When taking into consideration the mitigation measures, follow-up activities and commitments outlined in the EA Report, and the commitments and CNSC proposed Project conditions and accommodation measures contained in Table 1 and Table 4 above, the CNSC expects any residual impacts to ERFN's rights and interests as they relate to the changes to the quantity and quality of resources related to the exercise of rights to be low and adequately addressed.

CNSC staff are committed to working with ERFN members through programs such as the Independent Environmental Monitoring Program (IEMP) and as a member partner of the Eastern Athabasca Regional Monitoring Program (EARMP) to help address perceptions of residual contamination from uranium mining activities and potential avoidance behaviours. CNSC staff are open to collaborating with ERFN to ensure Nation members can exercise their rights with confidence on the land and waters of their traditional and treaty territories.



## **5.2 Changes in Access to Areas of Cultural Importance and Areas Containing Resources that Support the Exercise of Rights**

Many of the locations used by ERFN members to access areas of cultural importance and areas containing resources which supports the exercise their rights are found within the LSA, and none directly at the Project Site. Predicted impacts to the valued component of Indigenous land and resource use are directly related to changes in access to areas of cultural importance and areas containing resources which supports the exercise of rights. As discussed in the EA Report, with the application of mitigation measures, follow-up activities and commitments outlined in the EA Report the residual impacts from Indigenous land and resource use are predicted to be indirect and non-significant.

The Key Lake gatehouse on Highway 914 currently allows for restricted access by Indigenous land and resource users. The presence of this gate, and access restrictions in the area is noted as a residual impact to access independent of the Wheeler River Project. Access to the cultural sites, including the historic winter trail nearest the Wheeler River site, Russell Lake, and the unnamed lake just east of the Project area will remain even if the Project is developed. However, the experience of accessing important cultural sites will be changed with the physical presence of the Project.

Project-related activities during site preparation, construction and operation have the potential to disrupt access and development of the Project will change the experience in accessing areas of cultural importance and areas containing resources which supports the exercise of rights by increased use in the area. The magnitude of Project impacts to ERFN's rights as they pertain to access can be described as medium due to ERFN members' extensive land use in the LSA, the physical changes to the landscape when accessing areas near the Project site, and the increase in activity in the Project area. When taking into consideration the mitigation measures and commitments outlined in the EA report, and the commitments and CNSC proposed conditions and accommodation measures outlined in Table 2 and Table 4 above, the CNSC expects any residual potential impacts to ERFN's rights and interests as they related to the changes in access to areas of cultural importance and areas containing resources which supports the exercise of rights to be low and adequately managed.

CNSC encourages Denison to work with ERFN to ensure that access to important cultural areas, and areas containing resources which supports the exercise of rights are maintained, particularly through the construction phase, so that areas of cultural importance, including important fishing, hunting, trapping and gathering locations can be accessed during important seasonal times required by ERFN members.



CNSC commits to work with Denison and ERFN during the decommissioning phase of the Project to ensure that viewsapes and access are restored, as feasible, to pre-development conditions so that ERFN members can continue accessing areas of importance in ways that sustain their cultural continuity.

### **5.3 Changes to Governance, Laws and Cultural Traditions**

ERFN's governance, laws and cultural traditions are inextricably tied to the 61 cultural sites that were mapped across their traditional land use area as well as the 42 ecological knowledge features were identified in the TK Study Area. These cultural and ecological sites identify those areas that are of importance to ERFN for the exercise of their rights and for sustaining their culture. Many of the locations of cultural and ecological importance to ERFN members are found within the LSA, and none directly at the Project Site. The Project's effects to Indigenous Land and Resource Use are predicted to be indirect effects to the quality of the perceived experience which may be affected from hazards related to road safety and the perceived risk to the contamination of traditional foods. The effects of potential changes to the health of Indigenous Nations and communities, including ERFN, were assessed for issues related to changes in air quality, noise levels, visual quality, human health and perceived risk to the contamination of traditional foods. Any changes in the aforementioned inputs can affect the quality of the experience for ERFN members and ultimately discourage land use and impact transference of cultural knowledge.

Access to the fishing spots, hunting grounds, traplines, gathering locations and cultural sites, including the historic winter trail nearest the Wheeler River, Russell Lake, and the unnamed lake just east of the Project area will remain even if the Project is developed. The development of the Wheeler River Project will result in ERFN members not possessing stewardship over the Project Site, however all stewardship and decision-making abilities of other identified culturally and ecologically important lands will remain for ERFN members. As such, ERFN community members will continue to be able to access lands identified to have importance and to continue to make community-based decisions of how the identified lands of cultural and ecological importance will be used in maintaining cultural traditions that helps inform ERFN's collective exercise of rights.

Project-related activities during site preparation, construction and operation have the potential to disrupt access and development of the Project will change the experience in accessing and using areas of cultural importance, particularly those in the LSA closest to the Project site. In addition, the development of the Project site will result in ERFN not possessing any stewardship or decision-making abilities over those lands until at such time the proposed Denison Wheeler River Project is decommissioned. In addition, the increased activity resulting from the Project will alter the experience for ERFN land users with the degree of alteration increasing the closer the exercise of rights takes place relative to the Project site. The magnitude of Project impacts



to ERFN's rights as they pertain to governance, laws and traditions can be described as medium to high due to ERFN members' extensive land use in the LSA, the physical changes to the landscape when accessing areas near the Project site, and the increase in activity in the Project area that may impact the experience of ERFN land users and changes ERFN decision-making abilities of the lands encompassing the Project site. When taking into consideration the mitigation measures, follow-up measures and commitments contained in the EA report, and the CNSC conditions and proposed accommodation measures in Table 3 and Table 4 above, the CNSC expects any residual potential impacts to ERFN's rights and interests as they relate to governance, laws and cultural traditions resulting from the Project to be low and adequately managed.

CNSC staff are committed to working with ERFN through programs such as the Independent Environmental Monitoring Program (IEMP) and as a member partner of the Eastern Athabasca Regional Monitoring Program (EARMP) to help address perceptions of residual contamination from uranium mining activities and potential avoidance behaviours.

## 5.4 Conclusion

When considering and evaluating all mitigations, follow-up measures, commitments and accommodations measures from Denison and those commitments and accommodation measures proposed by the CNSC, the CNSC's assessment of residual impacts to ERFN's rights and interests can be characterized as low and adequately managed. In addition, as part of consultation and engagement activities, ERFN and Denison signed a Shared Prosperity Agreement (SPA) as a mechanism to establish a partnership and accommodate ERFN for any potential impact to their rights and interests. As a result of this agreement, as well as Denison and CNSC staff's consultation and engagement efforts to date, ERFN has provided their consent for the Denison Wheeler River Project to proceed.

The CNSC is committed to ongoing engagement and collaboration with ERFN to ensure that the proposed mitigation measures and commitments are implemented and continue to effectively manage and minimize any impacts on their rights and interests for the full life cycle of the Project.

## 6. Views Expressed – English River First Nation

In response to the text provided in Section 3.0 – Effects Pathways, ERFN shared the following perspectives:

ERFN maintains that resource extraction results in harm to the environment, cultural sites and community well-being not only directly within each zone of influence, but through indirect and cumulatively degradation within the region. Many activities today are planned to be largely reversible from an environmental perspective; however, lifespans of operations are typically many decades and there is a legacy of irreparable harm from uranium extraction within



Nuhtsiye-kwi Benéne. The nuclear industry also faces inherent concerns, fears and unknowns due in part to misinformation, popular culture and the high profile of nuclear incidents and historical nuclear testing that have resulted in social and environmental catastrophes. Even if operations and exploration today meet or exceeds technical safety or environmental standards, perceived risks cause real psychological distress that could lead to anxiety, fear and a loss of trust in the suitability or safety of resources in the Nuhtsiye-kwi Benéne. Characterizing the existing conditions or predicting project-related effects in terms of such a psychological-social effect is practically not part of the assessment of potential effects. ERFN leadership characterizes a responsibility that they accepted as part of their accountability to past, present and future ancestors because this effect is not encompassed by Western science. This responsibility was in part the basis for ERFN leadership's decision that a community vote had to occur to determine whether to sign the Shared Prosperity Agreement with Denison prior to it being ratified, which agreement provided for ERFN's free, prior, and informed consent to the Project. The Shared Prosperity Agreement (the Agreement) in part sets out the commitments that ERFN and Denison have made to each other to mitigate adverse environmental effects in the Nuhtsiye-kwi Benéne and to ERFN rights. ERFN agrees with Denison that any potential meaningful effects or measurable change from the Wheeler River Project would be localized to the mine site, Whitefish Lake and specific zone of influence for air and water dispersion from the mining area including access routes.





## **A.2 Rights Impact Assessment with Kineepik Métis Local**

### **1. Description of Kinnepik's Traditional Use and Rights-Exercising Area**

Kineepik Métis Local (KML) is a Métis Local operating in the Northern Village of Pinehouse (NVP) which is located within the boundaries set out by Saskatchewan's Northern Administrative District and is further supported by the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan (MN-S).

KML community members are considered Woodland Cree, Woodland Dene and Woodland Métis, although historical documents indicate that KML members came from a diverse range of Métis, First Nations and other backgrounds. The NVP and the Denison Wheeler River Project are located within the digitally mapped traditional territory of Indigenous peoples of KML.

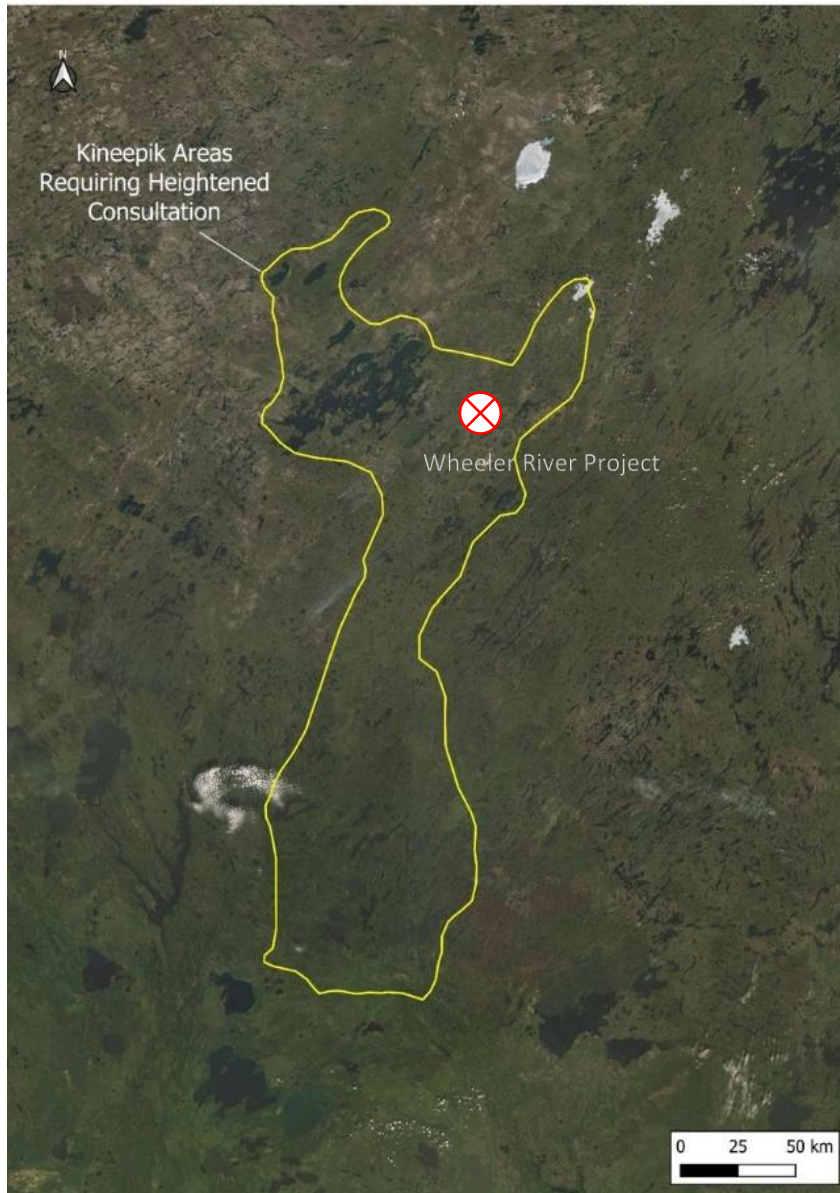
CNSC staff understand that KML members have used the lands surrounding the Missinippi (Churchill River) watershed for gathering food, shelter and material supplies since time immemorial. The NVP is located approximately 235 km southwest of the Project and access to the Project site is via Highway 914.

KML was initially represented by the MN-S for consultation and engagement obligations when Denison submitted their application in 2019 for the Wheeler River Project (the Project). In late 2021, KML informed the CNSC, Denison and the MN-S that the community had decided to represent themselves for the purposes of consultation on the Wheeler River Project and has since been working directly with the CNSC and Denison.

The Project is located within KML traditional lands and occupancy area, which covers approximately 15,000 km<sup>2</sup> and extends 250 km north of Cree Lake, west of Knee Lake, east to Russell Lake and south down to Emmeline Lake located between Beauval and La Ronge. KML's cultural camp is located at kilometre 67 north of the community, which is along Highway 914. Hunting, fishing, and harvesting areas were primarily documented throughout the RSA, north along the Haultain River system and parallel to Highway 914. KML's land use and occupancy study results show dense moose harvesting sites along Highway 914 south of the Key Lake Mine gate within the RSA, as well as other large game harvesting sites noted around Cree and Russell lakes, but in very low concentrations. Trapping occurs closer to the community, and on the Churchill River system and Gordon Lake, neither of which are located within the RSA. KML members also utilize the broader RSA to collect and gather berries and other edible and medicinal plants. Land use and occupancy studies also recorded birth, death, and burial sites, heritage cabins, and settlements in the region although none of these were recorded within the Project area, LSA or north of the Key Lake Mine [14].

The map below, provided by KML, showcases KML's land and occupancy territory in relation to the Wheeler River Project Site.





**Figure 1: Kineepik Métis Local Heightened Consultation Area<sup>1</sup>**

KML completed a comprehensive Traditional Knowledge study (TKS) specific to the Denison Wheeler River Project area. This study was conducted in partnership with Denison, with results indicated on the Kineepik Value Ecosystem Component Study (the submission) provided to CNSC. The submission outlines KML's traditional use of the land in relation to the Project area.

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<sup>1</sup> KML notes that this map is a living document and can be updated at any point



The submission states that the KML traditional mapped territory is approximately 11,000 km<sup>2</sup>. KML citizens have used and continue to use the areas around the Wheeler River Project site for a variety of subsistence and cultural purposes that could potentially be affected by the Wheeler River Project.

The submission was informed by 17 public land user community meetings hosted by KML and NVP over the years focusing on the uranium mining operations in northern Saskatchewan since the 1970's. KML and NVP have gathered historical and contemporary land use information around the region in preparing for the submission. The data included in the submission was derived from multiple sources including traditional knowledge gathered by KML through a structured land use mapping study; insights from KML's experience with the Project and similar initiatives; consultations with land users within the community; traditional and community knowledge obtained during visits to the Project area; publicly available third-party data; and relevant regulatory documentation. KML and NVP also sponsored two visits to the Project area to begin to collect baseline information on land, water, mammals, birds, and fish. KML reviewed and analyzed their own data included with their digitally mapped territory.

In the submission, KML land users have identified the region north of the Haultain River and as far north as the Project site for food gathering, fishing (both commercially and for traditional purposes) and hunting practices. Specific hunted animals of concern that KML noted that may be potentially impacted by the Project include moose, bear, deer and caribou. Specific fish of concern that may be potentially impacted by the Project include walleye, jackfish, trout and whitefish.

Roadways, including the Highway 914 extension, are used extensively by members to facilitate hunting and gathering. In addition, the submission states that KML citizens hunt and gather resources in all their traditional use areas for food, cultural, language and identity purposes.

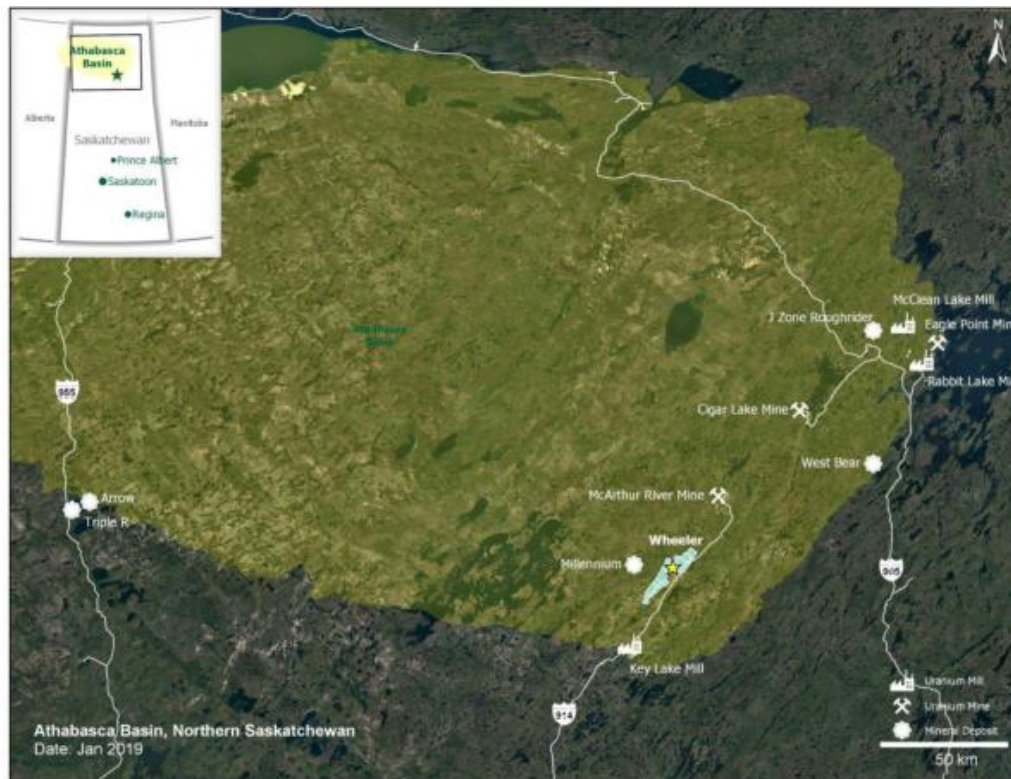
KML citizens have worked with, and for the uranium mining industry for over 40 years, formalizing their partnership with Cameco Corporation (Cameco) and Orano Canada in 2012 with a collaboration agreement (CA). KML and NVP residents regularly obtain employment and business opportunities for projects that occur in their territory. KML has emphasised that they take great pride in the work ethic of their people to add value to their community, province, and Canada. Profits from community owned businesses have built energy efficient housing, youth infrastructure such as the community Arena, and a 12-unit Elders unit. Additional projects are being developed to continue the modernization of the community.



The submission states that KML and NVP are developing the concepts and the capacity to develop their cultural and heritage studies which will evolve over time to capture their full history for the mapped territory. It is stated that due to the *Natural Resource Transfer Act* (NRTA) and the *Northern Administrative District Act* (NAD), the Indigenous people of KML unceded lands are not recognized but have practiced governance on these lands since time immemorial.

## 2. Denison Wheeler River Project Setting

The Wheeler River Project is a proposed in situ recovery (ISR) uranium mine and processing plant in northern Saskatchewan. It is located in Saskatchewan's Athabasca Basin approximately 4 km west of Highway 914. The Project falls within the boundaries of Treaty 10, the Nuhtsiye-kwi Benéne (Ancestral Lands) of English River First Nation (ERFN), the traditional territory of Kineepik Métis Local, homeland of the Métis, and within the traditional territories of the Athabasca Denesuline. Treaty 10 (1906) covers the northeast quadrant of Saskatchewan and is bordered by Manitoba and Northwest Territories to the east and north, while the south and west border extends to central Saskatchewan and Alberta. Treaty 10 (1906) includes the signatories of seven First Nations and contains a provision that establishes treaty rights to hunt, fish and trap throughout the Treaty territory.



**Figure 2: Map Showing the Denison Wheeler River Project Site in Relation to Other Mine Sites in Northern Saskatchewan**



The Project location is divided into three separate areas:

- **Site study area (SSA):** The SSA (referred to as Project Area in the EIS) is the Wheeler River Project footprint (the area where all project activities are proposed to be undertaken, including facilities, buildings, and infrastructure).
- **Local study area (LSA):** The LSA is the area existing outside the SSA, where measurable changes to the environment may be anticipated due to project activities. These changes may occur during any phase of the project, either through normal activities or from possible accidents or malfunctions.
- **Regional study area (RSA):** The RSA is the maximum area within which the potential effects of the project may interact with the effects of other projects and activities (or anticipated projects and activities), resulting in a potential for cumulative effects. [12]

The Project Area's direct physical disturbance covers an area approximately 1.75 km<sup>2</sup>, (not including the airstrip), while the LSA is approximately 84 km in length by 42 km in width, covering approximately 2,620 km<sup>2</sup>, and the RSA has a maximum length of 338 km and maximum width of 163 km, covering approximately 29,754 km<sup>2</sup>

The Project site is located in the Boreal Shield Ecozone and contains the Phoenix and Gryphon uranium deposits. This area is typical of the continental sub-arctic region, characterized by short, cool and moist summers with cold, dry winters. The Wheeler River site has been shaped by glacial and fluvial processes, with drumlins and eskers separated by lowland areas of well drained glaciofluvial outwash sands and gravels and associated wetlands. The ground surface elevation in the area varies from 494-600 metres above sea level (masl) for the Project Area and 520-550 masl for the Phoenix deposit range.

The Project is proposed to be located in the Athabasca Basin of Saskatchewan, 4 km west of Highway 914. The proposed Project is located within the Northern Saskatchewan Administration District, which includes approximately 250,000 km<sup>2</sup> (44% of Saskatchewan's land area) and approximately 36,000 residents. No communities are located within the immediate proximity (<100 km) of the Wheeler River property. Ground access to the project is through Highway 914, with control managed by the Cameco Key Lake Operation gatehouse.

KML is one of the Indigenous communities with the closest population centres to the proposed Project location. The proposed Project site is located within trapping blocks N-16 and N-18 as part of the partitioning of fur conservation areas in 1946. The area has been used by outfitters and cabin lease holders, fishing, hunting and harvesting by resource users as well as for navigation and travel along waterbodies and roads by Indigenous peoples and specifically members of KML. The primary land uses within the region include fishing, hunting, harvesting, mining and exploration.





The LSA and RSA are accessed and used by Indigenous Nations and communities including KML for traditional and/or cultural and ceremonial activities. The primary Indigenous land use activities carried out within the LSA and broader RSA by Indigenous land users include hunting, trapping, fishing, and berry picking. There are also recreational and traditional resource user leases in the LSA and RSA. In addition, there are important cultural heritage sites in the LSA and RSA, such as archaeological sites, historic travel and canoe routes, and seasonal camps and traplines, all of which have cultural significance to Indigenous Nations and communities. All the potentially impacted Indigenous Nations and communities have identified the importance of protecting the existing environment within the LSA and RSA so that they can continue to hunt, trap, and fish, and carry out their traditional activities safely into the future.

### 3. Effects Pathways

Potential effects on the rights and interests of Indigenous Nations and communities may occur through effects pathways that include:

- Biophysical effects (effects on wildlife, aquatic resources, fish and fish habitat, vegetation and ecosystems)
- Access to lands and waters relied upon to access resources required for the exercise of rights
- Cultural/spiritual/experiential (activities and/or behaviours that may disrupt or cause disturbances related to activities carried out for the exercise of rights)
- Governance, stewardship and decision-making on culturally important lands

The assessment of effects to determine the potential impacts to rights considers valued components where quantifiable analyses have been conducted and contained in the CNSC Environmental Assessment Report [13]. However, when assessing potential impacts to rights, some effects pathways are assessed qualitatively as not all effects have a quantifiable and related valued component(s).

#### 3.1 Changes in the Quantity and Quality of Resources Relating to the Exercise of Rights

The Indigenous rights exercised in the Project area include fishing, hunting, trapping and gathering. The exercise of Indigenous rights related to changes in the quantity and quality of resources related to the exercise of rights is directly influenced by environmental conditions related to aquatic resources, fish and fish habitat, wildlife, soils and vegetation and ecosystems. The exercise of rights is also informed by KML's culture, history, and protocols.



### **3.1.1 Changes in the Quantity and Quality of Resources Relating to the Exercise of Fishing Rights**

The right to fish is extremely important to KML members for both sustenance and cultural purposes. KML land users are worried that the proposed Project will further limit or reduce this area for fishing and therefore impact food sovereignty in the community and their ability to practice cultural activities. Any impacts to water and the aquatic environment that may impact fish species, particularly those species associated with subsistence activities such as walleye (pickerel), jackfish, northern pike, lake trout, white sucker and lake whitefish, has been noted as concerns and issues brought forward by KML to both Denison and the CNSC as part of the regulatory review and consultation process.

Pinehouse is a strong fishing community with access to hundreds of lakes and rivers in the region. Commercial fishing takes place along several lakes along the Churchill River system while subsistence fishing has been documented on the waterbodies around the Key Lake Mine and the Wheeler River system west of the Key Lake mine, and at the Wheeler River bridge within the LSA. The concentration of fishing in the Wheeler River and Key Lake Mine area is comparatively low compared to fishing areas near the community of Pinehouse.

Potential impacts to surface water quality and quantity, fish and fish habitat, and potential impacts to sediment quality and invertebrate communities north of the Haultain River may ultimately lead to potential impacts to KML citizens' right to fish. Through consultations, KML has expressed to CNSC staff concerns regarding impacts to surface and ground water quality and quantity, including water flow, both from the Project and from cumulative impacts from multiple projects in the area. KML expressed concerns related to the aquatic environment, including baseline data collection and water flow management during all phases of the proposed Project.

The growing number of projects, including mineral exploration may potentially limit current land use practices north of the Haultain River. KML land users are worried that the proposed Wheeler River Project will limit or reduce the area available for fishing and therefore impact food sovereignty in the community. With the growing number of projects in the area, including the proposed Wheeler River Project, KML is concerned that they will not be able to continue to practise fishing in a safe manner.

CNSC staff have evaluated Denison's assessment of project-related impacts and conducted an independent assessment of potential impacts that may arise from the project with the findings discussed below.



### **3.1.1.1 Assessment of Project Effects of Surface Water Quantity and Quality as they Pertain to the Exercise of Fishing Rights**

CNSC staff reviewed the assessment of predicted residual effects on the aquatic environment due to changes in surface water quantity and quality from project-related effects.

For surface water quantity, assessed project related effects included Project overprinting of drainage areas, surface water taking and surface water discharge. CNSC staff reviewed Denison's conclusions that with the implementation of appropriate design and mitigation measures, and the effects being characterized as low magnitude, localized, and fully reversible, the residual effects on surface water quantity are predicted to be not significant. Denison's conservative assessment determined that the largest predicted changes to stream flow is limited to 3% while changes in lake water levels were predicted to be negligible and remain below the natural range of variability considering waterbodies immediately downstream of the project facility.

For surface water quality, assessed project related effects included mobilization of suspended materials, controlled discharge to the receiving environment, and long-term transport of groundwater solutes to Whitefish Lake in a Future Centuries scenario. CNSC staff reviewed Denison's conclusions that with the implementation of appropriate mitigation measures, and the effects being characterized as low magnitude, localized, and fully reversible, the residual effects on surface water quality from mobilization of sediment and long-term transport of groundwater solutes are predicted to be not significant. CNSC staff verified Denison's determination that surface water quality in the receiving environment is likely to be moderately adversely impacted by the controlled discharge of effluent from the Project throughout the operation and decommissioning phases. However, residual effects are expected to be localized and fully reversible following post-decommissioning, and the aquatic environment will likely be resilient to potential changes. Surface water quality is an intermediate valued component (VC) and is assessed further as a key indicator (KI) of potential residual adverse effects significance determinations for the receptor VCs Fish and Fish Habitat, Sediment Quality and Benthic Invertebrates, and Fish Health.

CNSC staff reviewed Denison's models and predictions for effects to surface water quantity and quality taking into account input from other federal departments, provincial ministries, Indigenous Nations and communities, such as KML, and the public. CNSC staff confirmed that Denison conducted a sufficient analysis of these effects to determine predicted levels of risk, however CNSC staff have proposed an EA Condition ([Table 12.1](#)) that Denison collect additional baseline data and reduce uncertainty in modelling of risk predictions (EA2). CNSC staff reviewed Denison' identified mitigation and follow-up monitoring program measures for the identified effects and have found that they are adequate.



### **3.1.1.2 Assessment of Project Effects on Fish and Fish Habitat as they Pertain to the Exercise of Fishing Rights**

CNSC staff conclude the Project is not likely to cause significant adverse effects on fish and fish habitat from changes in fish habitat (habitat overprinting), changes in flows or water levels in lakes and rivers, or from changes in surface water quality due to the mobilization of suspended materials, controlled discharge to the receiving environment, or the long-term transport of groundwater solutes to Whitefish Lake in a future centuries scenario so long as mitigation measures and follow-up program measures are implemented.

Taking into account the implementation of mitigation measures and recommended follow-up program measures, CNSC staff conclude the Project is not likely to cause significant adverse effects on fish health from changes in water and sediment quality, and changes in constituent concentrations in fish tissues due to the mobilization of suspended materials, controlled discharge to the receiving environment, or the long-term transport of groundwater solutes to Whitefish Lake in a future centuries scenario. Overall, changes to fish and fish habitat are expected to be nonsignificant. Fish and Fish Habitat has a high resiliency with respect to physical disturbance in the context of a small, localized area being altered or disturbed. It is not expected that the ecological integrity of the areas adjacent to the infrastructure will be affected and, as such, will provide for sources of re-distribution and recolonization.

In order to ensure that the aforementioned assessment conclusions remain valid, CNSC staff recommend that the Commission include the following EA Condition, should it issue a licence. If accepted, Denison will be required to address EA Condition EA2 in Table 12.1 of the Environmental Assessment Report related to IRs carried over from the EA Review into licensing. CNSC's assessment conclusions are contingent on the establishment of these EA Conditions.

### **3.1.1.3 Assessment of Project Effects on Sediment Quality as they pertain to the Exercise of Fishing Rights**

CNSC staff reviewed the assessment of predicted residual effects on sediment quality and benthic invertebrates due to change in sediment quantity and particle size, change in sediment quality (chemical), change in aquatic habitat (area), and change in water level or flow. CNSC staff reviewed Denison's conclusions that with the implementation of appropriate mitigation measures and the effects being characterized as low magnitude, localized, and fully reversible, the residual effects on sediment quality and benthic invertebrates are predicted to be not significant. CNSC staff verified Denison's determination that surface water quality in the receiving environment is likely to be moderately adversely impacted by the controlled discharge of effluent from the Project throughout the operation and decommissioning phases and that there are potential low levels of risk to benthic invertebrates from surface water quality. However, residual effects are expected to be localized and fully reversible following





Project post-decommissioning, and benthic invertebrate communities will likely be resilient to potential changes (see section 6.3.6 for more details).

CNSC staff reviewed Denison's models and predictions for effects to sediment quality and benthic invertebrates and confirmed that Denison conducted a comprehensive analysis of these effects. Furthermore, CNSC staff reviewed Denison's identified mitigation and follow-up monitoring program measures for the identified effects and have found that they are adequate.

CNSC staff also conducted an effects significance determination for the identified effects, taking into account input from other federal departments, provincial ministries, Indigenous Nations and communities and the public, and determined that the identified changes to sediment quality and benthic invertebrates are expected to be not significant due to the implementation of mitigation measures and not cause significant changes to the sediment quality or benthic invertebrate population health.

#### **3.1.1.4 Potential Impacts to the Quantity and Quality of Resources Relating to the Exercise of Fishing Rights**

KML citizens rely on fishing as a means of subsistence throughout their traditional territory, which overlaps with the LSA, RSA and the Project site. KML citizens practice their fishing rights mainly north along the Haultain River system and parallel to Highway 914. Fish species of importance identified by KML include walleye (pickerel), jackfish, perch, lake trout, northern pike and lake whitefish.

Many of the locations used by KML members to exercise their right to fish are found in the RSA and LSA, and not directly at the Project site. Predicted impacts to surface water quantity and quality, fish and fish habitat, and sediment quality and invertebrate communities are expected to extend minimally into the LSA and impacts to areas closest to the Project Site that have been identified for use by KML members are not predicted. However, industrial activities, such as uranium mining, carry social stigma for non-Indigenous and Indigenous Peoples and can create a perception that potential contamination to the environment and residing species from an operating uranium mine may lead to negative health impacts by consuming traditional foods such as fish. This perception can ultimately lead to avoidance behaviours as Indigenous land users seek out fishing areas that are deemed to be more pristine and this disruption may limit areas of use relied upon for sustenance activities and can disrupt transference of cultural knowledge.

Mitigation measures, follow up activities and commitments to KML are contained within Table 1 in Section 4 of this report that address potential impacts to surface water quantity and quality, fish and fish habitat, and sediment quality and the invertebrate community which could lead to impacts to the rights to fish.



### **3.1.2 Changes in the Quantity and Quality of Resources Relating to the Exercise of Hunting and Trapping Rights**

KML citizens exercise their hunting rights throughout the region north of the Haultain River and as far north as the Project area. KML's land use and occupancy study results show dense moose harvesting sites along Highway 914 south of the Key Lake Mine gate within the RSA, as well as other large game harvesting sites noted around Cree and Russell lakes, but in lower concentrations. Large game hunting areas have also been documented west of the community of Pinehouse near Sandy Lake and both large game and bird hunting is noted east of the community in the headwaters and shores of Sandfly Lake. Trapping occurs in locations closer to the community, around the shores of Pinehouse Lake, on the Churchill River system and at Gordon Lake, which are located outside the RSA. Animals of importance to KML members that are hunted and trapped by KML members and that may be potentially impacted by the Project include moose, bear, white-tailed deer, woodland caribou, snowshoe hare, porcupine and many species of ducks and game birds (e.g., mallard, snow goose, ptarmigan, grouse, etc.).

KML has concerns regarding impacts to land access and the ability to use the land for traditional practices including hunting and trapping due to the Project, environmental contamination, cumulative impacts from multiple projects and increased hunting activity due to Project workers also hunting in the area. KML has also shared concerns about more vehicles being on the road causing noise and dust to negatively affect wildlife in the area. In addition, with the growing number of projects and the anticipated growth of non-Indigenous hunting in the area, KML is concerned whether they will be able to continue to practice their method of food gathering in a safe manner.

Potential impacts to moose, woodland caribou and other species of importance noted by KML members may ultimately lead to potential impacts to KML members' right to hunt and trap. CNSC staff have evaluated Denison's assessment of project-related impacts and conducted an independent assessment of potential impacts that may arise from the project with the findings discussed below.

#### **3.1.2.1 Assessment of Project Effects on Furbearers as they Pertain to the Exercise of Hunting and Trapping Rights**

CNSC staff reviewed Denison's effects assessment for alteration and/or loss of habitat to pine marten, mink, and muskrat, and confirmed that Denison conducted a comprehensive analysis of these effects and that identified mitigation and follow-up monitoring program measures are adequate.

Wolverines need large, undisturbed areas to survive. The proposed Project may affect about 8.2% of their habitat in the region, but it's unclear if this will impact their ability to maintain healthy populations. Since wolverines are a species at risk, the CNSC asked Denison for more details on how the Project might overlap with wolverine home ranges and whether enough



suitable habitat will remain. Denison replied that no wolverines were seen during earlier studies, and much of the Project area was already disturbed. They believe any impacts to wolverine will be small due to the species' low density and large home ranges. Denison has committed to monitoring wildlife, including wolverines, but hasn't yet provided full details of their monitoring plans. The CNSC has proposed a condition that requires Denison to submit a monitoring plan for species at risk, including wolverine, to ensure any negative effects are tracked and managed properly. Considering this information, and the proposed EA condition, CNSC staff concluded that Denison's mitigation and follow-up monitoring program measures for the identified effects on wolverine are adequate.

### **3.1.2.2 Assessment of Project Effects on Moose as they Pertain to the Exercise of Hunting and Trapping Rights**

CNSC staff reviewed Denison's effects assessment for alteration and/or loss of habitat to moose and acknowledged the concerns from KML about potential impacts from the Project on moose in the region. CNSC staff requested more information from Denison on how to mitigate any residual Project impacts. Denison responded that mitigations to minimize potential effects on Moose include minimizing the extent of the Project Area and associated disturbances to the extent practicable, standard mitigation measures to minimize air emissions, dust, light and noise, exclusion fencing around waste pads and ponds, and measures to minimize direct mortality from vehicle collisions through driver training and safety practices. Moreover, CNSC staff advised Denison to clarify how Indigenous Knowledge on moose calving sites and corridors in the RSA is incorporated into the residual effects assessment. Denison explained that the sites identified by Indigenous Nations and communities through sharing of Indigenous Knowledge were explicitly considered in the assessment, as indicated by their identification as overlapping with the Terrestrial RSA. However, the areas were not expressly discussed in the residual effects assessment because there is no anticipated spatial overlap of those areas with direct or indirect Project effects. Taking into account this information, CNSC staff concluded that Denison's effect assessment, mitigation and follow-up monitoring program measures for the identified effects on moose are adequate and the effects to moose are predicted to be non-significant.

### **3.1.2.3 Assessment of Project Effects on Caribou as they Pertain to the Exercise of Hunting and Trapping Rights**

Denison conducted surveys to detect woodland caribou presence but didn't specifically study how woodland caribou use habitat across seasons or during sensitive life stages like calving. CNSC asked for more detail, and Denison responded with updated maps showing seasonal habitat use and potential for feeding, shelter, and calving. The updated information provided by Denison helped address concerns raised by KML.



CNSC noted that forest fires can damage woodland caribou habitat, which may take decades to recover and questioned Denison whether certain regenerating forest types are suitable year-round for woodland caribou. Denison indicated caribou were observed in these regenerating forest areas and included them as available habitat. Denison also considered habitat connectivity in their analysis and indicated woodland caribou can move freely across the landscape, with no known barriers or corridors in the Project area.

CNSC and ECCC raised concerns about noise from the Project's airstrip. Denison expects approximately five flights per week will result from the Project being developed and has committed to minimize wildlife disturbance by following best practices, including adjusting flight paths when needed.

Denison estimated the Project adds only 0.001% disturbance to the broader woodland caribou range. They used a 500 m buffer around Project features to assess habitat loss, in line with federal guidance. CNSC noted that not all disturbances may be visible in satellite imagery but acknowledged Denison's efforts to study how linear features affect wildlife. Denison plans to restore old roads and trails as part of woodland caribou habitat offset efforts.

CNSC staff reviewed Denison's assessment of risks to woodland caribou, especially from consuming potentially contaminated lichen, which makes up most of their diet. Lichen can absorb airborne pollutants from up to 40 km away, so CNSC requested Denison explain how this was factored into their analysis. Denison indicated their environmental study showed low risk from contaminants, but CNSC noted the model used for diet contained only 20% lichen. Since caribou may eat up to 70% lichen, CNSC requested more evidence to determine woodland caribou have a low risk from contaminants to ensure woodland caribou and their primary food source would be protected. Denison updated their analysis model using a 70% lichen diet and found that even with higher exposure, radiation and contaminant levels stayed well below environmental guidelines. This indicates that woodland caribou are expected to be safe from dietary exposure to Project-related contaminants.

Considering this information, CNSC staff concluded that Denison's assessment and mitigation measures for the identified effects on woodland caribou mortality are adequate.

#### **3.1.2.4 Potential Impacts to the Quality and Resources Relating to the Exercise of Hunting and Trapping Rights**

KML citizens have used and continue to use their traditional lands and occupancy area for trapping and hunting for subsistence and cultural purposes that could potentially be affected by the Wheeler River Project. Hunting and trapping are cultural practices that allows for the transfer of traditional knowledge from member to member, and generation to generation – these practices are essential for maintaining cultural ties that strengthen KML as a community.



KML's cultural camp is located at kilometre 67 north of the community, which is along Highway 914. KML citizens also exercise their hunting and trapping rights throughout the region north of the Haultain River, near Cree and Russell Lakes, along Highway 914 south of the Key Lake Mine gate within the RSA, west of the community of Pinehouse near Sandy Lake, east of the community near Sandfly Lake, in the Churchill River system and at Gordon Lake. KML members hunt and trap large and small game, including ducks and game birds for both sustenance and commercial purposes.

Many of the locations used by KML members to exercise their right to hunt and trap are found in the RSA and LSA, and not directly at the Project site. Predicted impacts to furbearers, moose, and caribou are expected to extend into the LSA and impacts to areas closest to the Project Site that have been identified for use by KML citizens are not predicted. However, industrial activities, such as uranium mining, carry social stigma for non-Indigenous and Indigenous Peoples and can create a perception that potential contamination to the environment and residing species from an operating uranium mine may lead to negative health impacts by consuming important traditional foods such as moose and caribou. This perception can ultimately lead to avoidance behaviours as Indigenous land users seek out hunting and trapping areas that are deemed to be more pristine and this disruption may limit areas of use relied upon for sustenance activities and disrupt transference of cultural knowledge.

In addition, there may be increased land use and hunting activity from Project workers impacting wildlife populations in the region. Increased land use and hunting by Project workers can also impact the discourage use by KML members in their traditional hunting grounds.

Mitigation measures, follow up activities and commitments to KML are contained within Table 1 in Section 4 of this report that address potential impacts to furbearers, moose and caribou which could lead to impacts to the rights to hunt and trap.

### **3.1.3 Changes in the Quantity and Quality of Resource Relating to the Exercise of Gathering Rights**

KML land users have identified the region north of the Haultain River and as far north as the Project area for traditional food gathering, including the broader RSA to collect and gather berries and other edible and medicinal plants. KML has documented gathering around the Key Lake Mine, south of Key Lake Mine adjacent to Highway 914. KML land users gather berries, bird eggs, moss, mushrooms and other plants of cultural importance. In addition, firewood and specialty wood collection has been documented at Russell Lake however, collection is sparse at this location.

The growing number of projects, including mineral exploration, may potentially limit current land use practices north of the Haultain River. KML land users are worried that the proposed Wheeler River project will limit or reduce this area for gathering and therefore impact food sovereignty in the community. With the growing number of projects in the area, including the



proposed Wheeler River Project, KML is concerned that they will not be able to continue to practise food gathering in a safe manner. KML has expressed concern that increased road traffic may be generating dust that settles on nearby berry patches, negatively impacting key gathering locations along Highway 914. The right to gather is extremely important to KML land users for both sustenance, medicinal, and cultural purposes.

Potential impacts to soil quantity and quality, and vegetation and ecosystems may lead to potential impacts to KML citizens' right to gather. CNSC staff have evaluated Denison's assessment of project-related impacts and conducted an independent assessment of potential impacts that may arise from the project with the findings discussed below.

### **3.1.3.1 Assessment of Project Effects on Soil Quantity and Quality as they Pertain to the Exercise of Gathering Rights**

CNSC staff reviewed Denison's effect assessment to soil quantity and quality and confirmed that Denison conducted a comprehensive analysis of these effects and that identified mitigation measures are adequate. CNSC staff sought clarification regarding Denison's follow-up monitoring of soil stockpiles. Since Denison plans to use stockpiled soil in reclamation activities, CNSC staff asked whether Denison's periodic monitoring includes analysis of contaminants of potential concern (COPCs) that could be deposited from dust-generating project activities. Denison clarified that monitoring of COPCs in soil stockpiles is not planned, but the need could be revisited in case COPCs in sources are detected at concentrations exceeding predictions. In addition, Denison proposed to support reclamation research including investigations into soil conditions which may include analysis of COPCs as warranted. CNSC staff verified in the appendix 10A assessment that COPC concentrations in soil on-site from atmospheric deposition are predicted to be below soil quality guidelines for protection of human health and environmental health. In addition, Denison proposed to support research on soil preparation techniques and amendments to inform the revegetation strategy. CNSC staff note that this research will support reclamation given that soil suitability is expected to be poor, due to the predominance of sandy soils characterized by a thin surface organic layer and low fertility. Considering this information, CNSC staff concluded that Denison's follow-up monitoring program measures for the identified effects are adequate and the effects to soil quantity and quality are predicted to be non-significant.

### **3.1.3.2 Assessment of Project Effects on Vegetation and Ecosystems as they Pertain to the Exercise of Gathering Rights**

CNSC staff reviewed Denison's effects assessment to the areal extent of habitat types and confirmed that Denison conducted a comprehensive analysis of these effects and that identified mitigation and follow-up monitoring program measures are adequate.



CNSC staff reviewed Denison's assessment of contaminants in plants, especially those eaten by woodland caribou and people, such as lichen and blueberries. They noted that lichen can absorb airborne pollutants, not just soil-based ones, and often had higher contaminant levels than blueberries in past studies. CNSC asked Denison to include air deposition as a key exposure pathway for lichen, which Denison confirmed was already considered and updated their documentation to reflect this.

During the environmental assessment concerns about berry quality were raised. CNSC confirmed that Denison's assessment looked at all major sources of pollution and found that no harmful levels of radiation or chemicals in vegetation, including berries, are predicted during any phase of the project or in the long term. Denison committed to ongoing monitoring, including testing blueberries, and will update risk assessments as new data becomes available. Considering this information, CNSC staff concluded that Denison's mitigation and follow-up monitoring program measures for the identified effects are adequate and the effects to vegetation and ecosystems are predicted to be non-significant.

### **3.1.3.3 Potential Impacts to the Quality and Resources Relating to the Exercise of Gathering Rights**

KML citizens have used and continue to use their traditional lands and occupancy area including the RSA and LSA around the Wheeler River Project site for gathering for subsistence, medicinal, and cultural purposes that could potentially be affected by the Wheeler River Project. Gathering is a cultural practice that allows for the transfer of traditional knowledge from member to member, and generation to generation – these practices are essential for maintaining cultural ties that strengthen KML as a community.

KML land users have identified the region north of the Haultain River and as far north as the Russell Lake in the Project area, around the Key Lake Mine, and south of Key Lake Mine adjacent to Highway 914 as places used to gather berries, mushrooms, medicines and traditional plants. Many of the locations used by KML members to exercise their right to gather are found in the RSA and LSA, and not directly at the Project site. Predicted impacts to soils and vegetation are expected at the Project site and may extend into the LSA that overlaps KML's traditional territory. Additionally, industrial activities, such as uranium mining, carry social stigma for non-Indigenous and Indigenous Peoples and can create a perception that potential contamination to the environment and residing species from an operating uranium mine may lead to negative health impacts by consuming important traditional foods such as berries. This perception can ultimately lead to avoidance behaviours as Indigenous land users seek out gathering areas that are deemed to be more pristine, and this disruption may limit areas of use relied upon for sustenance and cultural activities and also disrupt transference of cultural knowledge.





Mitigation measures, follow up activities and commitments to KML are contained within Table 1 in Section 4 of this report that address potential impacts to soil quantity and quality, and vegetation and ecosystems which could lead to impacts to the rights to gather.

### **3.2 Changes in Access to Areas of Cultural Importance and Areas Containing Resources that Support the Exercise of Rights**

The Indigenous and/or treaty rights exercised in the Project area rely on the ability for Indigenous Nations and communities to access land to exercise their rights. The exercise of Indigenous and/or treaty rights related to changes in access to areas of cultural importance and areas containing resources which supports the exercise of rights is directly influenced by the ability to access lands and resources for fishing, hunting, trapping, gathering and accessing areas of cultural and spiritual importance for cultural and spiritual practices. The exercise of rights is also informed by each Indigenous Nation's culture, history, and protocols.

#### **3.2.1.1 Changes in Access to Areas of Cultural Importance and Access to Areas Containing Resources that Support the Exercise of Rights**

KML practices their rights throughout the region north of the Haultain River and as far north as the Project and have used the lands surrounding Missinippi (Churchill River) watershed for gathering food, shelter, and material supplies since time immemorial. KML provided the CNSC with traditional land use data that identified lands of cultural importance to the community occurring inside and outside the Study Area. Key areas accessed by KML land uses include areas north of Cree Lake, west of Knee Lake, east to Russell Lake and south down to Emmeline Lake located between Beauval and La Ronge. KML's traditional use data identified hunting, fishing, and harvesting areas documented throughout the RSA, north along the Haultain River system and parallel to Highway 914. KML's cultural camp is located at kilometre 67 north of the community, which is along Highway 914. Cultural calendars with annual traditional activities are available to build family groups and clans while reclaiming and using resources available on KML's traditional lands.

KML hunts and gathers resources across all their traditional territories for food, cultural, language and identity purposes. KML provided the CNSC with an overview of traditional land use data including a digitally mapped area of KML traditional territory that surrounds the Project site (Figure 1). KML is concerned that their ability to use the land across their traditional territory will be impacted and that they will be excluded from the area for food sovereignty.

KML had shared concerns with respect to severe impacts from increased development and access to their territory. Current regulation of hunting, fishing, tourism, resources development and increased human traffic may affect and limit their ability to practice protected rights within the RSA. KML identified that increased access and traffic as a primary concern potentially impacting their ability to practice subsistence harvesting.





KML shared concerns regarding loss of use, access limitations and disruptions to ability to practice traditional activities which would impact the KML community members' ability to live off the land. This would also perpetuate language and cultural loss due to the limiting of access to traditional lands to practice traditional activities. In addition, with the growing number of projects and the anticipated growth of non-Indigenous hunting in the area, KML is concerned whether they will be able to continue to practice their method of food gathering in a safe manner.

In addition, KML has experienced cumulative impacts from historical legacy exploration and mining practices. KML currently cannot practice traditional activities in the areas around the mines. This causes KML land users to adjust land use activities and stay away from particular areas. KML members have noted they have often found remnants of past poor exploration practices, such as abandoned camps and industrial waste, which have impacted KML's continued land use. KML has expressed that the substantial and growing number of projects and mineral exploration activity severely limits KML's citizens' ability to practice traditional activities and their continued use for the region north of Haultain River. From KML's perspective, such limitations are leading to complete exclusion of KML from the area for food sovereignty.

### **3.2.1.2 Assessment of Potential Impacts to Indigenous Land and Resource Use**

CNSC staff reviewed Denison's assessment of potential effects to Indigenous Land and Resource Use (ILRU) due to decreased access to areas of cultural importance, including areas used for fishing, hunting, trapping and gathering activities, as well as ceremonial practices, during all phases of the Project and considered the views shared by Indigenous Nations and communities. CNSC staff have also reviewed and considered all of KML's Indigenous Knowledge that was provided in Denison's EIS, as well as the documents and maps that have been shared directly with CNSC staff that were requested to remain confidential.

CNSC staff have also travelled to the Project site and region on several occasions, visited multiple cultural camps, met and engaged directly with KML land users, Elders, and leadership related to the Project to hear and respond to their concerns. In addition, CNSC staff have also reviewed the mitigation measures that were proposed and applied by Denison in atmospheric and acoustic environment, geology and groundwater, aquatic environment, terrestrial environment, and human health sections as well as the mitigation and follow-up commitments made by Denison for the Project that would minimize impacts to KML land users.

The Projects effects of potential changes to the physical and cultural heritage of Indigenous Nations and communities, including KML, were also assessed for issues related to the loss, change, or alteration of archaeological and heritage resources of the current use of lands and resources for traditional purposes of cultural/spiritual sites. When considering the mitigation



measures proposed and applied to Heritage Resources, CNSC staff conclude that there will be no residual adverse effects to changes in access to cultural and heritage resources for ceremonial purposes. With respect to potential effects on other cultural resources including archaeology, and considering KML's views, CNSC staff have found that Denison's mitigation measures listed and their commitments to follow the guidance under the *Saskatchewan's Heritage Property Act* (Government of Saskatchewan 2017) pertaining to archaeology sites, built heritage sites and structures of historical and/or architectural interest, and paleontological sites will mitigate any potential effects. Denison has completed the required archaeology assessments in accordance with provincial regulations and has also committed to developing a Heritage Resources Management Plan (HRMP) to help protect and mitigate any potential effects of the Project to Heritage Resources with potentially affected Indigenous Nations and communities to ensure the Project effects are being monitored and appropriately mitigated.

Considering the implementation of mitigation measures and recommended follow-up program measures, as well as input received from Indigenous Nations and communities, including KML, CNSC staff conclude that there are grounds for the Commission to find that the Project is not likely to cause significant adverse effects on access to cultural sites of importance to Indigenous peoples.

CNSC remains committed to working with KML to collaborate on follow-up and monitoring activities for the Project, as well as enhance engagement, outreach and information sharing regarding uranium mining and related environmental, health, safety and regulatory measures to mitigate and protect ILRU in the Project Area region and build trust with KML citizens moving forward.

### **3.2.1.3 Potential Impacts to Changes in Access to Areas of Cultural Importance and Access to Areas Containing Resources that Support the Exercise of Rights**

Métis land-based activities are deeply rooted ways of life of the Métis people. These activities encompass a wide range of practises that connect Métis individuals and families to the land and foster a sense of belonging, sustainability, and cultural continuity. Fishing, hunting, trapping, gardening, gathering and crafting are all activities that both sustain physical needs and uphold spiritual and social dimensions crucial to Métis identity.

Key cultural areas for KML members are north of the Haultain River along Highway 914 south of the Key Lake Mine gate, Cree and Russell lakes, west and east of the community of Pinehouse near Sandy and Sandfly Lakes, the shores of Pinehouse Lake, and at Gordon Lake, as well as other locations. KML's cultural camp is located at kilometre 67 north of the community, which is along Highway 914 and there is a KML heritage cabin identified near the south end of the decommissioned Fox Lake road.



Many of the locations used by KML citizens and areas required to access resources to exercise their right to hunt and gather are found within the RSA and LSA, and not directly at the Project Site. While access to most areas of cultural importance will remain, the experience of accessing important cultural areas will be changed with the physical presence of the Project. In addition, given the increased industrial activity associated with the Wheeler River Project, improvements to roads, bridges and related transportation infrastructure may allow and promote access to the Study Area by non-Indigenous land users. Non-Indigenous land users may also access the area to fish and hunt which puts further pressure on fish and wildlife resources that KML citizens rely upon, which KML citizens have noted as a concern. Change in direct access to culturally important areas, and an increase in non-Indigenous land users may potentially impact the frequency of which KML citizens access areas of cultural importance and access to areas containing resources which supports the exercise of rights. This can ultimately disrupt cultural activities and the transference of cultural knowledge and language by KML citizens.

CNSC staff are committed to working with Denison and KML to ensure that access to culturally important areas and areas required for fishing, hunting, trapping and gathering are maintained. In addition, CNSC commits to work with Denison and KML during the decommissioning phase of the Project to ensure that land access is restored, to the extent possible, to pre-development conditions so that KML members are able to continue accessing areas of importance in ways that sustain their cultural continuity.

Mitigation measures, follow up activities and commitments to KML proposed by Denison, and CNSC commitments and proposed accommodation measures are contained within Table 2 and Table 4 in Section 4 of this report that address potential impacts to access to areas of cultural importance and access to areas containing resources which supports the exercise of rights.

### **3.3 Changes to Governance, Laws, and Cultural Traditions that Inform the Exercise of Rights**

The Indigenous and/or treaty rights exercised in the Project area are tied to the ability for Indigenous Nations and communities to make decisions on how they will access and use the land to exercise their rights. The exercise of Indigenous and/or treaty rights related to changes to governance, laws and cultural traditions that informs the exercise of rights is directly influenced by the ability to make community-based decisions on how to care for the lands and how the lands will be used, and ways in which cultural knowledge and tradition will be transferred. The exercise of rights is also informed by each Indigenous Nation's culture, history, and protocols.



### **3.3.1 Changes to the Governance, Laws and Cultural Traditions that Inform the Exercise of Rights**

Pinehouse as a community is currently working through colonialism trauma in part caused by historical treatment of mining operations in the area. The recent recognition of Métis as Indigenous and as a community with protected rights is still not completely understood by the broader non-Indigenous community. From KML's perspective, much has been lost due to uranium mining on KML traditional lands and external agency effects on KML's community. The ability for the community to recover and evolve as a culturally intact bicultural community, with protection for their Indigenous culture and language, is paramount to the community support for this project.

Currently KML uses community source revenue and resources to bring pride in the language and culture for community members of Kineepik. Language is the connection to cultural understanding, to the land and ability to communicate with Elders and knowledge keepers. The spirit of conservation and concern for ecosystems is tied to this connection to the land. Immersion and transmission of language to younger generations will revitalize KML's languages and cultural practices.

KML's cultural camp is located at kilometre 67 north of the community, which is along Highway 914. Cultural calendars with annual traditional activities are available to build family groups and clans while reclaiming and using resources available on KML's traditional lands. Cultural events and gatherings bring pride to the community and Elders. They are key to revitalizing language and cultural practices for KML by enhancing citizen understanding and their irreplaceable, authentic, and inherent connection to the land, as well as their ability to communicate with Elders and knowledge keepers. KML has asserted that "the ability for the community to recover and evolve as a culturally intact bicultural community with protection for our Indigenous culture and language is paramount to the community support for this project". KML practices their rights throughout the region north of the Haultain River and as far north as the Project and have used the lands surrounding Missinippi (Churchill River) watershed for gathering food, shelter, and material supplies since time immemorial.

Road safety is a primary concern for KML. KML has shared concerns with respect to health and safety of its citizens due to increased traffic on roads, particularly highway 914, due to the proposed Wheeler River new mine site and increased heavy trucks leading to additional safety risks. KML is worried about the safety and conditions of these roads as KML citizens use the roads extensively for hunting and gathering and are not prepared for the additional maintenance requirements for the road becoming a connected road. Although they are concerned about road safety, there is also uncertainty about where the trucks are going and what they are being used for. Passing trucks are a visual reminder that economic activity is passing through and by the community by road, without direct benefit.



KML identified that increased traffic as a primary concern potentially impacting their ability to practice subsistence harvesting. KML also requested additional information on how Denison and the Province of Saskatchewan plan to address the Highway 914 extension road in the future and its implications for increased traffic through their community if it is advanced. KML has shared concerns around impacts of becoming a through road community and impacts on emergency services and capacity from their community as the constant traffic makes community members anxious. KML and NVP are concerned that the current local first responder capacity for emergency and medical personnel will have to absorb many issues and incidents arising from increased traffic and future development. KML has requested an emergency planning process with the province that would look to increase the emergency response capacity for Pinehouse to manage increased requirements.

KML raised concerns related to highway impacts and cumulative road use. Specifically, they worry about the potential effects of the Project and pressures on the existing highway due to increased truck traffic and a lack of stringent oversight and safety concerns. These activities may elevate the risk of heavy haul vehicle incidents involving land users and potentially reduce access to emergency services for the community members. KML would like to ensure safety processes for community members and comprehensive maintenance plans for the road should be thoroughly discussed with the community and implemented to provide the protection of both the environment and the well-being of the closest impacted community.

Pinehouse has shared concerns regarding the increase traffic on the highways from the Project, as well as additional exploration and mine and mill development, and would like to ensure the safety of community members from the increased traffic. There is an increased risk of heavy haul vehicles incidents with land users due to Project activities. KML citizens use these roads extensively for hunting and gathering and require assurances that they will not be at any increased risk of traffic and potential harassment during our harvesting efforts. KML and NVP have had negative experiences with Forest Industry traffic that has ended with loss of life for community Elders. KML and NVP have requested further capacity to develop road management capacity so they can provide the support necessary to manage the integrity of the roads.

KML asserts their right and responsibility to promote stewardship in their traditional territory and that they have practiced governance throughout their traditional territory since time immemorial. This includes traditional territory mapped in Figure 1, and the adjacent lands that have yet to be mapped. KML asserts their right and responsibility to assess and comment on developments that could impact any of the territories over which KML asserts stewardship. KML continues to gather data and manage their territory that includes consideration for the future generations of Pinehouse.



KML has shared that it is vital for community members to hear from fellow community members whom they have trust that the project and associated activities will not cause further harm to the community and that any environmental incidents are managed in a way that is understood by the community. Ideally, KML would like to see the community have capacity to manage the incidents and monitor any environmental cleanup processes. KML requires assurance that the standards are being followed, and that as a community KML is able to action a response to mitigate potential environmental impact. KML has shared that their preference is always to ensure an impact to the land and resources they value are either nil or minimal.

KML has shared concerns regarding waste management arising from the Project and associated activities. KML has requested that providing capacity for Pinehouse to host a waste management site be considered. As a community that uses the land for food, shelter and culture, KML and NVP would like the capacity and responsibility to manage waste for this Project.

KML had expressed concerns around other activities impacting their land use practices and traditional economic activity resulting from cumulative impacts from historical legacy exploration and mining. There is concern that they will inherit severe impacts from increased development and access to their territory. Current regulation of hunting, fishing, tourism, resource development and increased human traffic will affect and limit their ability to practice protected rights.

### **3.3.2 Potential Impacts to Changes to Governance, Laws and Cultural Traditions that Inform the Exercise of Rights**

Indigenous Nations' governance, laws and cultural traditions are core rights protected under Section 35 of the *Constitution Act*, 1982, and Indigenous Nation governance forms the basis of the 'Nation-to-Nation' relationship between Indigenous Nations and the Crown. The ability of Indigenous Nations to have a level of decision-making on lands that support the exercise of their rights, while also using internal laws and cultural traditions which informs how lands will be used is important to an Indigenous Nations' autonomy.

Cultural practices are central to Métis ways of life and being. The transfer of cultural knowledge and language in Métis culture is shared from generation to generation via the sharing of traditional activities such as hunting and gathering on the land, and community gatherings. KML citizens hunt and gather resources throughout their traditional territory for food, cultural, language and identity purposes. KML has faced harm and is now dealing with the potential extinction of their language and culture due to past government policies, colonization, and racism.



“This loss of language causes the loss of cultural understanding – as we lose our language, we lose our connection to the land. We lose our ability to communicate with our Elders, our knowledge keepers. This manifest is a severe loss of cultural transference between our youth and knowledge keepers. Once the connection to the land is lost, then the spirit of conservation and concern for how the ecosystems are they are defined by our Elders is also lost. This is the very nature of diversity; we the Indigenous peoples have known, for the land for time immemorial. The connection is irreplaceable, authentic, and inherent. By having opportunities to immerse and transmit the language to our young people, we can stop the current extinction process and to begin to revitalization our languages and cultural practices.”

KML’s community strategy is actively determining how to address the loss and establish recovery of language with strategies around creating more resources for culture and language. Currently, KML uses community source revenue and resources to bring pride in the language and culture for community members of Kineepik. Language is the connection to cultural understanding, to the land and ability to communicate with Elders and knowledge keepers. The spirit of conservation and concern for ecosystems is tied to this connection to the land. Immersion and transmission of language to younger generations will revitalize KML’s languages and cultural practices.

KML has established a Reclaiming Our Community (ROC) model which provides an opportunity to reconnect with the Indigenous Identity. This model has generated significant momentum within the community, evolving from engagement to community consciousness towards self governance. Cultural calendars with annual traditional activities, including those held out of the culture camp 67 km north of NVP and across KML’s traditional territory, are also available to build family groups and clans while reclaiming and using resources available on KML land. Cultural events and gatherings bring pride to the community and Elders. These events and activities are inextricably ties to the lands on which citizens practice their rights.

If developed, the Project changes KML’s collective decision-making abilities of how the Project site will be used and limits access to the specific site to KML members. In addition, development of the Wheeler River Project will result in KML members not possessing stewardship over the Project Site and will change KML citizens’ relationship with the lands encompassing the Project Site until such time that the Project Site is decommissioned, and the lands are restored.





The Project has the potential to impact generational knowledge and language sharing, as well as cultural continuity through a change in the cultural experience. The development of the Wheeler River Project is predicted to increase the activity of vehicle use and access to the area. Given that the KML Culture Camp is located off Highway 914, the predicted increase of road use is anticipated to increase residual impacts to noise and dust in the area. KML members have noted direct concerns related to increased road traffic and highway safety, as well as increased hunting activity in the area; citizens' experience related to their exercise of rights may be adversely impacted.

As previously discussed, industrial activities, such as uranium mining, carry social stigma and can create a perception that potential contamination to the environment and residing species from an operating uranium mine may lead to negative health impacts by consuming important traditional foods such as berries. When this stigma is coupled with potential adverse impacts to the quality of the experience in exercising rights, the Project may potentially impact the timing/seasonality and frequency of which KML citizens access areas that support their exercise of rights. Changes to the timing/seasonality and frequency of accessing areas to exercise rights can ultimately disrupt cultural activities and the transference of cultural knowledge by KML citizens.

Except for the Project site access to the fishing spots, hunting grounds, traplines, gathering locations and cultural sites north of the Haultain River in the RSA and LSA will remain. As such, KML citizens will continue to be able to access lands of importance and to continue to make community-based decisions of how the identified lands of importance will be used in maintaining cultural traditions that help inform KML's collective exercise of rights.

CNSC staff's assessment determined the Project's effects to Indigenous Land and Resource Use are predicted to be indirect effects, such that the quality of the perceived experience may be affected due to hazards related to road safety and the perceived risk to the contamination of traditional foods. The effects of potential changes to the health of Indigenous Nations and communities, including KML members, were assessed for issues related to changes in air quality, noise levels, visual quality, human health and perceived risk to the contamination of traditional foods. When taking into consideration the combined magnitude, geographic extent, duration, and context of the potential residual adverse effects on Indigenous health, and the mitigation measures to address effects on exposure to the traditional land user, CNSC staff have determined that the magnitude of these residual effects are expected to be low.





CNSC staff are committed to working with Denison and KML to ensure, where possible, KML citizens are able to access and use lands of importance and that KML maintains collective decision-making abilities to lands of ecological and cultural importance. CNSC, as an agent of the Crown, will work with KML to minimize disruptions to generational knowledge and language sharing and cultural continuity through the identification of appropriate mitigations and accommodations.

Mitigation measures, follow up activities and commitments to KML proposed by Denison, and CNSC commitments and proposed accommodation measures are contained within Table 3 and Table 4, and referenced in Section 4 of this report that address potential impacts to noise, air quality, and Indigenous land and resource use which informs potential impacts to changes in governance, laws and cultural traditions that informs the exercise of rights.

## **4. Mitigation, Follow-Up Activities and Commitments**

The following section outlines Denison's proposed mitigation measures, follow-up activities and commitments, and proposed conditions and accommodation measures by the CNSC to reduce residual effects from the Project that may impact Indigenous and/or treaty rights.

### **4.1 Changes to the Quantity and Quality of Resources Relating to the Exercise of Rights**

In addition to the applicable commitments contained within the Commitments Registry and the related conditions noted in the EA Report, CNSC staff have identified the mitigation measures and follow-up activities from the following tables of the EA Report that help effectively manage and minimize impacts to the changes to the quantity and quality of resources related to the exercise of rights:

- Aquatic Environment, Surface Water Quantity and Quality: Tables 6.14, 6.15, 6.19, and 6.20.
- Fish and Fish Habitat: Tables 7.5 and 7.6.
- Fish Health: Tables 7.10 and 7.11.
- Sediment and Invertebrates: Tables 6.24 and 6.25.
- Terrestrial Environment, Effects on Soil: Tables 6.26, 6.27
- Terrestrial Biota, Furbearers, Ungulates, and caribou: Tables 7.15 and 7.16.
- Terrestrial Environment, Vegetation and Ecosystems: Tables 6.28, 6.29

Additionally, Table 1 below contains Denison's commitments and CNSC staff's proposed conditions and accommodation measures for the Project to effectively manage and minimize residual effects from the Project that may result in changes to the quantity and quality of resources related to KML members' exercise of rights.



**Table 1: Changes in the Quantity and Quality of Resources Relating to the Exercise of Rights**

| Changes in the Quantity and Quality of Resources Relating to the Exercise of Rights | Commitments   |
|---|---|
|   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Denison has committed to collaborating and engaging with Indigenous Nations and communities, including KML, on the Environmental Management Plan (EMP), Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan (EPRP), and the Environmental Effects Monitoring (EEM). Note, details of these plans will be developed during the licensing/permitting phase of the process.</li></ul>   |
|   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Denison has also committed to considering local and TK, including that of KML, in all areas of the Project through continued engagement.</li></ul>  |
|   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Denison has committed to working with Indigenous Communities of Interest (COIs) including KML and to develop and implement the monitoring approach and the framework for sharing monitoring results. The monitoring and follow-up program will also measure fish health, including measuring the potential bioaccumulation of non-radiological (e.g., molybdenum, selenium, mercury, and other metals) and radiological parameters.</li></ul>   |
|   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• As part of these programs, Denison will share information in an agreed-upon fashion, including the results of fish tissue monitoring. It is expected that the data collected through these monitoring regimes would also be relevant to other Indigenous Nations, including KML.</li></ul>  |
|   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The FIRT also raised concerns related to mercury and methylmercury concentrations in the receiving environment and for Project related activities to increase the risk for bioaccumulation of methylmercury in fish tissues. Denison has committed to monitoring mercury and methylmercury in the aquatic environment over the life of the Project to determine the potential changes in mercury concentrations in fish tissue over time (Commitments 8-42 and 8-44). Denison will assess health risks from fish consumption by comparing fish tissue data collected during operations from the monitoring program against applicable human health risk-based maximum permissible concentrations. As part of the country food monitoring document developed to support operational licensing, any site-specific contaminant criteria or trigger</li></ul> |



|  |   |
|--|---|
|  | mechanisms will be developed in consultation with Indigenous Nations and communities, including KML.  |
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Denison has committed to collaborating with KML on details and updates to the decommissioning plan which includes mining area remediation plans and associated post-decommissioning modelling of groundwater from the remediated mining area, suited the community's interests and needs. As part of these updates, Denison will be sharing information in an agreed-upon fashion with KML. It is expected that updates to the decommissioning plan and groundwater modelling would also be relevant to other Indigenous Nations who may have an interest in the Project.</li> </ul> |
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Denison has committed to engagement with KML as it relates to effluent discharge criteria, suited to the community's interests and needs.</li> </ul>   |
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To address potential concerns specific to Project related effects to wildlife species of interest to the Indigenous Communities of Interest (COIs), Denison has committed to collaborating with KML on a monitoring regime suited to each of their interests and needs. As part of this program, Denison and the Indigenous COIs will be sharing information in an agreed upon fashion, about agreed-upon species of interest.</li> </ul>  |
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Denison has committed to collaborating with KML on a community-specific monitoring regime, suited the community's interests and needs, in an agreed-upon fashion. Denison is committed to continual improvement in relation to such collaborative monitoring programs, to adapt to areas of interest which can change over time. It is expected that the data collected through such monitoring regimes would also be relevant to KML and other Indigenous Nations who may have interest in the Project.</li> </ul>  |

## 4.2 Changes in the Access to Areas of Cultural Importance and Areas Containing Resources that Support the Exercise of Rights

In addition to the applicable commitments contained within the Commitments Registry and the related conditions noted in the EA Report, CNSC staff have identified the following mitigation measures, follow-up activities, and commitments Denison has made, as well as CNSC staff's proposed conditions to effectively manage and minimize residual effects from the Project that may result in changes in access to areas of cultural importance and areas containing resources which supports KML members' exercise of rights in Table 2 below.



**Table 2: Changes in Access to Areas of Cultural Importance and Areas Containing Resources that Support the Exercise of Rights**

| Changes in Changes in Access to Areas of Cultural Importance and Areas Containing Resources that Support the Exercise of Rights | Mitigation Measures  |
|---|--|
|   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Denison will follow the Human Resources Management Plan which has been developed to mitigate potential effects of the Project to Heritage Resources. The plan outlines steps Denison will take if a new heritage site is identified during activities taking place over the life of the Project. The management of archaeological resources includes the assessment of the discovery by a qualified archaeologist and mitigation measures including avoidance of the site, shovel testing, systematic and intensive shovel testing, excavation, and/or construction monitoring. The HRMP outlines mechanisms for Indigenous engagement, including that with KML, including the communities, implementation of appropriate cultural protocols, the potential for storage of artifacts outside of the Royal Saskatchewan Museum, and the inclusion of Indigenous field assistants when possible.</li> </ul> |
|   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Access north of the Key Lake gatehouse on Highway 914 is restricted and provides for controlled access for employees of northern mines, Indigenous resource harvesters from select communities, cabin owners, and lease holders.</li> </ul>   |
|   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mitigation measures associated with potential effects to cultural continuity (including knowledge transfer and language) are described in Section 12.1.5 and include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implementation of Denison's Indigenous Peoples Policy and advancement of reconciliation</li> <li>Using a commuter rotation system has also shown to be effective in allowing Indigenous employees, including any from KML, continued opportunities to spend time on the land, and important factor in the transmission of knowledge and language.</li> <li>Encouragement to speak languages of choice while at the site, except during safety sensitive situations, will be made.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>   |
|   | Follow-up Measures   |
|   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Denison has completed the required archaeology assessments in accordance with provincial regulations and has also committed to developing a Heritage Resources Management Plan (HRMP) to help protect and mitigate any potential effects of the Project to Heritage Resources with potentially affected Indigenous Nations and communities, including KML, to ensure the Project effects are being monitored and appropriately mitigated.</li> </ul>  |
|   | Commitments  |



|  |   |
|--|---|
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Surface lease agreements, which are required to conduct mining in Saskatchewan, also contain commitments for environmental protection, occupational health and safety, and socio-economic benefits for residents of Saskatchewan's North (Government of Saskatchewan 2018). One provision within surface lease agreements is compensation for commercial loss of income. Payments are typically made to individuals who: 1) held a lease or permit to use the lands immediately prior to the establishment of the mine's surface lease; and 2) used the land to generate commercial income, such as from trapping (Government of Saskatchewan 2018b). Should the need arise, compensation for loss of income may be disbursed to the trapper selected to take up trapping in the Project Area, including KML community members.</li></ul> |
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To reduce the potential negative effects of Project employment, Denison will implement culturally sensitive employment policies that support the attraction and retention of an Indigenous workforce, including those from KML. Encouragement will be made to speak languages of choice while at the site, except during safety sensitive situations. Denison will work with the Indigenous COI to make sure understanding exists regarding the culturally important periods for KML #9 (Pinehouse), including important harvest times and cultural camp schedules. Denison will facilitate Indigenous employees taking time off to participate in cultural activities with family or with the broader community, where appropriate.</li></ul>  |
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Denison's vision in respect of this concern is that Denison and KML work together as partners in discussions about highways with the Provincial Government. However, in respect of actions Denison can undertake regarding traffic along the road at times important for the undertaking of cultural activities, Denison commits to (Section 12): 1) Assisting KML with the clear identification of the forthcoming culture camp along highway 914 (providing clear signage) 2) Having Project vehicles slow down to 40km/hr from mid-August to mid October, during the times when KML members may be using the portion of the road near the culture camp. To be specific, this includes 2.5km before the entry into the culture camp, and 2.5km after the entry into the culture camp.</li></ul>   |



### 4.3 Changes to Governance, Laws and Cultural Traditions

In addition to the applicable commitments contained within the Commitments Registry and the related conditions noted in the EA Report, CNSC staff have identified the mitigation measures and follow-up activities from the following tables of the EA Report that help minimize impacts to the changes to governance, laws and traditions:

- Atmospheric and acoustic environment: Tables 6.3, 6.4, 6.5, and 6.6.

Additionally, Table 3 below contains Denison's commitments and CNSC staff's proposed conditions for the Project to effectively manage and minimize residual effects from the Project that may result in changes to KML's governance, laws and traditions:

**Table 3: Changes to Governance, Laws and Cultural Traditions**

| Changes to Governance, Laws and Cultural Traditions | Commitments  |
|---|--|
|   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Denison will provide space for an on-site Elder counsellor to provide culturally relevant programming and support.</li></ul>   |
|   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Denison has made commitments (Commitments 6-4 &amp; 6-5) to mitigate any potential adverse effects resulting from increased noise emissions and the sensory disturbance these emissions may cause for wildlife and traditional land users, including those from KML. This includes developing an Environmental Management System (EMS) that will incorporate a comprehensive noise management and monitoring plan in collaboration with KML.</li></ul> |
|   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• KML proposes that working cooperatively with Denison is a path towards reconciliation. KML proposed that each concern they raise will be reviewed by Denison for the best possible solution and that effects on land and resources be either nil or minimal. This approach is consistent with Denison's Indigenous Peoples Policy.</li></ul>   |
|   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Denison has stated they support KML's vision for emergency response, where it makes sense and is possible, and will continue discussions.</li></ul>  |



#### 4.4 CNSC Commitments and Proposed Accommodation Measures

The CNSC have identified the following commitments and proposed accommodation measures to help minimize impacts to KML members' rights.

**Table 4: CNSC Commitments and Proposed Accommodation Measures**

|  |
|--|
| 1. CNSC staff are proposing a Licence Condition for Indigenous engagement which includes requirements for Denison to report annually on their engagement activities and progress on implementing their commitments to Indigenous Nations and communities. The proposed Licence Condition includes EA follow up actions that address issues and concerns raised by Indigenous Nations related to their practice of Aboriginal and treaty rights as outlined in Section 35 of the <i>Constitution Act</i> , 1982 as well as ensures that all commitments made to KML made by Denison regarding environmental monitoring and protection of community members and rights are honoured. |
| 2. CNSC staff, in collaboration and engagement with KML, will have oversight on all conditions contained within the Licence Condition Handbook. Compliance and verification of conditions will be completed by CNSC staff to ensure the health, safety and protection of workers, KML members and the environment.   |
| 3. CNSC staff are committed to the involvement of KML in the CNSC's Independent Environmental Monitoring Program (IEMP) monitoring activities in relation to the Denison Wheeler River site. CNSC staff will collaborate on reporting on monitoring results to the Nation.   |
| 4. As a member partner, CNSC staff will recommend the inclusion of the Denison Wheeler Project for acceptance into the Eastern Athabasca Regional Monitoring Program (EARMP). This program contains a community-based monitoring program which directly engages with Nation-members and helps address avoidance behaviours through participation in regional environmental effects monitoring. CNSC is committed to including KML as part of EARMP, should KML wish to participate.  |
| 5. CNSC commits to develop and finalize a Terms of Reference (ToR) for long-term engagement with KML. The long-term engagement ToR will include a work plan and funding for KML and CNSC to work on issues, concerns and activities related to the nuclear sector, including uranium mining and milling in their territory, as identified by KML. In addition, CNSC is committed to ongoing engagement, outreach and communication with KML community members to ensure that their concerns regarding the Project and the CNSC's regulatory oversight are addressed.   |





## **5. Conclusion on Impacts to Rights**

### **5.1 Changes to the Quantity and Quality of Resources Relating to the Exercise of Rights**

Many of the locations used by KML citizens to exercise their right to fish, hunt, trap and gather are found within the LSA, and none directly at the Project Site. Predicted impacts to the valued components of surface water quantity and quality, fish and fish habitat, sediment quality and invertebrate communities, moose, caribou, soil quantity and quality and vegetation and ecosystems are directly related to changes in the quantity and quality of resources related to the exercise of rights. As discussed in the EA Report, the residual impacts from the aforementioned VCs are expected to extend minimally into the LSA and with the application of mitigation measures, follow-up activities and commitments outlined in the EA Report, these residual impacts are predicted to be non-significant.

Project-related activities during site preparation, construction and operation have the potential to alter fish and animal use, as well as wildlife travel patterns, generally for short durations. The magnitude of Project impacts to KML's rights, particularly the right to fish, hunt and trap can be described as low to medium due potential changes in wildlife (i.e., fish and animals) use and travel, as well as KML citizens' extensive land use in the LSA. When taking into consideration the extensive mitigation measures, follow-up activities and commitments outlined in the EA Report, and the commitments and CNSC proposed Project conditions and accommodation measures contained in Table 1 and Table 4 above, the CNSC expects any residual impacts to KML's rights and interests as they relate to the changes to the quantity and quality of resources related to the exercise of rights to be low and adequately addressed.

CNSC staff are committed to working with KML through programs such as the Independent Environmental Monitoring Program (IEMP) and as a member partner of the Eastern Athabasca Regional Monitoring Program (EARMP) to help address perceptions of residual contamination from uranium mining activities and potential avoidance behaviours. CNSC are open to collaborating with KML to ensure community members can exercise their rights with confidence on the land.

### **5.2 Changes to the Access to Areas of Cultural Importance and Areas Containing Resources that Support the Exercise of Rights**

Many of the locations used by KML citizens to access areas of cultural importance and areas containing resources which supports the exercise their rights are found within the RSA and LSA, and none directly at the Project Site. Predicted impacts to the valued component of Indigenous land and resource use are directly related to changes in access to areas of cultural importance and areas containing resources which supports the exercise of rights. As discussed in the EA Report, with the application of mitigation measures, follow-up activities and commitments





outlined in the EA Report the residual impacts from Indigenous land and resource use are predicted to be indirect and adequately addressed.

The Key Lake gatehouse on Highway 914 currently allows for restricted access by Indigenous land and resource users. The presence of this gate, and access restrictions in the area is noted as a residual impact to access independent of the Wheeler River Project. Access to the cultural areas around the project site, including the KML Kilometer 67 Cultural Camp, will remain even if the Project is developed. However, the experience of accessing important cultural sites will be changed with the physical presence of the Project.

Project-related activities during site preparation, construction and operation have the potential to disrupt access and development of the Project will change the experience in accessing areas of cultural importance and areas containing resources that support the exercise of rights by increased use of the area overall. The magnitude of Project impacts to KML's rights as they pertain to access can be described as low due to KML citizens' extensive land use in the RSA, land use noted in the LSA, and the increased activity predicted in the Project area. As the majority of land use is noted at locations south of the Project site the physical changes to the landscape when accessing areas near the Project site will be minimized for KML land users. When taking into consideration the mitigation measures and commitments outlined in the EA report, and the commitments and CNSC proposed conditions and accommodation measures outlined in Table 2 and Table 4 above, the CNSC expects any residual potential impacts to KML's rights and interests as they related to the changes in access to areas of cultural importance and areas containing resources that support the exercise of rights to be low and adequately managed.

CNSC encourages Denison to work with KML to ensure that access to important cultural areas, and areas containing resources that support the exercise of rights are maintained, particularly through the construction phase, so that areas of cultural importance, including important fishing, hunting, trapping and gathering locations can be accessed during important seasonal times required by KML citizens.

CNSC commits to work with Denison and KML during the decommissioning phase of the Project to ensure that viewsapes and access are restored, as feasible, to pre-development conditions so that KML citizens can continue accessing areas of importance in ways that sustain their cultural continuity.

### **5.3 Changes to Governance, Laws and Cultural Traditions**

KML's governance, laws and cultural traditions are inextricably tied to Pinehouse and their traditional territories. These territories that are of importance to KML for the exercise of their rights and for sustaining their culture and language.



Many of the locations of cultural and ecological importance to KML members are found within the RSA and LSA, and none directly at the Project Site. The Project's effects to Indigenous Land and Resource Use are predicted to be indirect effects to the quality of the perceived experience which may be affected from hazards related to road safety and the perceived risk to the contamination of traditional foods. The effects of potential changes to the health of Indigenous Nations and communities, including KML, were assessed for issues related to changes in air quality, noise levels, visual quality, human health and perceived risk to the contamination of traditional foods. Any changes in the aforementioned inputs can affect the quality of the experience for KML citizens and ultimately discourage land use and impact transference of cultural knowledge.

Access to fishing spots, hunting grounds, traplines, gathering locations and cultural sites, surrounding the Project site, including the KML Kilometer 67 Cultural Camp, will remain even if the Project is developed. The development of the Wheeler River Project will result in KML citizens not possessing stewardship or collective decision-making capabilities over the Project Site, however all stewardship and decision-making abilities of other identified culturally important lands will remain for KML citizens. As such, KML citizens will continue to be able to access lands identified to have importance and to continue to make community-based decisions of how the identified lands of importance will be used in maintaining cultural traditions that helps inform KML's collective exercise of rights.

Project-related activities during site preparation, construction and operation have the potential to disrupt access and development of the Project will change the experience in accessing and using areas of cultural importance, particularly those in the LSA closest to the Project site. In addition, the development of the Project site will result in KML not possessing any stewardship or decision-making abilities over those lands until at such time the proposed Denison Wheeler River Project is decommissioned. In addition, the increased activity resulting from the Project will alter the experience for KML land users, with the degree of alteration increasing the closer the exercise of rights takes place relative to the Project site. The magnitude of Project impacts to KML's rights as they pertain to governance, laws and traditions can be described as low to medium due to KML citizens' land use in the LSA, the increase in activity in the Project area that may impact the experience of KML land users and changes KML decision-making abilities of the lands encompassing the Project site. The impacts of increased activity, particularly vehicle and heavy truck traffic will be acutely felt in the community of Pinehouse and areas used to exercise rights north of the community along Highway 914 as a result of the Project which impacts KML land users' experience. However, when taking into consideration the mitigation measures, follow-up measures and commitments contained in the EA report, and the CNSC conditions and proposed accommodation measures in Table 3 and Table 4 above, the CNSC expects any residual potential impacts to KML's rights and interests as they relate to governance, laws and cultural traditions resulting from the Project to be low and adequately managed.



CNSC staff are committed to working with KML through programs such as the Independent Environmental Monitoring Program (IEMP) and as a member partner of the Eastern Athabasca Regional Monitoring Program (EARMP) to help address perceptions of residual contamination from uranium mining activities and potential avoidance behaviours.

## **5.4 Conclusion**

When considering and evaluating all mitigations, follow-up measures, commitments and accommodation measures from Denison and those commitments and accommodation measures proposed by the CNSC, the CNSC's assessment of residual impacts to KML's rights and interests can be characterized as low and adequately managed. In addition, as part of consultation and engagement activities, KML and Denison signed an Impact Benefit Agreement (IBA) as a mechanism to establish a partnership and accommodate KML for any potential impact to their rights and interests. As a result of this agreement, as well as Denison and CNSC staff's consultation and engagement efforts to date, KML has provided their consent for the Denison Wheeler River Project to proceed.

The CNSC is committed to ongoing engagement and collaboration with KML to ensure that the proposed mitigation measures and commitments are implemented and continue to effectively manage and minimize any impacts on their rights and interests for the full life cycle of the Project.



## A.3 Rights Impact Assessment with Ya'thi Néné Lands and Resources

### 1. Description of Ya'thi Néné's Traditional Use and Rights-Exercising Area

The Ya'thi Nene Lands and Resources Office (YNLR) was established by the Athabasca Denesuliné (AD) First Nations of Black Lake, Fond du Lac, and Hatchet Lake First Nations and the municipalities of Stony Rapids, Wollaston Post, Uranium City, and Camsell Portage to protect the land and promote the people of Nuhenéné. YNLR acts as a point of contact between industry, government, and local residents of the Athabasca Region. YNLR has been mandated by the Athabasca communities to represent their interests and support consultation and engagement activities with governments and industries conducting activities in the Athabasca Basin and their traditional and treaty territories. YNLR is a non-profit organization that is 100% owned by and works on behalf of the seven Athabasca communities. The traditional territory of the Athabasca Denesuliné encompasses a wide area that includes large portions of northern Saskatchewan, northern Manitoba, southern Nunavut, and southern Northwest Territories.

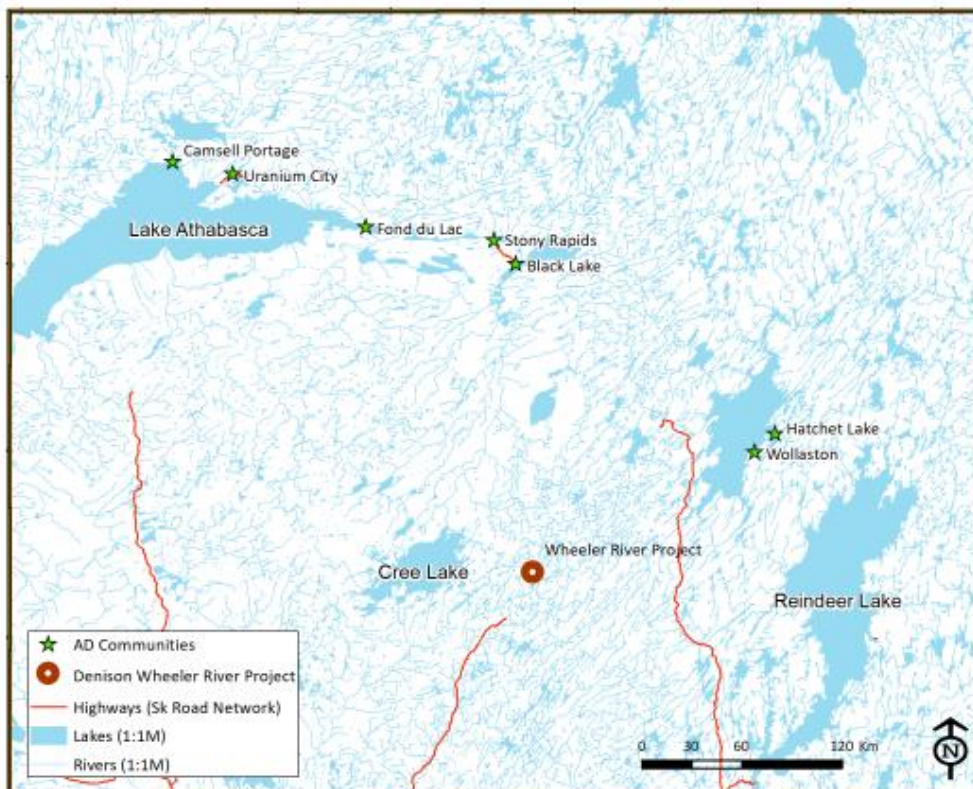


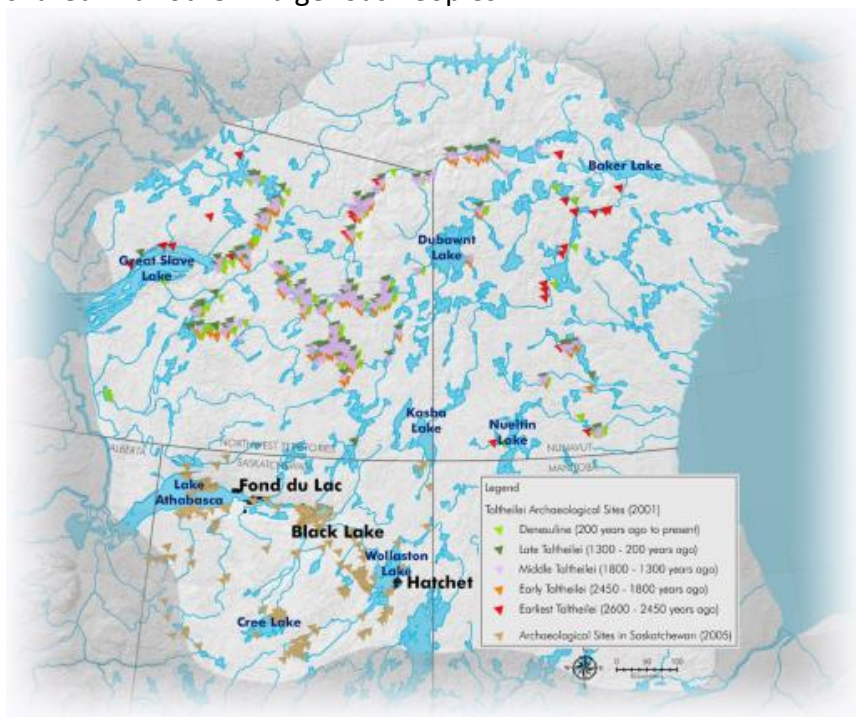
Figure 1: Communities represented by YNLR in relation to the Wheeler River Project Site



CNSC staff have identified Hatchet Lake, Black Lake and Fond du Lac First Nations as having Indigenous and/or Treaty Rights in the proposed Wheeler River Project area. Hatchet Lake First Nation (HLFN) is a signatory of Treaty 10, and their Reserve IR 220 is situated on the southeastern shore of Wollaston Lake, known in Dene as "Axe" Lake approximately 145 km northeast from the Project. The population of HLFN is 1,880 with 1,421 living on reserve. Black Lake First Nation (BLFN), formerly known as Stony Rapids Indian Band, is a signatory of Treaty 8 and is approximately 180 km north of the Project. BLFN members practice hunting, fishing and trapping on a year-round basis. Fond du Lac First Nation (FLFN) is a signatory of Treaty 8 and is approximately 227 km northwest from the Project. FLFN's hunting, fishing and trapping practices continue to this day [15].

HLFN, BLFN and FLFN are members of the Athabasca Denesuliné First Nations. The traditional territory of the Athabasca Denesuliné encompasses a wide area that includes parts of northern Saskatchewan, northern Manitoba, southern Nunavut, and southern Northwest Territories. The Project is situated within the claimed traditional territory of the Athabasca Denesuliné. Furthermore, the Project is located within the requested consultation territory of the Athabasca Denesuliné communities.

Archeological records of the Denesuliné and their closest ancestors, the Taltheilei, correspond very closely to the range of the barren-ground caribou below (Figure 2). The Athabasca Denesuliné continue to define the extent of their territory using this range of the barren-ground caribou as well as the Treaty boundaries. It is within this territory that YNLR members have or assert Aboriginal or Treaty Rights and conduct on-the-land activities such as hunting, fishing, trapping and harvesting. Portions of the traditional territory of the Denesuliné are shared with other Indigenous Peoples.



**Figure 2: Denesuliné related Archeology sites within Nuhenéné**





The proposed Denison Mines Corp. Wheeler River Project is within Treaty 10 territory and is close to the boundaries of Treaty 8. The Athabasca Denesų́liné signed Treaties #8 and # 10 with the Crown in the late 19th and early 20th century. Hatchet Lake Denesų́liné First Nation is within Treaty 10, while the Black Lake and Fond du Lac Denesų́liné First Nations are located within Treaty 8.

Over 500 Denesų́liné members have participated in recording traditional knowledge, oral history and land use and occupancy studies since 1970<sup>2</sup>. Figures 3 and 4 show a sample of Indigenous knowledge and land use by the Athabasca Denesų́liné, excluding archaeology sites, within the Wheeler River Project area. This information was included in the YNLR study shared with CNSC titled *Exploration of Recorded Athabasca Denesų́liné Traditional Knowledge, Land Use and Occupancy Information in the Vicinity of Denison Mines Wheeler River Project*. Figure 4 shows general categories of traditional activities practiced in the vicinity of the proposed Denison Wheeler River Project, including hunting, fishing (including commercial) and the gathering of berries and medicines. The land is also used for therapeutic purposes, youth gatherings, fish camps and general camping. Accessible areas were utilized year-round for hunting, trapping and fishing, with activities such as berry picking occurring in the summer. Detailed valued components for these activities are listed below.

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<sup>2</sup> The ADKLUO data shared by the YNLRO only shows a portion of land use as existing datasets are not comprehensive and do not include all users and all areas. Studies covered various areas within the traditional territory of the Athabasca Denesų́liné, but not all of the territory. Many studies were undertaken to elicit information to a specific area or project.

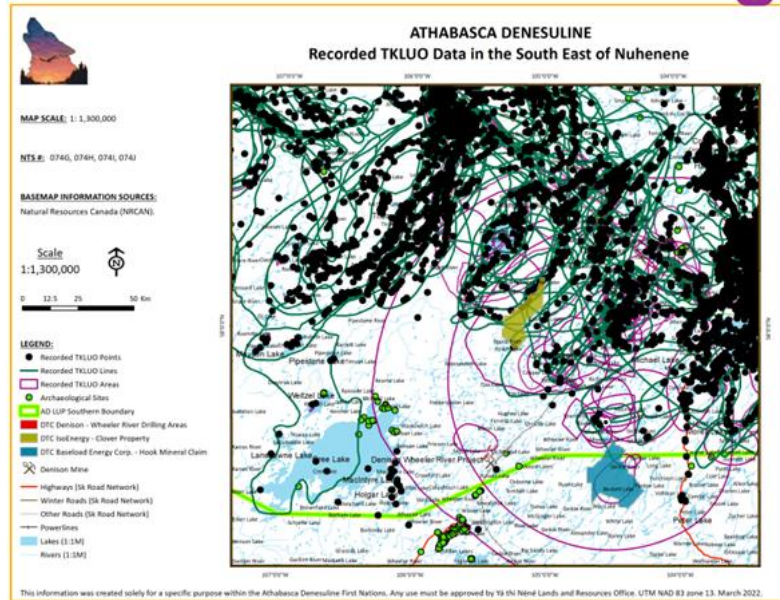


Figure 3: Athabasca Denesųliné recorded Athabasca Denesųliné Knowledge, Land Use and Occupancy data in the southeast part of the Nuhenéné

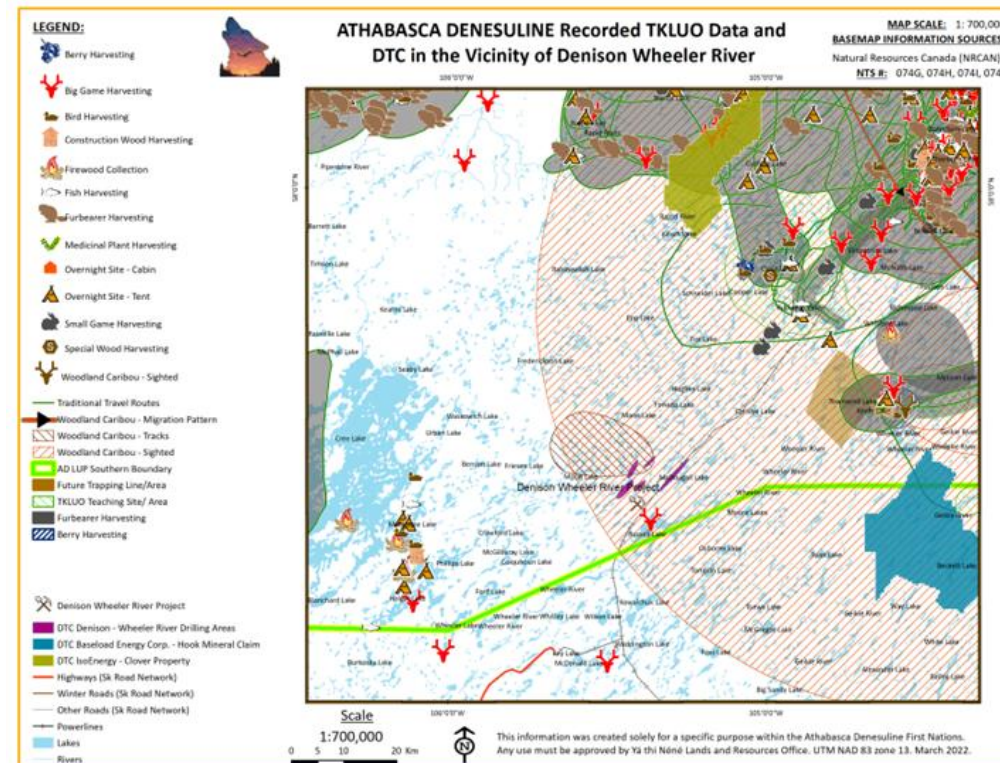


Figure 4: Local map recorded of Athabasca Denesųliné Knowledge, Land Use and Occupancy information in the vicinity of Denison Mines Wheeler River Project



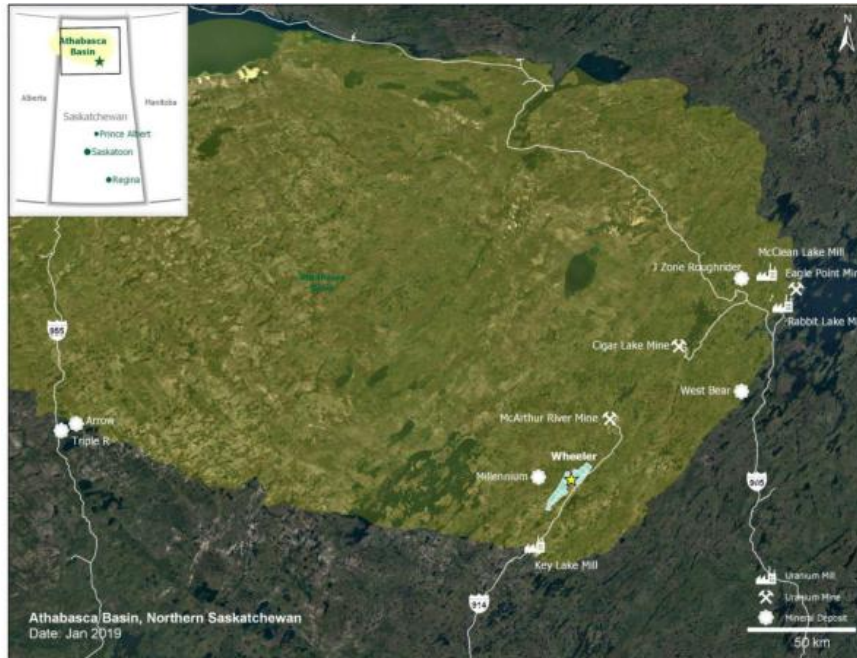


Hatchet Lake Denesų́liné First Nation is the closest AD First Nation to the Project and is located approximately 150 km to the northeast, downstream of the Project. YNLR asserts that Treaty Rights are practiced downstream within the LSA and RSA of the Wheeler River Project in Northern Saskatchewan and that the Project Area overlaps the southern extent of the AD's traditional territory, in Nuhenéné. The information shared with CNSC by YNLR (in Denison's EIS and in meetings) indicates that AD members access and use the RSA for hunting, fishing, trapping and gathering activities, and that there are important cultural and spiritual sites located in the RSA. Barren-ground Caribou (*Rangifer tarandus groenlandicus*) is one of the most important resources for the AD people and members continue to harvest Barren-ground Caribou for subsistence and cultural purposes. Although the Barren-ground Caribou herds have not travelled into the Project Area recently, the project area does fall within the recognized range of Barren-ground Caribou. YNLR also indicated that other large game species harvested in the RSA include Woodland Caribou, Moose, and Black Bear, while smaller game harvested include Porcupine and Rabbit. Fishing harvesting also takes place primarily within the RSA, although some fishing was also present downstream of the Project in the LSA in the Wheeler River and Keefe Lake in the RSA. Other traditional land use activities practiced by YNLR members in the RSA include the gathering of berries, medicines, firewood and use of overnight sites as well as historical travel routes. Current sites, such as cabins, were not documented in the Project area or LSA. Camping sites and navigation routes were documented based on historic use of the LSA by the Black Lake and Hatchet Lake Denesų́liné First Nations.

The land use insights presented within this summary are based on an amalgamation of existing information from YNLR's IK Land Use and Occupancy database, which originates from a variety of projects varying in purpose, each with differing objectives and geographic scope. Consequently, these insights were not specific to the Project and not based on a focused Athabasca Denesų́liné Knowledge, Land Use, and Occupancy Study which may have generated additional insights.

## 2. Denison Wheeler River Project Setting

The Wheeler River Project is a proposed in situ recovery (ISR) uranium mine and processing plant in northern Saskatchewan. It is located in Saskatchewan's Athabasca Basin approximately 4 km west of Highway 914. The Project falls within the boundaries of Treaty 10, the Nuhtsiye-kwi Benéne (Ancestral Lands) of ERFN, the homeland of the Métis, and within the traditional territories of the Dene, Cree and Métis peoples. Treaty 10 (1906) covers the northeast quadrant of Saskatchewan and is bordered by Manitoba and Northwest Territories to the east and north, while the south and west border extends to central Saskatchewan and Alberta. Treaty 10 (1906) includes the signatories of seven First Nations and contains a provision that establishes treaty rights to hunt, fish and trap throughout the Treaty territory.



**Figure 5: Map Showing the Denison Wheeler River Project Site in Relation to Other Mine Sites in Northern Saskatchewan**

The Denison Project location is divided into three separate areas:

1. **Site study area (SSA):** The SSA (referred to as Project Area in the EIS) is the Wheeler River Project footprint (the area where all project activities are proposed to be undertaken, including facilities, buildings, and infrastructure).
2. **Local study area (LSA):** The LSA is the area existing outside the SSA, where measurable changes to the environment may be anticipated due to project activities. These changes may occur during any phase of the project, either through normal activities or from possible accidents or malfunctions.
3. **Regional study area (RSA):** The RSA is the maximum area within which the potential effects of the project may interact with the effects of other projects and activities (or anticipated projects and activities), resulting in a potential for cumulative effects.

The Project Area's direct physical disturbance covers an area approximately 1.75 km<sup>2</sup>, (not including the airstrip), while the LSA is approximately 84 km in length by 42 km in width, covering approximately 2,620 km<sup>2</sup>, and the RSA has a maximum length of 338 km and maximum width of 163 km, covering approximately 29,754 km<sup>2</sup>.



The Project site is located in the Boreal Shield Ecozone and contains the Phoenix and Gryphon uranium deposits. This area is typical of the continental sub-arctic region, characterized by short, cool and moist summers with cold, dry winters. The Wheeler River site has been shaped by glacial and fluvial processes, with drumlins and eskers separated by lowland areas of well drained glaciofluvial outwash sands and gravels and associated wetlands. The ground surface elevation in the area varies from 494-600 metres above sea level (masl) for the Project Area and 520-550 masl for the Phoenix deposit range.

The Project is proposed to be located in the Athabasca Basin of Saskatchewan, 4 km west of Highway 914. This falls within the Northern Saskatchewan Administration District, which includes approximately 250,000 km<sup>2</sup> (44% of Saskatchewan's land area) and approximately 36,000 residents. No communities are located within the immediate proximity (<100 km) of the Wheeler River property. Ground access to the project is through Highway 914, with control managed by the Cameco Key Lake Operation gatehouse.

The proposed Project site is located within trapping blocks N-16 and N-18 as part of the partitioning of fur conservation areas in 1946. The area has been used by outfitters and cabin lease holders, fishing, hunting and harvesting by resource users as well as for navigation and travel along waterbodies and roads by Indigenous peoples, including the Nations and communities represented by YNLR. The primary land uses within the region include fishing, hunting, harvesting, mining and exploration.

The LSA and RSA are accessed and used by Indigenous Nations and communities, including members of YNLR, for traditional and/or cultural and ceremonial activities. The primary Indigenous land use activities carried out within the LSA and broader RSA by Indigenous land users include hunting, trapping, fishing, and berry picking. There are also recreational and traditional resource user leases in the LSA and RSA. In addition, there are also important cultural heritage sites in the LSA and RSA, such as archaeological sites, historic travel and canoe routes, seasonal camps and traplines, all of which have cultural significance to Indigenous Nations and communities. All the potentially impacted Indigenous Nations and communities have identified the importance of protecting the existing environment within the LSA and RSA, so that they can continue to hunt, trap, and fish and carry out their traditional activities safely into the future.



### 3. Effects Pathways

Potential effects on the rights and interests of Indigenous Nations and communities may occur through effects pathways that include:

- Biophysical effects (effects on wildlife, aquatic resources, fish and fish habitat, vegetation and ecosystems)
- Access to lands and waters relied upon to access resources required for the exercise of rights
- Cultural/spiritual/experiential (activities and/or behaviours that may disrupt or cause disturbances related to activities carried out for the exercise of rights)
- Governance, stewardship and decision-making on culturally important lands

The assessment of effects to determine the potential impacts to rights considers valued components where quantifiable analyses have been conducted and contained in the CNSC Environmental Assessment Report. However, when assessing potential impacts to rights, some effects pathways are assessed qualitatively as not all effects have a quantifiable and related valued component(s).

#### 3.1 Changes in the Quantity and Quality of Resources Relating to the Exercise of Rights

The Indigenous and/or treaty rights exercised in the Project area include fishing, hunting, trapping and gathering. The exercise of Indigenous and/or treaty rights related to changes in the quantity and quality of resources related to the exercise of rights is directly influenced by environmental conditions related to aquatic resources, fish and fish habitat, wildlife, soils and vegetation and ecosystems. The exercise of YNLR rights is also informed by the culture, history, and protocols of the Nations and individual members that YNLR represents.

##### 3.1.1 Changes in the Quantity and Quality of Resources Relating to the Exercise of Fishing Rights

The right to fish is extremely important to YNLR members for both sustenance and cultural purposes. During consultation, YNLR members identified general activities related to practicing fishing within their traditional territories. A traditional knowledge study provided to the CNSC, identified values related to fishing including lake trout, walleye (pickerel), northern pike, arctic grayling, suckers and burbot through gill nets, hook and line fishing, fish weir captures and commercial fishing sites. Lake Whitefish is a preferred fish species because it is easily smoked. Both the Community Based Environmental Monitoring Program and the socio-economic baseline assessment for the Tazi Twé Hydroelectric Project EIS, recorded harvests of fish in locations close to communities and distant from the Project area.



Fishing for sustenance has been a part of the local, social and cultural practices as part of the traditional life in the Athabasca region. Fishing harvesting takes place primarily within the RSA at Keefe Lake and near Wollaston Lake, although some fishing was also present downstream of the Project in the LSA in the Wheeler River. Overall, limited fishing has occurred in the LSA by YNLR, to date.

YNLR shared concerns, particularly regarding personal exposure to contamination of surface and groundwater, soils, waste sources, and fish species. These apprehensions could lead to avoidance of areas adjacent to the project including Whitefish Lake, Russell Lake, Wheeler River, Geikie River and further downstream at Wollaston Lake and potentially limit access to treaty-protected activities such as fishing for traditional purposes. Potential impacts to water and the aquatic environment that may impact fish and aquatic species are concerns brought forward by YNLR to both Denison and the CNSC as part of the regulatory review and consultation process.

Furthermore, YNLR expresses fears related to uranium exploration and mining contamination of water and traditional foods. These perceived risks could impact culturally important natural resources, potentially leading residents to avoid accessing the general area. Ensuring the protection of ecological systems that support traditional land use activities such as fishing is crucial, including considerations during the decommissioning of the mines. YNLR also expressed concerns with Denison's representation of the Dene's key traditional and cultural activities. Particularly that the Athabasca Déné do not utilize the area around the proposed Project for traditional purposes.

Potential impacts to surface water quality and quantity, fish and fish habitat, and potential impacts to sediment quality and invertebrate communities may ultimately lead to potential impacts to YNLR members' right to fish. CNSC staff have evaluated Denison's assessment of Project-related impacts and conducted an independent assessment of potential impacts that may arise from the Project with the findings discussed below.

### **3.1.1.1 Assessment of Project Effects on Surface Water Quality and Quantity as they Pertain to the Exercise of Fishing Rights**

CNSC staff reviewed the assessment of predicted residual effects on the aquatic environment due to changes in surface water quantity and quality from Project-related effects.

For surface water quantity, assessed Project-related effects included Project overprinting of drainage areas, surface water taking and surface water discharge. CNSC staff reviewed Denison's conclusions that with the implementation of appropriate design and mitigation measures, and the effects being characterized as low magnitude, localized, and fully reversible, the residual effects on surface water quantity are predicted to be not significant. Denison's



conservative assessment determined that the largest predicted changes to stream flow is limited to 3% while changes in lake water levels were predicted to be negligible and remain below the natural range of variability considering waterbodies immediately downstream of the Project facility.

For surface water quality, assessed Project-related effects included mobilization of suspended materials, controlled discharge to the receiving environment, and long-term transport of groundwater solutes to Whitefish Lake in a future centuries' scenario. CNSC staff reviewed Denison's conclusions that with the implementation of appropriate mitigation measures, and the effects being characterized as low magnitude, localized, and fully reversible, the residual effects on surface water quality from mobilization of sediment and long-term transport of groundwater solutes are predicted to be not significant. CNSC staff verified Denison's determination that surface water quality in the receiving environment is likely to be moderately adversely impacted by the controlled discharge of effluent from the Project throughout the operation and decommissioning phases. However, residual effects are expected to be localized and fully reversible following post-decommissioning, and the aquatic environment will likely be resilient to potential changes. Surface water quality is an intermediate VC and is assessed further as a KI of potential residual adverse effects significance determinations for the receptor VCs Fish and Fish Habitat, Sediment Quality and Benthic Invertebrates, and Fish Health.

CNSC staff reviewed Denison's models and predictions for effects to surface water quantity and quality considering input from other federal departments, provincial ministries, Indigenous Nations and communities and the public. CNSC staff confirmed that Denison conducted a sufficient analysis of these effects to determine predicted levels of risk, however CNSC staff have proposed an EA Condition ([Table 12.1](#)) that Denison collect additional baseline data and reduce uncertainty in modelling of risk predictions (EA2). CNSC staff reviewed Denison's identified mitigation and follow-up monitoring program measures for the identified effects and have found that they are adequate.

### **3.1.1.2 Assessment of Project Effects on Fish and Fish Habitat as they Pertain to the Exercise of Fishing Rights**

CNSC staff conclude the Project is not likely to cause significant adverse effects on fish and fish habitat from changes in fish habitat, changes in flows or water levels in lakes and rivers, or from changes in surface water quality due to the mobilization of suspended materials, controlled discharge to the receiving environment, or the long-term transport of groundwater solutes to Whitefish Lake in a future centuries scenario so long as mitigation measures and follow-up program measures are implemented.





Taking into account the implementation of mitigation measures and recommended follow-up program measures, CNSC staff conclude the Project is not likely to cause significant adverse effects on fish health from changes in water and sediment quality, and changes in constituent concentrations in fish tissues due to the mobilization of suspended materials, controlled discharge to the receiving environment, or the long-term transport of groundwater solutes to Whitefish Lake in a future centuries scenario. Overall, changes to fish and fish habitat are expected to be non-significant. Fish and Fish Habitat has a high resiliency with respect to physical disturbance in the context of a small, localized area being altered or disturbed. It is not expected that the ecological integrity of the areas adjacent to the infrastructure will be affected and, as such, will provide for sources of re-distribution and recolonization.

To ensure that the aforementioned assessment conclusions remain valid, CNSC staff recommended that the Commission include the following EA Condition, should it issue a licence. If accepted, Denison will be required to address EA Condition EA2 in Table 12.1 of the Environmental Assessment Report related to IRs carried over from the EA Review into licensing. CNSC's assessment conclusions are contingent on the establishment of these EA Conditions.

### **3.1.1.3 Assessment of Project Effects on Sediment Quality as they Pertain to the Exercise of Fishing Rights**

CNSC staff reviewed the assessment of predicted residual effects on sediment quality and benthic invertebrates due to change in sediment quantity and particle size, change in sediment quality (chemical), change in aquatic habitat (area), and change in water level or flow. CNSC staff reviewed Denison's conclusions that with the implementation of appropriate mitigation measures and the effects being characterized as low magnitude, localized, and fully reversible, the residual effects on sediment quality and benthic invertebrates are predicted to be not significant. CNSC staff verified Denison's determination that surface water quality in the receiving environment is likely to be moderately adversely impacted by the controlled discharge of effluent from the Project throughout the operation and decommissioning phases and that there are potential low levels of risk to benthic invertebrates from surface water quality. However, residual effects are expected to be localized and fully reversible following Project post-decommissioning, and benthic invertebrate communities will likely be resilient to potential changes (see Section 6.3.6 for more details).

CNSC staff reviewed Denison's models and predictions for effects to sediment quality and benthic invertebrates and confirmed that Denison conducted a comprehensive analysis of these effects. Furthermore, CNSC staff reviewed Denison's identified mitigation and follow-up monitoring program measures for the identified effects and have found that they are adequate.





CNSC staff also conducted an effects significance determination for the identified effects, taking into account input from other federal departments, provincial ministries, Indigenous Nations and communities and the public, and determined that the identified changes to sediment quality and benthic invertebrates are expected to be not significant due to the implementation of mitigation measures and not cause significant changes to the sediment quality or benthic invertebrate population health.

### **3.1.1.4 Potential Impacts to the Quantity and Quality and Resources Relating to the Exercise of Fishing Rights**

YNLR members rely on fishing to provide a balanced diet of foods that have sustained their People for millennia. In addition, fishing is a cultural practice that allows for the transfer of traditional knowledge from member to member, and generation to generation. Spawning habitat, rearing areas, and areas where fish species congregate at particular times of the year is cultural knowledge that is transferred among the YNLR community that is critical to the sustenance of YNLR members. YNLR members have identified important fishing areas in the RSA used to catch lake whitefish, northern pike, walleye (pickerel), and sucker, although some areas for burbot, arctic grayling and lake trout were identified as well.

Fishing harvesting takes place primarily within the RSA at locations such as Keefe Lake and Wollaston Lake, although some fishing was also present downstream of the Project in the LSA in the Wheeler River, Whitefish Lake, Russell Lake, and the Geikie River. The majority of the locations used by YNLR members to exercise their right to fish are found in the RSA and not found directly at the Project site. Predicted impacts to surface water quantity and quality, fish and fish habitat, and sediment quality and invertebrate communities extend minimally into the LSA and impacts to the areas closest to the Project that have been identified for use by YNLR members are not predicted. However, industrial activities, such as uranium mining, carry social stigma for non-Indigenous and Indigenous Peoples and can create a perception that potential contamination to the environment and residing species from an operating uranium mine may lead to negative health impacts by consuming traditional foods such as fish. This perception can ultimately lead to avoidance behaviours as Indigenous land users seek out fishing areas that are deemed to be more pristine and this disruption may limit areas of use relied upon for sustenance activities and can disrupt transference of cultural knowledge.

All mitigation measures, follow-up activities, and commitments to YNLR proposed by Denison, and CNSC proposed commitments and accommodation measures are contained within Table 1 and Table 4, and referenced in Section 4 of this report that address potential impacts to surface water quantity and quality, fish and fish habitat, and sediment quality and the invertebrate community which could lead to impacts to the rights to fish.



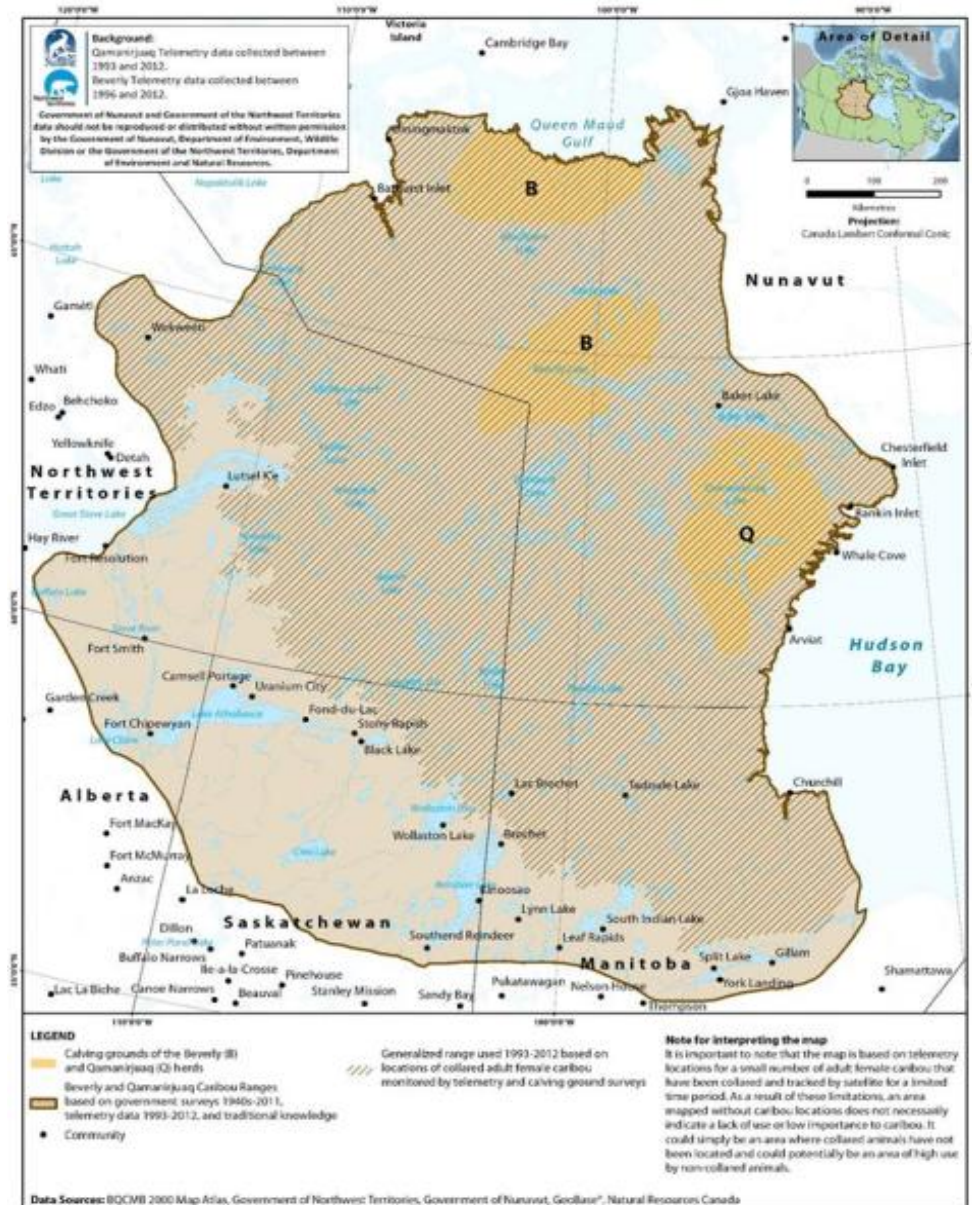
### 3.1.2 Changes in the Quantity and Quality of Resources Relating to the Exercise of Hunting and Trapping Rights

YNLR asserts that treaty rights are practiced downstream of the Wheeler River Project area within the LSA and RSA and that the Project Area overlaps the southern extent of the Athabasca Denesų́liné's (AD) traditional territory, in Nuhenéné. The information shared with CNSC by YNLR (in Denison's EIS and in meetings) indicates that AD members access and use the RSA for hunting and trapping activities, and that there are important cultural and spiritual sites located in the RSA. Barren-ground Caribou (*Rangifer tarandus groenlandicus*) is one of the most important resources for the AD people and members continue to harvest barren-ground caribou for subsistence and cultural purposes. Although the Barren-ground caribou herds have not travelled into the Project Area recently, YNLR also indicated that other large game species harvested in the RSA include woodland caribou, moose, and black bear, while smaller game harvested include porcupine and rabbit.

A review of the local map of recorded AD land use information in the vicinity of the Project illustrated one harvest site of large game on the shore of Russell Lake, and one big harvest site proximal to Key Lake in the LSA. The timeframe of these harvests is not known, though the use was recorded over the last 20 years and may be from a limited interview(s). No other harvests are recorded in the LSA including harvests of small game and woodland caribou. It is acknowledged that harvest documents are a snapshot in time and are not a comprehensive data collection of all community members. Hence additional land use is anticipated to occur but is unknown at this time. Overall, limited contemporary land use by YNLR members has occurred in the LSA. Other large game hunted by the Athabasca Denesų́liné include woodland caribou, black bear and moose. Small game and fowl harvesting include porcupine, rabbit, wild chicken (grouse), ducks, geese and their eggs. Studies show that YNLR members hunt moose at locations closer to their direct communities which are distant from the Project site.

Trapping activities practiced by the Athabasca Denesų́liné for animal fur includes beaver, muskrat, marten, fisher, mink and otter. An Athabasca Denesų́liné member has identified a registered trapping block near Keefe Lake with plans to extend the block further and another member has considered extension of their block but may experience conflicts from southern users.

During consultation, YNLR emphasized the importance of hunting and trapping, including the importance of hunting barren-ground caribou to the culture and subsistence ways of life for YNLR members. YNLR members typically hunt and harvest caribou between October and mid-May in the portion of Nuhenéné in Saskatchewan. The barren-ground caribou range defines the extent of the traditional territories of the Athabasca Denesų́liné. The range of barren-ground caribou can be found in Figure 6.



**Figure 6: Beverly and Qamanirjuaq caribou ranges based on government surveys, tracking collared cow by telemetry and traditional and local knowledge of caribou harvesters**

YNLR questioned the adequacy of the EIS in addressing project-specific concerns related to Woodland Caribou range and Moose. Community Elders express their worry that future generations may not experience an abundance of wildlife. They emphasized the need to consider IK in the protection of Woodland Caribou. YNLR raised concern that given all the residual effects noted across the VCs contained in the EIS that impacts to furbearing wildlife species was noted as non-significant. YNLR indicated they disagree with this assessment and conclusion in the EA report.



YNLR raised concerns to Denison that the Woodland Caribou Offset Plan and restorations are insufficient to YNLR members given the methodology used and lack of details provided on where the offsets will occur. In addition, YNLR has raised concerns of the cumulative impacts from linear development and the impacts to caribou and caribou habitat in their traditional territory.

YNLR has emphasized the lack of significance associated with the residual and cumulative effects assessments of all ecological VCs. YNLR raised concerns that Denison did not undertake project specific work of the information shared with Denison by YNLR, specifically around woodland caribou and moose ranges for the RSA. Some community Elders are concerned that future generations will not have an abundance of wildlife required for harvesting and want to ensure that YNLR IK is considered in the protection of woodland caribou and their habitat. YNLR also firmly believes that the addition of the Denison mine, along with its associated disturbances, will have cumulative effects on wildlife, especially woodland caribou. YNLR is concerned about the lack of significance associated with the residual and cumulative effects assessments of all ecological VCs. YNLR has also expressed concerns around linear disruptions impacting moose, furbearers, raptors, migratory breeding birds, other species at risk.

Potential impacts to furbearers, moose, woodland caribou and other species of importance noted by YNLR members may ultimately lead to potential impacts to YNLR members' right to hunt and trap. CNSC staff have evaluated Denison's assessment of project-related impacts and conducted an independent assessment of potential impacts that may arise from the project with the findings discussed below.

### **3.1.2.1 Assessment of Project Effects on Furbearers as they Pertain to the Exercise of Hunting and Trapping Rights**

CNSC staff reviewed Denison's effect assessment for alteration and/or loss of habitat to pine marten, mink, and muskrat, and confirmed that Denison conducted a comprehensive analysis of these effects and that identified mitigation and follow-up monitoring program measures are adequate.

Wolverines need large, undisturbed areas to survive. The proposed Project may affect about 8.2% of their habitat in the region, but it's unclear if this will impact their ability to maintain healthy populations. Since wolverines are a species at risk, the CNSC asked Denison for more details on how the Project might overlap with wolverine home ranges and whether enough suitable habitat will remain. Denison replied that no wolverines were seen during earlier studies, and much of the Project area was already disturbed. They believe any impacts to wolverine will be small due to the species' low density and large home ranges. Denison has committed to monitoring wildlife, including wolverines, but hasn't yet provided full details of their monitoring plans. The CNSC has proposed a condition that requires Denison to submit a monitoring plan for species at risk, including wolverine, to ensure any negative effects are



tracked and managed properly. Considering this information, and the proposed EA condition, CNSC staff concluded that Denison's mitigation and follow-up monitoring program measures for the identified effects on wolverine are adequate.

### **3.1.2.2 Assessment of Project Effects on Moose as they Pertain to the Exercise of Hunting and Trapping Rights**

CNSC staff reviewed Denison's effects assessment for alteration and/or loss of habitat to moose and acknowledged the concerns from YNLR about declining moose populations. CNSC staff requested more information from Denison on how to mitigate any residual Project impacts. Denison responded that mitigations to minimize potential effects on moose include minimizing the extent of the Project Area and associated disturbances to the extent practicable, standard mitigation measures to minimize air emissions, dust, light and noise, exclusion fencing around waste pads and ponds, and measures to minimize direct mortality from vehicle collisions through driver training and safety practices. Moreover, CNSC staff advised Denison to clarify how IK on moose calving sites and corridors in the RSA is incorporated into the residual effects assessment. Denison explained that the sites identified by Indigenous Nations and communities, including YNLR, through sharing of IK were explicitly considered in the assessment as indicated by their identification as overlapping with the Terrestrial RSA, however, the areas were not expressly discussed in the residual effects assessment because there is no anticipated spatial overlap of those areas with direct or indirect Project effects. Considering this information, CNSC staff concluded that Denison's effect assessment, mitigation and follow-up monitoring program measures for the identified effects on Moose are adequate and the effects to Moose are predicted to be non-significant.

### **3.1.2.3 Assessment of Project Effects on Caribou as they Pertain to the Exercise of Hunting and Trapping Rights**

Denison conducted surveys to detect woodland caribou presence but didn't specifically study how woodland caribou use habitat across seasons or during sensitive life stages like calving. CNSC asked for more detail, and Denison responded with updated maps showing seasonal habitat use and potential for feeding, shelter, and calving. The updated information provided by Denison helped address concerns raised by YNLR.

CNSC noted that forest fires can damage woodland caribou habitat, which may take decades to recover and questioned Denison whether certain regenerating forest types are suitable year-round for woodland caribou. Denison indicated caribou were observed in these regenerating forest areas and included them as available habitat. Denison also considered habitat connectivity in their analysis and indicated woodland caribou can move freely across the landscape, with no known barriers or corridors in the Project area.





CNSC and ECCC raised concerns about noise from the Project's airstrip. Denison expects approximately five flights per week will result from the Project being developed and has committed to minimize wildlife disturbance by following best practices, including adjusting flight paths when needed.

Denison estimated the Project adds only 0.001% disturbance to the broader woodland caribou range. They used a 500 m buffer around Project features to assess habitat loss, in line with federal guidance. CNSC noted that not all disturbances may be visible in satellite imagery but acknowledged Denison's efforts to study how linear features affect wildlife. Denison plans to restore old roads and trails as part of woodland caribou habitat offset efforts<sup>3</sup>.

CNSC staff reviewed Denison's assessment of risks to woodland caribou, especially from consuming potentially contaminated lichen, which makes up most of their diet. Lichen can absorb airborne pollutants from up to 40 km away, so CNSC requested Denison explain how this was factored into their analysis. Denison indicated their environmental study showed low risk from contaminants, but CNSC noted the model used for diet contained only 20% lichen. Since caribou may eat up to 70% lichen, CNSC requested more evidence to determine woodland caribou have a low risk from contaminants to ensure woodland caribou and their primary food source would be protected. Denison updated their analysis model using a 70% lichen diet and found that even with higher exposure, radiation and contaminant levels stayed well below environmental guidelines. This indicates that woodland caribou are expected to be safe from dietary exposure to Project-related contaminants.

Considering this information, CNSC staff concluded that Denison's assessment and mitigation measures for the identified effects on woodland caribou mortality are adequate.

### **3.1.2.4 Potential Impacts to the Quality and Quantity of Resources Relating to the Exercise of Hunting and Trapping Rights**

YNLR members rely on hunting and trapping to provide a balanced diet of foods that have sustained their People for millennia. In addition, hunting and trapping is a cultural practice that allows for the transfer of traditional knowledge from member to member, and generation to generation. Moose browse habitat, woodland caribou migration routes, and where furbearers

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<sup>3</sup> YNLR's analysis of woodland caribou habitat applied the 500 m buffer around all known linear disturbances (i.e., cutlines, etc.) consistent with directions from the federal Boreal Caribou Recovery Plan. Denison's application included the 500 m buffer around project features only which resulted in a discrepancy between YNLR's and Denison's estimate of impacts to caribou habitat.



will travel and use important habitat is cultural knowledge that is transferred among the YNLR community that is critical to the sustenance of YNLR members. YNLR members have identified important hunting and trapping areas in the LSA and RSA used to harvest deer, moose, woodland caribou, muskrat, mink and many other species such as otter and spruce grouse.

AD members use the RSA for hunting and trapping activities including an identified registered trapping block near Keefe Lake as an area of use as well as a big game hunting location near Key Lake. Many of the locations used by AD members to exercise their right to hunt and trap are found within the RSA, and not directly at the Project Site. Predicted impacts to furbearers, moose, and woodland caribou are expected to extend minimally into the LSA and impacts to areas in the RSA closest to the Project Site that have been identified for use by YNLR members are not predicted. However, industrial activities, such as uranium mining, carry social stigma for Indigenous Peoples and can create a perception that potential contamination to the environment and residing species from an operating uranium mine may lead to negative health impacts by consuming important traditional foods such as moose and caribou. This perception can ultimately lead to avoidance behaviours as YNLR land users may seek out hunting and trapping areas that are deemed to be more pristine and this disruption may limit areas of use relied upon for sustenance activities and also disrupt transference of cultural knowledge.

Mitigation measures, follow up activities and commitments to YNLR proposed by Denison, and CNSC commitments and proposed accommodation measures are contained within Table 1 and Table 4 and referenced in Section 4 of this report that address potential impacts to furbearers, moose and woodland caribou which could lead to impacts to the rights to hunt and trap.

### **3.1.3 Changes in the Quantity and Quality of Resources Relating to the Exercise of Gathering Rights**

YNLR has identified that they continue to practice gathering foods, materials and medicines within their traditional territory. YNLR's traditional uses of forest plant species are numerous. Members continue to collect wood to heat their homes throughout the region. Trees and plants have cultural significance, including medicinal, ceremonial and spiritual uses. Members actively use good berry picking spots around the Athabasca Denesųliné communities and on traplines. They also partake in berry-picking opportunistically while out on the land. Beyond plant gathering, residents of Black Lake report gathering duck eggs in the spring. Both the Community Based Environmental Monitoring Program and the socio-economic baseline assessment for the Tazi Twé Hydroelectric Project EIS, recorded harvests of gathering including berries, medicines, wood, etc. in locations close to communities and distant from the Project. According to the map provided by YNLR in their land use study, there was a berry harvesting location near Close Lake, medicinal plant harvesting near Waterbury Lake and firewood collection at Keefe Lake, Whitford Lake and around Cree Lake including special wood harvesting at Close Lake. The right to gather is extremely important to YNLR members for both sustenance and cultural purposes.





Traditional foods, plants and medicines play a central role in YNLR members' cultural, traditional and spiritual practices. Any impacts to culturally important plants and vegetation have been noted as concerns and issues that YNLR has brought forward to both Denison and the CNSC as part of the regulatory review process.

YNLR has raised concerns that the proposed Project may adversely impact vegetation and plant species. They are particularly concerned that changes to vegetation may adversely impact their ability to harvest traditional and medicinal plants and alter their experience of traditional gathering activities. YNLR's concerns centred, specifically, on the Project impacts to area soils in the LSA and RSA, as the extensive seismic network from exploration and proposed Project in Northern Saskatchewan may adversely impact soils, vegetation and wetlands, particularly when assessing edge effects of fragmented habitats.

YNLR has also expressed fears relating to uranium exploration and mining contamination of traditional foods. These perceived risks could impact culturally important natural resources, potentially leading residents to avoid accessing the general area. Ensuring the protection of ecological systems that support traditional land use activities is crucial, including considerations during the decommissioning of the mines. Due to uncertainties around Denison's proposed monitoring plans, YNLR wants to be involved in the design, implementation and reporting of all monitoring programs for the Project.

Potential impacts to soil quantity and quality, and vegetation and ecosystems may lead to potential impacts to YNLR members' right to gather. CNSC staff have evaluated Denison's assessment of Project-related impacts and conducted an independent assessment of potential impacts that may arise from the Project with the findings discussed below.

### **3.1.3.1 Assessment of Project Effects on Soil Quantity and Quality they it Pertain to the Exercise of Gathering Rights**

CNSC staff reviewed Denison's effects assessment to soil quantity and quality and confirmed that Denison conducted a comprehensive analysis of these effects and that identified mitigation measures are adequate. CNSC staff sought clarification regarding Denison's follow-up monitoring of soil stockpiles. Since Denison plans to use stockpiled soil in reclamation activities, CNSC staff asked whether Denison's periodic monitoring includes analysis of contaminants of potential concern (COPCs) that could be deposited from dust-generating Project activities. Denison clarified that monitoring of COPCs in soil stockpiles is not planned, but the need could be revisited in case COPCs in sources are detected at concentrations exceeding predictions. In addition, Denison proposed to support reclamation research including investigations into soil conditions which may include analysis of COPCs as warranted. CNSC staff verified in the appendix 10A assessment that COPC concentrations in soil on-site from atmospheric deposition are predicted to be below soil quality guidelines for protection of human health and environmental health. In addition, Denison proposed to support research on soil preparation



techniques and amendments to inform the revegetation strategy. CNSC staff note that this research will support reclamation given that soil suitability is expected to be poor, due to the predominance of sandy soils characterized by a thin surface organic layer and low fertility. Considering this information, CNSC staff concluded that Denison's follow-up monitoring program measures for the identified effects are adequate and the effects to soil quantity and quality are predicted to be non-significant.

### **3.1.3.2 Assessment of Project Effects on Vegetation and Ecosystems as they Pertain to the Exercise of Gathering Rights**

CNSC staff reviewed Denison's effects assessment to the areal extent of habitat types and confirmed that Denison conducted a comprehensive analysis of these effects and that identified mitigation and follow-up monitoring program measures are adequate.

CNSC staff reviewed Denison's assessment of contaminants in plants, especially those eaten by woodland caribou and people, such as lichen and blueberries. They noted that lichen can absorb airborne pollutants, not just soil-based ones, and often had higher contaminant levels than blueberries in past studies. CNSC asked Denison to include air deposition as a key exposure pathway for lichen, which Denison confirmed was already considered and updated their documentation to reflect this.

During the environmental assessment, concerns about berry quality were raised. CNSC confirmed that Denison's assessment looked at all major sources of pollution and found no harmful levels of radiation or COPCs in vegetation, including berries, during any phase of the Project or in the long term. Denison committed to ongoing monitoring, including testing blueberries, and will update risk assessments as new data becomes available.

Considering this information, CNSC staff concluded that Denison's mitigation and follow-up monitoring program measures for the identified effects are adequate and the effects to vegetation and ecosystems are predicted to be non-significant.

### **3.1.3.3 Potential Impacts to the Quantity and Quality and Resources Relating to the Exercise of Gathering Rights**

Members of YNLR have used and continue to use their traditional lands and occupancy areas to gather for subsistence, medicinal and cultural purposes. Gathering is integral to maintaining cultural ties and strengthening communities and remains a cultural practice that enables the transfer of traditional knowledge from member to member and from generation to generation.

AD members actively use good berry picking spots around the Athabasca Denesųliné traditional territory and on traplines, such as near Keefe Lake, Close Lake, Waterbury Lake, Whitford Lake and around Cree Lake. Predicted impacts to soils and vegetation are expected at the Project site and may extend into the LSA but are not anticipated to impact areas that YNLR members have



identified as traditional plant harvesting locations. Nevertheless, industrial activities, such as uranium mining, carry social stigma for Indigenous Peoples and can create perceptions an operating uranium mine may lead to negative health impacts via contamination to the environment and resident species through the consumption of important traditional foods, such as berries and medicines. These perceptions can lead, ultimately, to avoidance behaviours as YNLR land users seek out gathering areas deemed more pristine. This disruption may limit areas of use that were relied upon for sustenance and cultural activities and disrupt transference of cultural knowledge.

Mitigation measures, follow up activities and commitments to YNLR proposed by Denison, and CNSC commitments and proposed accommodation measures are contained within Table 1 and Table 4, and referenced in Section 4 of this report that address potential impacts to soil quantity and quality, and vegetation and ecosystems which could lead to impacts to the rights to gather.

### **3.2 Changes in Access to Areas of Cultural Importance and Areas Containing Resources that Support the Exercise of Rights**

The Indigenous and/or treaty rights exercised in the Project area rely on the ability for Indigenous Nations and communities to access land to exercise their rights. The exercise of Indigenous and/or treaty rights related to changes in access to areas of cultural importance and areas containing resources which support the exercise of rights is directly influenced by the ability to access lands and resources for fishing, hunting, trapping, gathering and accessing areas of cultural and spiritual importance for cultural and spiritual practices. The exercise of rights is also informed by each Indigenous Nation's culture, history, and protocols.

#### **3.2.1.1 Changes in Access to Areas of Cultural Importance and Access to Areas Containing Resources that Support the Exercise of Rights**

Unimpeded and undisturbed access to territory is critical to ensuring cultural continuity. Cultural continuity includes resources and practices such as sense of place, spirituality, ceremonies, knowledge transmission, place names, travel routes and habitation sites. Every year, the barren-ground caribou migrate south into the forests of Nuhenéné for shelter and food. During this time, YNLR communities begin their yearly harvest. Communities start harvesting caribou in December when they enter the boreal forest, and the hunt continues until the caribou migrate back north to the calving grounds in the barren lands above the treeline. The migration north begins in March and continues until mid-May. These movement patterns reflect the interconnection between the AD and the land and how AD culture, history and way of life are interwoven with the movements and the health of the Beverly, Ahiak and Qamanijuaq barren-ground caribou herds. As such, changes in access to these areas has the capacity to impact cultural continuity for the AD.



For YNLR, key cultural areas are concentrated mainly around Wollaston Lake, spanning across the Athabasca basin. Important sites were recorded by YNLR in the vicinity of the Project including overnight (tent) sites near Holgar and McIntyre lakes located within the LSA and east of Cree Lake. A network of traditional travel routes is documented in the LSA through the Geike River, Wheeler River, Keefe Lake and up through Whitford Lake. Travel by a Hatchet Lake First Nation Elder was identified from Hatchet Lake to the area near Russell Lake and the Highrock River was described as an area the Nation has connections to. Also, the area towards Cree Lake is an area where the Dene travelled. Current sites, such as cabins, were not documented in the LSA. Camping tent sites and navigation were documented based on historic use of the LSA by the Black Lake and Hatchet Lake First Nations.

YNLR has expressed concerns about Denison's representation of the Dene's key traditional and cultural activities, particularly the notion that the AD do not use the area around the Project for traditional purposes. YNLR shared concerns of pressures to natural resources stemming from cumulative effects resulting from various industrial developments across the broader region. These cumulative impacts have left residents with shrinking usable areas to exercise their rights. YNLR specifically emphasizes the importance of reflecting Treaty Rights related to fishing, hunting, and trapping in the EIS, and that potential adverse impacts from the Project or indirect effects of human activity within the Project Area could disrupt both Aboriginal and Treaty rights related to hunting, fishing, trapping, and gathering for future generations and, by extension, cultural continuity.

YNLR has also expressed fears relating to uranium exploration and mining contamination of traditional foods. These perceived risks could impact culturally important natural resources, potentially leading residents to avoid accessing the general area. Ensuring the protection of ecological systems that support traditional land use activities is crucial, including considerations during the decommissioning of the mines.

YNLR has concerns regarding impacts to land access and the ability to use the land for traditional practices including hunting and trapping due to the Project, environmental contamination, cumulative impacts from multiple projects and increased hunting activity due to Project workers also hunting in the area. YNLR has also shared concerns about more vehicles being on the road causing noise and dust to negatively affect wildlife in the area. In addition, with the growing number of projects and the anticipated growth of non-Indigenous hunting in the area, YNLR is concerned whether they will be able to continue to practice their method of food gathering in a safe manner.

### **3.2.1.2 Potential Impacts to Indigenous Land and Resource Use**

CNSC staff reviewed Denison's assessment of potential effects to Indigenous Land and Resource Use (ILRU) due to decreased access to areas of cultural importance, including areas used for fishing, hunting, trapping and gathering activities, as well as ceremonial practices, during all



phases of the Project and considered the views shared by Indigenous Nations and communities. CNSC staff have also reviewed and considered all YNLR's Indigenous Knowledge that was provided in Denison's EIS, as well as the documents and maps that have been shared directly with CNSC staff that were requested to remain confidential.

CNSC staff have also travelled to the Project site and region on several occasions, visited multiple cultural camps, met and engaged directly with YNLR land users, Elders, and leadership related to the Project to hear and respond to their concerns. In addition, CNSC staff have also reviewed the mitigation measures that were proposed and applied by Denison in atmospheric and acoustic environment, geology and groundwater, aquatic environment, terrestrial environment, and human health sections as well as the mitigation and follow-up commitments made by Denison for the Project that would minimize impacts to YNLR land users.

The Projects effects of potential changes to the physical and cultural heritage of Indigenous Nations and communities, including YNLR, were also assessed for issues related to the loss, change, or alteration of archaeological and heritage resources of the current use of lands and resources for traditional purposes of culturally/spiritually sites. When considering the mitigation measures proposed and applied to Heritage Resources, CNSC staff conclude that there will be no residual adverse effects to changes in access to cultural and heritage resources for ceremonial purposes. With respect to potential effects on other cultural resources including archaeology, and considering YNLR's views, CNSC staff have found that Denison's mitigation measures listed and their commitments to follow the guidance under the *Saskatchewan's Heritage Property Act* (Government of Saskatchewan 2017) pertaining to archaeology sites, built heritage sites and structures of historical and/or architectural interest, and paleontological sites will mitigate any potential effects. Denison has completed the required archaeology assessments in accordance with provincial regulations and has also committed to developing a Heritage Resources Management Plan (HRMP) to help protect and mitigate any potential effects of the Project to Heritage Resources with potentially affected Indigenous Nations and communities to ensure the Project effects are being monitored and appropriately mitigated.

Considering the implementation of mitigation measures and recommended follow-up program measures, as well as input received from Indigenous Nations and communities, including YNLR, CNSC staff conclude that there are grounds for the Commission to find that the Project is not likely to cause significant adverse effects on access to cultural sites of importance to Indigenous peoples.

CNSC staff are committed to working with YNLR to collaborate on follow-up and monitoring activities for the Project, as well as enhance engagement, outreach and information sharing regarding uranium mining and related environmental, health, safety and regulatory measures to mitigate and protect ILRU in the Project Area region and build trust with YNLR members moving forward.



### **3.2.1.3 Discussion on the Potential Impacts to Changes in Access to Areas of Cultural Importance and Access to Areas Containing Resources that Support the Exercise of Rights**

Cultural and spiritual practices are central to Indigenous ways of life and being. The transfer of cultural knowledge in Indigenous culture is shared from generation to generation via stories and these stories speak of important moments, places and activities that describe the origins and history of Indigenous Nations and communities, such as YNLR members.

Key cultural areas for YNLR members are concentrated mainly around Wollaston Lake, spanning across the Athabasca basin. Important sites were recorded by YNLR in the vicinity of the Project including overnight (tent) sites near Holgar and McIntyre lakes, the Geikie River, Keefe Lake, and Cree Lake. Activities happening at these locations include travel routes and overnight tent sites used for traditional purposes. A travel route to the Russell Lake area and the Highrock River was described as an area the Nation has connections to.

While access to the cultural sites, including the historic trail to Russell Lake and the Highrock River, as well as other areas will remain, the experience of accessing important cultural sites will be changed with the physical presence of the Project. In addition, given the increased industrial activity associated with the Wheeler River Project, improvements to roads, bridges and related transportation infrastructure may allow and promote access to the Study Area by non-Indigenous land users. Non-Indigenous land users may also access the area to fish and hunt which puts further pressure on fish and wildlife resources that YNLR members rely upon and have connections to. Both a change in viewscape when accessing culturally important sites, and an increase in non-Indigenous land users may potentially impact the frequency in which YNLR members access areas of cultural importance and access to areas containing resources which supports the exercise of rights. This can ultimately disrupt cultural activities and the transference of cultural knowledge by YNLR members.

CNSC staff are committed to working with Denison and YNLR to ensure that access to culturally important areas and areas required for fishing, hunting, trapping and gathering are maintained. In addition, CNSC commits to work with Denison and YNLR during the decommissioning phase of the Project to ensure that viewsapes and access are restored, to the extent possible, to pre-development conditions so that YNLR members are able to continue accessing areas of importance in ways that sustain their cultural continuity.

Mitigation measures, follow up activities and commitments to YNLR proposed by Denison, and CNSC commitments and proposed accommodation measures are contained within Table 2 and Table 4 in Section 4 of this report that address potential impacts to access to areas of cultural importance and access to areas containing resources which supports the exercise of rights.



### **3.3 Changes to Governance, Laws, and Cultural Traditions that Inform the Exercise of Rights**

The Indigenous and/or treaty rights exercised in the Project area are tied to the ability for Indigenous Nations and communities to make decisions on how they will access and use the land to exercise their rights. The exercise of Indigenous and/or treaty rights related to changes to governance, laws and cultural traditions that informs the exercise of rights is directly influenced by the ability to make community-based decisions on how to care for the lands and how the lands will be used, and ways in which cultural knowledge and tradition will be transferred. The exercise of rights is also informed by each Indigenous Nation's culture, history, and protocols.

#### **3.3.1 Changes to Governance, Laws and Cultural Traditions that Inform the Exercise of Rights**

The Black Lake, Hatchet Lake, and Fond du Lac Denesų́líné First Nations are collectively termed the Athabasca Denesų́líné (AD). AD culture, history and way of life are interwoven with the movements and health of the Beverly, Ahiak, Bathurst and Qamanirjuaq barren-ground caribou herds. YNLR provided the CNSC with their traditional knowledge study titled *Exploration of Recorded Athabasca Denesų́líné Traditional Knowledge, Land Use and Occupancy Information in the Vicinity of Denison Mines Wheeler River Project* which YNLR indicated that cultural continuity includes resources and practises such as sense of place, spirituality, ceremonies, knowledge transmission, place names, travel routes and habitation sites. Dene people live off the land and YNLR is concerned that the project would impact their ability to do so. Cultural sites mapped included overnight sites, burial sites and travel routes located north of the project site.

The Athabasca Denesuline and Athabasca Communities are united through family, culture, language and the use of the land and resources in Nuhenéné. This mindset translates into organizations and governance structures that support education, health, economic development and land and resource management.





Key cultural areas for YNLR AD are concentrated mainly around Wollaston Lake spanning across the Athabasca basin. Important sites were recorded by YNLR recorded Athabasca Denesų́liné land use information in the vicinity of the Project including overnight (tent) sites near Holgar and McIntyre lakes located within the LSA and east of Cree Lake. A network of traditional travel routes is documented in the LSA. As part of engagement activities undertaken by Denison with the YNLR and the representative First Nation Chiefs, travel by a Hatchet Lake First Nation Elder from Hatchet Lake to the area near Russell Lake and the Highrock River was described as an area the Nation has connections to. Also, the area towards Cree Lake and the Geikie River are areas where the Dene travelled and still travel. Current sites, such as cabins, were not documented in the LSA. Camping sites and navigation were documented based on historic use of the LSA by the Black Lake and Hatchet Lake First Nations.

YNLR expressed concerns with Denison's representation of the Dene's key traditional and cultural activities. Particularly that the AD do not utilize the area around the proposed Project for traditional purposes. YNLR also firmly believes that the addition of the Denison mine, along with its associated disturbances, will have cumulative effects on wildlife, especially woodland caribou, along with potential water quality impacts due to effluent release. YNLR have also flagged increased traffic and land use pressures as a concern with respect to hunting for large game of its members. As more people travel to and from the project sites additional pressures may be placed by hunters and fisherman on the natural resources that its citizens rely upon to feed their families.

YNLR also shared concerns stemming from cumulative effects resulting from various industrial developments across the broader region. These cumulative impacts have left residents with shrinking usable areas to exercise their rights. YNLR specifically emphasizes the importance of reflecting Treaty Rights related to fishing, hunting, and trapping in the EIS. YNLR and the Athabasca Denesų́liné also expressed concerns and apprehension about potential adverse impacts from the Project or indirect effects of human activity within the Project Area. These impacts could disrupt both Aboriginal and Treaty rights related to hunting, fishing, trapping, and gathering for future generations.

YNLR have also flagged increased traffic and land use pressures as a concern with respect to hunting for large game of its members. As more people travel to and from the project sites additional pressures may be placed by hunters and fisherman on the natural resources that its citizens rely upon to feed their families.



### **3.3.2 Discussion on the Potential Impacts to Changes to Governance, Laws and Cultural Traditions that inform the Exercise of Rights**

Indigenous Nations' governance, laws and cultural traditions are core rights protected under Section 35 of the *Constitution Act*, 1982, and Indigenous Nation governance forms the basis of the 'Nation-to-Nation' relationship between Indigenous Nations and the Crown. The ability of Indigenous Nations to have a level of decision-making on lands that support the exercise of their rights, while also using internal laws and cultural traditions which informs how lands will be used is important to an Indigenous Nations' autonomy.

The proposed Project has the potential to impact generational knowledge sharing and cultural continuity through a change in the cultural experience. The development of the Wheeler River Project is predicted to increase the activity of vehicle use and access to the area. Key areas identified for cultural use for YNLR AD are concentrated mainly around Wollaston Lake with other important cultural sites recorded in the vicinity of the Project near Holgar and McIntyre lakes located within the LSA and east of Cree Lake, travel routes documented in the LSA to the area near Russell Lake and the Highrock River and the area towards Cree Lake and the Geikie River. The predicted increase of road use is anticipated to increase residual impacts to noise and dust in the area. YNLR members may be impacted by noise and dust emissions and members' experience related to their exercise of rights may be adversely impacted the closer those rights are practiced to the Project area.

As previously discussed, industrial activities, such as uranium mining, carry social stigma and can create a perception that potential contamination to the environment and residing species from an operating uranium mine may lead to negative health impacts by consuming important traditional foods such as berries. When this stigma is coupled with potential adverse impacts to the quality of the experience in exercising rights, the Project may potentially impact the timing/seasonality and frequency of which YNLR citizens access areas that support their exercise of rights. Changes to the timing/seasonality and frequency of accessing areas to exercise rights can ultimately disrupt cultural activities and the transference of cultural knowledge by YNLR citizens.

Many of the locations of cultural importance to YNLR members are found within the RSA and LSA, and not directly at the Project Site. Access to fishing areas, as well as hunting grounds, traplines, and cultural locations will remain available. This ensures that YNLR community members can continue to access lands of importance and make community-based decisions that allow YNLR to maintain cultural traditions that help inform YNLR members' collective exercise of rights.



CNSC staff's assessment determined the Project's effects to Indigenous Land and Resource Use are predicted to be indirect effects to the quality of the perceived experience may be affected due to hazards related to road safety and the perceived risk to the contamination of traditional foods. The effects of potential changes to the health of Indigenous Nations and communities, including YNLR members, were assessed for issues related to changes in air quality, noise levels, visual quality, human health and perceived risk to the contamination of traditional foods. When taking into consideration the combined magnitude, geographic extent, duration, and context of the potential residual adverse effects on Indigenous health, and the mitigation measures to address effects on exposure to the YNLR land user, CNSC staff have determined that the magnitude of these residual effects are expected to be low.

CNSC staff are committed to working with Denison and YNLR to ensure, where possible, YNLR members can access and use important lands to the AD and that YNLR maintain collective decision-making abilities to these lands. CNSC, as an agent of the Crown, will work with YNLR to minimize disruptions to generational knowledge sharing and cultural continuity through the identification of appropriate mitigations and accommodations.

Mitigation measures, follow up activities and commitments to YNLR proposed by Denison, and CNSC commitments and proposed accommodation measures are contained within Table 3 and Table 4, and referenced in Section 4 of this report that address potential impacts to noise, air quality, and Indigenous land and resource use which informs potential impacts to changes in governance, laws and cultural traditions that informs the exercise of rights.

## **4. Mitigations, Follow-Up Activities and Commitments**

The following section outlines Denison's proposed mitigation measures, follow-up activities and commitments, and proposed conditions and accommodation measures by the CNSC to reduce residual effects from the Project that may impact Indigenous and/or treaty rights.

### **4.1 Changes to the Quantity and Quality of the Resources Relating to the Exercise of Rights**

In addition to the applicable commitments contained within the Commitments Register and the related conditions noted in the EA Report, CNSC staff have identified the mitigation measures and follow-up activities from the following tables of the EA Report that help effectively manage and minimize impacts to the changes to the quantity and quality of resources related to the exercise of rights:

- Aquatic Environment, Surface Water Quantity and Quality: Tables 6.14, 6.15, 6.19, and 6.20.
- Fish and Fish Habitat: Tables 7.5 and 7.6.
- Fish Health: Tables 7.10 and 7.11.
- Sediment and Invertebrates: Tables 6.24 and 6.25.
- Terrestrial Environment, Effects on Soil: Tables 6.26, 6.27



- Terrestrial Biota, Furbearers, Ungulates, and caribou: Tables 7.15 and 7.16.
- Terrestrial Environment, Vegetation and Ecosystems: Tables 6.28, 6.29

Additionally, Table 1 below contains Denison's commitments and CNSC staff's proposed conditions and accommodation measures for the Project to effectively manage and minimize residual effects from the Project that may result in changes to the quantity and quality of resources related to YNLR members' exercise of rights.

**Table 1: Changes in the Quantity and Quality of Resources Relating to the Exercise of Rights**

| Changes in the Quantity and Quality of Resources Relating to the Exercise of Rights | Commitments  |
|---|--|
|   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Denison has committed to collaborating with Indigenous Nations and communities, including YNLR on the Environmental Management Plan (EMP), Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan (EPRP), and the Environmental Effects Monitoring (EEM). Note, details of these plans will be developed during the licensing/permitting phase of the process.</li> </ul>   |
|   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Denison has also committed to considering local and TK, including that of YNLR, in all areas of the Project through continued engagement.</li> </ul>  |
|   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Denison has committed to working with Indigenous Nations and communities, including YNLR, to develop and implement the monitoring approach and the framework for sharing monitoring results. The monitoring and follow-up program will also measure fish health, including measuring the potential bioaccumulation of non-radiological (e.g., molybdenum, selenium, mercury, and other metals) and radiological parameters.</li> </ul>  |
|   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Denison has committed to working with Indigenous Communities of Interest (COIs), including YNLR, to develop and implement the monitoring approach and the framework for sharing monitoring results. As part of these programs, Denison will share information in an agreed-upon fashion, including the results of fish tissue monitoring. It is expected that the data collected through these monitoring regimes would also be relevant to other Indigenous Nations.</li> </ul>                                  |
|   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The FIRT also raised concerns related to mercury and methylmercury concentrations in the receiving environment and for Project related activities to increase the risk for bioaccumulation of methylmercury in fish tissues. Denison has committed to monitoring mercury and methylmercury in the aquatic environment over the life of the Project to determine the potential changes in mercury concentrations in fish tissue over time (Commitments 8-42 and 8-44). Denison will assess health risks</li> </ul> |



|  |  |
|--|--|
|  | <p>from fish consumption by comparing fish tissue data collected during operations from the monitoring program against applicable human health risk-based maximum permissible concentrations. As part of the country food monitoring document developed to support operational licensing, any site-specific contaminant criteria or trigger mechanisms will be developed in consultation with Indigenous Nations and communities, including YNLR.</p>  |
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The CNSC have also proposed an EA Condition, which, if accepted, Denison would be required to collect additional baseline water and sediment quality data prior to disturbance of the baseline and update the modelling with this additional data to address concerns related to modelling uncertainty and ability to detect changes related to the Project, and validation of model calibration (see Table 12.1, EA2). Denison has committed to have a site water management plan and spill response plan to account for management of all potential contact water on site.</li></ul> |
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Denison will assess health risks from fish consumption by comparing fish tissue data collected during operations from the monitoring program against applicable human health risk-based maximum permissible concentrations. As part of the country food monitoring document developed to support operational licensing, any site-specific contaminant criteria or trigger mechanisms will be developed in consultation with Indigenous Nations and communities, including YNLR.</li></ul>  |
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Denison and the YNLR have identified the need to further discuss how cumulative effects was undertaken in relation to the Project and have each committed to meeting in the first quarter of 2024.</li></ul>   |
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Denison continues to work with Indigenous Communities of Interest (COIs). Denison is committed to continual improvement in relation to such collaborative monitoring programs, in order to adapt to areas of interest which can change over time. YNLR will be informed throughout the monitoring program design and implementation process.</li></ul>   |
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Denison has committed to collaborating with YNLR in respect to woodland caribou monitoring plans, groundwater monitoring plans, and other environmental monitoring plans aligning with specific areas of interest expressed by YNLR.</li></ul>   |
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Denison has committed to sharing information on environmental monitoring plans as they develop, to support collaboration on monitoring plans of specific interest to YNLR.</li></ul>   |



|  |  |
|--|--|
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Denison has also acknowledged the need to further discuss cumulative effects with YNLR and has committed to meeting to discuss.</li> </ul>  |
|  | EA Conditions  |
|  | <p>EA2:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The licensee shall collect additional baseline water and sediment quality data to supplement existing baseline characterization data.</li> <li>The licensee shall update the ERA and near-field water quality modelling with the additional baseline data collected.</li> </ol>   |
|  | <p><i>*Further licence conditions can be found in Section 1.2.3 of the CMD and Section G (General) of the licence and the associated LCH. CNSC staff are proposing a Licence Condition for Indigenous engagement which includes requirements for Denison to report annually on their engagement activities and progress on implementing their commitments to Indigenous Nations and communities. The proposed Licence Condition includes EA follow up actions that address issues and concerns raised by Indigenous Nations related to their practice of Aboriginal and treaty rights as outlined in Section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982.</i></p> |
|  | <p>EA3: The licensee shall submit a woodland caribou mitigation and offset plan based on site-specific information to evaluate effects to woodland caribou and includes a plan for habitat offsetting. The plan must ensure that measures are taken to avoid or lessen any adverse effects to woodland caribou and monitor those effects. The plan shall be consistent with the Government of Canada's Amended Recovery Strategy for Woodland Caribou (<i>Rangifer tarandus caribou</i>), Boreal Population, in Canada.</p>  |
|  | <p>EA5: The licensee shall submit plans for the monitoring of adverse effects of the Project on listed wildlife species and their critical habitat over the lifecycle of the Project.</p>  |

## 4.2 Changes in Access to Areas of Cultural Importance and Areas Containing Resources that Support the Exercise of Rights

In addition to the applicable commitments contained within the Commitments Register and the related conditions noted in the EA Report, CNSC staff have identified the following mitigation measures, follow-up activities, and commitments Denison has made, as well as CNSC staff's proposed conditions to effectively manage and minimize residual effects from the Project that may result in changes in access to areas of cultural importance and areas containing resources which supports the exercise YNLR members' of rights in Table 2 below.



**Table 2: Changes in Access to Areas of Cultural Importance and Areas Containing Resources that Support the Exercise of Rights**

| Changes in Access to Areas of Cultural Importance and Areas Containing Resources that Support the Exercise of Rights | Mitigation Measures  |
|--|--|
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Denison will follow the Human Resources Management Plan which has been developed to mitigate potential effects of the Project to Heritage Resources. The plan outlines steps Denison will take if a new heritage site is identified during activities taking place over the life of the Project. The management of archaeological resources includes the assessment of the discovery by a qualified archaeologist and mitigation measures including avoidance of the site, shovel testing, systematic and intensive shovel testing, excavation, and/or construction monitoring. The HRMP outlines mechanisms for Indigenous engagement including the communities, implementation of appropriate cultural protocols, the potential for storage of artifacts outside of the Royal Saskatchewan Museum, and the inclusion of Indigenous field assistants when possible.</li> </ul> |
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Access north of the Key Lake gatehouse on Highway 914 is restricted and provides for controlled access for employees of northern mines, Indigenous resource harvesters from select communities, cabin owners, and lease holders.</li> </ul>   |
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mitigation measures associated with potential effects to cultural continuity (including knowledge transfer and language) are described in Section 12.1.5 and include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implementation of Denison's Indigenous Peoples Policy and advancement of reconciliation</li> <li>Using a commuter rotation system has also shown to be effective in allowing Indigenous employees continued opportunities to spend time on the land, and important factor in the transmission of knowledge and language.</li> <li>Encouragement to speak languages of choice while at the site, except during safety sensitive situations, will be made.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>  |
|  | Follow-up Measures   |
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Denison has completed the required archaeology assessments in accordance with provincial regulations and has also committed to developing a Heritage Resources Management Plan (HRMP) to help protect and mitigate any potential effects of the Project to Heritage Resources with potentially affected Indigenous Nations and communities, including YNLR, to ensure the Project effects are being monitored and appropriately mitigated.</li> </ul>   |
|  | Commitments  |





|  |  |
|--|--|
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Denison has committed to following the guidance under the Saskatchewan's Heritage Property Act (Government of Saskatchewan 2017) pertaining to archaeology sites, built heritage sites and structures of historical and/or architectural interest, and paleontological sites to mitigate any potential effects.</li> </ul>  |
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Surface lease agreements, which are required to conduct mining in Saskatchewan, also contain commitments for environmental protection, occupational health and safety, and socio-economic benefits for residents of Saskatchewan's North (Government of Saskatchewan 2018). One provision within surface lease agreements is compensation for commercial loss of income. Payments are typically made to individuals who: 1) held a lease or permit to use the lands immediately prior to the establishment of the mine's surface lease; and 2) used the land to generate commercial income, such as from trapping (Government of Saskatchewan 2018b). Should the need arise, compensation for loss of income may be disbursed to the trapper selected to take up trapping in the Project Area, including YNLR community members.</li> </ul> |
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Denison has committed to considering local and traditional knowledge, including information shared by YNLR members, in all facets of the Project, to the extent that local knowledge holders wish to share such information.</li> </ul>   |

### 4.3 Changes to Governance, laws and Cultural Traditions

In addition to the applicable commitments contained within the Commitments Registry and the related conditions noted in the EA Report, CNSC staff have identified the mitigation measures and follow-up activities from the following tables of the EA Report that help minimize impacts to the changes to governance, laws and traditions:

- Atmospheric and acoustic environment: Tables 6.3, 6.4, 6.5, and 6.6.

Additionally, Table 3 below contains Denison's commitments and CNSC staff's proposed conditions for the Project to effectively manage and minimize residual effects from the Project that may result in changes to YNLR members' governance, laws and traditions:

**Table 3: Changes to Governance, Laws and Cultural Traditions**

| Changes to Governance, Laws and Cultural Traditions | Commitments  |
|---|--|
|   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Denison will provide space for an on-site Elder counsellor to provide culturally relevant programming and support.</li> </ul>   |
|   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Denison has made commitments (Commitments 6-4 &amp; 6-5) to mitigate any potential adverse effects resulting from increased noise emissions and the sensory disturbance these emissions may cause for wildlife and traditional land users, including those from YNLR communities.</li> </ul>  |
|   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Denison acknowledges that the Hatchet Lake Denesųliné First Nation has the potential for established Indigenous and Treaty Rights proximal to the Project. The Hatchet Lake Denesųliné First Nation, as represented by the YNLR will be identified as an Indigenous COI in the revised draft and final EIS, including in Section 3, Section 4, and Section 11.</li> </ul> |
|   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Denison has been collaboratively working with the Nuhenéné through the YNLR office in a mutually agreed upon manner and will continue to do so.</li> </ul>  |

#### 4.4 CNSC Commitments and Proposed Accommodation Measures

The CNSC have identified the following commitments and proposed accommodation measures to help minimize impacts to YNLR members' rights.

**Table 4: CNSC Commitments and Proposed Accommodation Measures**

|   |
|---|
| 1. CNSC staff are proposing a Licence Condition for Indigenous engagement which includes requirements for Denison to report annually on their engagement activities and progress on implementing their commitments to Indigenous Nations and communities. The proposed Licence Condition includes EA follow up actions that address issues and concerns raised by Indigenous Nations related to their practice of Aboriginal and treaty rights as outlined in Section 35 of the <i>Constitution Act</i> , 1982 as well as ensures that all commitments made to YNLR by Denison regarding environmental monitoring and protection of community members' rights are honoured. |
| 2. CNSC staff, in collaboration and engagement with YNLR, will have oversight on all conditions contained within the Licence Condition Handbook. Compliance and verification of conditions will be completed by CNSC staff to ensure the health, safety and protection of workers, YNLR members and the environment.  |
| 3. CNSC staff are committed to the involvement of YNLR members in the CNSC's Independent Environmental Monitoring Program (IEMP) monitoring activities in relation to the Denison Wheeler River site. CNSC staff will collaborate on reporting on monitoring results to the Nation.   |



4. As a member partner, CNSC staff will recommend the inclusion of the Denison Wheeler Project for acceptance into the Eastern Athabasca Regional Monitoring Program (EARMP). This program contains a community-based monitoring program which directly engages with Nation-members and helps address avoidance behaviours through participation in regional environmental effects monitoring.

5. CNSC commits to ongoing engagement through the Terms of Reference (ToR) for long-term with YNLR. The long-term engagement ToR will continue work plan activities and funding for YNLR and CNSC to work on issues, concerns and activities related to the nuclear sector, including uranium mining and milling in traditional territory, as identified by YNLR. In addition, CNSC is committed to ongoing engagement, outreach and communication with YNLR community members to ensure that their concerns regarding the Project and the CNSC's regulatory oversight are addressed.

## 5. Conclusion on Impacts to Rights

### 5.1 Changes to the Quantity and Quality of Resources Relating to the Exercise of Rights

Many of the locations used by YNLR members to exercise their right to fish, hunt, trap and gather are found within the RSA, some in the LSA and none directly at the Project Site. Predicted impacts to the VCs of surface water quantity and quality, fish and fish habitat, sediment quality and invertebrate communities, furbearers, moose, caribou, soil quantity and quality and vegetation and ecosystems are directly related to changes in the quantity and quality of resources related to the exercise of rights. As discussed in the EA Report, the residual and cumulative impacts from the aforementioned VCs are expected to extend minimally into the LSA and with the application of mitigation measures, follow-up activities and commitments outlined in the EA Report, these residual impacts are predicted to be non-significant.

Project-related activities during site preparation, construction and operation have the potential to alter fish and animal use, as well as wildlife travel patterns, generally for short durations. The magnitude of Project impacts to YNLR members' rights, particularly the right to fish, hunt and trap can be described as low due to potential changes in wildlife (i.e., fish and animals) use and travel, as well as YNLR members' predominant and extensive land use in the RSA and beyond. When taking into consideration the mitigation measures, follow-up activities and commitments outlined in the EA Report, and the commitments and CNSC proposed Project conditions and accommodation measures contained in Table 1 and Table 4 above, the CNSC predicts any residual impacts to YNLR members' rights and interests as they relate to the changes to the quantity and quality of resources related to the exercise of rights to be low and adequately addressed.



CNSC staff are committed to working with YNLR members through programs such as the Independent Environmental Monitoring Program (IEMP) and as a member partner of the Eastern Athabasca Regional Monitoring Program (EARMP) to help address perceptions of residual and cumulative contamination from uranium mining activities and potential avoidance behaviours. CNSC staff are open to collaborating with YNLR to ensure Nation members can exercise their rights with confidence on the land and waters of their traditional and treaty territories.

## 5.2 Changes in Access to Areas of Cultural Importance and Areas Containing Resources that Support the Exercise of Rights

Many of the locations used by YNLR members to access areas of cultural importance and areas containing resources which supports the exercise their rights are found within the RSA, some in the LSA and none directly at the Project Site. Predicted impacts to the valued component of Indigenous land and resource use are directly related to changes in access to areas of cultural importance and areas containing resources which supports the exercise of rights. As discussed in the EA Report, with the application of mitigation measures, follow-up activities and commitments outlined in the EA Report the residual impacts from Indigenous land and resource use are predicted to be indirect and non-significant.

The Key Lake gatehouse on Highway 914 currently allows for restricted access by Indigenous land and resource users accessing the area from the south. The presence of this gate, and access restrictions in the area is noted as a residual impact to access independent of the Wheeler River Project. Access to the cultural sites, including Russell Lake, Holgar and McIntyre lakes, Cree Lake, the Highrock River area and Geikie River will remain even if the Project is developed. However, the experience of accessing important cultural sites will be changed with the physical presence of the Project.

Project-related activities during site preparation, construction and operation have the potential to disrupt access and development of the Project will change the experience in accessing areas of cultural importance and areas containing resources which supports the exercise of rights by increased use in the area. The magnitude of Project and cumulative impacts to YNLR members' rights as they pertain to access can be predicted as low to medium due to YNLR members' predominant land use in the RSA, the physical changes to the landscape that will be seen and noticeable to YNLR members traveling past the Project site, and the increase in activity in the Project area with potential residual increase in land use to areas north of the Project. When taking into consideration the mitigation measures and commitments outlined in the EA report, and the commitments and CNSC proposed conditions and accommodation measures outlined in Table 2 and Table 4 above, the CNSC predicts any residual potential impacts to YNLR members' rights and interests as they related to the changes in access to areas of cultural



importance and areas containing resources which supports the exercise of rights to be low and adequately managed.

CNSC encourages Denison to work with YNLR members to ensure that access to important cultural areas, and areas containing resources which supports the exercise of rights are maintained, particularly through the construction phase, so that areas of cultural importance, including important fishing, hunting, trapping and gathering locations can be accessed during important seasonal times required by YNLR members.

CNSC commits to work with Denison and YNLR during the decommissioning phase of the Project to ensure that viewsapes and access are restored, as feasible, to pre-development conditions so that YNLR members can continue accessing areas of importance in ways that sustain their cultural continuity.

### **5.3 Changes to Governance, Laws and Cultural Traditions**

The AD's governance, laws and cultural traditions are tied to the cultural sites that were mapped across their traditional land use area. These cultural sites identify those areas that are of importance to YNLR members for the exercise of their rights and for sustaining their culture. Many of the locations of cultural importance to YNLR members are found predominantly within the RSA, less extensive use in the LSA, and none directly at the Project Site. The Project's effects to Indigenous Land and Resource Use are predicted to be indirect effects to the quality of the perceived experience which may be affected from hazards related to road safety and the perceived risk to the contamination of traditional foods. The effects of potential changes to the health of Indigenous Nations and communities, including the Nations and communities represented by YNLR, were assessed for issues related to changes in air quality, noise levels, visual quality, human health and perceived risk to the contamination of traditional foods. Any changes in the aforementioned inputs can affect the quality of the experience for YNLR members and ultimately discourage land use and impact transference of cultural knowledge.

Access to the fishing spots, hunting grounds, traplines, gathering locations and cultural sites, including the historic trail to near Russell Lake and the Highrock River will remain even if the Project is developed. The development of the Wheeler River Project will result in YNLR members not possessing stewardship over the Project Site, however all stewardship and decision-making abilities of other identified culturally important lands will remain. As such, YNLR community members will continue to be able to access lands identified to have importance and to continue to make community-based decisions of how the identified lands of cultural importance will be used in maintaining cultural traditions that helps inform YNLR members' collective exercise of rights.



Project-related activities during site preparation, construction and operation have the potential to disrupt access and development of the Project will change the experience in accessing and using areas of cultural importance, particularly those in the LSA closest to the Project site. In addition, the development of the Project site will result in YNLR members not possessing any stewardship or decision-making abilities over those lands until at such time the proposed Denison Wheeler River Project is decommissioned. In addition, the increased activity resulting from the Project will alter the experience for YNLR land users with the degree of alteration increasing the closer the exercise of rights takes place relative to the Project site. The magnitude of Project impacts to YNLR members' rights as they pertain to governance, laws and traditions can be described as low to medium due to YNLR members' extensive land use in the RSA, the physical changes to the landscape when accessing areas near the Project site and traveling past the site, and the increase in activity in the Project area that may increase residual use in areas north of the Project that may impact the experience of YNLR land users and changes YNLR members decision-making abilities of the lands encompassing the Project site. However, when taking into consideration the mitigation measures, follow-up measures and commitments contained in the EA report, and the CNSC conditions and proposed accommodation measures in Table 3 and Table 4 above, the CNSC predicts any residual and cumulative potential impacts to YNLR members' rights and interests as they relate to governance, laws and cultural traditions resulting from the Project to be low and adequately managed.

CNSC staff are committed to working with YNLR through programs such as the Independent Environmental Monitoring Program (IEMP) and as a member partner of the Eastern Athabasca Regional Monitoring Program (EARMP) to help address perceptions of residual contamination from uranium mining activities and potential avoidance behaviours.

## 5.4 Conclusions

When considering and evaluating all mitigation measures, follow-up actions, commitments, and accommodation measures proposed by Denison and the CNSC, it is expected that the Project's potential residual impacts to YNLR's rights and interests are low and adequately managed. The CNSC remains committed to ongoing engagement and collaboration with YNLR to ensure that the proposed mitigation measures, commitments, and additional monitoring and modelling are effectively implemented by Denison (this refers to the key commitments and EA conditions noted in Section 4 of this RIA including, but not limited to condition EA2 noted in Table 1). This continued cooperation aims to manage and minimize any potential impacts on YNLR's rights and interests throughout the full life cycle of the Project.



## A.4 Rights Impact Assessment with Métis Nation - Saskatchewan

### 1. Description of MN-S' Traditional Use and Rights-Exercising Areas

Métis Nation - Saskatchewan is a government that represents Métis citizens in Saskatchewan. The Métis Nation Legislative Assembly (MNLA) is the governing authority of MN-S, made up of the Presidents of Métis Locals and the Provincial Métis Council. The MNLA has the authority to enact legislation, regulations, rules and resolutions governing the affairs and conduct of the Métis in Saskatchewan.

The Métis emerged as a distinct people/Nation in the historic Northwest during the 18th & 19th centuries, prior to Canada becoming a formal nation state. While the initial offspring of these unions were individuals who possessed mixed ancestry, the gradual establishment of distinct Métis communities, outside of First Nations and European cultures and settlements, as well as the subsequent inter-marriages between Métis women and Métis men, resulted in the genesis of a new Indigenous people – the Métis. The definition of Métis as adopted by Métis Nation–Saskatchewan is: “a person who self identifies as Métis, is of historic Métis Nation ancestry, is distinct from other Aboriginal peoples, and is accepted by the Métis Nation.” [16]

The Métis Nation grounds its assertion of Aboriginal nationhood on well-recognized international principles, including a shared history, common culture (song, dance, dress, national symbols, etc.), unique language (Michif, with various regional dialects), extensive kinship connections from Ontario westward, a distinct way of life, traditional territory, and a collective consciousness. The area known as the “historic Métis Nation Homeland” includes the three prairie provinces and extends into Ontario, British Columbia, Northwest Territories and the northern United States.

The Métis are recognized in the Canadian *Constitution Act*, 1982 “Section 35 the existing Treaty and aboriginal rights of the aboriginal peoples of Canada are hereby recognized and affirmed;” In this Act, “aboriginal peoples of Canada” includes First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples.

CNSC staff have identified MN-S citizens residing in Northern Region I (NR-1) and Northern Region III (NR-3) as potentially having Indigenous Rights in the area where the Wheeler River Project is proposed defining them as a potentially impacted Indigenous Nation or community. NR-1 serves Métis citizens from the far-north of Saskatchewan including the communities of Uranium City, Stony Rapids and La Ronge. NR-3 serves Métis citizens in the communities of Île-à-la-Crosse, Beauval and Pinehouse.

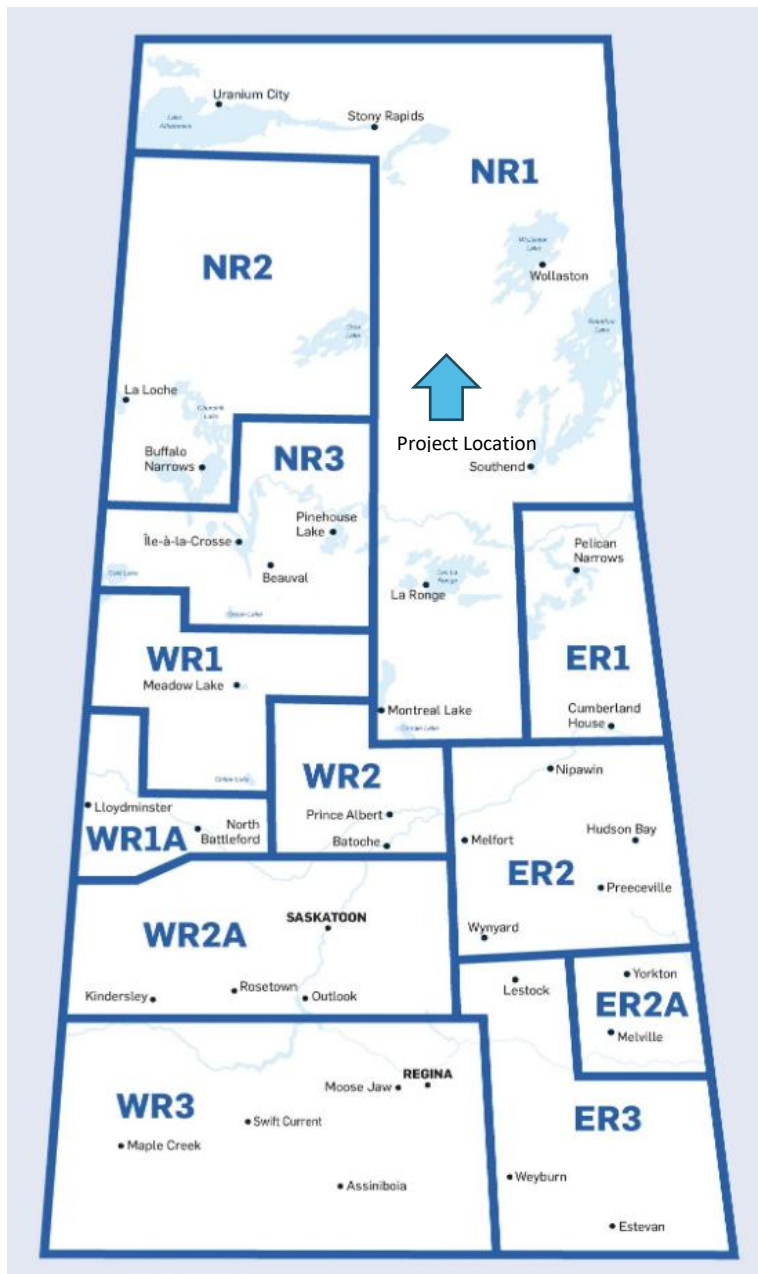
CNSC has been advised that MN-S represents the interests of Métis citizens across the province and are the single point of contact for consultation and engagement for the purposes of the Denison Wheeler River Project. Consultations must take place with the Métis government





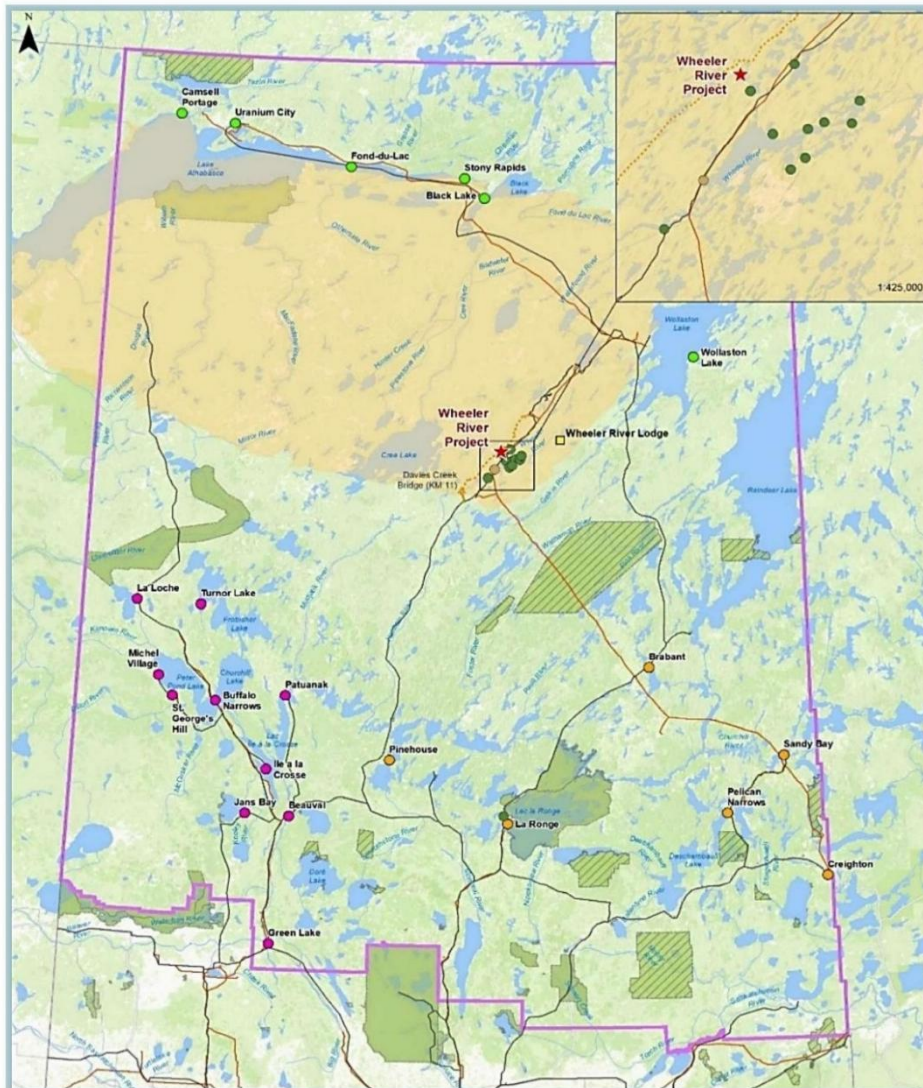
structures that are elected and supported by the Métis people. CNSC staff work through the MN-S and the respective Region(s) unless the Region(s) or locals have clearly delegated that the MN-S will represent them for the purposes of consultation for a project including Wheeler River.

In late 2021, Kineepik Métis Local (KML) sent formal correspondence to MN-S, CNSC staff, and Denison indicating that they had decided to represent themselves for the purposes of consultation and engagement for the Project, as opposed to having the MN-S represent them. Since that time, KML has been engaging directly with the CNSC on the Project.



**Figure 1: Métis Regions in the Vicinity of the Project site**

MN-S shared the Métis Knowledge Study (MKS) for the Wheeler River Project with CNSC staff in early 2024 which provided information on the areas where Métis Citizens conduct or conducted traditional land and resource use activities including hunting, trapping, fishing, gathering and travel around the Project area, the Churchill River, Lake Athabasca and Cree Lake. The MKS was completed using in-person interviews of MN-S Citizens with 9 Métis Citizens who previously worked and lived in NR1 and NR3 and had strong kinship and familial ties to NR1 and/or NR3 and were able to share Métis knowledge shared through oral history [17].

**Figure 2: Métis Knowledge Study Area**

The green dots represent cabins noted by Denison but not solely tied to MN-S members.

The MKS provided by MN-S identifies the following traditional land and resource use information:




Indigenous Consultation Report Supplemental Submission:

1. Transportation and traveling routes by land (skidoo, truck, quad) and water (canoes, boats) to access areas for the purpose of hunting, trapping, fishing, gathering, camping and cultural & spiritual activities.
2. Hunting, fishing, trapping, gathering and harvesting activities around the Churchill River Watershed, Cree Lake, near existing mining sites and the proposed Wheeler River Project. These activities relate directly to traditional dietary habits, dependence on country foods and harvesting for medicinal purposes. Specific areas mentioned include the Churchill River Area, Cree Lake and the Key Lake highway corridor.
3. Access to areas for knowledge transmission and Métis teachings to future generations such as seasonal camps.

The Métis Knowledge Study provided to the CNSC by MN-S includes information in the form of interviews, figures and tables on the traditional use and occupancy, trail and travel networks, seasonal camps and harvesting areas throughout NR1 and NR3 in proximity to the proposed Wheeler River Project. Accounts of these land use and occupancy activities include descriptions provided during interviews, oral histories and written historical accounts. The descriptions include details on the methods of transportation and traditional land use, seasonal activities, and is divided by three land and resource use areas of interest:

- Project Area: The land and resource use activities immediately surrounding the Wheeler River Project area which includes McArthur River, Russell Lake, Key Lake, and Key Lake South
- Churchill River Watershed: Land and resource use activities
- Cree Lake: Land and resource use activities west of Highway 914 on the southwest portion of Cree Lake primarily within NR3.
- Uranium City area and north shore of Lake Athabasca.

| MAR   | APR | MAY              | JUN  | JUL                                       | AUG | SEP   | OCT  | NOV   | DEC                   | JAN            | FEB                       |
|---|-----|------------------|--|---|-----|---|------|---|-----------------------|----------------|---------------------------|
| Early Spring  |     | Late Spring      |  | Summer                                    |     |   | Fall |   | Early Winter          |                | Late Winter               |
| Breakup   |     |                  |  |   |     |   |      |   |                       | Freeze Up      |                           |
| Gather chaga mushrooms, Labrador tea, wood, rat root                                |     | Gather gull eggs |  | Prepare for wild rice harvest: rake lakes |     | Subsistence and Commercial Fishing: Pickerel, Jackfish, Trout, Mariah, Walleye, White fish  |      | Gather berries, Harvest wild rice                     |                       | Gather berries |                           |
|  |     |                  |  |   |     | Hunt ptarmigan  |      | Trap, beaver, mink muskrat, wolf, foxes, coyote, lynx |                       | Ice Fishing    |                           |
|   |     |                  |  |   |     | Moose Hunt  |      | Bear hunt   |                       |                |                           |
|   |     |                  |  |   |     | White tail deer Hunt  |      |   |                       |                |                           |
|   |     |                  |  |   |     | Moose Hunt  |      | Bear hunt   |                       |                |                           |
|   |     |                  |  |   |     | White tail deer Hunt  |      |   |                       |                |                           |
|   |     |                  |  |   |     | Trapping rabbits  |      |   |                       |                |                           |
| Travel by canoe, boat, quads  |     |                  |  |   |     | Travel by dog team, skidoo, quads   |      |   |                       |                |                           |
| Primeau Lake, Donaldson Lake, Goldfields, Fox Lake Road, Russell Lake               |     |                  | Cree Lake, Tazin Lake, Wollaston Lake, Highrock Lake, Cigar Lake, Close Lake |   |     | Primeau Lake, Knee Lake, Lake Athabasca, Goldfields, Costigan Lake, Key Lake, Fox Lake Road |      |   | Russel Lake, Key Lake |                | Cree Lake, Lake Athabasca |





### Figure 3: Métis Seasonal Traditional and Land Use Activities Including Hunting, Gathering, Fishing and Harvesting as well as the Method of Travel Used to Access Areas for Land Use Activities

The study provided by MN-S identified hunting, fishing and plant harvesting sites, as well as commercial fishing sites, in the LSA and RSA near Cree Lake and the Key Lake highway corridor. In addition, the MN-S also shared that there are culturally important current use and historical sites located in the RSA, including transportation travel routes, seasonal campsites, and gathering sites. Following the MKS submitted, MN-S has provided further mapping and other information from subsequent interviews with land users and continues to conduct such information-gathering activities. Lands within the LSA and RSA are used for knowledge transfer of Métis teachings, hunting, fishing (including commercial fishing) and plant harvesting. These cultural activities are related directly to the Métis people's traditional dietary habits, dependence on traditional foods, commercial activities, and harvesting for medicinal purposes. They are also important for maintaining and restoring the Métis connection to their Homeland after generations of impacts of colonialism, residential schools, and land-exclusion practices against the Métis.

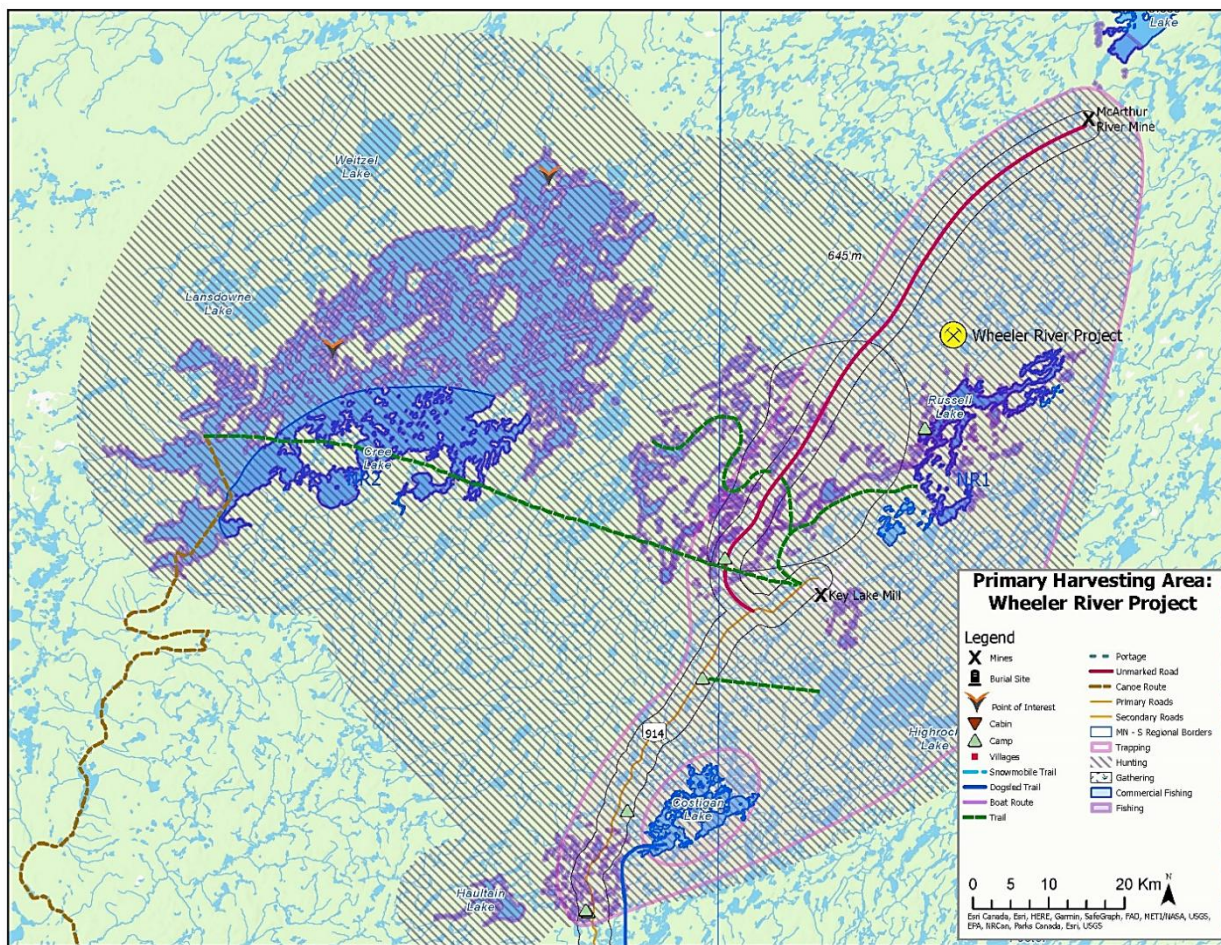






Figure 4: Métis Land and Resource Use in and around the Wheeler River Project

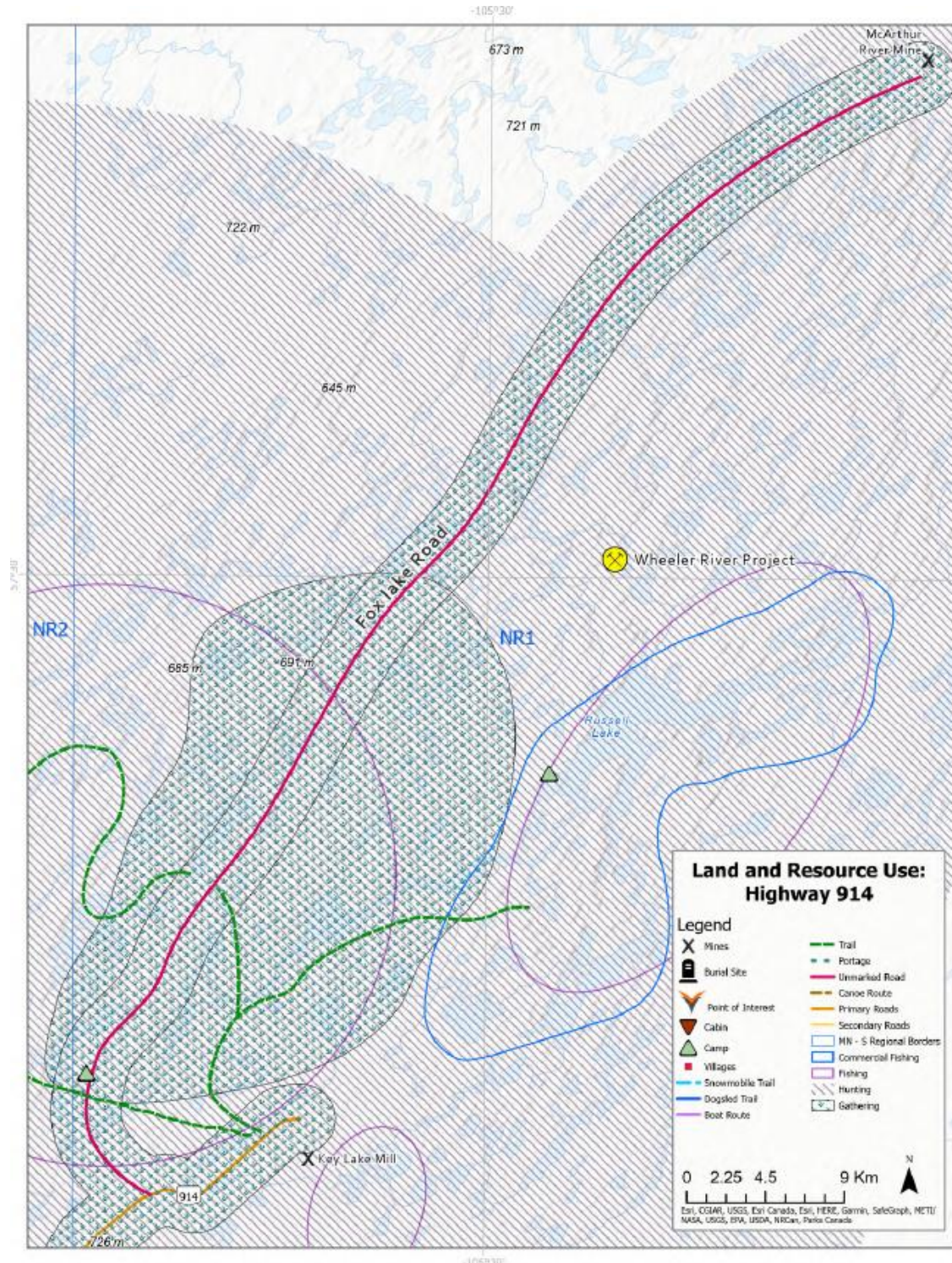


Figure 5: Métis Land and Resource Use Along Highway 914 Corridor



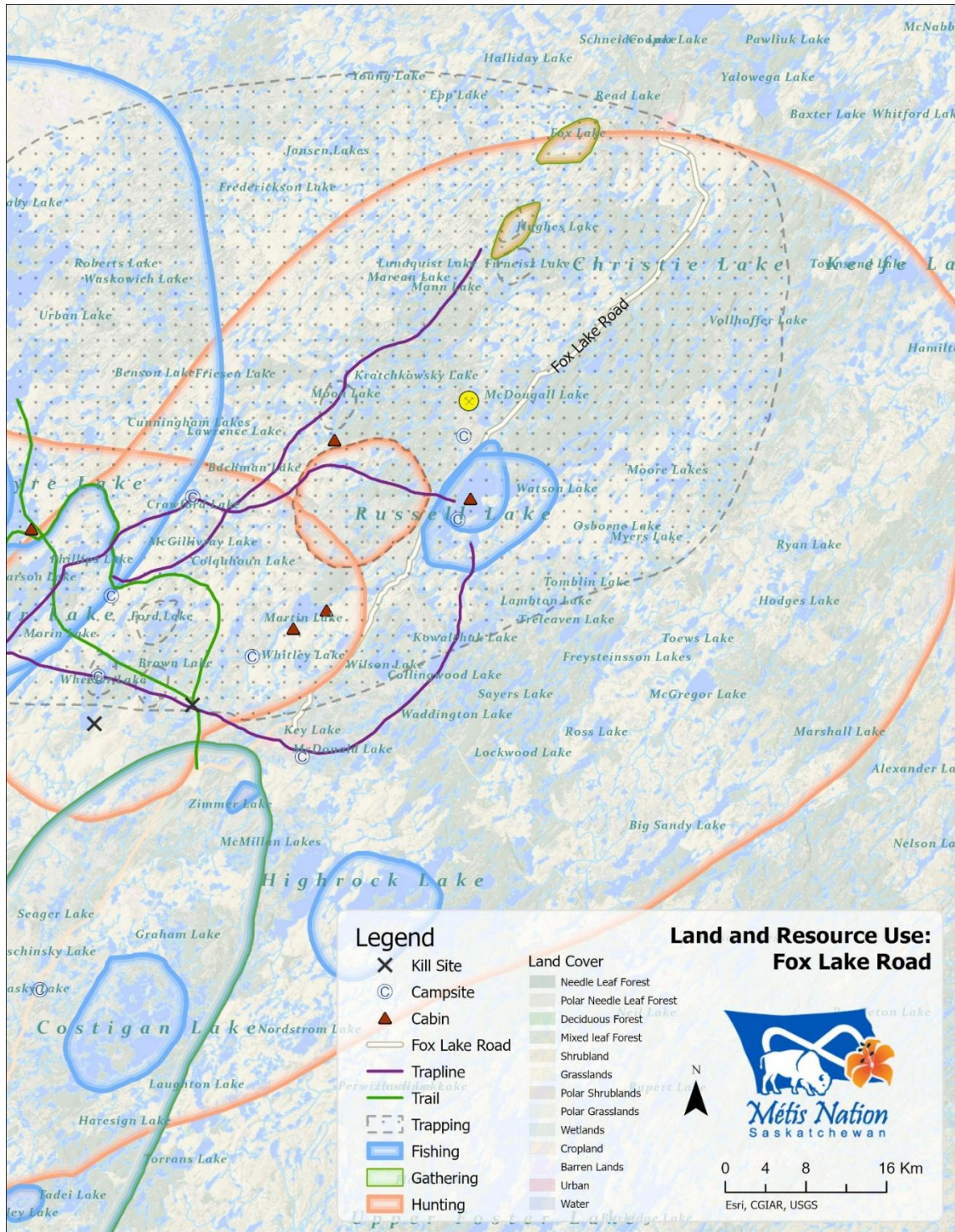


Figure 6: Métis Land and Resource Use Along Fox Lake Road



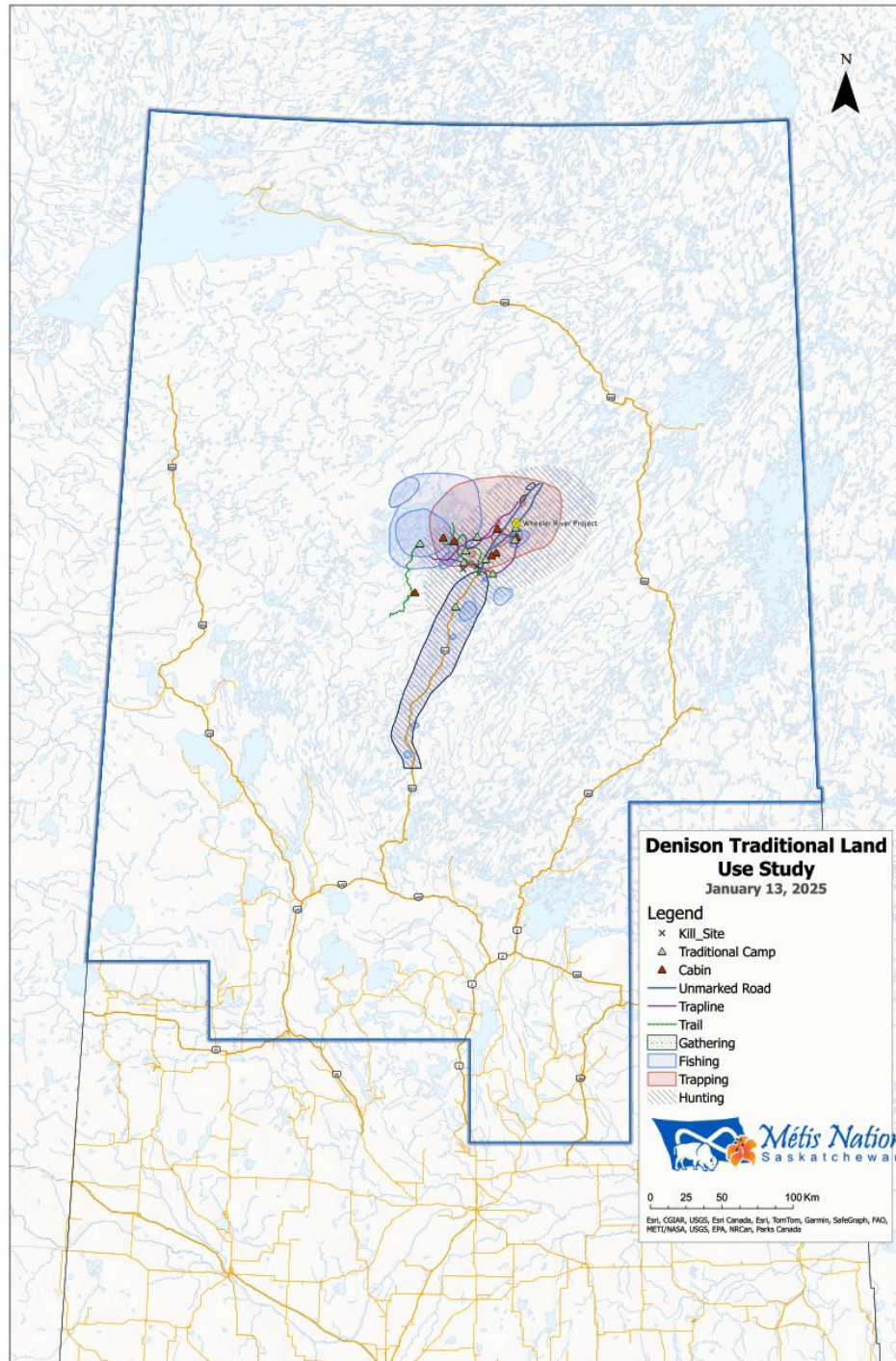


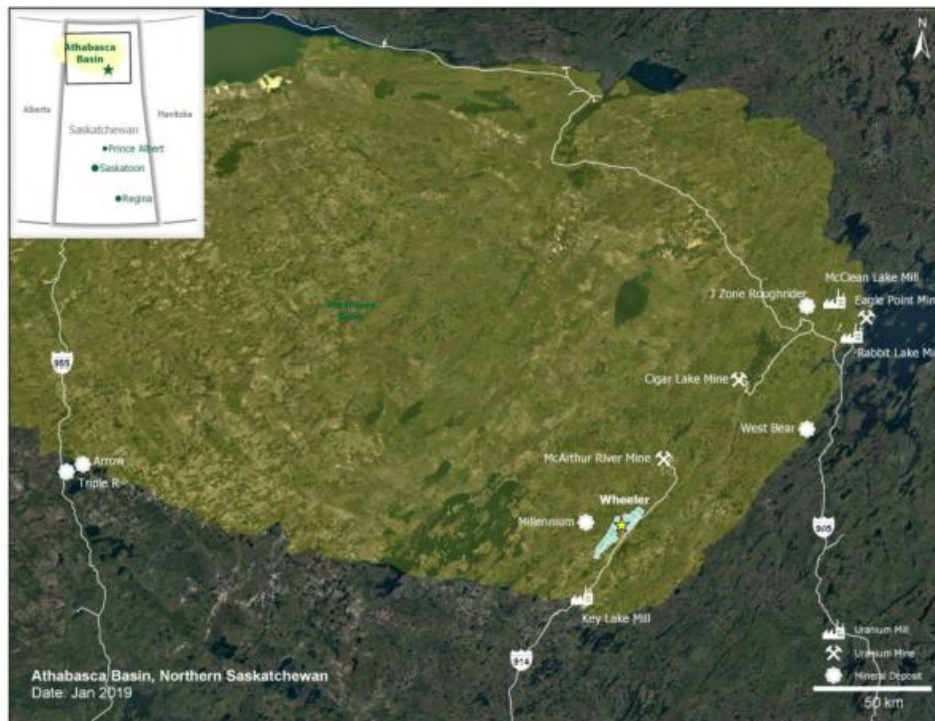
Figure 7: Métis Land and Resource Use in Northern Region 1 and Northern Region 3





## 2. Denison Wheeler River Project Setting

The Wheeler River Project is a proposed in situ recovery (ISR) uranium mine and processing plant in northern Saskatchewan. It is located in Saskatchewan's Athabasca Basin approximately 4 km west of Highway 914. The Project falls within the boundaries of Treaty 10, the Nuhtsiye-kwi Benéne (Ancestral Lands) of ERFN, the traditional territory of Kineepik Métis Local, the Homeland of the Métis, and within the traditional territory of the Athabasca Denesuline. Treaty 10 (1906) covers the northeast quadrant of Saskatchewan and is bordered by Manitoba and Northwest Territories to the east and north, while the south and west border extends to central Saskatchewan and Alberta. Treaty 10 (1906) includes the signatories of seven First Nations and contains a provision that establishes treaty rights to hunt, fish and trap throughout the Treaty territory.



**Figure 8: Map Showing the Denison Wheeler River Project Site in Relation to Other Mine Sites in Northern Saskatchewan**

The Denison Project location is divided into three separate areas:

- Site study area (SSA): The SSA (referred to as Project Area in the EIS) is the Wheeler River Project footprint (the area where all project activities are proposed to be undertaken, including facilities, buildings, and infrastructure).
- Local study area (LSA): The LSA is the area existing outside the SSA, where measurable changes to the environment may be anticipated due to project activities. These changes



may occur during any phase of the project, either through normal activities or from possible accidents or malfunctions.

- Regional study area (RSA): The RSA is the maximum area within which the potential effects of the project may interact with the effects of other projects and activities (or anticipated projects and activities), resulting in a potential for cumulative effects.

The Project Area's direct physical disturbance covers an area approximately 1.75 km<sup>2</sup>, (not including the airstrip), while the LSA is approximately 84 km in length by 42 km in width, covering approximately 2,620 km<sup>2</sup>, and the RSA has a maximum length of 338 km and maximum width of 163 km, covering approximately 29,754 km<sup>2</sup>

The Project site is located in the Boreal Shield Ecozone and contains the Phoenix and Gryphon uranium deposits. This area is typical of the continental sub-arctic region, characterized by short, cool and moist summers with cold, dry winters. The Wheeler River site has been shaped by glacial and fluvial processes, with drumlins and eskers separated by lowland areas of well drained glaciofluvial outwash sands and gravels and associated wetlands. The ground surface elevation in the area varies from 494-600 metres above sea level (masl) for the Project Area and 520-550 masl for the Phoenix deposit range.

The Project is proposed to be located in the Athabasca Basin of Saskatchewan, 4 km west of Highway 914. The proposed Project is located within the Northern Saskatchewan Administration District, which includes approximately 250,000 km<sup>2</sup> (44% of Saskatchewan's land area) and approximately 36,000 residents. No communities are located within the immediate proximity (<100 km) of the Wheeler River property. Ground access to the project is through Highway 914, with control managed by the Cameco Key Lake Operation gatehouse.

ERFN and KML are the nations and communities with the closest population centres to the proposed Project location. The proposed Project site is located within trapping blocks N-16 and N-18 as part of the partitioning of fur conservation areas in 1946. The area has been used by outfitters and cabin lease holders, fishing, hunting and harvesting by resource users as well as for navigation and travel along waterbodies and roads by Indigenous peoples. The primary land uses within the region include fishing, hunting, harvesting, mining and exploration.

The LSA and RSA are accessed and used by Indigenous Nations and communities for traditional and/or cultural and ceremonial activities. The primary Indigenous land use activities carried out within the LSA and broader RSA by Indigenous land users include hunting, trapping, fishing (including for commercial purposes), and berry picking. There are also recreational and traditional resource user leases in the LSA and RSA. In addition, there are also important cultural heritage sites in the LSA and RSA, such as archaeological sites, historic travel and canoe routes, seasonal camps and traplines, all of which have cultural significance to Indigenous Nations and communities. All of the potentially impacted Indigenous Nations and communities have identified the importance of protecting the existing environment within the LSA and RSA



so that they can continue to hunt, trap, and fish and carry out their traditional activities safely into the future. The Project site is located within Métis Northern Region 1 (NR-1), close to the border of Northern Regions 2 and 3 (NR-2 and NR-3) and within the Homeland of the Métis. The Métis Nation in Saskatchewan claims Aboriginal title to much of Northwestern Saskatchewan, including the Project area, including through a claim filed in 1994 which remains before the courts. Métis Citizens have strong ties and interest in the LSA and RSA, including but not limited to those Citizens from MN-S Locals in NR-1 and NR-3, and Métis communities (e.g., Pinehouse, Beauval, Ile-a-la-Crosse) with whom Denison and CNSC have been engaging with. Access to the Project is via road traveling through NR-3.

### **3. Effects Pathways**

Potential effects on the rights and interests of Indigenous Nations and communities, including MN-S, may occur from the proposed Wheeler River Project through effects pathways that include: Biophysical effects (effects on wildlife, aquatic resources, fish and fish habitat, vegetation and ecosystems) Access to lands and waters relied upon to access resources required for the exercise of rights Cultural/spiritual/experiential (activities and/or behaviours that may disrupt or cause disturbances related to activities carried out for the exercise of rights) Governance, stewardship and decision-making on culturally important lands The assessment of effects to determine the potential impacts to rights considers valued components where quantifiable analyses have been conducted and contained in the CNSC Environmental Assessment Report [13]. However, when assessing potential impacts to rights, some effects pathways are assessed qualitatively as not all effects have a quantifiable and related valued component(s).

#### **3.1 Changes in the Quantity and Quality of Resources Relating to the Exercise of Rights**

The Indigenous and/or treaty rights exercised in the Project area include fishing, hunting, trapping and gathering. The exercise of Indigenous and/or treaty rights related to changes in the quantity and quality of resources related to the exercise of rights is directly influenced by environmental conditions related to aquatic resources, fish and fish habitat, wildlife, soils and vegetation and ecosystems. The exercise of MN-S rights is also informed by each MN-S Citizen's culture, history, and protocols.

##### **3.1.1 Changes in the Quantity and Quality of Resources Relating to the Exercise of Fishing Rights**

MN-S MKS participants identified hunting, fishing and plant harvesting areas through the Project area as well as commercial fishing sites near Cree Lake, Russell Lake and the Key Lake highway corridor. Historically, MN-S MKS participants used to fish in Russell Lake and Close Lake before mining development affected access to the area. Fish have and continued to be a staple



in Métis diets, culture, and economy, where youth, adults and Elders participate in fishing activities. The seasonal cycle of fishing for the Métis begins after break-up in the spring, around April, persisting throughout the summer and fall. Cree Lake, Highrock Lake, Russell Lake and Haultain Lake are noted as subsistence fishing locations in the Project area. Fishing species include whitefish, pickerel, jackfish and trout. Any impacts to water and the aquatic environment that may impact fish species has been noted as concerns and issues that MN-S has brought forward to both Denison and the CNSC as part of the regulatory review and consultation process.

MN-S expressed a specific concern regarding Métis knowledge and were seeking Métis Knowledge to be included in fish and fish habitat monitoring and they questioned if Whitefish Lake North would be a reference area for monitoring fish health.

MN-S also noted that in-situ recovery (ISR) is a new mining method in Canada and there are concerns amongst Métis citizens that potential contamination could impact Whitefish Lake, and downstream waterbodies, via groundwater and surface water contamination, and resulting alienation from the land and avoidance of traditional activities in the area.

MN-S has raised concerns about potential leaks and contamination in bedrock, and contamination from effluent (including selenium), particularly the impact on Whitefish Lake and downstream impacts to Russell Lake. This includes effects that it will have on harvesting, particularly fishing, including a concern on extinguishment of nearby Métis commercial fishing rights. MN-S also raised concerns that the basement rock is potentially permeable and has concerns that hazardous materials will remain contained within the freeze wall.

Additionally, MN-S have also flagged increased traffic and land use pressures as a concern with respect to fishing. As more people travel to and from the project sites additional pressures may be placed on the natural resources that its citizens rely upon to feed their families. MN-S believes Denison should consider limiting non-Indigenous Project staff from fishing around the Project Area. MN-S also would like Denison to allow Métis employees cultural leave for land and resource activities during times of the year designated for harvesting activities and provide access to employees for harvesting activities during time off.

Potential impacts to surface water quality and quantity, fish and fish habitat, and potential impacts to sediment quality and invertebrate communities may ultimately lead to potential impacts to MN-S members' right to fish. CNSC staff have evaluated Denison's assessment of project-related impacts and conducted an independent assessment of potential impacts that may arise from the project with the findings discussed below.



### **3.1.1.1 Assessment of Project Effects on Surface Water Quantity and Quality as they Pertain to the Exercise of Fishing Rights**

CNSC staff reviewed the assessment of predicted residual effects on the aquatic environment due to changes in surface water quantity and quality from Project-related effects.

For surface water quantity, assessed project related effects included Project overprinting of drainage areas, surface water taking and surface water discharge. CNSC staff reviewed Denison's conclusions that with the implementation of appropriate design and mitigation measures, and the effects being characterized as low magnitude, localized, and fully reversible, the residual effects on surface water quantity are predicted to be not significant. Denison's conservative assessment determined that the largest predicted changes to stream flow is limited to 3% while changes in lake water levels were predicted to be negligible and remain below the natural range of variability considering waterbodies immediately downstream of the project facility.

For surface water quality, assessed project related effects included mobilization of suspended materials, controlled discharge to the receiving environment, and long-term transport of groundwater solutes to Whitefish Lake in a future centuries' scenario. CNSC staff reviewed Denison's conclusions that with the implementation of appropriate mitigation measures, and the effects being characterized as low magnitude, localized, and fully reversible, the residual effects on surface water quality from mobilization of sediment and long-term transport of groundwater solutes are predicted to be not significant. CNSC staff verified Denison's determination that surface water quality in the receiving environment is likely to be moderately adversely impacted by the controlled discharge of effluent from the Project throughout the operation and decommissioning phases. However, residual effects are expected to be localized and fully reversible following post-decommissioning, and the aquatic environment will likely be resilient to potential changes. Surface water quality is an intermediate VC and is assessed further as a KI of potential residual adverse effects significance determinations for the receptor VCs Fish and Fish Habitat, Sediment Quality and Benthic Invertebrates, and Fish Health.

CNSC staff reviewed Denison's models and predictions for effects to surface water quantity and quality considering input from other federal departments, provincial ministries, Indigenous Nations and communities and the public. CNSC staff confirmed that Denison conducted a sufficient analysis of these effects to determine predicted levels of risk, however CNSC staff have proposed an EA Condition ([Table 12.1](#)) that Denison collect additional baseline data and reduce uncertainty in modelling of risk predictions (EA2). CNSC staff reviewed Denison's identified mitigation and follow-up monitoring program measures for the identified effects and have found that they are adequate.





### **3.1.1.2 Assessment of Project Effects on Fish and Fish Habitat as they Pertain to the Exercise of Fishing Rights**

CNSC staff conclude the Project is not likely to cause significant adverse effects on fish and fish habitat from changes in fish habitat, changes in flows or water levels in lakes and rivers, or from changes in surface water quality due to the mobilization of suspended materials, controlled discharge to the receiving environment, or the long-term transport of groundwater solutes to Whitefish Lake in a future centuries scenario so long as mitigation measures and follow-up program measures are implemented.

Taking into account the implementation of mitigation measures and recommended follow-up program measures, CNSC staff conclude the Project is not likely to cause significant adverse effects on fish health from changes in water and sediment quality, and changes in constituent concentrations in fish tissues due to the mobilization of suspended materials, controlled discharge to the receiving environment, or the long-term transport of groundwater solutes to Whitefish Lake in a future centuries scenario. Overall, changes to fish and fish habitat are expected to be non-significant. Fish and Fish Habitat has a high resiliency with respect to physical disturbance in the context of a small, localized area being altered or disturbed. It is not expected that the ecological integrity of the areas adjacent to the infrastructure will be affected and, as such, will provide for sources of re-distribution and recolonization.

To ensure that the aforementioned assessment conclusions remain valid, CNSC staff recommend that the Commission include the following EA Condition, should it issue a licence. If accepted, Denison will be required to address EA Condition EA2 in Table 12.1 of the Environmental Assessment Report related to IRs carried over from the EA Review into licensing. CNSC's assessment conclusions are contingent on the establishment of these EA Conditions.

### **3.1.1.3 Assessment of Project Effects on Sediment Quality as they Pertain to the Exercise of Fishing Rights**

CNSC staff reviewed the assessment of predicted residual effects on sediment quality and benthic invertebrates due to change in sediment quantity and particle size, change in sediment quality (chemical), change in aquatic habitat (area), and change in water level or flow. CNSC staff reviewed Denison's conclusions that with the implementation of appropriate mitigation measures and the effects being characterized as low magnitude, localized, and fully reversible, the residual effects on sediment quality and benthic invertebrates are predicted to be not significant. CNSC staff verified Denison's determination that surface water quality in the receiving environment is likely to be moderately adversely impacted by the controlled discharge of effluent from the Project throughout the operation and decommissioning phases and that there are potential low levels of risk to benthic invertebrates from surface water quality. However, residual effects are expected to be localized and fully reversible following



Project post-decommissioning, and benthic invertebrate communities will likely be resilient to potential changes (see section 6.3.6 for more details).

CNSC staff reviewed Denison's models and predictions for effects to sediment quality and benthic invertebrates and confirmed that Denison conducted a comprehensive analysis of these effects. Furthermore, CNSC staff reviewed Denison's identified mitigation and follow-up monitoring program measures for the identified effects and have found that they are adequate.

CNSC staff also conducted an effects significance determination for the identified effects, taking into account input from other federal departments, provincial ministries, Indigenous Nations and communities and the public, and determined that the identified changes to sediment quality and benthic invertebrates are expected to be not significant due to the implementation of mitigation measures and not cause significant changes to the sediment quality or benthic invertebrate population health.

#### **3.1.1.4 Potential Impacts to the Quantity and Quality and Resources Relating to the Exercise of Fishing Rights**

Subsistence and commercial fishing has remained a vital land and resource use activity since the emergence of Métis as a distinct culture and peoples in Northern Saskatchewan. Métis fish across several lakes for freshwater species such as trout, jackfish and walleye (pickerel). During the 20<sup>th</sup> century, many Métis in NR1 and NR3 were part of the commercial fishing industry. Today, fishing remains a common activity throughout Northern Saskatchewan and is a stable part of the Métis traditional diet.

MN-S MKS participants have identified fishing locations within the Churchill River watershed, the Cree Lake area, Wollaston Lake and alongside the Key Lake Road. Predicted impacts to surface water quantity and quality, fish and fish habitat, and sediment quality and invertebrate communities are expected to extend minimally into the LSA and impacts to areas of use closest to the Project Site (e.g. Russell Lake) that were identified as historical fishing locations for MN-S members, are not predicted. However, industrial activities, such as uranium mining, carry social stigma for Indigenous Peoples and can create a perception that potential contamination to the environment and residing species from an operating uranium mine may lead to negative health impacts by consuming traditional foods such as fish. This perception can ultimately lead to avoidance behaviours as Métis land users seek out fishing areas that are deemed to be more pristine and this disruption may limit areas of use relied upon for fishing activities, undermine the commercial market, and also disrupt transference of Métis knowledge.

Denison has committed to the implementation of a freeze wall, double-walled piping with leak detection, and a robust groundwater monitoring program to prevent impacts on the groundwater and subsurface environment. In addition, Denison's Groundwater Protection and





Monitoring Plan and commitments to remediation to provide assurance that environmental protection measures will be put in place if the project is approved. This design includes monitoring of multiple parameters such as pressure and temperature. Data reviewed by CNSC confirms low permeability of basement rock. As such there are no predicted impacts to groundwater and therefore no predicted impacts to surface water environments via groundwater infiltration are not predicted.

Mitigation measures, follow up activities and commitments to MN-S proposed by Denison, and CNSC proposed commitments and accommodation measures are contained within Table 1 in and Table 4, and referenced in Section 4 of this report that address potential impacts to surface water quantity and quality, fish and fish habitat, and sediment quality and the invertebrate community which could lead to impacts to the rights to fish.

### **3.1.2 Changes in the Quantity and Quality of Resources Relating to the Exercise of Hunting and Trapping Rights**

MN-S MKS participants identified harvesting areas through the Project area including hunting and trapping near Cree Lake and the Key Lake highway corridor. Métis conduct hunting activities in and around the Churchill River Watershed and Cree Lake. Fox Lake Road is an important travel route for Métis in NR1 and NR3, connecting trails leading to other hunting areas in Highrock Lake, Haultain Lake and Cree Lake. These trails bridge access for Métis travelling from other locations, such as south from Haultain Lake or east from Cree Lake. Among Métis in NR1 and NR3, the collective understanding is that moose and woodland caribou are an important cultural food source. These staple foods are supplemented with smaller game, such as mallard ducks in the summer and geese in the fall after nesting. Hunting has always been an integral part of Métis culture, and Métis in northern Saskatchewan continue to rely heavily on hunting to maintain subsistence livelihoods. Métis hunting practises continue to be influenced by factors such as seasonality, species type, family history and traditions, and access to preferred and known hunting areas, which also influence the location and duration of hunting trips. Métis would avoid hunting during vulnerable periods for wildlife, such as calving season, to ensure populations would persist into the next year. This species-dependent approach creates a staggered seasonal calendar for hunting, where activities are concentrated in the fall and late winter.

In the past, trapping activities occurred year-round. Today, the main trapping season begins between September to late October and closes in May. MKS participants shared that late fall and early winter provide for optimal trapping when the animals have developed their fur. Métis harvesters continue to use traplines near Knee Lake, Highrock Lake up to the Iceland River, Gunnar Uranium Mine, east of Paynter Island stretching close to Highway 914, and northeast of English River First Nation Mawdsley Lake Reserve #192R to the east of Highway 914 and south of Key Lake Uranium Mine. Beaver and muskrat harvested in the spring and summer are eaten



in the winter. Rabbits are caught by snares, skinned and added to stews. Métis are considered “children of the fur trade” with a collective identity centered in the lifestyle and culture of the fur trade. Trapping is integral to family life, Métis culture and relationship to the land. Any impacts to wildlife and wildlife habitat have been noted as concerns and issues that MN-S has brought forward to both Denison and the CNSC as part of the regulatory review and consultation process.

MN-S is concerned with increased pressure on terrestrial species and supporting habitats, and the decreased quality and quantity of species and supporting habitats (moose and woodland caribou), which could lead to a noticeable decline in both the quality and quantity of these resources for Métis citizens for harvesting.

MN-S have also raised concerns on the topic of wildlife and wildlife habitat including wanting to be involved in the development of the Wildlife Monitoring and Woodland Caribou Management Plan given the importance of woodland caribou to MN-S citizens. MN-S was concerned that the RSA selected for assessment of wildlife did not encompass a sufficient area to consider woodland caribou. In addition, MN-S noted their concerns that Denison has not incorporated sufficient Métis Knowledge into their Woodland Caribou Management Plan and requested Denison further engage on this issue and to include Northern Regions 1 and 3 representatives in the development of a Woodland Caribou Management Plan for the Project.

MN-S has shared they have trepidations about the increased pressure on species and their supporting habitats, which could lead to a noticeable decline in both the quality and quantity of these resources. The activities associated with this project may adversely affect the safety, both real and perceived, of consuming species that have been traditionally harvested by MN-S members.

Additionally, MN-S is concerned about the effects of the Project on Métis harvesting including long-term impacts on commercial and subsistence harvesting due to increased traffic and noise. MN-S has emphasized that provincial caribou recovery plans are inadequate and cannot be relied on to address project impacts. MKS participants stated that Project activities could impact the realised and perceived safety of the consumption of species which have been harvested for traditional use.

Potential impacts to furbearers, moose and woodland caribou may ultimately lead to potential impacts to MN-S members’ right to hunt and trap. CNSC staff have evaluated Denison’s assessment of project-related impacts and conducted an independent assessment of potential impacts that may arise from the project with the findings discussed below.



### **3.1.2.1 Assessment of Project Effects on Furbearers as they Pertain to the Exercise of Hunting and Trapping Rights**

CNSC staff reviewed Denison's effects assessment for alteration and/or loss of habitat to pine marten, mink, and muskrat, and confirmed that Denison conducted a comprehensive analysis of these effects and that identified mitigation and follow-up monitoring program measures are adequate.

Wolverines need large, undisturbed areas to survive. The proposed Project may affect about 8.2% of their habitat in the region, but it's unclear if this will impact their ability to maintain healthy populations. Since wolverines are a species at risk, the CNSC asked Denison for more details on how the Project might overlap with wolverine home ranges and whether enough suitable habitat will remain. Denison replied that no wolverines were seen during earlier studies, and much of the Project area was already disturbed. They believe any impacts to wolverine will be small due to the species' low density and large home ranges. Denison has committed to monitoring wildlife, including wolverines, but hasn't yet provided full details of their monitoring plans. The CNSC has proposed a condition that requires Denison to submit a monitoring plan for species at risk, including wolverine, to ensure any negative effects are tracked and managed properly. Considering this information, and the proposed EA condition, CNSC staff concluded that Denison's mitigation and follow-up monitoring program measures for the identified effects on wolverine are adequate.

### **3.1.2.2 Assessment of Project Effects on Moose as they Pertain to the Exercise of Hunting and Trapping Rights**

CNSC staff reviewed Denison's effects assessment for alteration and/or loss of habitat to moose and CNSC staff requested more information from Denison on how to mitigate any residual project impacts. Denison responded that mitigations to minimize potential effects on moose include minimizing the extent of the Project Area and associated disturbances to the extent practicable, standard mitigation measures to minimize air emissions, dust, light and noise, exclusion fencing around waste pads and ponds, and measures to minimize direct mortality from vehicle collisions through driver training and safety practices. Moreover, CNSC staff advised Denison to clarify how IK/MK on Moose calving sites and corridors in the RSA is incorporated into the residual effects assessment. Denison explained that the sites identified by Indigenous Nations and communities, including MN-S, through sharing of IK/MK were explicitly considered in the assessment as indicated by their identification as overlapping with the Terrestrial RSA, however, the areas were not expressly discussed in the residual effects assessment because there is no anticipated spatial overlap of those areas with direct or indirect Project effects. Considering this information, CNSC staff concluded that Denison's effect assessment, mitigation and follow-up monitoring program measures for the identified effects on Moose are adequate and the effects to Moose are predicted to be non-significant.



### **3.1.2.3 Assessment of Project Effects on Caribou as they Pertain to the Exercise of Hunting and Trapping Rights**

Denison conducted surveys to detect caribou presence but didn't specifically study how woodland caribou use habitat across seasons or during sensitive life stages like calving. CNSC asked for more detail, and Denison responded with updated maps showing seasonal habitat use and potential for feeding, shelter, and calving. In the view of the CNSC, the updated information provided by Denison helped address concerns raised by MN-S.

CNSC noted that forest fires can damage woodland caribou habitat, which may take decades to recover and questioned Denison whether certain regenerating forest types are suitable year-round for woodland caribou. Denison indicated woodland caribou were observed in these regenerating forest areas and included them as available habitat. Denison also considered habitat connectivity in their analysis and indicated caribou can move freely across the landscape, with no known barriers or corridors in the Project area.

CNSC and ECCC raised concerns about noise from the Project's airstrip. Denison expects approximately five flights per week will result from the Project being developed and has committed to minimize wildlife disturbance by following best practices, including adjusting flight paths when needed.

Denison estimated the Project adds only 0.001% disturbance to the broader woodland caribou range. They used a 500 m buffer around Project features to assess habitat loss, in line with federal guidance. CNSC noted that not all disturbances may be visible in satellite imagery but acknowledged Denison's efforts to study how linear features affect wildlife. Denison plans to restore old roads and trails as part of caribou habitat offset efforts.

CNSC staff reviewed Denison's assessment of risks to woodland caribou, especially from consuming potentially contaminated lichen, which makes up most of their diet. Lichen can absorb airborne pollutants from up to 40 km away, so CNSC requested Denison explain how this was factored into their analysis. Denison indicated their environmental study showed low risk from contaminants, but CNSC noted the model used for diet contained only 20% lichen. Since woodland caribou may eat up to 70% lichen, CNSC requested more evidence to determine woodland caribou have a low risk from contaminants to ensure caribou and their primary food source would be protected. Denison updated their analysis model using a 70% lichen diet and found that even with higher exposure, radiation and contaminant levels stayed well below environmental guidelines. This indicates that caribou are expected to be safe from dietary exposure to Project-related contaminants.

Considering this information, CNSC staff concluded that Denison's assessment and mitigation measures for the identified effects on woodland caribou mortality are adequate.



### **3.1.2.4 Potential Impacts to Quality and Resources Relating to the Exercise of Hunting and Trapping Rights**

Hunting and trapping have remained a vital land and resource use activity since the emergence of Métis as a distinct culture and peoples in Northern Saskatchewan. Métis hunt and trap across several locations for species such as moose, caribou, deer, duck for hunting and rabbit, otter, wolf, fox, mink, coyote and beaver for trapping. Hunting continues to support intergenerational knowledge transfer and continuity of Métis culture. Hunting methods, species to harvest, quantities, harvest timing, and food preparation methods are part of rich Métis knowledge shared from generation to generation through oral history and time spent together on the land. Trapping is integral to family life and Métis' relationship to the land. Métis played pivotal roles in the fur trade era and were relied on for their trapping and trapline expertise. Today, hunting and trapping remains a common activity throughout Northern Saskatchewan and is an important part of the Métis traditional diet and way of life.

MN-S MKS participants have identified hunting and trapping locations within the Churchill River Watershed, the Cree Lake area, Lake Athabasca and alongside the Key Lake Road. Locations used by MN-S members to exercise their right to hunt and trap are found within the LSA and RSA, and not directly at the Project Site. Predicted impacts to furbearers, moose, and woodland caribou are expected to extend into the LSA and impacts to areas closest to the Project Site that have been identified for use by MN-S members are not predicted. However, industrial activities, such as uranium mining, carry social stigma and can create a perception that potential contamination to the environment and residing species from an operating uranium mine may lead to negative health impacts by consuming important traditional foods such as moose and woodland caribou. This perception can ultimately lead to avoidance behaviours as Métis land users seek out hunting and trapping areas that are deemed to be more pristine and this disruption may limit areas of use relied upon for sustenance activities and disrupt transference of cultural knowledge.

Mitigation measures, follow up activities and commitments to MN-S proposed by Denison, and CNSC commitments and proposed accommodation measures are contained within Table 1 and Table 4 and referenced in Section 4 of this report that address potential impacts to furbearers, moose and woodland caribou which could lead to impacts to the rights to hunt and trap.

### **3.1.3 Changes in the Quantity and Quality of Resources Relating to the Exercise of Gathering Rights**

MN-S MKS participants identified harvesting areas through the Project area including gathering near Cree Lake, Pinehouse, and near Fox Lake Road. Métis practise gathering activities in and around the Churchill River Watershed and Cree Lake. Fox Lake Road is an important area for Métis in NR3 for gathering mushrooms and berries. Métis members harvest blueberries,



cranberries, raspberries, herbs and mushrooms around the Project area alongside Highway 914, Russell Lake and Gordon Lake Recreational Site. Gathering activities play a key role in ongoing Métis knowledge transmission across generations. Métis gather a variety of resources across northern Saskatchewan. The gathering of plants, mushrooms, wood and berries occurs year-round for Métis in NR1 and NR3, depending on species availability and accessible locations. The Métis also participate in wild rice harvesting as lakes are prepared in the spring and harvest occurs in early fall. Wild rice is harvested around Beauval and Lac La Ronge as well as Lorimer Lake where there is a Métis camp used to support wild harvesting activities. These locations are located outside of the Project RSA. Gathering activities are often conducted with family and friends. For example, Métis families camp in July for a couple of weeks to harvest berries and herbs. These gatherings provide opportunities for social interaction, the sharing of stories, and the transmission of cultural values from one generation to the next. Any impacts to culturally important plants and vegetation have been noted as concerns and issues that MN-S has brought forward to both Denison and the CNSC as part of the regulatory review process.

MN-S is also concerned about reduced engagement in land and resource use activities, diminished access to previously accessible areas, and Project impacts on health of traditionally harvested populations. This reduction in participation may be attributed to perceived environmental risks, impacts on traditional food sources, and increased involvement in mining activities. MN-S noted that activities associated with this project may adversely affect the safety, both real and perceived, of consuming, or commercially harvesting, species that have been traditionally harvested by MN-S members in the LSA and broader RSA.

Potential impacts to soil quantity and quality, and vegetation and ecosystems may lead to potential impacts to MN-S members' right to gather. CNSC staff have evaluated Denison's assessment of project-related impacts and conducted an independent assessment of potential impacts that may arise from the project with the findings discussed below.

### **3.1.3.1 Assessment of Project Effects on Soil Quantity and Quality as they Pertain to the Exercise of Gathering Rights**

CNSC staff reviewed Denison's effect assessment to soil quantity and quality and confirmed that Denison conducted a comprehensive analysis of these effects and that identified mitigation measures are adequate. CNSC staff sought clarification regarding Denison's follow-up monitoring of soil stockpiles. Since Denison plans to use stockpiled soil in reclamation activities, CNSC staff asked whether Denison's periodic monitoring includes analysis of contaminants of potential concern (COPCs) that could be deposited from dust-generating project activities. Denison clarified that monitoring of COPCs in soil stockpiles is not planned, but the need could be revisited in case COPCs in sources are detected at concentrations exceeding predictions. In addition, Denison proposed to support reclamation research including investigations into soil conditions which may include analysis of COPCs as warranted. CNSC staff verified in the





appendix 10A assessment that COPC concentrations in soil on-site from atmospheric deposition are predicted to be below soil quality guidelines for protection of human health and environmental health. In addition, Denison proposed to support research on soil preparation techniques and amendments to inform the revegetation strategy. CNSC staff note that this research will support reclamation given that soil suitability is expected to be poor, due to the predominance of sandy soils characterized by a thin surface organic layer and low fertility. Considering this information, CNSC staff concluded that Denison's follow-up monitoring program measures for the identified effects are adequate and the effects to soil quantity and quality are predicted to be non-significant.

### **3.1.3.2 Assessment of Project Effects on Vegetation and Ecosystems as they Pertain to the Exercise of Gathering Rights**

CNSC staff reviewed Denison's effects assessment to the areal extent of habitat types and confirmed that Denison conducted a comprehensive analysis of these effects and that identified mitigation and follow-up monitoring program measures are adequate.

CNSC staff reviewed Denison's assessment of contaminants in plants, especially those eaten by woodland caribou and people, such as lichen and blueberries. They noted that lichen can absorb airborne pollutants, not just soil-based ones, and often had higher contaminant levels than blueberries in past studies. CNSC asked Denison to include air deposition as a key exposure pathway for lichen, which Denison confirmed was already considered and updated their documentation to reflect this.

During the environmental assessment, concerns about berry quality were raised. CNSC confirmed that Denison's assessment looked at all major sources of pollution and found no harmful levels of radiation or COPCs in vegetation, including berries, during any phase of the Project or in the long term. Denison committed to ongoing monitoring, including testing blueberries, and will update risk assessments as new data becomes available.

Considering this information, CNSC staff concluded that Denison's mitigation and follow-up monitoring program measures for the identified effects are adequate and the effects to vegetation and ecosystems are predicted to be non-significant.

### **3.1.3.3 Potential Impacts to the Quantity and Quality and Resources Relating to the Exercise of Gathering Rights**

Métis citizens gather plants, mushrooms, wood and berries across several locations to provide a balanced diet of nutritious and diverse foods, teas and medicines that have sustained the Métis people for millennia. In addition, gathering is a critical role for women in Métis culture including preserving traditional knowledge regarding the identification, collection and preparation of various natural plants. It involves an intricate understanding of the seasons, ecosystems, and the optimal times for gathering specific plants and berries. Today, gathering remains a common





activity throughout Northern Saskatchewan and is a stable part of the Métis traditional diet and way of life.

Métis practise gathering activities in and around the Churchill River Watershed and Cree Lake. Many of the locations used by MN-S members to exercise their right to gather are found within the LSA and RSA, and not directly at the Project Site. Predicted impacts to soils and vegetation are expected at the Project site and may extend minimally into the LSA but are not predicted to significantly impact areas MN-S members have identified as traditional gathering locations. However, industrial activities, such as uranium mining, carry social stigma and can create a perception that potential contamination to the environment and residing species from an operating uranium mine may lead to negative health impacts by consuming important traditional foods such as berries. This perception can ultimately lead to avoidance behaviours as Métis land users seek out gathering areas that are deemed to be more pristine, and this disruption may limit areas of use relied upon for sustenance and cultural activities and also disrupt transference of cultural knowledge.

Mitigation measures, follow up activities and commitments to MN-S proposed by Denison, and CNSC commitments and proposed accommodation measures are contained within Table 1 and Table 4, and referenced in Section 4 of this report that address potential impacts to soil quantity and quality, and vegetation and ecosystems which could lead to impacts to the rights to gather.

### **3.2 Changes in Access to Areas of Cultural Importance and areas of Containing Resources that Support the Exercise of Rights**

The Indigenous and/or treaty rights exercised in the Project area rely on the ability for Indigenous Nations and communities to access land to exercise their rights. The exercise of Indigenous and/or treaty rights related to changes in access to areas of cultural importance and areas containing resources which supports the exercise of rights is directly influenced by the ability to access lands and resources for fishing, hunting, trapping, gathering and accessing areas of cultural and spiritual importance for cultural and spiritual practices. The exercise of rights is also informed by each Indigenous Nation's culture, history, and protocols.

#### **3.2.1.1 Changes in Access to Areas of Cultural Importance and Access to Areas Containing Resources that Support the Exercise of Rights**

MN-S Northern Region I (NR1) and Northern Region III (NR3) have been identified as potentially having Indigenous Rights in the area where the Wheeler River Project is proposed. NR1 serves Métis citizens from the far-north of Saskatchewan including the communities of Uranium City, Stony Rapids and La Ronge. NR3 serves Métis citizens in the communities of Ile a la Crosse, Beauval and Pinehouse. MN-S provided the CNSC with traditional land use data that includes



travel routes, cabins, traditional campsites and grave sites in and around the Churchill River Watershed, Cree Lake and along Highway 914.

Key cultural areas for MN-S members are at, but not limited to Primeau Lake, Dipper Rapids, Cup Lake, Knee Lake, Cree Lake, Lake Athabasca, Donaldson Lake and Upper Foster Lake. Sites closest to the Project include a Métis camp at kilometre 190 of Highway 914 south of Key Lake Mill and Métis cabins located east of Upper Foster Lake beside Highway 914 and at kilometre 160 near the Haultain River on the west side of Highway 914. These locations are within the RSA. Métis utilize cabins, traditional campsites, and travel routes across the Homeland. These activities are distinct from contemporary notions of camping and outdoor activities as they are inherently for land-based and cultural activities, including hunting, gathering, trapping and fishing.

MN-S MKS identifies potential changes to harvesting and related activities for MN-S citizens, including but not limited to hunting, fishing, gathering, and trapping. Indicators for this Valued Component also encompass possible changes to travel and access routes to areas designated for these activities, as well as to cabins and campsites used during these land and resource use activities.

In the study, MN-S members raise concerns about noticed changes happening over time resulting from commercial and industrial development including both indirect and direct effects on Métis land and resource use practises. For example, advisors speak to Métis peoples' ability to hunt on the east side of Cree Lake has been affected by resource development and industrial activities and that there used to be a lot of berry picking around the mines in northern Saskatchewan and now Métis Elders are reluctant to gather near uranium mines.

MN-S is also concerned about reduced engagement in land and resource use activities, diminished access to previously accessible areas, and Project impacts on health of traditionally harvested populations. This reduction in participation may be attributed to perceived environmental risks, impacts on traditional food sources, and increased involvement in mining activities. The activities associated with this project may adversely affect the safety, both real and perceived, of consuming, or commercially harvesting, species that have been traditionally harvested by MN-S members in the LSA and broader RSA.

### **3.2.1.2 Potential Impacts to Indigenous Land and Resource Use**

CNSC staff reviewed Denison's assessment of potential effects to Indigenous Land and Resource Use (ILRU) due to decreased access to areas of cultural importance, including areas used for fishing, hunting, trapping and gathering activities, as well as ceremonial practices, during all phases of the Project and considered the views shared by Indigenous Nations and communities. CNSC staff have also reviewed and considered all MN-S' Métis Knowledge that was provided in



Denison's EIS, as well as the documents and maps that have been shared directly with CNSC staff that were requested to remain confidential.

CNSC staff have also travelled to the Project site and region on several occasions, visited multiple cultural camps, met and engaged directly with Métis land users, Elders, and leadership related to the Project to hear and respond to their concerns. In addition, CNSC staff have also reviewed the mitigation measures that were proposed and applied by Denison in atmospheric and acoustic environment, geology and groundwater, aquatic environment, terrestrial environment, and human health sections as well as the mitigation and follow-up commitments made by Denison for the Project that would minimize impacts to Métis land users.

The Projects effects of potential changes to the physical and cultural heritage of Indigenous Nations and communities including MN-S, were also assessed for issues related to the loss, change, or alteration of archaeological and heritage resources of the current use of lands and resources for traditional purposes of culturally/spiritually sites. When considering the mitigation measures proposed and applied to Heritage Resources, CNSC staff conclude that there will be no residual adverse effects to changes in access to cultural and heritage resources for ceremonial purposes. With respect to potential effects on other cultural resources including archaeology, and considering MN-S' views, CNSC staff have found that Denison's mitigation measures listed and their commitments to follow the guidance under the *Saskatchewan's Heritage Property Act* (Government of Saskatchewan 2017) pertaining to archaeology sites, built heritage sites and structures of historical and/or architectural interest, and paleontological sites will mitigate any potential effects. Denison has completed the required archaeology assessments in accordance with provincial regulations and has also committed to developing a Heritage Resources Management Plan (HRMP) to help protect and mitigate any potential effects of the Project to Heritage Resources with potentially affected Indigenous Nations and communities to ensure the Project effects are being monitored and appropriately mitigated.

Considering the implementation of mitigation measures and recommended follow-up program measures, as well as input received from Indigenous Nations and communities, including MN-S, CNSC staff conclude that there are grounds for the Commission to find that the Project is not likely to cause significant adverse effects on access to cultural sites of importance to Indigenous peoples.

CNSC staff are committed to working with MN-S to collaborate on follow-up and monitoring activities for the Project, as well as enhance engagement, outreach and information sharing regarding uranium mining and related environmental, health, safety and regulatory measures to mitigate and protect ILRU in the Project Area region and build trust with MN-S members moving forward.



### **3.2.1.3 Potential Impacts to Changes in Access to Areas of Cultural Importance and Access to Areas Containing Resources that Support the Exercise of Rights**

Cultural and spiritual practices are central to Indigenous ways of life and being. The transfer of cultural knowledge in Métis culture is shared from generation to generation via stories and these stories speak of important moments, places and activities that describe the origins and history of the Métis people.

Métis land-based activities are deeply rooted in the cultural heritage and way of life of the Métis people. These activities encompass a wide range of practises that connect Métis individuals and families to the land and foster a sense of belonging, sustainability, and cultural continuity. Fishing, hunting, trapping, gardening, gathering and crafting are all activities that both sustained physical needs and uphold spiritual and social dimensions crucial to Métis identity. The Métis knowledge of, connection to, and spiritual engagement with the land emerged from the cultural practices of the Cree and Dene women who married European traders and brought into their family the values and knowledge of their communities.

Key cultural areas for the Métis people are concentrated at Cree Lake, the Churchill River Watershed and near Highway 914 including but not limited to Primeau Lake, Dipper Rapids, Cup Lake, Knee Lake, Cree Lake, Lake Athabasca, Donaldson Lake and Upper Foster Lake. Sites closest to the Project include a Métis camp at kilometre 190 of Highway 914 south of Key Lake Mill and Métis cabins located east of Upper Foster Lake beside Highway 914 and at kilometre 160 near the Haultain River on the west side of Highway 914.

Many of the locations used by MN-S members to access areas of cultural importance and areas containing resources to support exercise their right to gather are found within the LSA and RSA, and not directly at the Project Site. While access to the cultural sites, including the Métis camp at kilometre 190 of Highway 914 south of Key Lake Mill and Métis cabins located east of Upper Foster Lake beside Highway 914 and at kilometre 160 near the Haultain River on the west side of Highway 914 will remain, the experience of accessing important cultural sites will be changed with the physical presence of the Project. In addition, given the increased industrial activity associated with the Wheeler River Project, improvements to roads, bridges and related transportation infrastructure may allow and promote access to the Study Area by non-Indigenous land users. Non-Indigenous land users may also access the area to fish and hunt which puts further pressure on fish and wildlife resources that MN-S citizens rely upon. Both a change in view-scape when accessing culturally important sites, and an increase in non-Indigenous land users may potentially impact the frequency in which MN-S members access areas of cultural importance and access to areas containing resources which supports the exercise of rights. This can ultimately disrupt cultural activities and the transference of Métis knowledge.



CNSC staff are committed to working with Denison, the province, and MN-S to ensure that access to culturally important areas and areas required for fishing, hunting, trapping and gathering are maintained. In addition, CNSC commits to work with Denison and MN-S during the decommissioning phase of the Project to ensure that view-scapes and access are restored, to the extent possible, to pre-development conditions so that MN-S members are able to continue accessing areas of importance in ways that sustain their cultural continuity.

Mitigation measures, follow up activities and commitments to MN-S are contained within Table 2 and Table 4 in Section 4 of this report that address potential impacts to Indigenous land and resource use which informs potential impacts to access to areas of cultural importance and access to areas containing resources which supports the exercise of rights.

### **3.3 Changes to Governance, Laws, and Cultural Traditions that Inform the Exercise of Rights**

The Indigenous and/or treaty rights exercised in the Project area are tied to the ability for Indigenous Nations and communities to make decisions on how they will access and use the land to exercise their rights. The exercise of Indigenous and/or treaty rights related to changes to governance, laws and cultural traditions that informs the exercise of rights is directly influenced by the ability to make community-based decisions on how to care for the lands and how the lands will be used, and ways in which cultural knowledge and tradition will be transferred. The exercise of rights is also informed by each Indigenous Nation's culture, history, and protocols.

#### **3.3.1 Changes to Governance, Laws and Cultural Traditions that Inform the Exercise of Rights**

The Métis people developed a unique cultural identity that reflected their mixed heritage, and a home life often separate from Indigenous communities or European settlements. Their culture was also shaped through involvement in a "mixed economy" whereby they "sustained themselves through traditional land uses" while also trading "the excess" and working within the fur trade. The concept of Métis Homeland is both distinct and like the First Nations definition of "territory". From a European perspective, it can be understood as a defined space with boundaries. For Métis, this space was shaped by the places occupied, harvested, and travelled during the fur trade, which makes it distinct from how First Nations define their territory. However, like First Nations and learned from First Nations, Métis attachment and connection to the land emphasizes that the Homeland is also about the relationship to the land and what the land provides.

The 20th century saw Métis people pursuing recognition of their rights. The *Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Act* in 1981 was a pivotal step in the recognition of Métis self-governance in Saskatchewan. It established the MN-S Legislative Assembly, a governing body of Métis people



in the province. The 1982 Canadian Constitution recognized the Métis as one of Canada's three Indigenous groups, granting them certain rights and protections. Today, the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan is the government that represents Métis citizens in Saskatchewan. The Métis Nation Legislative Assembly (MNLA) is the governing body of the MN-S. Comprised of the Provincial Métis Council as well as Presidents of the Métis Locals, the MNLA has the authority to enact legislation and regulations concerning the affairs and conduct of the Métis in Saskatchewan.

Key cultural areas for the Métis include around the Churchill River Watershed, Cree Lake, the Key Lake highway corridor and around the Project site including Russell Lake. Sites close to the proposed Wheeler River Project site include Métis camp and commercial fishing near Russell Lake. Land and resource use forms an integral part of Métis ways of knowing doing and living. Métis land and resource use can be understood in terms of subsistence, commercial and recreational use of the natural environment for food, medicine, cultural and economic purposes.

MN-S has indicated that Metis citizens who use the LSA have the potential for economic loss due the projects. Economics is a primary Valued Component for MN-S and includes how the project will impact changes to employment, education and training, and impacts on the traditional Métis economy. MN-S has also raised concerns with quality-of-life valued component that includes changes to Métis kinship and cultural practices, festivals, Métis gatherings, and the use of cultural sites for personal practice or for the purpose of knowledge sharing with future generations. Furthermore, the proposed project may have an impact on the methods of communication, access to technology and the ability to travel for supporting kinship ties.

MN-S has expressed concern regarding sensory disturbances that may occur during land and resource use activities. These disturbances may include visual and auditory impacts resulting from mining and exploration activities in the region, increased road traffic, and changes to the visual environment.

MN-S has also raised concerns with the loss to the Métis title claim from the extraction of the Project resource and the loss of socio-economic opportunities which could result from the development of the Project resource prior to the recognition of Métis title. The Project is located in the middle of the Métis homeland and is subject to the 1994 land claim in respect of which the MN-S recently delivered more than 24,000 records to the Government of Saskatchewan. MN-S have indicated the Project will deeply impact Métis title lands: it will generate stigma among Métis, as seen with Cluff Lake, which reduces use of the lands, and it will deny the Métis the opportunity to develop their own lands and resources under Métis stewardship in a way that maximizes socio-economic outcomes.





### **3.3.2 Potential Impacts to Changes to Governance, Laws and Cultural Traditions that Inform the Exercise of Rights**

Indigenous Nations' governance, laws and cultural traditions are core rights protected under Section 35 of the *Constitution Act*, 1982 and in Indigenous Nation governance forms the basis of the 'Nation-to-Nation' relationship between Indigenous Nations and the Crown. The ability of Indigenous Nations to have a level of decision-making on lands that support the exercise of their rights, while also using internal laws and cultural traditions which informs how lands will be used is important to an Indigenous Nations' autonomy.

MN-S' governance, laws and cultural traditions are embedded in the cultural sites mapped across Métis land use areas in NR1 and NR3. These cultural and ecological sites identify those areas that are of importance to MN-S for the exercise of their rights and for sustaining their culture and Métis way of life. If developed, the Project changes MN-S' collective decision-making abilities of how the Project site will be used and limits access to the specific Project site to MN-S members. In addition, development of the Wheeler River Project will result in MN-S citizens not possessing stewardship over the Project Site and will change MN-S members relationship with the lands encompassing the Project Site until such time that the Project Site is decommissioned, and the lands are restored.

The proposed Project has the potential to impact generational knowledge sharing and cultural continuity through a change in the cultural experience. The development of the Wheeler River Project is predicted to increase the activity of vehicle use and access to the area. Given the heaviest concentration of contemporary harvesting areas by MN-S is found between Cree Lake up to the Key Lake gate, and on both sides of the Key Lake highway, the predicted increase of road use is anticipated to increase residual impacts to noise and dust in the area. MN-S members have noted direct concerns related to noise and dust emission and members' experience related to their exercise of rights may be adversely impacted.

The MN-S, on behalf of Métis citizens in Saskatchewan, have asserted that Saskatchewan Métis have existing Aboriginal rights and title in Northern Saskatchewan and filed the 1994 Land Claim against the Province of Saskatchewan. The Denison Wheeler River Project site is encompassed by the Land Claim area. While stewardship and community-based decision-making over important cultural lands to the Métis have remained since the 1994 Land Claim was filed, the MN-S does not possess sole decision-making over the asserted lands, and does not currently possess title, and the associated economic benefits of title possession over these lands.

As previously discussed, industrial activities, such as uranium mining, carry social stigma and can create a perception that potential contamination to the environment and residing species from an operating uranium mine may lead to negative health impacts by consuming important traditional foods such as berries. When this stigma is coupled with potential adverse impacts to





the quality of the experience in exercising rights, the Project may potentially impact the timing/seasonality and frequency in which MN-S members access areas that support their exercise of rights. Changes to the timing/seasonality and frequency of accessing areas to exercise rights can ultimately disrupt cultural activities and the transference of cultural knowledge by MN-S members.

Many of the locations of cultural and ecological importance to MN-S members are found within the RSA, and not directly at the Project Site. Access to fishing areas, including commercial fishing, as well as hunting grounds, traplines, and cultural locations will remain available. This ensures that MN-S community members can continue to access lands of importance and make community-based decisions that allow MN-S to maintain cultural traditions and a Métis way of life.

CNSC staff's assessment determined the Project's effects to Indigenous Land and Resource Use are predicted to be indirect effects to the quality of the perceived experience may be affected due to hazards related to road safety and the perceived risk to the contamination of traditional foods. The effects of potential changes to the health of Indigenous Nations and communities, including MN-S members, were assessed for issues related to changes in air quality, noise levels, visual quality, human health and perceived risk to the contamination of traditional foods. When taking into consideration the combined magnitude, geographic extent, duration, and context of the potential residual adverse effects on Indigenous health, and the mitigation measures to address effects on exposure to the Métis land user, CNSC staff have determined that the magnitude of these residual effects are expected to be low.

CNSC staff are committed to working with Denison and MN-S to ensure, where possible, MN-S members can access and use important lands to Métis and that MN-S maintain collective decision-making abilities to these lands. CNSC, as an agent of the Crown, will work with MN-S to minimize disruptions to generational knowledge sharing and cultural continuity through the identification of appropriate mitigations and accommodations.

Mitigation measures, follow up activities and commitments to MN-S proposed by Denison, and CNSC commitments and proposed accommodation measures are contained within Table 3 and Table 4, and referenced in Section 4 of this report that address potential impacts to noise, air quality, and Indigenous land and resource use which informs potential impacts to changes in governance, laws and cultural traditions that informs the exercise of rights.



## 4. Mitigations, Follow Up Activities and Commitments

The following section outlines Denison's proposed mitigation measures, follow-up activities and commitments, and proposed conditions and accommodation measures by the CNSC to reduce residual effects from the Project that may impact Indigenous and/or treaty rights.

### 4.1 Changes to the Quantity and Quality of Resources Related to the Exercise of Rights

In addition to the applicable commitments contained within the Commitments Register and the related conditions noted in the EA Report, CNSC staff have identified the mitigation measures and follow-up activities from the following tables of the EA Report that help eliminate or minimize impacts to the changes to the quantity and quality of resources related to the exercise of rights:

- Aquatic Environment, Surface Water Quantity and Quality: Tables 6.14, 6.15, 6.19, and 6.20.
- Fish and Fish Habitat: Tables 7.5 and 7.6.
- Fish Health: Tables 7.10 and 7.11.
- Sediment and Invertebrates: Tables 6.24 and 6.25.
- Terrestrial Environment, Effects on Soil: Tables 6.26, 6.27
- Terrestrial Biota, Furbearers, Ungulates, and caribou: Tables 7.15 and 7.16.
- Terrestrial Environment, Vegetation and Ecosystems: Tables 6.28, 6.29

Additionally, Table 1 below contains Denison's commitments and CNSC staff's proposed conditions and accommodation measures for the Project to eliminate or minimize residual effects from the Project that may result in changes to the quantity and quality of resources related to MN-S citizens' exercise of rights.

**Table 1: Changes to Quantity and Quality of Resources Relating to the Exercise of Rights**

| Changes in the Quantity and Quality of Resources Relating to the Exercise of Rights | Commitments   |
|---|---|
|   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Denison has committed to collaborating and engaging with Indigenous Nations and communities, including MN-S on the Environmental Management Plan (EMP), Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan (EPRP), and the Environmental Effects Monitoring (EEM). Note, details of these plans will be developed during the licensing/permitting phase of the process.</li> </ul> |
|   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Denison has also committed to considering local and TK in all areas of the Project through continued engagement.</li> </ul>  |
|   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Denison has committed to working with Indigenous Nations and communities, including MN-S to develop and implement the monitoring approach and the framework for sharing monitoring</li> </ul>  |



|  |   |
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|  | <p>results. The monitoring and follow-up program will also measure fish health, including measuring the potential bioaccumulation of non-radiological (e.g., molybdenum, selenium, mercury, and other metals) and radiological parameters.</p>  |
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Denison has committed to working with Indigenous Communities of Interest (COIs), including MN-S to develop and implement the monitoring approach and the framework for sharing monitoring results. As part of these programs, Denison will share information in an agreed-upon fashion, including the results of fish tissue monitoring. It is expected that the data collected through these monitoring regimes would also be relevant to other Indigenous Nations.</li></ul>  |
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The FIRT also raised concerns related to mercury and methylmercury concentrations in the receiving environment and for Project related activities to increase the risk for bioaccumulation of methylmercury in fish tissues. Denison has committed to monitoring mercury and methylmercury in the aquatic environment over the life of the Project to determine the potential changes in mercury concentrations in fish tissue over time (Commitments 8-42 and 8-44). Denison will assess health risks from fish consumption by comparing fish tissue data collected during operations from the monitoring program against applicable human health risk-based maximum permissible concentrations. As part of the country food monitoring document developed to support operational licensing, any site-specific contaminant criteria or trigger mechanisms will be developed in consultation with Indigenous Nations and communities, including MN-S.</li></ul> |
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Denison will assess health risks from fish consumption by comparing fish tissue data collected during operations from the monitoring program against applicable human health risk-based maximum permissible concentrations. As part of the country food monitoring document developed to support operational licensing, any site-specific contaminant criteria or trigger mechanisms will be developed in consultation with Indigenous Nations and communities, including MN-S.</li></ul>   |
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A Capacity Funding Agreement was signed with the MN-S to complete a Métis Knowledge Study by the end of October 2023. As part of this study agreement, Denison agreed to fully fund the Métis Knowledge Study. Denison received the Métis Knowledge Study from the MN-S on October 24, 2023. Denison has indicated it has updated the revised draft and final EIS to include relevant information in the assessment from the Métis Knowledge Study.</li></ul>   |



|  |  |
|--|--|
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>With respect to MN-S' comment, Denison included over five years of game bird harvest data on annual grouse harvests in section 9.4.3, table 9.4-3 of the EIS</li> </ul>   |
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Denison continues to engage with the MN-S at their direction, inclusive of engagement in NR1 and NR3 and is committed to such engagement with respect to decommissioning planning, mitigation, and monitoring.</li> </ul>   |
|  | EA Conditions  |
|  | EA2: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The licensee shall collect additional baseline water and sediment quality data to supplement existing baseline characterization data.</li> <li>The licensee shall update the ERA and near-field water quality modelling with the additional baseline data collected.</li> <li>The licensee shall review the option of calculating site-specific sediment coefficients (e.g., Kd values) for use in future licensing phase ERAs.</li> </ol>   |
|  | <p><i>*Further licence conditions can be found in Section 1.2.3 of the CMD and Section G (General) of the licence and the associated LCH.</i></p> <p><i>CNSC staff are proposing a Licence Condition for Indigenous engagement which includes requirements for Denison to report annually on their engagement activities and progress on implementing their commitments to Indigenous Nations and communities. The proposed Licence Condition includes EA follow up actions that address issues and concerns raised by Indigenous Nations related to their practice of Aboriginal and treaty rights as outlined in Section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982.</i></p> |

## 4.2 Changes in Access to Areas of Cultural Importance and Areas Containing Resources that Support the Exercise of Rights

In addition to the applicable commitments contained within the Commitments Register and the related conditions noted in the EA Report, CNSC staff have identified the following mitigation measures, follow-up activities, and commitments Denison has made, as well as CNSC staff's proposed conditions to effectively manage and minimize residual effects from the Project that may result in changes in access to areas of cultural importance and areas containing resources which supports MN-S citizens' exercise of rights in Table 2 below.



**Table 2: Changes in Access to Areas of Cultural Importance and Areas Containing Resources that Support the Exercise of Rights**

| Changes in Access to Areas of Cultural Importance and Areas Containing Resources that Support the Exercise of Rights | Mitigation Measures  |
|--|--|
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Denison will follow the Human Resources Management Plan which has been developed to mitigate potential effects of the Project to Heritage Resources. The plan outlines steps Denison will take if a new heritage site is identified during activities taking place over the life of the Project. The management of archaeological resources includes the assessment of the discovery by a qualified archaeologist and mitigation measures including avoidance of the site, shovel testing, systematic and intensive shovel testing, excavation, and/or construction monitoring. The HRMP outlines mechanisms for Indigenous engagement including the communities, implementation of appropriate cultural protocols, the potential for storage of artifacts outside of the Royal Saskatchewan Museum, and the inclusion of Indigenous field assistants when possible.</li> </ul> |
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Access north of the Key Lake gatehouse on Highway 914 is restricted and provides for controlled access for employees of northern mines, Indigenous resource harvesters from select communities, cabin owners, and lease holders.</li> </ul>   |
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mitigation measures associated with potential effects to cultural continuity (including knowledge transfer and language) are described in Section 12.1.5 and include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implementation of Denison's Indigenous Peoples Policy and advancement of reconciliation</li> <li>Using a commuter rotation system has also shown to be effective in allowing Indigenous employees continued opportunities to spend time on the land, and important factor in the transmission of knowledge and language.</li> <li>Encouragement to speak languages of choice while at the site, except during safety sensitive situations, will be made.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>  |
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Surface lease agreements, which are required to conduct mining in Saskatchewan, also contain commitments for environmental protection, occupational health and safety, and socio-economic benefits for residents of Saskatchewan's North (Government of Saskatchewan 2018). One provision within surface lease agreements is compensation for commercial loss of income. Payments are typically made to individuals who: 1) held a lease or permit to use the lands immediately prior to the establishment of the mine's surface lease; and 2) used the land to generate</li> </ul>   |



|  |   |
|--|---|
|  | commercial income, such as from trapping (Government of Saskatchewan 2018b). Should the need arise, compensation for loss of income may be disbursed to the trapper selected to take up trapping in the Project Area, including MN-S citizens.  |
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Denison has updated the revised draft and final EIS executive summary to acknowledge that the Project falls within the MN-S Homeland.</li> </ul>   |
|  | <b>Follow-up Measures</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Denison has completed the required archaeology assessments in accordance with provincial regulations and has also committed to developing a Heritage Resources Management Plan (HRMP) to help protect and mitigate any potential effects of the Project to Heritage Resources with potentially affected Indigenous Nations and communities to ensure the Project effects are being monitored and appropriately mitigated.</li> </ul> |

### 4.3 Changes to Governance, Laws and Cultural Traditions

In addition to the applicable commitments contained within the Commitments Register and the related conditions noted in the EA Report, CNSC staff have identified the mitigation measures and follow-up activities from the following tables of the EA Report that help minimize impacts to the changes to governance, laws and traditions:

- Atmospheric and acoustic environment: Tables 6.3, 6.4, 6.5, and 6.6.

Additionally, Table 3 below contains Denison's commitments and CNSC staff's proposed conditions for the Project to effectively manage and minimize residual effects from the Project that may result in changes to Métis governance, laws and traditions:

**Table 3: Changes to Governance, Laws and Cultural Traditions**

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Changes to<br>Governance, Laws<br>and Cultural<br>Traditions | <b>Commitments</b>   |
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Denison will provide space for an on-site Elder counsellor to provide culturally relevant programming and support.</li> </ul>   |
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Denison has made commitments (Commitments 6-4 &amp; 6-5) to mitigate any potential adverse effects resulting from increased noise emissions and the sensory disturbance these emissions may cause for wildlife and traditional land users, including Métis citizens.</li> </ul> |

### 4.4 CNSC Commitments and Proposed Accommodation Measures

The CNSC have identified the following commitments and proposed accommodation measures to help minimize impacts to MN-S members' rights.





**Table 4: CNSC Commitments and Proposed Accommodation Measures**

|  |
|--|
| 1. CNSC staff are proposing a Licence Condition for Indigenous engagement which includes requirements for Denison to report annually on their engagement activities and progress on implementing their commitments to Indigenous Nations and communities. The proposed Licence Condition includes EA follow up actions that address issues and concerns raised by Indigenous Nations related to their practice of Aboriginal and treaty rights as outlined in Section 35 of the <i>Constitution Act</i> , 1982 as well as ensures that all commitments made to MN-S regarding environmental monitoring and oversight of Nation members are honoured. |
| 2. CNSC staff, in collaboration and engagement with MN-S, will have oversight on all conditions contained within the Licence Condition Handbook. Compliance and verification of conditions will be completed by CNSC staff to ensure the health, safety and protection of workers, MN-S members and the environment.   |
| 3. CNSC staff are committed to the involvement of MN-S in the CNSC's Independent Environmental Monitoring Program (IEMP) monitoring activities in relation to the Denison Wheeler River site. CNSC staff will collaborate on reporting on monitoring results to the Nation.  |
| 4. As a member partner, CNSC staff will recommend the inclusion of the Denison Wheeler Project for acceptance into the Eastern Athabasca Regional Monitoring Program (EARMP). This program contains a community-based monitoring program which directly engages with Nation-members and helps address avoidance behaviours through participation in regional environmental effects monitoring. CNSC is committed to including MN-S as part of the EARMP, should MN-S wish to participate.  |

## 5. Conclusion on Impacts to Rights

### 5.1 Changes to the Quantity and Quality of Resources Relating to the Exercise of Rights

Many of the locations used by MN-S members to exercise their right to fish, hunt, trap and gather are found within the RSA and LSA, and none directly at the Project Site. Predicted impacts to the valued components of surface water quantity and quality, fish and fish habitat, sediment quality and invertebrate communities, furbearers, moose, woodland caribou, soil quantity and quality and vegetation and ecosystems are directly related to changes in the quantity and quality of resources related to the exercise of rights. As discussed in the EA Report, the residual impacts from the aforementioned VCs are expected to extend minimally into the LSA and with the application of mitigation measures, follow-up activities and commitments outlined in the EA Report, these residual impacts predicted to be non-significant.

Project-related activities during site preparation, construction and operation have the potential to alter fish and animal use, as well as wildlife travel patterns, generally for short durations. The magnitude of Project impacts to MN-S' rights, particularly the right to fish, hunt and trap can be



described as low due to potential changes in wildlife (i.e., fish and animals) use and travel, as well as MN-S citizens land use in the LSA. When taking into consideration the extensive mitigation measures, follow-up activities and commitments outlined in the EA Report, and the commitments and CNSC proposed Project conditions and accommodation measures contained in Table 1 and Table 4 above, the CNSC expects any residual impacts to MN-S' rights and interests as they relate to the changes to the quantity and quality of resources related to the exercise of rights to be below and adequately addressed.

CNSC staff are committed to working with MN-S through programs such as the Independent Environmental Monitoring Program (IEMP) and as a member partner of the Eastern Athabasca Regional Monitoring Program (EARMP) to help address perceptions of residual contamination from uranium mining activities and potential avoidance behaviours. CNSC are open to collaborating with MN-S to ensure community members can exercise their rights with confidence on the land.

## **5.2 Changes in Access to Areas of Cultural Importance and Areas Containing Resources that Support the Exercise of Rights**

Many of the locations used by MN-S members to access areas of cultural importance and areas containing resources which supports the exercise their rights are found within the RSA and LSA, and none directly at the Project Site. Predicted impacts to the valued component of Indigenous land and resource use are directly related to changes in access to areas of cultural importance and areas containing resources which supports the exercise of rights. As discussed in the EA Report, with the application of mitigation measures, follow-up activities and commitments outlined in the EA Report the residual impacts from Indigenous land and resource use are predicted to be indirect and non-significant.

The Key Lake gatehouse on Highway 914 currently allows for restricted access by Indigenous land and resource users. The presence of this gate, and access restrictions in the area is noted as a residual impact to access independent of the Wheeler River Project. Access to the cultural sites, including Russell Lake will remain even if the Project is developed. However, the experience of accessing important cultural sites will be changed with the physical presence of the Project.

Project-related activities during site preparation, construction and operation have the potential to disrupt access and development of the Project will change the experience in accessing areas of cultural importance and areas containing resources which supports the exercise of rights by increased use in the area. The magnitude of Project impacts to MN-S' rights as they pertain to access can be described as low due to MN-S members' land use in the LSA near Russell Lake and Highway 914 and the increased activity in the Project area. As the important cultural locations as identified by the Métis are south of the Project, access to these important cultural locations will result in minimal interactions between MN-S citizens and the physically altered landscape



at the Project site. When taking into consideration the mitigation measures and commitments outlined in the EA report, and the commitments and CNSC proposed conditions and accommodation measures outlined in Table 2 and Table 4 above, the CNSC expects any residual potential impacts to MN-S' rights and interests as they related to the changes in access to areas of cultural importance and areas containing resources which supports the exercise of rights to be low and adequately managed.

CNSC encourages Denison to work with MN-S to ensure that access to important cultural areas, and areas containing resources which supports the exercise of rights are maintained, particularly through the construction phase, so that areas of cultural importance, including important fishing, hunting, trapping and gathering locations can be accessed during important seasonal times required by MN-S members.

CNSC commits to work with Denison and MN-S during the decommissioning phase of the Project to ensure that viewsapes and access are restored, as feasible, to pre-development conditions so that MN-S members can continue accessing areas of importance in ways that sustain their cultural continuity.

### **5.3 Changes to Governance, Laws and Cultural Traditions**

MN-S' governance, laws and cultural traditions include around the Churchill River Watershed, Cree Lake, the Key Lake highway corridor and around the Project site including Russell Lake. These cultural and ecological sites identify those areas that are of importance to MN-S for the exercise of their rights and for sustaining their culture. Many of the locations of importance to MN-S members are found within the LSA and RSA, and none directly at the Project Site. The Project's effects to Indigenous Land and Resource Use are predicted to be indirect effects to the quality of the perceived experience which may be affected from hazards related to road safety and the perceived risk to the contamination of traditional foods. The effects of potential changes to the health of Indigenous Nations and communities, including MN-S, were assessed for issues related to changes in air quality, noise levels, visual quality, human health and perceived risk to the contamination of traditional foods. Any changes in the aforementioned inputs can affect the quality of the experience for MN-S members and ultimately discourage land use and impact transference of cultural knowledge.

Since the filing of the 1994 Land Claim, MN-S, on behalf of Métis citizens in Saskatchewan, have asserted that Saskatchewan Métis have existing Aboriginal rights and title in Northern Saskatchewan. The Denison Wheeler River Project site is encompassed by the Land Claim area. While stewardship and community-based decision-making over important cultural lands to the Métis have remained since the 1994 Land Claim was filed, the MN-S does not possess sole decision-making over the asserted lands, and does not currently possess title, and the associated economic benefits of title possession over these lands. The Denison Wheeler River does not fundamentally change the basis of the 1994 Land Claim.



Access to the fishing spots, hunting grounds, traplines, gathering locations and cultural sites, including Russell Lake will remain even if the Project is developed. The development of the Wheeler River Project will result in MN-S members not possessing stewardship over the Project Site, however all stewardship and decision-making abilities of other identified culturally and ecologically important lands will remain for MN-S members. As such, Métis will continue to be able to access lands identified to have importance and to continue to make community-based decisions of how the identified lands of importance will be used in maintaining cultural traditions that helps inform MN-S' collective exercise of rights. Although it is acknowledged that given the 1994 Land Claim is outstanding, there is no determination of Saskatchewan Métis' rights and title to the lands which encompass the Project area.

Project-related activities during site preparation, construction and operation have the potential to disrupt access and development of the Project will change the experience in accessing and using areas of cultural importance, particularly those in the LSA closest to the Project site. In addition, the development of the Project site will result in MN-S not possessing any stewardship or decision-making abilities over those lands until at such time the proposed Denison Wheeler River Project is decommissioned. In addition, the increased activity resulting from the Project will alter the experience for MN-S land users with the degree of alteration increasing the closer the exercise of rights takes place relative to the Project site. The magnitude of Project impacts to MN-S' rights as they pertain to governance, laws and traditions can be described as low to medium due to Métis land use in the LSA being predominantly south of the Project site, and the increase in activity in the Project area that may impact the experience of Métis land users and changes MN-S decision-making abilities of the lands encompassing the Project site. When taking into consideration the mitigation measures, follow-up measures and commitments contained in the EA report, and the CNSC conditions and proposed accommodation measures in Table 3 and Table 4 above, the CNSC expects any residual potential impacts to MN-S' rights and interests as they relate to governance, laws and cultural traditions resulting from the Project to be low and adequately managed.

CNSC staff are committed to working with MN-S through programs such as the Independent Environmental Monitoring Program (IEMP) and as a member partner of the Eastern Athabasca Regional Monitoring Program (EARMP) to help address perceptions of residual contamination from uranium mining activities and potential avoidance behaviours.

## 5.4 Conclusion

When considering and evaluating all mitigation measures, follow-up actions, commitments, and accommodation measures proposed by Denison and the CNSC, it is expected that the Project's potential residual impacts to MN-S' rights and interests are low and adequately managed. At the time of report publication, as part of consultation and engagement activities, MN-S and



Denison are engaged in discussions for a project-related agreement that would result in MN-S consent for the Project to proceed.

The CNSC is committed to ongoing engagement and collaboration with MN-S to ensure that the proposed mitigation measures and commitments are implemented and continue to effectively manage and minimize any impacts on their rights and interests for the full life cycle of the Project.

## 6. MN-S Views Expressed

The MN-S disagrees with the conclusions of the RIA that impacts to Métis rights and interests as a result of the Project are likely to be low magnitude and adequately managed. The MN-S asserts that the Project has the potential to significantly impact Métis Nation rights and interests, absent the Métis Nation's consent for the Project.

The MN-S notes that should Denison not obtain Métis Nation consent for the proposed Wheeler River Project, the MN-S expects the CNSC will address the following issues, among others:

- The proposed commitment and accommodation measure #1 contained in Table 4 of the RIA
- The commitment and proposed accommodation measures contained in Table 1 and Table 4 regarding environmental monitoring. The MN-S notes that monitoring is secondary to substantive protection of Métis rights, however, Métis-led monitoring is very important to the Métis Nation.
- The proposed commitment and accommodation measure #4 contained in Table 4 of the RIA
- The MN-S' requests mitigations for the protection of Project-related impacts to Métis rights (e.g., a selenium effluent release standard of 0 and freezing of the basement rock under the ore body)



## References

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- [16] Métis Nation - Saskatchewan, "Metis Nation - Saskatchewan," [Online]. Available: <https://metisnationsk.com/>. [Accessed 2025].
- [17] Métis Nation - Saskatchewan, "Metis Knowledge Study," Metis Nation - Saskatchewan.

## Appendix B Issues Tracking Tables

### B.1 Updated Issues Tracking table for Birch Narrows Dene Nation with respect to the Wheeler River Project

| ID                              | Issue or concern<br>(including impacts<br>to Indigenous<br>and/or Treaty<br>Rights)  | Theme                                  | Crown response  | Status of<br>issue/concern   |
|---------------------------------|--|--|---|--|
| BNDN01<br>since<br>June<br>2025 | <b>Duty to Consult</b><br><br>BNDN has expressed concerns in their August 2025 letter, that BNDN considers the Crown's constitutional duty to consult and accommodate to be unfulfilled with respect to the Project. | Indigenous Consultation and Engagement | Both Denison and CNSC staff have met with BNDN over the course of the regulatory process in an effort to better understand BNDN's concerns relating to the proposed project. CNSC consultation and engagement activities with BNDN have been ongoing since 2021 when BNDN indicated their interest in being engaged on the Project. During this time CNSC staff have met with BNDN to discuss their issues and concerns related to the Project, provided funding through the Participant Funding Program to facilitate BNDN's review of the draft EIS and participate in the Part 2 | CNSC staff's view is that this concern has and will continue to be addressed through the responses and commitments of Denison and CNSC staff to BNDN, to the extent possible, within the CNSC's mandate and regulatory requirements. |



|  |  |  |   |  |
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|  |  |  | <p>hearing, and offered many opportunities for BNDN to share details regarding their historical and contemporary traditional land use in the project area to help CNSC staff determine if there are potential impacts to BNDN's Indigenous and/or treaty rights. CNSC staff's consultation with BNDN has remained open, flexible and has upheld the honour of the Crown.</p> <p>In October 2025, CNSC staff met with BNDN representatives who shared historical and contemporary traditional land use information related to the Project with CNSC staff. CNSC staff concluded there are no residual impacts to BNDN's Indigenous and treaty rights. The details of the traditional land use information remains confidential as requested by BNDN.</p> <p>The CNSC is committed to working with BNDN</p> |  |
|--|--|--|---|--|



|  |  |  |  |  |
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|  |  |  | <p>to collaborate on addressing any outstanding concerns with respect to the project, including engagement on monitoring initiatives and follow-up activities, where appropriate, to ensure that BNDN's concerns are addressed.</p> <p>Additionally, as per CNSC staff's proposed Licence Condition 15.1 for Indigenous Engagement, CNSC staff will continue to monitor Denison's Indigenous engagement activities, including those relating to the incorporation of Indigenous Knowledge and values into Denison's proposed project, if it is approved. CNSC encourage BNDN to share any information regarding land use in the project area with Denison.</p> |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|



## **Appendix C Key Correspondence with Indigenous Nations and Communities regarding the Wheeler River Project since June 2025**

**C.1            General Correspondence with Indigenous Nations and  
communities since June 2025**



**From:** [Noakes, Rain](#)  
**To:** [Wheeler River Project - Projet de Wheeler River](#)  
**Cc:** [Noakes, Rain](#); [Boser, Sydney](#); [Froess, Ryan](#);  
**Subject:** CNSC Wheeler River Summer 2025 EA Update - EA Report Posted  
**Sent:** 2025-08-20 10:34:39 AM

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Hi Everyone,

On February 27, 2025, the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) announced hearing dates for a public hearing on Denison Mines Corporation's licence application to prepare a site for and construct its Wheeler River mine and mill project. The hearing will also consider the Environmental Assessment, which is being conducted under the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012*.

The CNSC has now posted the Environmental Assessment (EA) Report for the Denison Mines Corp.'s proposed Wheeler River Project. The EA report is part of the Commission Member Document (CMD) package, related to Denison's Licence application to Prepare Site and Construct. The EA Report presents CNSC staff's findings on the potential environmental effects of the proposed in-situ recovery uranium mining project located in northern Saskatchewan. It reflects a comprehensive technical review by the Federal Indigenous Review Team and incorporates feedback received from Indigenous Nations and communities, as well as federal and provincial departments and agencies.

The report evaluates whether the project is likely to cause significant adverse environmental effects, taking into account proposed mitigation measures and the implementation of follow-up programs.

Access the EA Report and supporting documents: [Environmental Assessment Report - Wheeler River Project](#)

### Next Steps

The EA Report will be considered by the Commission during a public hearing, where interested parties—including Indigenous Nations and communities, stakeholders, and members of the public—will have the opportunity to participate.

Details on the hearing, including how to register to participate or submit written interventions, will be announced on the CNSC website and the Registry in the coming weeks.

#### Part 1:

- Date: October 8, 2025
- Place: Hybrid (CNSC and Denison Staff presentations)
- Time: As set by the agenda to be published prior to the hearing date

#### Part 2:

- Date: Week of December 8, 2025 (multiple dates)
- Place: To be determined (Saskatoon) (with interventions)
- Time: As set by the agenda to be published prior to the hearing date

Additional information about the Wheeler River EA process can be found on the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry (CIAR Reference: 80178) page for this project: [Wheeler River Project \(iaac-aeic.gc.ca\)](https://www.aeic.gc.ca/en/impact-assessment/registries/ciar/80178).

If you have any questions about this or anything else related to the EA process for this project, please don't hesitate to let us know.

Regards,

The CNSC Wheeler River Project Team

Email: [WheelerRiver@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:WheelerRiver@cnsccsn.gc.ca)

Web: [Wheeler River Project \(iaac-aeic.gc.ca\)](https://www.aeic.gc.ca/en/impact-assessment/registries/ciar/80178)

**From:** [Boser, Sydney](#)  
**Cc:** [Way, Jessica](#); [McKeown, Justin](#); [Holland, Braeson](#);  
[Chief Jonathon P Sylvestre](#); [Trevor Moberly](#); [Terrie Campbell](#); [Cheyenna Hunt](#);  
[Angie Campbell](#); [Damien Georges](#); [nvp.mike@sasktel.net](#); [Ashley Carlson](#); [Ty Roberts](#); [Brent Laroque](#); [David Devos](#); [mamun](#); [chiefbeatty@sasktel.net](#);  
**Bcc:** [Executive Secretary](#); [Ben Merasty](#); [Ted Merasty](#); [Garrett Schmidt](#); [Katherine Hay](#); [Dana Kellett](#);  
**Subject:** Denison Wheeler River Posters - for distribution to community  
**Attachments:** [Poster\\_Wheeler2025\\_EN \(2\).pdf](#); [Poster\\_Wheeler2025\\_FR \(2\).pdf](#); [Poster\\_Wheeler2025\\_Cree.pdf](#); [Poster\\_Wheeler2025\\_Dene.pdf](#);  
**Sent:** 2025-09-16 9:37:00 AM

---

Hello,

In preparation for the upcoming Denison Wheeler River Commission Hearings, CNSC staff have developed informational posters in English, French, Cree and Dene. These materials are intended to inform the Indigenous Nations and communities we engage with, and who are interested in the Project, about the hearings and how you can participate.

Please find the posters attached. We encourage you to share them in your communities and with your members.

Thanks,

Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)  
Phone Number: 343-596-9556

Agente principale en politiques, Division de la consultation et de la mobilisation des Autochtones  
Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)

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Je reconnais que les terres sur lesquelles je vis et travaille sont le territoire traditionnel du Traité no 6 et la patrie des Métis

# Public Hearing Notice

## Denison's Wheeler River uranium mine and mill project

The Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC), Canada's nuclear regulator, will hold a 2-part public hearing to consider an application from Denison Mines Corp. for a licence to prepare a site for and construct the Wheeler River uranium mine and mill project.

The proposed project is located within Treaty 10 territory in the Eastern Athabasca Basin in Saskatchewan, the homeland of the Métis, and within the traditional territories of the Dene, Cree, and Métis peoples.

**Learn more:** [nuclearsafety.gc.ca/wheeler-river-project](https://nuclearsafety.gc.ca/wheeler-river-project)

**Get updates:** [nuclearsafety.gc.ca/subscribe](https://nuclearsafety.gc.ca/subscribe)

## Hearing dates

**Part 1: Presentations from CNSC staff and Denison Mines Corp.**

October 8, 2025  
Gatineau, QC, and virtually

**Part 2: Interventions from Indigenous Nations and communities and from the public**

December 8 to 12, 2025  
Saskatoon, SK, and virtually



You can **watch both parts online** at [nuclearsafety.gc.ca/watch](https://nuclearsafety.gc.ca/watch)



**Questions about the hearing?**  
Email: [interventions@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:interventions@cnsccsn.gc.ca)



# Avis d'audience publique

## Projet de mine et d'usine de concentration d'uranium Wheeler River de Denison

La Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire (CCSN), l'organisme de réglementation nucléaire du Canada, tiendra une audience publique en 2 parties pour examiner une demande de permis présentée par Denison Mines Corp. concernant la préparation de l'emplacement de son projet de mine et d'usine de concentration d'uranium Wheeler River et la construction de celui-ci.

Le projet proposé se trouve sur le territoire visé par le Traité 10 dans l'est du bassin d'Athabasca (Saskatchewan), patrie de la Nation métisse, et sur les territoires traditionnels des Dénés, des Cris et des Métis.

**Pour en savoir plus :** [suretenucleaire.gc.ca/projet-wheeler-river](https://suretenucleaire.gc.ca/projet-wheeler-river)

**Abonnez-vous aux notifications :** [suretenucleaire.gc.ca/abonnez-vous](https://suretenucleaire.gc.ca/abonnez-vous)

## Dates de l'audience

**Partie 1 : Présentations du personnel de la CCSN et de Denison Mines Corp.**

Le 8 octobre 2025  
Gatineau (Québec) et en ligne

**Partie 2 : Interventions des Nations et communautés autochtones et des membres du public**

Du 8 au 12 décembre 2025  
Saskatoon (Saskatchewan) et en ligne



Vous pouvez **regarder les 2 parties en ligne** à [suretenucleaire.gc.ca/regarder](https://suretenucleaire.gc.ca/regarder)



**Avez-vous des questions sur l'audience?**  
Courriel : [interventions@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:interventions@cnscccsn.gc.ca)



# pikwâwithak ka-pihtahkik wihtamâkîwin

## Denison's Wheeler River kaskitîw asinî ikwa wâsikâpicikan atoskâcikan

anima Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC), kanâta nuclear kanawîthickîw, ka-miciminam nîso pikwâwithak wihtamâkîwin ka-kinwâpahtamihk masinahikan ohci Denison Mines Corp. osci pakitinamihk masinahikan ka-wîthastâhk ita ka-mâci osihtâhk Wheeler River uranium wâtihkîwin ikwa wâsikâpicikan atoskâcikan.

anima kâ-kwîchikîmohk atoskâcikan astîw pihcâthihk kihci tipahamâtowin mitâtaht askî ikota sâkâstînohk Athabasca Basin ikota Saskatchewan, ita kâ-wîkicik âpihtawikosisânak, ikwa cîpwîthâniwak, nîhithawak, ikwa âpihtawikosisânak.

kiskîthita athiwâk: [nuclearsafety.gc.ca/wheeler-river-project](https://nuclearsafety.gc.ca/wheeler-river-project)

kahcitina wihtamâkîwina: [nuclearsafety.gc.ca/subscribe](https://nuclearsafety.gc.ca/subscribe)

## pihtamihk akihcikîwina

**pîyak:** wî-pîkiskwîcik atoskîwak ohci  
CNSC ikwa Denison Mines Corp.

pimihâwi pîsim 8, 2025  
Gatineau, QC, ikwa mahtâwi  
âpacihcikanihk

**nîso:** nakinikîwina ohci ithiniwak,  
ikwa mâmawinitowina, ikwa ohci  
pokwâwiyak

pawâcakinasîs pîsim 8 isko 12, 2025  
Saskatoon, SK, ikwa mahtâwi  
âpacihcikanihk



**kâkî-kinwâpahtîn nîso anihi mahtâwi**  
âpacihcikanohk:  
[nuclearsafety.gc.ca/watch](https://nuclearsafety.gc.ca/watch)



**kinohtî kwîchikîmon kîkway ohci anima  
pihtamihki?** mahtâwi masinahikanis:  
[interventions@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:interventions@cnsccsn.gc.ca)



Canadian Nuclear  
Safety Commission

Commission canadienne  
de sûreté nucléaire

Canada



# Horelyu dene hobeba yati holu weja

Denison bets'i tsamba k'e godhe Wheeler River ga tsamba k'e chu tthenadzis kuwe holu ghaw yati ha

T'a dene wediri Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) hel delth'i bet'esi si wediri k'i, Canada's nuclear hots'i wasi ghaw k'oldé, dene xa nats'en 2-nayati ha dene beba wediri Denison Mines Corp tsamba k'e nawa ghaw. bet'a wasi k'enadé ha weriht'is horeké si bet'a sehudé lak'é holu ha tsamba k'e chu tthenadzis kuwe Wheeler River uranium k'enadé ha.

T'a la k'e holu ha k'i weja Treaty 10 tsamba nawya k'eyaghe si yuwane ts'en Athabasca Saskatchewan k'eyaghe nwa wasi huli, weja honaré Begharek'aw dene chu Denesuline, Wena, Begharek'aw dene tth'i hu. nené k'eyaghe si.

Weja benerini ha nuli: [nuclearsafety.gc.ca/wheeler-river-project](https://nuclearsafety.gc.ca/wheeler-river-project)

Yati neghaw nilye horli de: [nuclearsafety.gc.ca/subscribe](https://nuclearsafety.gc.ca/subscribe)

## T'oho nayati ha nut'a

**T'atthe 1: CNSC hots'i dene hadayati ha chu Denison Mines Corp hots'i dene tth'i hel.**

October 8, 2025 k'e  
Gatineau, QC, hots'i chu tsatsane beni huli k'e

**Nats'en 2: Dene yeghaw wesoradi hodorelihu chu Denedeline t'a yeghaw wesodanidhen si chu t'ok'e dene naradé beyatié tth'i ditth'agh ha**

December 8 hots'i 12 hots'en, 2025  
Saskatoon, SK, chu tsatsane beni huli k'e



neba hawa banet'u wediri hots'i  
t'aradi si basi tsatsane beni huli k'e  
[nuclearsafety.gc.ca/watch](https://nuclearsafety.gc.ca/watch)



ku beghaw horuk'er nidhen de weja si?  
Email: [interventions@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:interventions@cnsccsn.gc.ca)





## Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission

### Update on *Regulatory Oversight Report for Uranium Mines and Mills in Canada: 2024*

**September 17, 2025 – 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM (CST)**

**Deer Room, Wanuskewin Heritage Park, Saskatoon, SK**

**Parking Provided – Please register your licence plate inside the venue**

#### **Morning Session – September 17, 2025**

Coffee and snacks available 8:30-9:00

- |   |                            |
|---|----------------------------|
| <b>1. Opening</b>   | <b>9:00 – 10:00 am</b>     |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Prayer (Elder, TBD)</li><li>• Welcome (Mr. Patrick Burton, CNSC)</li><li>• Introductions (All)</li><li>• Opening Remarks from Indigenous Nations who are interested</li></ul> |                            |
| <b>2. 2024 Uranium Mines and Mills Regulatory Oversight Report</b>  | <b>10:00 - 10:45 am</b>    |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• CNSC presentation, including site updates on Cigar Lake, Key Lake, McArthur River, McClean Lake, and Rabbit Lake.</li></ul>   |                            |
| <i>Coffee/Health Break</i>  | <b>10:45 – 11:15 am</b>    |
| <b>3. Canadian Uranium Workers Study (CANUWS) and Independent Environmental Monitoring Program (IEMP) Update</b>  | <b>11:15 am - 12:00 pm</b> |
| <i>Lunch (provided)</i>   | <b>12:00 - 1:00 pm</b>     |
| <b>4. Proposed Licence Applications Update</b>  | <b>1:00 - 2:15 pm</b>      |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• CNSC presentation, including updates on the Midwest Project, Gunnar, Wheeler River, Rook 1, and Patterson Lake South.</li></ul>   |                            |
| <b>5. CNSC 10 Year Inspection Plan</b>  | <b>2:15 – 2:45 pm</b>      |
| <i>Coffee/Health Break</i>  | <b>2:45 – 3:15 pm</b>      |
| <b>6. Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division Update</b>  | <b>3:15 – 3:45 pm</b>      |
| <b>7. Closing</b>   | <b>3:45 - 4:00 pm</b>      |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Question and answer</li><li>• Closing remarks (Patrick Burton, any others who wish to provide remarks)</li><li>• Closing Prayer (TBC)</li></ul>                               |                            |

**From:** [Boser, Sydney](#)  
**Cc:** [McKeown, Justin](#); [Way, Jessica](#); [Gorzowski, Konrad](#);  
[Chief Jonathon P Sylvestre](#); [Trevor Moberly](#); [Terrie Campbell](#); [Cheyenna Hunt](#);  
[Angie Campbell](#); [Damien Georges](#); [nvp.mike@sasktel.net](#); [Ashley Carlson](#); [Ty Roberts](#); [Brent Laroque](#); [David Devos](#); [mamun](#); [chiefbeatty@sasktel.net](#);  
**Bcc:** [Executive Secretary](#); [Ben Merasty](#); [Ted Merasty](#); [Garrett Schmidt](#); [Katherine Hay](#); [Dana Kellett](#);  
**Subject:** Denison Wheeler River Hearing - Part 1 Agenda October 8th  
**Attachments:** [CMD25-H11-Agenda-ENG.pdf](#)  
**Sent:** 2025-09-29 3:21:00 PM

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Good afternoon,

As part of the upcoming Part 1 hearing for the Denison Wheeler River Project, please see attached the agenda for October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025. The agenda consists of a presentation from Denison as well as a presentation from CNSC staff. The presentations provide details on the licensing and environmental assessment processes and maintain a technical focus throughout. Consultation and engagement topics won't be discussed until the Part 2 hearing the week of December 8<sup>th</sup> where interventions will be heard. If you are interested in watching the Part 1 hearing on October 8<sup>th</sup>, the link is included in the agenda and is also included here - [Watch Commission proceedings live](#).

If you have any questions about the upcoming hearings, please reach out to myself or the Project Officer – Konrad Gorzowski.

Thank you,

Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)  
Phone Number: 343-596-9556

Agente principale en politiques, Division de la consultation et de la mobilisation des Autochtones  
Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)

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## **PUBLIC HEARING AGENDA**

**Date:** October 8, 2025

**Time:** 9 am (ET)

**Location:**

Outaouais Room  
Place du Portage Phase IV  
140 Promenade du Portage  
Gatineau, Quebec  
(in-person and virtual)

The hearing will be webcast live on  
[www.cnscccsn.gc.ca](http://www.cnscccsn.gc.ca)

Submissions are available on  
[CNSC website](http://www.cnscccsn.gc.ca)

**Wednesday, October 8, 2025  
at 9am (ET)**

**1. OPENING REMARKS**

**2. COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING PART 1**

**Denison Mines Corporation:**

Application to prepare a site for and  
construct the Wheeler River mine  
and mill project

- Presentation by Denison Mines Corporation

**CMD\***

25-H9.1  
25-H9.1A

## **ORDRE DU JOUR DE L'AUDIENCE PUBLIQUE**

**Date :** Le 8 octobre 2025

**Heure :** 9 h (HE)

**Endroit :**

Salle Outaouais  
Place du Portage, Phase IV  
140, Promenade du Portage  
Gatineau, (Québec)  
(en personne et virtuel)

L'audience sera webdiffusée en direct à  
[www.cnscccsn.gc.ca](http://www.cnscccsn.gc.ca)

Les mémoires sont disponibles  
sur le [site web de la CCSN](http://www.cnscccsn.gc.ca)

**Le mercredi 8 octobre 2025  
à 9 h (HE)**

**1. OUVERTURE DE LA SÉANCE**

**2. AUDIENCE PUBLIQUE DE LA COMMISSION,  
PARTIE 1**

**Denison Mines Corporation :**

Demande concernant la préparation de  
l'emplacement de son projet  
d'exploitation minière et d'usine de  
concentration de Wheeler River et la  
construction de celui-ci.

- Présentation par Denison Mines Corporation

\*CMD = Commission Member Document / Document à l'intention des commissaires

- |                              |                             |  |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| • Presentation by CNSC staff | 25-H9<br>25-H9.A<br>25-H9.B | • Présentation par le personnel de la CCSN |
| • Question period            |                             | • Période de questions                     |

**LUNCH FROM NOON TO 1PM**

**DÎNER DE 12 H À 13 H**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| • Final Round of Questions from Commission Members | • Dernière période de questions des Membres de la Commission |
|--|--|

**3. CLOSING**

**3. CLÔTURE**

**END OF THE SESSION FOR  
OCTOBER 8, 2025**

**FIN DE LA SESSION POUR  
LE 8 OCTOBRE 2025**

**From:** [Wheeler River Project - Projet de Wheeler River](#)  
**To:** [Wheeler River Project - Projet de Wheeler River](#)  
**Cc:** [Boser, Sydney; Way, Jessica;](#)  
**Subject:** Wheeler River EA and Licensing Hearing - Part 1 Agenda October 8th  
**Attachments:** [CMD25-H11-Agenda-ENG.pdf](#)  
**Sent:** 2025-10-01 5:52:07 PM

---

Hi Everyone,

In preparation for part one of next week's Wheeler River Hearing, please see the attached agenda for October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

The agenda includes a presentation from Denison as well as a presentation from CNSC staff. The presentations provide details on the licensing and environmental assessment processes and related technical details. Consultation and engagement topics won't be discussed until the Part 2 hearing, the week of December 8<sup>th</sup> where interventions will be heard.

If you are interested in watching the Part 1 hearing on October 8<sup>th</sup>, the link is included in the agenda and can be found here: [Watch Commission proceedings live](#).

If you wish to intervene in part two of the hearing, requests to intervene must be filed with the Commission Registry **by October 24, 2025**. Participants may provide their intervention in writing, or with a written submission to be accompanied by an oral presentation. Oral presenters who wish to use a PowerPoint presentation are asked to submit their slide decks to the Commission Registry by November 24, 2025. Part two of the hearing is scheduled for the week of December 8<sup>th</sup>, but exact dates are still TBD. Additional information on this process can be found here: [Notice of Public Hearing and Participant Funding - 2025-H-09](#).

Additional information about the Wheeler River EA process can be found on the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry (CIAR Reference: 80178) page for this project: [Wheeler River Project \(iaac-aeic.gc.ca\)](#).

If you have any questions about this or anything else related to the EA process for this project, please don't hesitate to let us know.

Regards,

The CNSC Wheeler River Project Team  
Email: [WheelerRiver@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:WheelerRiver@cnsccsn.gc.ca)  
Web: [Wheeler River Project \(iaac-aeic.gc.ca\)](#)



**From:** [Boser, Sydney](#)  
**Cc:** [McKeown, Justin](#); [Way, Jessica](#); [Gorzowski, Konrad](#);  
[Chief Jonathon P Sylvestre](#); [Trevor Moberly](#); [Terrie Campbell](#); [Cheyenna Hunt](#); [Angie Campbell](#); [Damien Georges](#); [nvp.mike@sasktel.net](mailto:nvp.mike@sasktel.net); [Ashley Carlson](#); [Ty Roberts](#); [Brent Laroque](#); [David Devos](#); [mamun](#);  
[chiefbeatty@sasktel.net](mailto:chiefbeatty@sasktel.net); [Executive Secretary](#); [Ben Merasty](#); [Ted Merasty](#);  
[Garrett Schmidt](#); [Katherine Hay](#); [Dana Kellett](#);  
**Bcc:**  
**Subject:** Reminder - Denison Wheeler River Deadlines for Part 2 Hearing  
**Attachments:** [Notice-of-Public-Hearing-and-Participant-Funding-2025-H-09.pdf](#)  
**Sent:** 2025-10-06 3:50:00 PM

---

Good afternoon,

This is a reminder that if you are interested in submitting a written intervention for the Denison Wheeler River Part 2 hearing happening the week of December 8<sup>th</sup>, the deadline to intervene is **October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025**. The request to intervene must include the following information:

- a written submission of the comments to be presented to the Commission
- a statement setting out whether the requester wishes to intervene by way of written submission only, or by way of written submission and oral presentation
- the requester's name, address, telephone number and email address

These requests can be filed with the Commission Registry using the following email address: [interventions@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:interventions@cnscccsn.gc.ca). Oral presenters who wish to use a PowerPoint presentation are asked to submit their slide decks to the Commission Registry by **November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025**.

For further information on the Commission Hearing, the Notice of Public Hearing is attached above. If you require any clarifications, please don't hesitate to reach out to myself.

Additional information about the Wheeler River EA process can be found on the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry (CIAR Reference: 80178) page for this project: [Wheeler River Project \(iaac-aeic.gc.ca\)](#).

Thank you,

Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)  
Phone Number: 343-596-9556

Agente principale en politiques, Division de la consultation et de la mobilisation des Autochtones  
Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire

Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)

*I acknowledge that the land on which I live and work is the traditional Treaty 6 Territory and Homeland of the Métis*

Je reconnais que les terres sur lesquelles je vis et travaille sont le territoire traditionnel du Traité no 6 et la patrie des Métis

**From:** [Boser, Sydney \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Way, Jessica \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#); [McKeown, Justin \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#); [Holland, Braeson \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#);  
[Chief Jonathon P Sylvestre](#); [Trevor Moberly](#); [Terrie Campbell](#); [Cheyenna Hunt](#); [Angie Campbell](#); [Damien Georges](#); [nvp.mike@sasktel.net](mailto:nvp.mike@sasktel.net); [Ashley Carlson](#); [Ty Roberts](#); [Brent Laroque](#); [David Devos](#); [mamun](#); [chiefbeatty@sasktel.net](mailto:chiefbeatty@sasktel.net); [Executive Secretary](#); [Ben Merasty](#); [Ted Merasty](#); [Garrett Schmidt](#); [Katherine Hay](#); [Dana Kellett](#);  
**Bcc:**  
**Subject:** RE: Denison Wheeler River Posters - for distribution to community - Plains Cree  
**Attachments:** [Poster\\_Wheeler2025\\_PlainsCree.pdf](#)  
**Sent:** 2025-10-20 2:42:00 PM

---

Good afternoon,

On top of the posters that were created and shared last month for the Denison Wheeler River project, CNSC staff have developed a Plains Cree poster which is attached above. We encourage you to share this poster among the others with your communities and with your members.

Thank you,

Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)  
Phone Number: 343-596-9556

Agente principale en politiques, Division de la consultation et de la mobilisation des Autochtones  
Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)

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---

**From:** Boser, Sydney  
**Sent:** September 16, 2025 9:38 AM  
**Cc:** Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; McKeown, Justin <[justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Holland, Braeson <[braeson.holland@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:braeson.holland@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Subject:** Denison Wheeler River Posters - for distribution to community

Hello,

In preparation for the upcoming Denison Wheeler River Commission Hearings, CNSC staff have developed informational posters in English, French, Cree and Dene. These materials are intended to inform the Indigenous Nations and communities we engage with, and who are interested in the Project, about the hearings and how you can participate.

Please find the posters attached. We encourage you to share them in your communities and with your members.

Thanks,

Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)  
Phone Number: 343-596-9556

Agente principale en politiques, Division de la consultation et de la mobilisation des Autochtones  
Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)

*I acknowledge that the land on which I live and work is the traditional Treaty 6 Territory and Homeland of the Métis*

Je reconnais que les terres sur lesquelles je vis et travaille sont le territoire traditionnel du Traité no 6 et la patrie des Métis

# askinînahk wîhtamâkêwin mâmiskôtamâkêwin

Denison sa kisiskâciwani-sîpiy  
pisisikwâpisk mônahaskwêwin mîna  
pinipocikêwin pamihtâwin

ôma kânata otasikhêwin askîwi nâtâmoskâkiwin pimohtêstamowin (CNSC), kânata sa askîwi kwayaskwascikêwin, ta-micimanan nîso-pahkîwin askinînahk wîhtamâkêwin ta- ispîhtêyihtâkwahk natotamowin ohci Denison mônahaskwêwin tasiikhêwin kiki pakitinikâtêwin ta-kwayâcihtâhk nawasônamowin kiki mîna ta-osîhcikatêk sisiskâciwani-sîpiy pisisikwâpisk mônahaskwêwin êkwa pinipocikêwin pamihtâwin.

ôma itêyimowin pamihtâwin êwako itastêw pîhci mitâtaht tipahamâtowinihk itaskîwin ita sâkâstênohk kapâwinihk pîhci kisiskâciwani-sîpiy, otaskêwina ohci âpihtawikosisân, mîna pîhci nêhiyawâtisiwin itaskîwina ohci ocipwêwak, nêhiyawak, êkwa âpihtawikosisânak.

kiskêyihta ayiwâk: [nuclearsafety.gc.ca/wheeler-river-project](https://nuclearsafety.gc.ca/wheeler-river-project)

otihtikow sêhkê wâpahtahiwêwina: [nuclearsafety.gc.ca/subscribe](https://nuclearsafety.gc.ca/subscribe)

## kîsikâwa wîhtamâkêwin

**pahkîs 1: wâpahtahiwêwina ohci  
CNSC otatoskêwak êkwa Denison  
mônahaskwêwin tasiikhêwin**

kaskatinowi-pîsim 8 akimihci, 2025  
Gatineau, QC, êkwa cikâstêpayicikanisihk

**cikâstêpayicikanisihk 2:  
nâtâmototawêwina ohci nêhiyaw  
tahtoskânêsihk êkwa mâmawâyâwinihk  
mîna ohci askinînahk**

manitowi-kîsikani-pîsim 8 isko 12  
akimihci, 2025  
misâskwatôminihs, kisiskâciwani-sîpiy, êkwa  
cikâstêpayicikanisihk âpachicikanihk



**ka-kî-kitâpahtên nanapo  
cikâstêpayicikanisihk ita  
[nuclearsafety.gc.ca/watch](https://nuclearsafety.gc.ca/watch)**



**kakwêcihkêmwina ohci ôma wîhtamâkêwin?**  
masinhikêtâkan kâhcitinatowin:  
[interventions@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:interventions@cnscccsn.gc.ca)



**From:** [Way, Jessica \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#)  
**To:** [Wheeler River Project - Projet de Wheeler River](#)  
**Cc:** [Boser, Sydney \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#); [Way, Jessica \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#);  
**Subject:** Wheeler River EA and Licensing Hearing - Intervention Deadline October 24th  
**Sent:** 2025-10-21 5:57:05 PM

---

Hi Everyone,

In preparation for part two of the Wheeler River Hearing, a reminder that requests to intervene must be filed with the Commission Registry **by October 24, 2025**. Participants may provide their intervention in writing, or with a written submission to be accompanied by an oral presentation. Oral presenters who wish to use a PowerPoint presentation are asked to submit their slide decks to the Commission Registry by November 24, 2025. Additional information on this process can be found here: [Notice of Public Hearing and Participant Funding - 2025-H-09](#).

We also wanted to share that the attached posters related to the hearing are available and have been posted to the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry. You may have already received these directly from Sydney, but please note that these can be downloaded at the following links:

- Version in English: [Wheeler River Hearing Poster - EN](#)
- Version in French: [Wheeler River Hearing Poster - FR](#)
- Version in Cree: [Wheeler River Hearing Poster - Cree](#)
- Version in Plains Cree: [Wheeler River Hearing Poster – Plains Cree](#)
- Version in Dene: [Wheeler River Hearing Poster - Dene](#)

Additional information about the Wheeler River EA process can be found on the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry (CIAR Reference: 80178) page for this project: [Wheeler River Project \(iaac-aeic.gc.ca\)](#).

If you have any questions about this or anything else related to the EA process for this project, please don't hesitate to let us know.

Regards,

The CNSC Wheeler River Project Team  
Email: [WheelerRiver@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:WheelerRiver@cnscccsn.gc.ca)  
Web: [Wheeler River Project \(iaac-aeic.gc.ca\)](#)



**From:** [Wheeler River Project - Projet de Wheeler River](#)  
**To:** [Wheeler River Project - Projet de Wheeler River](#)  
**Cc:** [Boser, Sydney \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#); [Way, Jessica \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#);  
**Subject:** Wheeler River EA Update - Fall 2025 Bulletin  
**Attachments:** [Wheeler River EA - Fall 2025 Bulletin.pdf](#)  
**Sent:** 2025-11-03 5:55:04 PM

---

Hi Everyone,

We are reaching out to share the latest Wheeler River Project Bulletin, related to the Wheeler River EA Process. It can be found attached, and it has been posted to the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry (the Registry, Reference: 80178): <https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/document/163653>

Additional information about the Wheeler River EA process can be found on the Registry page here: [Wheeler River Project \(iaac-aeic.gc.ca\)](#).

If you have any questions about this or anything else related to the EA process for this project, please don't hesitate to let us know.

Regards,

The CNSC Wheeler River Project Team

Email: [WheelerRiver@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:WheelerRiver@cnscccsn.gc.ca)

Web: [Wheeler River Project \(iaac-aeic.gc.ca\)](#)



# Wheeler River Project Bulletin

## PROJECT OVERVIEW

Denison Mines Corp. (Denison) is proposing to develop an *in situ* recovery uranium mining and processing plant [the Wheeler River Project](#) - in the Athabasca Basin in Saskatchewan, approximately 600 kilometres north of the City of Saskatoon, and 35km by road north of the Key Lake mill. The proposed project is located within Treaty 10 territory, the homeland of the Métis, and within the traditional territories of the Dene, Cree, and Métis peoples.

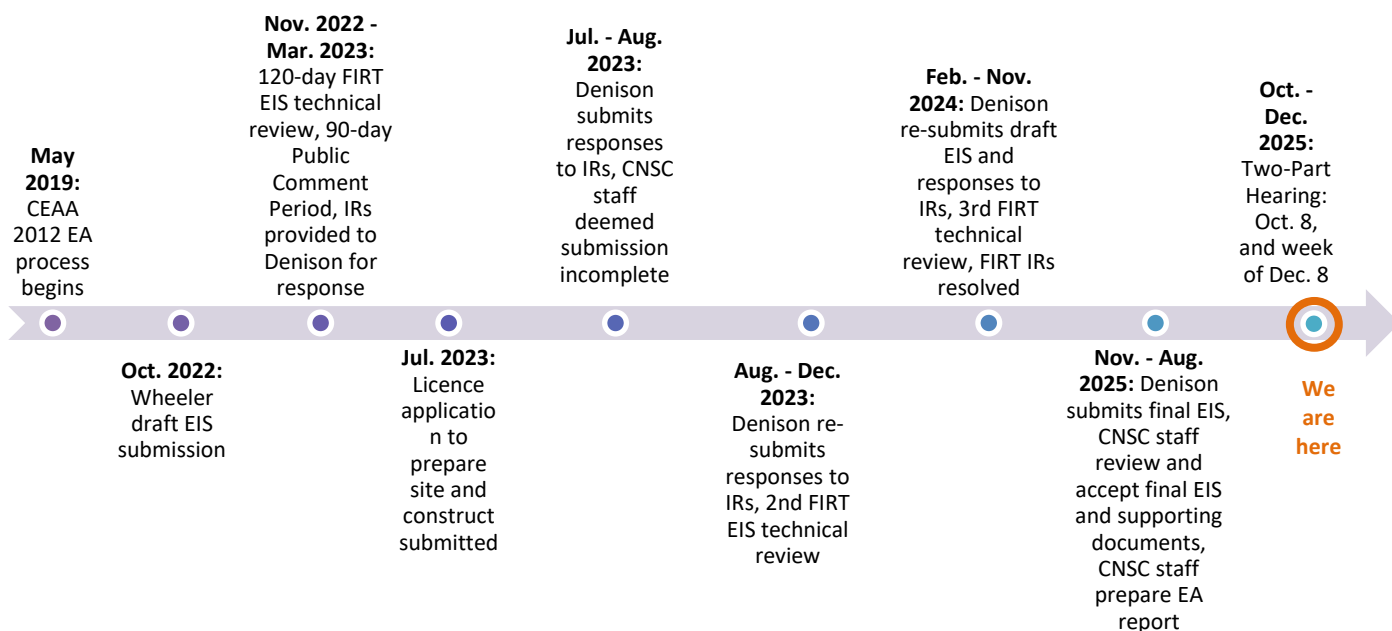
Since 2019, the proposal has been undergoing an [environmental assessment](#) (EA) as per the [Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012](#) (CEAA, 2012). In July 2023, Denison submitted a licence application to prepare site and construct a mine and mill facility, which is currently before the Commission for their consideration. An EA decision is required before a licence can be issued. The project is also subject to a [provincial EA](#) as per the province of Saskatchewan's [Environmental Assessment Act](#).

## ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT REVIEW PROCESS

Denison submitted a draft environmental impact statement (EIS) in October 2022 and the federal and Indigenous review team (FIRT) completed a technical review of the draft EIS. On [March 20, 2022](#), CNSC staff requested that Denison submit responses to all [information requests \(IRs\) from the FIRT](#), along with a commitments report and an update on Indigenous engagement.

Since this original submission, the FIRT has reviewed multiple rounds of Denison's responses to IRs. On November 20, 2024, CNSC staff completed their review of Denison's responses to outstanding IR and deemed all IRs as accepted. On November 22, 2024, Denison submitted a Final EIS package including revised responses to the Consolidated Comments from Indigenous Nations and Communities and the Public on the Wheeler River Project. On December 24, 2024, CNSC staff completed their technical review of the final EIS package and deemed the final EIS acceptable.

## TIMELINE



## WHERE WE ARE NOW

On February 27, 2025, CNSC announced hearing dates for a public hearing on Denison's Wheeler River Project. To inform the Commission's decisions, CNSC staff have developed the CEAA 2012 [EA Report](#) summarizing the results of the EIS technical review and CNSC staff's recommendations to the Commission. The Commission Member Document is available online in 25-H9 [Volume 1](#), [Volume 2](#) and [Volume 3](#), which contains CNSC staff's review, assessment and recommendations regarding Denison's request for licence. This package includes the Indigenous Consultation Report, which details consultation and engagement activities conducted for the project and the CNSC's duty to consult as an agent of the crown. All hearing documentation can be found on the CNSC's website [here](#).

As part of the Commission's proceedings, decisions will be made on the EA, Denison's licensing application, and on whether the duty to consult with Indigenous Nations and communities has been met. These decisions will be made via a public Commission hearing, which will include opportunities for Indigenous Nations and communities, and public participation.

Part one of the two-part hearing took place on October 8, 2025, where staff from CNSC and Denison presented oral and written submissions, related to Denison's application. The second part of the hearing will take place the week of December 8, 2025, in person in Saskatoon where public intervenors will have an opportunity to intervene orally. The public hearing will be webcast live here:

<https://www.nuclearsafety.gc.ca/eng/the-commission/webcasts/>

During part two of the hearing, members of the public, Indigenous Nations and communities and any other parties are invited to present before the Commission. For those that will be intervening orally, PowerPoint presentations are due to the Commission Registry by November 24, 2025. For more information on the CNSC's intervention process, please visit the CNSC's [Notice of Public Hearing and Participant Funding](#) webpage.

## STAY INFORMED, STAY CONNECTED!

Subscribe to the updated [Canadian Impact Assessment Registry notifications service](#) to receive updates on the Wheeler River EA process, and any other EA or Impact Assessment Processes that you are interested in. When you subscribe to this notification service, you will receive a email when new content is posted on the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry for the projects you are following. Head over to [www.iaac-aeic.gc.ca](http://www.iaac-aeic.gc.ca) to sign up!



*Photo 1: Photo from CNSC's 2024 outreach trip to Pinehouse, Saskatchewan.*

### Wheeler River Project Bulletin

If you have any questions or suggestions on topics or issues that you would like to see covered, please do not hesitate to contact us:

Email : [WheelerRiver@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:WheelerRiver@cnsccsn.gc.ca)

Project Page: <https://ceaa-acee.gc.ca/050/evaluations/proj/80178>

### Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission

280 Slater Street

P.O. Box 1046, Station B

Ottawa, ON K1P 5S9

Telephone: 1-800-668-5284 (toll free in Canada) or 613-995-5894

Email: [cnsccsn@nsc-ccsn.gc.ca](mailto:cnsccsn@nsc-ccsn.gc.ca)

Website: [nuclearsafety.gc.ca](http://nuclearsafety.gc.ca)

**From:** [Way, Jessica \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#)  
**To:** [Wheeler River Project - Projet de Wheeler River](#)  
**Cc:** [Boser, Sydney \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#); [Way, Jessica \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#);  
**Subject:** Wheeler River EA Update - Corrected EA Report and French Translation  
**Sent:** 2025-11-08 2:34:32 PM

---

Hi Everyone,

We are reaching out to share that the Wheeler River [Environmental Assessment report has been re-posted](#) with minor corrections. The details of these corrections will be included in the upcoming CNSC staff supplemental Commission Member Document (CMD) for part two of the Wheeler River Hearing, which is planned for the week of December 8<sup>th</sup>.

We have also now posted a [French translation of the EA report](#).

Additional information about the Wheeler River EA process can be found on the Registry page here: [Wheeler River Project \(iaac-aeic.gc.ca\)](#).

If you have any questions about this or anything else related to the EA process for this project, please don't hesitate to let us know.

Regards,

The CNSC Wheeler River Project Team

Email: [WheelerRiver@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:WheelerRiver@cnscccsn.gc.ca)

Web: [Wheeler River Project \(iaac-aeic.gc.ca\)](#)

**From:** [Boser, Sydney \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#)  
**Cc:** [McKeown, Justin \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#); [Way, Jessica \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#); [Gorzowski, Konrad \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#);  
[Chief Jonathon P Sylvestre](#); [Trevor Moberly](#); [Terrie Campbell](#); [Cheyenna Hunt](#); [Angie Campbell](#); [Damien Georges](#); [nvp.mike@sasktel.net](mailto:nvp.mike@sasktel.net); [Ashley Carlson](#); [Ty Roberts](#); [Brent Laroque](#); [David Devos](#); [chiefbeatty@sasktel.net](mailto:chiefbeatty@sasktel.net); [Executive Secretary](#); [Ben Merasty](#); [Ted Merasty](#); [Garrett Schmidt](#); [Katherine Hay](#); [Dana Kellett](#); [Bruce Hanbidge](#);  
**Bcc:**  
**Subject:** REMINDER: Denison Part 2 Commission Hearing - PowerPoint Presentation deadline  
**Sent:** 2025-11-17 2:44:00 PM

---

Good afternoon,

This is a reminder that if you wish to use a PowerPoint presentation during your oral presentation to the Commission for the Denison Part 2 hearing the week of December 8<sup>th</sup>, it is **due to the Registry on Monday November 24<sup>th</sup>**. The Registry can be contacted at [interventions@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:interventions@cnscccsn.gc.ca)

Thank you,

Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)  
Phone Number: 343-596-9556

Agente principale en politiques, Division de la consultation et de la mobilisation des Autochtones  
Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)

*I acknowledge that the land on which I live and work is the traditional Treaty 6 Territory and Homeland of the Métis*

Je reconnais que les terres sur lesquelles je vis et travaille sont le territoire traditionnel du Traité no 6 et la patrie des Métis

**From:** [Wheeler River Project - Projet de Wheeler River](#)  
**To:** [Wheeler River Project - Projet de Wheeler River](#)  
**Cc:** [Boser, Sydney \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#); [Way, Jessica \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#);  
**Subject:** Wheeler River EA Update - Hearing Agenda for Part 2 of the Commission Proceedings  
**Attachments:** [CMD25-H14-Agenda-ENG.pdf](#)  
**Sent:** 2025-11-19 1:43:10 PM

---

Hi Everyone,

The detailed hearing schedule for Part 2 of the Wheeler River Hearing has now been [released](#). The proceedings will run from December 8<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup>, as detailed in the attached.

This has also been [posted to the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry](#) for reference purposes. Additional information about the Wheeler River EA process can also be found on the Registry page: [Wheeler River Project \(iaac-aeic.gc.ca\)](#).

If you have any questions about this or anything else related to the EA process for this project, please don't hesitate to let us know.

Regards,

The CNSC Wheeler River Project Team

Email: [WheelerRiver@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:WheelerRiver@cnscccsn.gc.ca)

Web: [Wheeler River Project \(iaac-aeic.gc.ca\)](#)





## **PUBLIC HEARING AGENDA**

**Dates:** December 8, 9, 10, 11, 2025

**Time:** 9 am (CST) on Dec. 8, 2025  
9 am (CST) on Dec. 9, 2025  
9 am (CST) on Dec. 10, 2025  
9 am (CST) on Dec. 11, 2025

**Location:**

**Sheraton Cavalier Saskatoon Hotel**  
612 Spadina Crescent East  
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan  
(in person and virtual)

The hearing will be webcast live on  
[www.cnsccsn.gc.ca](http://www.cnsccsn.gc.ca)

Submissions are available on  
[CNSC website](http://www.cnsccsn.gc.ca)

**Monday, December 8, 2025**  
**9 am (CST)**

- 1. OPENING REMARKS**
- 2. COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING  
PART 2**

**Denison Mines Corporation:**  
Application to prepare a site for  
and construct Wheeler River mine  
and mill project

## **ORDRE DU JOUR DE L'AUDIENCE PUBLIQUE**

**Dates :** Le 8, 9, 10 et le 11 décembre 2025

**Heure :** 9 h (HNC) le 8 décembre 2025  
9 h (HNC) le 9 décembre 2025  
9 h (HNC) le 10 décembre 2025  
9 h (HNC) le 11 décembre 2025

**Endroit :**

**Sheraton Cavalier Saskatoon Hotel**  
612 Spadina Crescent Est  
Saskatoon (Saskatchewan)  
(en personne et en virtuel)

L'audience sera webdiffusée en direct à  
[www.cnsccsn.gc.ca](http://www.cnsccsn.gc.ca)

Les mémoires sont disponibles  
sur le [site web de la CCSN](http://www.cnsccsn.gc.ca)

**Le lundi 8 décembre 2025**  
**9 h (HNC)**

- 1. OUVERTURE DE LA SÉANCE**
- 2. AUDIENCE PUBLIQUE  
DE LA COMMISSION, PARTIE 2**

**Denison Mines Corporation :**  
Demande de permis visant la préparation  
de l'emplacement de son projet de mine  
et d'usine de concentration Wheeler  
River et la construction de celui-ci

- |   |             |  |
|---|-------------|--|
|   | <b>CMD*</b> |  |
| • Presentation from Denison Mines Corporation (Denison)   | 25-H9.1     | • Présentation de Denison Mines Corporation (Denison)                              |
| • Presentation from CNSC staff                            | 25-H9       | • Présentation du personnel de la CCSN   |
| • Question period on Denison and CNSC staff Presentations |             | • Période de questions sur les présentations de Denison et du personnel de la CCSN |

**LUNCH FROM  
12 pm TO 1 pm**

**DÎNER DE  
12 h À 13 h**

- |   |          |  |
|---|----------|--|
| • Presentation from English River First Nation    | 25-H9.21 | • Présentation de la Première Nation d'English River |
| • Presentation from the Kineepik Metis Local #9   | 25-H9.23 | • Présentation du Kineepik Métis Local no 9          |
| • Closed Session with the Kineepik Metis Local #9 | 25-H9.23 | • Séance à huis clos avec Kineepik Métis Local no 9  |

**DINNER FROM  
5 pm TO 6 pm**

**SOUPER DE  
17 h À 18 h**

- |  |          |  |
|--|----------|--|
| • Closed Session with English River First Nation | 25-H9.21 | • Séance à huis clos avec la Première Nation d'English River |
|--|----------|--|

**END OF THE SESSION FOR  
DECEMBER 8, 2025**

**FIN DE LA SÉANCE POUR  
LE 8 DÉCEMBRE 2025**

**THE HEARING WILL RESUME AT  
9 am ON DECEMBER 9, 2025**

**L'AUDIENCE SE POURSUIVRA À  
9 h LE 9 DÉCEMBRE 2025**

**Tuesday, December 9, 2025  
9 am (CST)**

**1. OPENING REMARKS**

**2. COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING  
PART 2**

**Denison Mines Corporation:**

Application to prepare a site for and construct Wheeler River mine and mill project

- |   |            |
|---|------------|
|   | <b>CMD</b> |
| • Presentation from the Ya'thi Néné Lands and Resources Office                                  | 25-H9.15   |
| • Presentation from UEX Corporation   | 25-H9.25   |
| • Presentation from the Saskatchewan Environmental Society and the Nuclear Transparency Project | 25-H9.14   |
| • Presentation from the Society of High Prairie Regional Environmental Action Committee         | 25-H9.22   |

**LUNCH FROM  
12 pm TO 1 pm**

- |  |         |
|--|---------|
| • Presentation from the Lac La Ronge Indian Band | 25-H9.3 |
| • Presentation from Birch Narrows Dene Nation    | 25-H9.2 |
| • Closed Session with Birch Narrows Dene Nation  | 25-H9.2 |

**END OF THE SESSION FOR  
DECEMBER 9, 2025**

**THE HEARING WILL RESUME AT  
9 am ON DECEMBER 10, 2025**

**Le mardi 9 décembre 2025  
9 h (HNC)**

**1. OUVERTURE DE LA SÉANCE**

**2. AUDIENCE PUBLIQUE  
DE LA COMMISSION, PARTIE 2**

**Denison Mines Corporation :**

Demande de permis visant la préparation de l'emplacement de son projet de mine et d'usine de concentration Wheeler River et la construction de celui-ci

- |  |
|--|
| • Présentation du Bureau des terres et des ressources de Ya'thi Néné                           |
| • Présentation de UEX Corporation  |
| • Présentation de la Saskatchewan Environmental Society et du Projet de transparence nucléaire |
| • Présentation de Society of High Prairie Regional Environmental Action Committee              |

**DÎNER DE  
12 h À 13 h**

- |  |
|--|
| • Présentation de la Bande indienne de Lac La Ronge            |
| • Présentation de la Nation des Dénés de Birch Narrows         |
| • Séance à huis clos avec la Nation des Dénés de Birch Narrows |

**FIN DE LA SÉANCE POUR  
LE 9 DÉCEMBRE 2025**

**L'AUDIENCE SE POURSUIVRA À  
9 h LE 10 DÉCEMBRE 2025**

**Wednesday, December 10, 2025  
9 am (CST)**

**Le mercredi 10 décembre 2025  
9 h (HNC)**

**1. OPENING REMARKS**

**1. OUVERTURE DE LA SÉANCE**

**2. COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING  
PART 2**

**2. AUDIENCE PUBLIQUE  
DE LA COMMISSION, PARTIE 2**

**Denison Mines Corporation:**

Application to prepare a site for and construct Wheeler River mine and mill project

**Denison Mines Corporation :**

Demande de permis visant la préparation de l'emplacement de son projet de mine et d'usine de concentration Wheeler River et la construction de celui-ci

**CMD**

- Presentation from the Métis Nation - Saskatchewan

25-H9.29

- Présentation de la Nation métisse de la Saskatchewan

- Presentation from Mayor Laliberte for the Northern Village of Beauval

25-H9.20

- Présentation du Maire Laliberte de Northern Village of Beauval

- Presentation from the Inter-Church Uranium Committee Educational Co-operative

25-H9.8

- Présentation de l'Inter-Church Uranium Committee Educational Co-operative

- Presentation from Victoria Obedkoff

25-H9.12

- Présentation de Victoria Obedkoff

**LUNCH FROM  
12 pm TO 1 pm**

**DÎNER DE  
12 h À 13 h**

- Presentation from the Canadian Coalition for Nuclear Responsibility

25-H9.27

- Présentation du Regroupement pour la surveillance du nucléaire

- Presentation from Peter Prebble

25-H9.16

- Présentation de Peter Prebble

- Presentation from Stephen Lawrence

25-H9.11

- Présentation de Stephen Lawrence

- Presentation from Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation

25-H9.17

- Présentation de Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation

**END OF ORAL PRESENTATIONS**

- Questions from Commission Members

**END OF THE SESSION FOR  
DECEMBER 10, 2025**

**THE HEARING WILL RESUME AT  
9 am ON DECEMBER 11, 2025**

**FIN DES EXPOSÉS ORAUX**

- Période de questions des membres de la Commission

**FIN DE LA SÉANCE POUR  
LE 10 DÉCEMBRE 2025**

**L'AUDIENCE SE POURSUIVRA À  
9 h LE 11 DÉCEMBRE 2025**

**Thursday, December 11, 2025  
9 am (CST)**

- 1. OPENING REMARKS**
- 2. COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING  
PART 2**

**Denison Mines Corporation:**

Application to prepare a site for and  
construct Wheeler River mine and  
mill project

- Question Period

**LUNCH FROM  
12 pm TO 1 pm**

- Final round of questions from  
Commission Members

- 3. CLOSING**

**END OF THE SESSION FOR  
DECEMBER 11, 2025**

**Le jeudi 11 décembre 2025  
9 h (HNC)**

- 1. OUVERTURE DE LA SÉANCE**
- 2. AUDIENCE PUBLIQUE  
DE LA COMMISSION, PARTIE 2**

**Denison Mines Corporation :**

Demande de permis visant la préparation  
de l'emplacement de son projet de mine  
et d'usine de concentration Wheeler  
River et la construction de celui-ci

- Période de questions

**DÎNER DE  
12 h À 13 h**

- Dernière période de questions des  
membres de la Commission

- 3. CLÔTURE**

**FIN DE LA SÉANCE POUR  
LE 11 DÉCEMBRE 2025**

## WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS

### NOTE:

Written submissions from people who chose not to make an oral presentation are very important to this review. These written submissions have been carefully considered, and Commission Members will have the opportunity to ask questions to Denison and CNSC staff on the written submissions, if need be, during the final rounds of questions.

|  | CMD      |   |
|--|----------|---|
| • Written submission from the Saskatchewan Mining Association      | 25-H9.4  | • Mémoire de la Saskatchewan Mining Association       |
| • Written submission from Nancy Covington                          | 25-H9.5  | • Mémoire de Nancy Covington                          |
| • Written submission from Carola Giudicelli                        | 25-H9.6  | • Mémoire de Carola Giudicelli                        |
| • Written submission from Susan O'Donnell                          | 25-H9.7  | • Mémoire de Susan O'Donnell                          |
| • Written submission from Des Nedhe Group                          | 25-H9.9  | • Mémoire Des Nedhe Group                             |
| • Written submission from Catherine Vakil, M.D.                    | 25-H9.10 | • Mémoire de Catherine Vakil, M.D.                    |
| • Written submission from Orano Canada Inc.                        | 25-H9.13 | • Mémoire d'Orano Canada Inc.                         |
| • Written submission from Primrose Development Limited Partnership | 25-H9.18 | • Mémoire de Primrose Development Limited Partnership |
| • Written submission from MiningWatch Canada                       | 25-H9.19 | • Mémoire de MiningWatch Canada                       |
| • Written submission from the Canadian Nuclear Association         | 25-H9.24 | • Mémoire de l'Association nucléaire canadienne       |

## MÉMOIRES

### NOTE :

Ces mémoires déposés par des gens qui ont choisi de ne pas faire d'exposé oral sont très importants dans le cadre de cette audience. Ils ont été lus avec attention et les membres de la Commission pourront poser des questions à Denison et au personnel de la CCSN sur ces mémoires, s'il y a lieu, durant la dernière période de questions.



**CMD**

- |  |                 |   |
|--|-----------------|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Written submission from Northwatch</li></ul>   | <p>25-H9.26</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mémoire de Northwatch</li></ul>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Written submission from the Ecological Justice Working Group of the Justice, Mission and Outreach Committee, United Church of Canada, Regions East</li></ul> | <p>25-H9.28</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mémoire du Ecological Justice Working Group of the Justice, Mission and Outreach Committee, United Church of Canada, Regions East</li></ul> |

**C.2            Key Correspondence with English River First Nation since  
June 2025**

**From:** [Boser, Sydney](#)  
**To:** [Cheyenna Hunt](#)  
**Cc:** [Angie Campbell](#); [Noakes, Rain](#);  
**Subject:** CNSC & ERFN Meeting Minutes - July 23rd, 2025  
**Attachments:** [ERFN Issues tracking table - UNDRIP Response to Concern 8.docx](#)  
**Sent:** 2025-07-29 9:11:00 AM

---

Hi Cheyenna,

Hope you are enjoying Spain!! Below I have included the notes from our meeting on July 23<sup>rd</sup> and I have also attached the issues tracker issue#8 which is related to UNDRIP with CNSC's updated response. Chat more at our meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup>!

Cheers,  
Sydney

### **Meeting Minutes – ERFN Engagement Meeting**

**Date:** July 23, 2025

**Location:** Virtual

**Attendees:**

- CNSC: Rain Noakes, Sydney Boder
- ERFN: Cheyenna Hunt, Angie Campbell

#### **1. Wildfire Situation and Community Impact**

- ERFN shared updates on ongoing wildfire impacts, including evacuations and strain on accommodations.
- CNSC acknowledged the challenges and expressed support.

#### **2. Denison Project Updates**

- CNSC confirmed that the EA report, CMD, and consultation report will be posted publicly on **August 12**.
- ERFN confirmed receipt and review of the consultation materials and raised no major concerns.
- CNSC is proposing a **license condition** requiring Denison to report annually on commitments made to Indigenous nations. CNSC will share a draft with ERFN when ready
- ERFN noted that similar conditions exist in their Impact Benefit Agreement and expressed support for oversight.

#### **3. UNDRIP Feedback**

- ERFN raised concerns about the lack of specificity in CNSC's response regarding UNDRIP implementation in the issues tracker.
- CNSC committed to revising the response to include more tangible details or acknowledge the development phase.
- Discussion highlighted the importance of transparency and clarity in regulatory commitments.

#### **4. EA Report and Posting Timeline**

- CNSC confirmed the EA report is under internal review and with Denison for fact-checking.
  - Translations and communications materials are being finalized for the August 12 release.
  - CNSC requested confirmation for outreach activities planned for August 12–13, given wildfire disruptions.
- 

#### 5. ROR Engagement and Hearing Planning

- CNSC shared plans for the **ROR engagement session** on **September 17** in Saskatoon.
  - ERFN confirmed availability and interest in participating.
  - CNSC proposed rescheduling the **Listening Tour** for the same week, potentially on **September 16 or 18**. ERFN agreed that timing would work.
  - The **ROR Commission Meeting** is scheduled for **March 2026**, likely in Ottawa with a virtual option.
  - CNSC will send a draft **Terms of Reference summary** for ERFN's review and inclusion in the CMD.
- 

#### 6. Participant Funding

- CNSC confirmed that **PFP applications** for the ROR are open and due by **August 26**.
  - ERFN will receive an email with the application link and details.
- 

#### 7. Next Steps

- CNSC will send the draft ToR summary and PFP link by **Friday, July 25** (complete). Edits on the summary due back August 8<sup>th</sup>.
- Next meeting scheduled for **August 19**, with Angie as the primary contact during Chey's vacation.
- CNSC to send updated issues tracker with updated response on ERFN's UNDRIP concern (complete)
- CNSC to send meeting invite for the rescheduled listening tour meeting (complete)

Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
 Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
 Email: [sydney.boser@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnsccsn.gc.ca)  
 Phone Number: 343-596-9556

Agente principale en politiques, Division de la consultation et de la mobilisation des Autochtones  
 Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
 Email: [sydney.boser@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnsccsn.gc.ca)

*I acknowledge that the land on which I live and work is the traditional Treaty 6 Territory and Homeland of the Métis*

Je reconnais que les terres sur lesquelles je vis et travaille sont le territoire traditionnel du Traité no 6 et la patrie des Métis

|        |  |   |   |
|--------|--|---|---|
| ERFN08 | <p><b>Indigenous rights and decision-making</b></p> <p>ERFN is frustrated with the recent CNSC licensing decisions at other nuclear facilities, particularly regarding safety and Indigenous rights. ERFN feels that to date, the decision-making process of the CNSC has not sufficiently considered Indigenous perspectives and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP).</p> | <p>Indigenous rights/UNDRIP/decision making</p> | <p>The CNSC's approach to reconciliation and consultation focuses on establishing strong relationships and improving opportunities for Indigenous participation in decision-making throughout the lifecycle of nuclear facilities and projects. The approach is guided by UNDRIP and the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, along with other applicable frameworks and regulations (including <i>REGDOC-3.2.2, Indigenous Engagement</i>).</p> <p>The CNSC is committed to ensuring that Indigenous perspectives are meaningfully considered in all licensing decisions made by the Commission, and that these decisions are made in accordance with the CNSC's approach to reconciliation and consultation. The CNSC ensures that all environmental assessment and licensing decision uphold the honour of the Crown and uphold Indigenous peoples' potential or established Indigenous and/or Treaty Rights, pursuant to Section 35 of the <i>Constitution Act, 1982</i>.</p> <p>The CNSC's approach to consultation and engagement with Indigenous peoples is mindful of and incorporates the principles articulated in UNDA. The CNSC strives to achieve consensus and secure the free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) of potentially impacted Indigenous Nations and communities on the proposed Project through</p> |
|--------|--|---|---|

|  |  |  |   |  |
|--|--|--|---|--|
|  |  |  | <p>collaborative consultation approaches that allow for open dialogue and provides opportunities to understand, document, and address the concerns of Indigenous Nations and communities, including measures to avoid or minimize potential impacts to their Rights and interests, to the greatest extent possible. Concerns raised by Indigenous Nations and communities, including related to consent or lack of consent for a project, are considered as part of the consultation process including the public hearing and the Commission's decision-making process. The CNSC also actively seeks to understand, support and follow an impacted Nation's approach to reaching their position on FPIC for a proposed project and looks to adapt its processes and procedures based on the Nation's processes, laws, customs and requests, where possible. The CNSC's goal is to ensure that the consultation process is robust and works to establish a clear, transparent and collaborative approach to seeking the FPIC of potentially impacted Nations and supporting them in clearly communicating their process and position with regards to consent for the proposed Project to the Commission to inform its decision-making on the Project.</p> <p>The CNSC is committed to continuously improving its consultation and reconciliation processes with Indigenous Nations and</p> |  |
|--|--|--|---|--|

|  |  |  |   |  |
|--|--|--|---|--|
|  |  |  | <p>communities across Canada. The CNSC and ERFN have signed a TOR for long-term engagement that commits both parties to collaborating and engaging with one another throughout the Project's full lifecycle. Through this TOR, CNSC staff will address ERFN's concerns and ensure that the Nation's perspectives and priorities are reflected in CNSC staff reports and documentation, including CNSC staff's consultation report and EA report. CNSC staff are committed to supporting ERFN in working with the Commission Registry to ensure that Indigenous culture, protocols and ceremonies are included and reflected in Commission proceedings and decision-making processes.</p> <p>The CNSC is committed to continuous improvement and receiving feedback from Nations on how we can improve our consultation and engagement processes, including how we are adopting and implementing UNDRIP/UNDA. In addition, the CNSC will continue to adapt its processes for consultation, engagement and the implementation of UNDRIP/UNDA as best practices, policies and case law evolves.</p> <p>For more information regarding CNSC's approach to UNDRIP and Commitment to Reconciliation, please see Section 1.2 and 1.3 of this report.</p> |  |
|--|--|--|---|--|



**From:** [Boser, Sydney](#)  
**To:** [Cheyenna Hunt](#)  
**Cc:** [Angie Campbell](#); [McKeown, Justin](#); [Gorzowski, Konrad](#);  
**Subject:** Denison Wheeler River Project - Update & Draft LCH  
**Attachments:** [LCH Indigenous Engagement Licence Condition - Denison Wheeler River.docx](#)  
**Sent:** 2025-08-22 3:06:00 PM

---

Good afternoon Cheyenna,

CNSC staff are preparing for the upcoming Denison Wheeler River Commission Hearing, Part 1: October 8<sup>th</sup> and Part 2: Week of December 8<sup>th</sup> and have now posted the following documents on the CNSC's website: Commission Member Document (CMD), Environmental Assessment (EA) Report and the Indigenous Consultation Report –

- [Commission Member Document - Wheeler River \(1/3\)](#) The consultation report begins on page 444 of this link and continues into the next 2 links
- [Commission Member Document - Wheeler River \(2/3\)](#)
- [Commission Member Document - Wheeler River \(3/3\)](#)
- [Environmental Assessment Report - Wheeler River Project](#)

As part of the decision by the Commission on the Environmental Assessment and licence application presented by Denison on the Wheeler River Project, the Commission must consider what requirements will be included in the licence, should they decide to issue a licence to Denison. To verify licensee compliance, CNSC staff manage the Licence Condition Handbook (LCH), which includes all licence conditions and includes a list of compliance verification criteria that CNSC staff use to assess a licensee's compliance. CNSC staff provided the Commission a draft version of a licence with all recommended conditions, as well as a draft LCH that describes how CNSC staff plan to verify compliance for the Wheeler River Project.

As part of the proposed licence, CNSC staff are recommending a new specific licence condition on Indigenous engagement. Should the Commission issue a licence, the draft licence condition would require Denison to conduct ongoing Indigenous engagement specific to the Wheeler River Project throughout the site preparation and construction phase and report on these activities to CNSC staff. Licence Condition G.6 sets out the expectation that Denison continues to engage and collaborate with ERFN on the commitments that Denison has agreed to with ERFN.

We welcome any comment or feedback from ERFN on the proposed licence condition. This could be done through ERFN's intervention to the Commission or we would also be happy to receive any comments directly to consider any revisions to the text in advance of the Part 2 hearing. Please find attached a copy of the draft licence condition.

If you have any questions, we would be happy to discuss at a future meeting or you can reach out directly to myself or the lead Project Officer Konrad Gorzowski.

Thank you,

Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)  
Phone Number: 343-596-9556

Agente principale en politiques, Division de la consultation et de la mobilisation des  
Autochtones  
Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)

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and Homeland of the Métis*

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Traité no 6 et la patrie des Métis

## G.6 Indigenous Engagement

|   |
|---|
| The licensee shall implement and maintain an Indigenous engagement program. |
|---|

### Preamble

The Wheeler River site resides on lands in which many Indigenous Nations and communities have a vested interest and rights. The site is situated within historic Treaty 10 (1906) and Homeland of the Métis and is within the traditional territories of the Dene, Cree, and Métis peoples.

This licence condition requires the creation, submission and implementation of a program to ensure ongoing Indigenous engagement by Denison on the Wheeler River project. As per section 6 of REGDOC-3.2.2, *Indigenous Engagement*, licensees may be required to continue to engage Indigenous Nations and communities after an Environmental Assessment or licensing decision. Licensees may also be required to update the CNSC about their ongoing Indigenous engagement activities – for example, the status of the implementation and effectiveness of mitigation, accommodation measures and commitments to Indigenous Nations and communities.

CNSC staff identified Indigenous Nations and communities who have interests and Indigenous and/or Treaty rights in the area where the Wheeler River Project is located (herein referred to as “identified Indigenous Nations and communities”). The following Indigenous Nations and communities were identified as having Indigenous and/or Treaty rights that may be potentially impacted by the Wheeler River Project:

- English River First Nation (ERFN)
- Kineepik Métis Local (KML)
- Black Lake First Nation, Fond du Lac Denesuline First Nation and Hatchet Lake First Nation, which are represented by Ya’thi Nene Lands and Resource Office (YNLR)
- Métis Nation – Saskatchewan (MN-S)

The following Indigenous Nations and communities were identified as having interest in the Wheeler River Project (herein referred to as “interested Indigenous Nations and communities”):

- Lac La Ronge Indian Band (LLRIB)
- Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation (PBCN)
- Birch Narrows Dene Nation (BNDN)
- Prince Albert Grand Council (PAGC)
- 

For the purposes of this Licence Condition, the term “identified Indigenous Nations and communities” refers specifically to the Indigenous Nations and communities listed above who have demonstrated Indigenous and/or Treaty rights in the Project area.

### Compliance Verification Criteria

In developing the Wheeler River-specific Indigenous Engagement Program required by this licence condition, the licensee should engage with and seek feedback from the identified Indigenous Nations and communities.

The engagement program shall identify specific engagement, activities, commitments and definitions. The development of the engagement program should be a collaborative process between the licensee and the identified Indigenous Nations and communities and tailored to Indigenous Nation and communities' rights, interests and preferences for engagement and communications.

The ongoing engagement in accordance with the engagement program shall be carried out with the identified Indigenous Nations and communities. If an Indigenous Nation and/or community is non-responsive, the licensee shall continue to share information and provide opportunities for engagement, unless the Indigenous Nation and/or community specifically declines the engagement opportunities and requests that Denison stop sharing information regarding the Wheeler River Project. The licensee shall make efforts to involve the interested identified Indigenous Nations and communities in the engagement program, where appropriate, and shall report on these efforts as part of annual reporting on the engagement program.

To ensure ongoing engagement, the licensee's program shall provide for collaboration and engagement with the identified Indigenous Nations and communities on the following:

1. Make reasonable efforts to collaborate with Indigenous Nations and communities to identify and implement approaches to engagement and communication that takes into consideration the knowledge, needs, protocols, language, preferences and interests of each Indigenous Nation and community.
2. Provide knowledge sharing opportunities such as site visits, workshops and information sessions or alternate communication and engagement activities as expressed by Indigenous Nations and communities.
3. Collaborate with Indigenous Nations and communities in relation to monitoring and follow-up activities related to the Wheeler River Project. Monitoring and follow-up activities will include both operational activities and commitments made through the federal EA process including, but not limited to, EA conditions related to environmental monitoring, caribou mitigation, emergency management, baseline data gathering and other follow-up activities that relate directly to concerns raised by Indigenous Nations and communities during the EA and regulatory review process for the Project.
4. Respond to questions, concerns or comments from Indigenous Nations and communities regarding the Wheeler River Project and work collaboratively to reflect feedback and Indigenous Knowledge within the licensee's activities, as appropriate.

Additionally, CNSC staff acknowledge that Denison has made commitments to Indigenous Nations and Communities through the EA and regulatory review process. The licensee shall fulfill their commitments described in the Commitments Registry. The commitments made by Denison that do not fall within the CNSC's mandate and authority will not form part of the compliance verification criteria. However, the CNSC encourages Denison to provide summary

updates on progress in meeting all commitments made to Indigenous Nations and communities through annual reporting in relation to their Wheeler River Indigenous Engagement Program.

### **Reporting Requirements**

As part of the Annual Compliance Monitoring Report discussed under LC 3.2 below, the licensee shall submit to the CNSC information on engagement activities it has undertaken with the identified Indigenous Nations and communities during the reporting year as part of its engagement program. The development of this content should be a collaborative process between the licensee and the identified Indigenous Nations and communities. It is acknowledged that an Indigenous Nation or community may share information with the licensee in confidence. The licensee should work with the Indigenous Nation or community to ensure this information is not disclosed and the Indigenous Nation or community is comfortable with the level of detail communicated within the report.

This reporting shall describe:

- The name of the Indigenous Nation or community.
- The method(s), date(s), location(s), and topics of engagement activities with the Indigenous Nation or community.
- Engagement efforts undertaken within the year in relation to identified and interested Indigenous Nations and communities
- An update on the commitments (items 1 through 4 above) along with any relevant information and context regarding the status of, timelines, and process made on the initiatives and commitments.
- A summary of any issues, interests, or concerns raised, including those in relation to any potential impacts on identified or established Indigenous and/or Treaty rights.
- The measures taken, or that will be taken, to address or respond to the issues or concerns. Alternatively, an explanation as to why no further action is required to address or respond to issues or concerns shall be provided.
- A description of any changes to project activities and/or programs to address and incorporate the measures taken to respond to issues or concerns, or to incorporate knowledge and feedback from Indigenous Nations and communities.
- Discussion of relevant corporate policies and programs with respect to Indigenous initiatives.

### ***Licensee Documents that Require Notification of Change***

| <b>Source</b> | <b>Document Title</b>                     | <b>Prior Notification Required</b> |
|---------------|---|------------------------------------|
| Denison       | Facility Licensing Manual                 | Yes                                |
| Denison       | Public and Indigenous Information Program | Yes                                |
| Denison       | Commitments Registry                      | Yes                                |

## **Guidance**

### ***Guidance Publications***

| <b>Source</b> | <b>Document Title</b>              | <b>Document Number</b> |
|---------------|------------------------------------|------------------------|
| CNSC          | Public Information and Disclosure  | REGDOC-3.2.1           |
| CNSC          | Indigenous Engagement, Version 1.2 | REGDOC-3.2.2           |

**From:** [Registry / Greffe \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#)  
**To:** [Cheyenna Hunt](#)  
**Cc:** ['Angie.Campbell@desnedhe.com'](#); [Registry / Greffe \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#); [Zenobi, Adam](#); [Boser, Sydney](#); [McKeown, Justin](#); [Durocher, Diane](#);  
**Subject:** Breakout rooms for Saskatchewan - Denison Mines Corp. Commission Hearing - Week of December 8, 2025  
**Sent:** 2025-08-27 7:34:58 AM

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Good day,

We're writing to let you know that the Commission Registry has procured the Sheraton Cavalier Hotel for the Commission's Public Hearing for the proposed Denison Wheeler River Project scheduled to take place in Saskatoon during the week of December 8, 2025.

I am reaching out as I was able to reserve **3 breakout rooms** which I am offering to Indigenous Nations intervening in the proceeding. The Hotel Event Manager has informed us that other people are interested in booking these rooms for other events, so you're encouraged to contact the venue **as soon as possible** should you wish to have a breakout room available to you and your Nation. These rooms will be booked **on a first-come, first-served** basis. The Event Manager's contact information is as follows:

**Gurpreet Singh**

Event Manager

Direct: 306-667-0179

Office: 306-652-6791 ext. 3356

Sheraton Cavalier Saskatoon Hotel

612 Spadina Crescent East

Saskatoon, SK, S7K 3G9

Marriott.com/YXESI

[gurpreets@sheratonsaskatoon.com](mailto:gurpreets@sheratonsaskatoon.com)

The potentially available breakout rooms are:

- Canadian Room
- Cavalier Room
- Boardroom
- Starlight Room

You may wish to tell the Event Manager that the official dates of the proceeding will be confirmed towards the end of October 2025, and based on your planned attendance, you may wish to inform the Event Manager the number of anticipated days you may need to the room for. By providing this information you can explore

if your contract includes the necessary flexibility to revise the dates without penalty, as the proceeding may not last the full week.

Should you wish to reserve a room, the contract and payment of the room will be the responsibility of your Nation. Note that PFP funds provided to support your Nation's participation in the Commission Hearing may be used to cover the costs of a breakout room. Additionally, please note that all catering requests must go through the hotel's caterer.

Should you have any questions or need further clarification, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Best regards,

**Annik Tanguay**  
(she/her/elle)

Senior Tribunal Officer, Commission Registry  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
[registry-greffe@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:registry-greffe@cnsccsn.gc.ca) Tel : 613 462-7489

Agente principale du tribunal, Greffe de la Commission  
Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
[registry-greffe@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:registry-greffe@cnsccsn.gc.ca) Tel : 613 462-7489

*Please respond to this email in the official language of your choice | Veuillez répondre à ce courriel dans la langue officielle de votre choix.*



**From:** [Boser, Sydney](#)  
**To:** [Cheyenna Hunt](#)  
**Cc:** [Noakes, Rain](#); [Way, Jessica](#); [Angie Campbell](#);  
**Subject:** ERFN & CNSC Meeting Notes - August 19th  
**Sent:** 2025-09-02 3:28:00 PM

---

Hi Cheyenna,

Please see the notes below from our last meeting on August 19<sup>th</sup> – looking forward to our in-person meeting on Sept 16<sup>th</sup> 😊

### **Meeting Minutes**

**Date:** August 19, 2025

**Participants:** Sydney Boser, Rain Noakes, Cheyenna Hunt and Angie Campbell

**Project:** Wheeler River Project

**Location:** Virtual Meeting

#### **1. Updates from CNSC**

- **CMD Posting:** CNSC confirmed that the Commission Member Document (CMD) has been posted. Links will be shared via CNSC's general distribution and directly by CNSC staff.
- **License Condition Handbook:** CNSC has drafted a License Condition Handbook including a new condition on Indigenous engagement. Text will be shared with ERFN for review and comment (complete).
- **Rights Impact Assessment (RIA):** CNSC has begun drafting the RIA based on traditional land use and other shared information. A draft will be ready for ERFN review by end of September, ahead of the Part Two hearing in December.

#### **2. Indigenous Engagement & ROR**

- **ROR Engagement Session:** Scheduled for **September 17**, at Wanuskewin Heritage Park. CNSC staff will be sending out the agenda to ERFN when ready.
- **Listening Tour:** Scheduled for **September 16** at ERFN's office from **12–4 PM**.
- **PFP Application:** ERFN was reminded to apply for Participant Funding Program (PFP) for the ROR. Deadline is **August 25** (complete).
- **Terms of Reference Draft Text:** Sent by CNSC for inclusion in the CMD. ERFN to provide comments if any (complete).

#### **3. Funding Discussion**

- ERFN reviewed remaining funds from previous meetings on the TOR
- Remaining funds will be used for hotel and meal costs for the September meetings.
- Additional funding expected through ROR PFP for September engagement and March Commission Meeting.

#### **4. Denison Project Updates**

- CNSC confirmed that the **Part One hearing** for Denison will be **technical only**, focusing on licensing and EA. Consultation topics will be deferred to **Part Two** in December.

- ERFN to receive an email blast with the federal registry link once the EA report is signed and posted (complete).

#### 5. Inter-Nation to Nation Collaboration

- CNSC mentioned interest from Kwilmu'kw Maw-Klusuaqn (KMK) (Nova Scotia) in learning about uranium mining and CNSC processes.
- ERFN was asked if they'd be open to sharing their experience. CNSC will share ERFN contact info with KMK staff if agreeable.

#### 6. Meeting Schedule

- **September 9 virtual meeting** will be cancelled to avoid redundancy with in-person meetings on September 16–17.
- **Jess** will return to CNSC office in early September.

#### Action Items

| Item  | Responsible | Deadline      |
|---|-------------|---------------|
| Share License Condition Handbook text (complete)          | CNSC        | This week     |
| Submit PFP application for ROR (complete)                 | ERFN        | August 25     |
| Review and comment on Terms of Reference draft (complete) | ERFN        | ASAP          |
| Draft RIA and send to ERFN                                | CNSC        | End September |
| Cancel September 9 meeting (complete)                     | All         | Before Sept 9 |
| Share ERFN contact with KMK (complete)                    | CNSC        | ASAP          |

Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
 Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
 Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)  
 Phone Number: 343-596-9556

Agente principale en politiques, Division de la consultation et de la mobilisation des Autochtones  
 Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
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*I acknowledge that the land on which I live and work is the traditional Treaty 6 Territory and Homeland of the Métis*

Je reconnais que les terres sur lesquelles je vis et travaille sont le territoire traditionnel du Traité no 6 et la patrie des Métis



## Boser, Sydney (CNSC/CCSN)

---

**Subject:** CNSC & ERFN Listening Tour Meeting Rescheduled  
**Location:** English River Business Complex (2555 Grasswood Rd #300, Clavet SK)  
  
**Start:** Tue 2025-09-16 12:00 PM  
**End:** Tue 2025-09-16 4:00 PM  
**Show Time As:** Out of Office  
  
**Recurrence:** (none)  
  
**Meeting Status:** Meeting organizer  
  
**Organizer:** Boser, Sydney  
**Required Attendees:** Boser, Sydney; Cheyenna Hunt; Angie Campbell; Tran, Nhan; Bridges, Nick; Gerrish, Meghan; McKeown, Justin  
**Optional Attendees:** Hunter, Hilary; Schetselaar, Martijn  
  
**Categories:** Outreach

Hello everyone – please see the following invite for the Rescheduled ERFN Listening Tour meeting from 12pm-4pm in-person at ERFN’s office in Saskatoon. This meeting will include lunch 😊 ERFN TOR members were shared the discussion questions and will come ready for the discussion. I have included the discussion questions in the invite for reference as well!

Looking forward to the discussion on Sept 16<sup>th</sup>!

Sydney

---

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### [Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 277 222 149 451

Passcode: bG96Zo72

---

### Dial in by phone

[+1 647-749-9265,,58572271#](#) Canada, Toronto

[\(844\) 632-5179,,58572271#](#) Canada (Toll-free)

[Find a local number](#)

Phone conference ID: 585 722 71#

For organizers: [Meeting options](#) | [Reset dial-in PIN](#)

.....

# Microsoft Teams [Besoin d'aide?](#)

## [Rejoignez la réunion maintenant](#)

Numéro de réunion : 277 222 149 451

Code secret : bG96Zo72

---

### Participez à l'appel par téléphone

[+1 647-749-9265,,58572271#](#) Canada, Toronto

[\(844\) 632-5179,,58572271#](#) Canada (Gratuit)

[Trouvez un numéro local](#)

Numéro de conférence téléphonique : 585 722 71#

Pour les organisateurs : [Options de réunion](#) | [Réinitialiser le code d'appel](#)

---

**From:** [Registry / Greffe \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#)  
**To:** [Cheyenna Hunt](#)  
**Cc:** ['Angie.Campbell@desnedhe.com'](#); [Zenobi, Adam](#); [Boser, Sydney](#); [McKeown, Justin](#); [Durocher, Diane](#); [Registry / Greffe \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#);  
**Subject:** RE: Breakout rooms for Saskatchewan - Denison Mines Corp. Commission Hearing - Week of December 8, 2025  
**Sent:** 2025-09-04 5:43:29 AM

---

Good day,

Further to my previous email, we would like to inform you that the Canadian room is no longer available. Additionally, due to high demand for room rentals in December, any unreserved breakout rooms will be released after September 12, 2025. If you wish to secure a breakout room, please ensure your reservation is made before that date.

Best regards,

**Annik Tanguay**  
(she/her/elle)

Senior Tribunal Officer, Commission Registry  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
[registry-greffe@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:registry-greffe@cnscccsn.gc.ca) Tel : 613 462-7489

Agente principale du tribunal, Greffe de la Commission  
Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
[registry-greffe@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:registry-greffe@cnscccsn.gc.ca) Tel : 613 462-7489

*Please respond to this email in the official language of your choice | Veuillez répondre à ce courriel dans la langue officielle de votre choix.*

---

**From:** Registry / Greffe (CNSC/CCSN) <[registry-greffe@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:registry-greffe@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 27, 2025 9:35 AM  
**To:** Cheyenna Hunt <[cheyenna.hunt@desnedhe.com](mailto:cheyenna.hunt@desnedhe.com)>  
**Cc:** 'Angie.Campbell@desnedhe.com' <[angie.campbell@desnedhe.com](mailto:angie.campbell@desnedhe.com)>; Registry / Greffe (CNSC/CCSN) <[registry-greffe@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:registry-greffe@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Zenobi, Adam <[adam.zenobi@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:adam.zenobi@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Boser, Sydney <[sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; McKeown, Justin <[justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Durocher, Diane <[diane.durocher@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:diane.durocher@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Subject:** Breakout rooms for Saskatchewan - Denison Mines Corp. Commission Hearing - Week of December 8, 2025

Good day,

We're writing to let you know that the Commission Registry has procured the Sheraton Cavalier Hotel for the Commission's Public Hearing for the proposed Denison Wheeler River Project scheduled to take place in Saskatoon during the week of December 8, 2025.

I am reaching out as I was able to reserve **3 breakout rooms** which I am offering to Indigenous Nations intervening in the proceeding. The Hotel Event Manager has informed us that other people are interested in booking these rooms for other events, so you're encouraged to contact the venue **as soon as possible** should you wish to have a breakout room available to you and your Nation. These rooms will be booked **on a first-come, first-served** basis. The Event Manager's contact information is as follows:

**Gurpreet Singh**

Event Manager

Direct: 306-667-0179

Office: 306-652-6791 ext. 3356

Sheraton Cavalier Saskatoon Hotel

612 Spadina Crescent East

Saskatoon, SK, S7K 3G9

Marriott.com/YXESI

[gurpreets@sheratonsaskatoon.com](mailto:gurpreets@sheratonsaskatoon.com)

The potentially available breakout rooms are:

- Canadian Room
- Cavalier Room
- Boardroom
- Starlight Room

You may wish to tell the Event Manager that the official dates of the proceeding will be confirmed towards the end of October 2025, and based on your planned attendance, you may wish to inform the Event Manager the number of anticipated days you may need to the room for. By providing this information you can explore if your contract includes the necessary flexibility to revise the dates without penalty, as the proceeding may not last the full week.

Should you wish to reserve a room, the contract and payment of the room will be the responsibility of your Nation. Note that PFP funds provided to support your Nation's participation in the Commission Hearing may be used to cover the costs of a breakout room. Additionally, please note that all catering requests must go through the hotel's caterer.

Should you have any questions or need further clarification, please don't hesitate to contact us.



Best regards,

**Annik Tanguay**

(she/her/elle)

Senior Tribunal Officer, Commission Registry  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
[registry-greffe@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:registry-greffe@cnsccsn.gc.ca) Tel : 613 462-7489

Agente principale du tribunal, Greffe de la Commission  
Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
[registry-greffe@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:registry-greffe@cnsccsn.gc.ca) Tel : 613 462-7489

*Please respond to this email in the official language of your choice | Veuillez répondre à ce courriel dans la langue officielle de votre choix.*

---

**From:** [Cheyenna Hunt](#)  
**To:** [Interventions / Interventions \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Boser, Sydney](#); [McKeown, Justin](#); [Levine, Adam](#);  
**Subject:** English River First Nation intervention on Denison Hearing  
**Sent:** 2025-09-17 2:41:38 PM

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EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES PREUVE DE PRUDENCE

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Good afternoon.

I understand that ERFN has the opportunity to meet with the Commission to discuss our Indigenous knowledge and share privileged information from our Elders during the Denison hearing.

Kindly confirm this opportunity for us. You may contact me directly to discuss arrangements for our Nation.

Regards,

Cheyenna

Cheyenna Hunt B.A., LL.B.  
Director, Lands & Consultation  
English River First Nation

301-2555 Grasswood Road E  
Saskatoon, Sk S7T0K1

306.291.6808  
[cheyenna.hunt@desnedhe.com](mailto:cheyenna.hunt@desnedhe.com)

**From:** [Boser, Sydney](#)  
**To:** [Cheyenna Hunt](#)  
**Cc:** [Angie Campbell](#); [McKeown, Justin](#);  
**Subject:** For Your Review: ERFN Rights Impact Assessment - Denison Wheeler River  
**Attachments:** [ERFN Draft Rights Impact Assesment - Denison Wheeler River October 2025.docx](#)  
**Sent:** 2025-10-01 3:28:00 PM

---

Good afternoon Cheyenna,

CNSC staff have completed our draft of the ERFN Right's Impact Assessment (RIA) which is attached above for your review. We are looking to ERFN to review the draft for accuracy and to include any additional information that you feel may be missing with regards to ERFN's land use including any maps, locations, etc. To note, this information in the RIA will be posted and part of the public record for the Denison Part 2 hearing but any additional information shared will aid CNSC in our assessment of the impact to ERFN's rights. You may also include any additional commitments, mitigations and follow-up activities related to environmental monitoring and facility operations contained in agreements with Denison for inclusion into Section 4 of the RIA while also noting these commitments, mitigations and follow-up will become part of the public record.

If you have any questions or clarifications as you navigate your review, we would be happy to set a meeting to discuss further or answer any questions at our meeting scheduled for October 21<sup>st</sup>. **Please provide your review back to CNSC by October 31<sup>st</sup>.**

Thank you,

Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)  
Phone Number: 343-596-9556

Agente principale en politiques, Division de la consultation et de la mobilisation des Autochtones  
Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)

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---

**From:** [Cheyenna Hunt](#)  
**To:** [Boser, Sydney](#)  
**Cc:** [Angie Campbell](#); [McKeown, Justin](#); [Jamie Dickson](#);  
**Subject:** RE: For Your Review: ERFN Rights Impact Assessment - Denison Wheeler River  
**Sent:** 2025-10-07 3:24:28 PM

---

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES PREUVE  
DE PRUDENCE

---

Hi Sydney.

I would like to get some funding to have Jamie Dickson (ERFN's Lawyer) and some Elders work through this RIA with me.

Is it possible to apply for the CNSC funding for this relatively quickly?

Cheyenna

---

**From:** Boser, Sydney <sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 1, 2025 3:29 PM  
**To:** Cheyenna Hunt <cheyenna.hunt@desnedhe.com>  
**Cc:** Angie Campbell <angie.campbell@desnedhe.com>; McKeown, Justin <justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca>  
**Subject:** For Your Review: ERFN Rights Impact Assessment - Denison Wheeler River

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Thank you,

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Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)  
Phone Number: 343-596-9556

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**From:** [Jean, Arielle](#)  
**To:** [Cheyenna Hunt](#)  
**Cc:** [Angie Campbell](#); [Jamie Dickson](#); [Boser, Sydney](#); [McKeown, Justin](#); [Zenobi, Adam](#); [Laplante, Anne](#);  
**Subject:** RE: For Your Review: ERFN Rights Impact Assessment - Denison Wheeler River  
**Attachments:** [PFP - Contribution Agreement - ERFN - DEN04 - 2025 - RPPPD - SIGNED.pdf](#)  
**Sent:** 2025-10-08 10:02:32 AM

---

Hi Cheyenna,

Sydney shared your request with the funding team. Our thought is to amend English River First Nation's current agreement related to the Denison file (attached for reference) to include review of the Rights Impact Assessment (RIA) and the additional funding needed for the review. Could you please let us know how much additional funding will be needed to review the RIA, along with a breakdown of expenses?

We can then work on processing the amendment for your review and signature.

Thank you,  
Arielle

---

**From:** Cheyenna Hunt <[cheyenna.hunt@desnedhe.com](mailto:cheyenna.hunt@desnedhe.com)>  
**Sent:** October 7, 2025 3:24 PM  
**To:** Boser, Sydney <[sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Cc:** Angie Campbell <[Angie.Campbell@desnedhe.com](mailto:Angie.Campbell@desnedhe.com)>; McKeown, Justin <[justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Jamie Dickson <[jdickson@oktlaw.com](mailto:jdickson@oktlaw.com)>  
**Subject:** RE: For Your Review: ERFN Rights Impact Assessment - Denison Wheeler River

|   |
|---|
| EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES PREUVE DE PRUDENCE |
|---|

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**Sent:** Wednesday, October 1, 2025 3:29 PM  
**To:** Cheyenna Hunt <[cheyenna.hunt@desnedhe.com](mailto:cheyenna.hunt@desnedhe.com)>  
**Cc:** Angie Campbell <[angie.campbell@desnedhe.com](mailto:angie.campbell@desnedhe.com)>; McKeown, Justin <[justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Subject:** For Your Review: ERFN Rights Impact Assessment - Denison Wheeler River

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If you have any questions or clarifications as you navigate your review, we would be happy to set a meeting to discuss further or answer any questions at our meeting scheduled for October 21<sup>st</sup>.

**Please provide your review back to CNSC by October 31<sup>st</sup>.**

Thank you,



Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division

Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission

Email: [sydney.boser@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnsccsn.gc.ca)

Phone Number: 343-596-9556

Agente principale en politiques, Division de la consultation et de la mobilisation des Autochtones

Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire

Email: [sydney.boser@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnsccsn.gc.ca)

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6 et la patrie des Métis

**From:** [Boser, Sydney \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#)  
**To:** [Cheyenna Hunt](#); [Angie Campbell](#);  
**Cc:** [Noakes, Rain \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#); [Way, Jessica \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#); [McKeown, Justin \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#);  
**Subject:** ERFN Meeting Summary - October 21st  
**Attachments:** [Poster\\_Wheeler2025\\_Dene.pdf](#)  
**Sent:** 2025-10-21 2:56:00 PM

---

Hi Cheyenna and Angie,

Thanks Angie for meeting with us today and Chey hope you are enjoying the CNA conference. We had a quick meeting today and I just wanted to include the main highlights and if you have any questions, let me know and we can set up another quick chat before our November meeting. Please note two important deadlines below as well as a question I had on your consultation policy:

**Meeting Summary – ERFN/CNSC October 21<sup>st</sup>**

- CNSC is continuing to work on our supplemental CMD that will be submitted to the Commission prior to the Part 2 hearing. This will include updated consultation as well as the rights impact assessments
- There were a couple minor errors made in the EA report which is also be corrected in the supplemental CMD
- CNSC updated the Denison Cree poster to reflect Plains Cree based on ERFN's suggestion which was now sent out and can be shared with the community. Angie asked to see the Dene poster as well which is attached above
- CNSC mentioned that they will be meeting with the Registry to discuss ceremonial aspects for opening up the hearing which will include a prayer and potentially a smudge by ERFN. CNSC will keep ERFN updated on this. The agenda for Part 2 isn't available yet but when it is they will share it with ERFN
- The deadline to submit a written intervention for the hearing is this **Friday October 24<sup>th</sup>**
- The deadline to provide comments on the RIA is **Friday October 31<sup>st</sup>**

Question: during the listening tour meeting you provided CNSC staff with the ERFN consultation policy. Are we able to append that policy to our Listening Tour What We Heard Report noting this will be a public document? And if not, can we just mention that you shared it with us but we won't include a copy? Let me know!

Best,

Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

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Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
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**From:** [Boser, Sydney \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#)  
**To:** [Cheyenna Hunt](#); [Angie Campbell](#);  
**Cc:** [Noakes, Rain \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#); [Way, Jessica \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#); [McKeown, Justin \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#);  
**Subject:** RE: ERFN Meeting Summary - October 21st  
**Sent:** 2025-10-22 1:54:00 PM

---

Hi Cheyenna,

Following up on my email below, CNSC were able to meet with the Registry today to discuss the ceremonial aspects for the Part 2 hearing. A couple things I wanted to confirm with you:

- Would ERFN be willing to open up the Commission hearing with an opening prayer? If yes –
  - Would the prayer be able to be done via a microphone? If yes, would a microphone stand and/or a chair be needed for the Elder?
  - Would ERFN be wanting to do smudge as part of the opening ceremony/prayer? Registry is checking to see if the room can accommodate a smudge
  - How many Elders would be participating in the opening prayer/ceremony? Would it just be Elder Fred Campbell or would others participate as well such as Isidore?
  - Is there anything else that would be needed as part of this opening? CNSC staff will have tobacco there but would anything else be needed as we prepare for the day of? We just want to ensure we are prepared and ERFN has everything they may need.

Any information on this would be greatly appreciated – happy to jump on a quick call if that is easier. We don't have the agenda ready yet for the hearing but once all the interventions come in, we will have a better idea how the week will be laid out. I will keep you updated as we know!

Sydney

---

**From:** Boser, Sydney (CNSC/CCSN)  
**Sent:** October 21, 2025 2:56 PM  
**To:** Cheyenna Hunt <cheyenna.hunt@desnedhe.com>; Angie Campbell <angie.campbell@desnedhe.com>  
**Cc:** Noakes, Rain (CNSC/CCSN) <rain.noakes@cnscccsn.gc.ca>; Way, Jessica (CNSC/CCSN) <jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca>; McKeown, Justin (CNSC/CCSN) <justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca>  
**Subject:** ERFN Meeting Summary - October 21st

Hi Cheyenna and Angie,

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highlights and if you have any questions, let me know and we can set up another quick chat before our November meeting. Please note two important deadlines below as well as a question I had on your consultation policy:

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Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnsccsn.gc.ca)  
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Agente principale en politiques, Division de la consultation et de la mobilisation des Autochtones  
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---

**From:** [Cheyenna Hunt](#)  
**To:** [Boser, Sydney \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#); [Angie Campbell](#);  
**Cc:** [Noakes, Rain \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#); [Way, Jessica \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#); [McKeown, Justin \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#);  
**Subject:** RE: ERFN Meeting Summary - October 21st  
**Sent:** 2025-10-23 12:09:21 PM

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EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES PREUVE  
DE PRUDENCE

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Hi Sydney,

ERFN will open with a Prayer. Please have a microphone ready- but it may not be used. I would also make a chair available.

Uncle Fred will have smudge burning.

I will stand with Fred and we can invite anyone who wants to smudge up to do so as well.

The smudge can be available before the hearing begins. The prayer can open the hearing.

Please bring a small gift and the tobacco for Fred.

---

**From:** Boser, Sydney (CNSC/CCSN) <sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca>

**Sent:** Wednesday, October 22, 2025 1:55 PM

**To:** Cheyenna Hunt <cheyenna.hunt@desnedhe.com>; Angie Campbell <angie.campbell@desnedhe.com>

**Cc:** Noakes, Rain (CNSC/CCSN) <rain.noakes@cnscccsn.gc.ca>; Way, Jessica (CNSC/CCSN) <jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca>; McKeown, Justin (CNSC/CCSN) <justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca>

**Subject:** RE: ERFN Meeting Summary - October 21st

**Importance:** High

Hi Cheyenna,

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Sydney

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**From:** Boser, Sydney (CNSC/CCSN)

**Sent:** October 21, 2025 2:56 PM

**To:** Cheyenna Hunt <[cheyenna.hunt@desnedhe.com](mailto:cheyenna.hunt@desnedhe.com)>; Angie Campbell



Hi Cheyenna and Angie,

Thanks Angie for meeting with us today and Chey hope you are enjoying the CNA conference. We had a quick meeting today and I just wanted to include the main highlights and if you have any questions, let me know and we can set up another quick chat before our November meeting. Please note two important deadlines below as well as a question I had on your consultation policy:

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Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
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**From:** [Cheyenna Hunt](#)  
**To:** [Boser, Sydney \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#); [Angie Campbell](#);  
**Cc:** [Noakes, Rain \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#); [Way, Jessica \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#); [McKeown, Justin \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#);  
**Subject:** RE: ERFN Meeting Summary - October 21st  
**Sent:** 2025-10-24 9:38:02 AM

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EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES PREUVE  
DE PRUDENCE

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Hi Sydney,

Thank you for this.

You may append ERFN's Consultation Policy to the Listening Tour What We Heard Report.

Cheyenna

---

**From:** Boser, Sydney (CNSC/CCSN) <sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 21, 2025 2:56 PM  
**To:** Cheyenna Hunt <cheyenna.hunt@desnedhe.com>; Angie Campbell <angie.campbell@desnedhe.com>  
**Cc:** Noakes, Rain (CNSC/CCSN) <rain.noakes@cnscccsn.gc.ca>; Way, Jessica (CNSC/CCSN) <jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca>; McKeown, Justin (CNSC/CCSN) <justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca>  
**Subject:** ERFN Meeting Summary - October 21st

Hi Cheyenna and Angie,

Thanks Angie for meeting with us today and Chey hope you are enjoying the CNA conference. We had a quick meeting today and I just wanted to include the main highlights and if you have any questions, let me know and we can set up another quick chat before our November meeting. Please note two important deadlines below as well as a question I had on your consultation policy:

**Meeting Summary – ERFN/CNSC October 21<sup>st</sup>**

- CNSC is continuing to work on our supplemental CMD that will be submitted to the Commission prior to the Part 2 hearing. This will include updated consultation as well as the rights impact assessments
- There were a couple minor errors made in the EA report which is also be corrected in the supplemental CMD
- CNSC updated the Denison Cree poster to reflect Plains Cree based on ERFN's suggestion which was now sent out and can be shared with the community. Angie asked to see the Dene poster as well which is attached above
- CNSC mentioned that they will be meeting with the Registry to discuss ceremonial aspects for opening up the hearing which will include a prayer and potentially a smudge by ERFN. CNSC will keep ERFN updated on this. The agenda for Part 2 isn't available yet but when it is they will share it with ERFN
- The deadline to submit a written intervention for the hearing is this **Friday October 24<sup>th</sup>**
- The deadline to provide comments on the RIA is **Friday October 31<sup>st</sup>**

Question: during the listening tour meeting you provided CNSC staff with the ERFN consultation policy. Are we able to append that policy to our Listening Tour What We Heard Report noting this will be a public document? And if not, can we just mention that you shared it with us but we won't include a copy? Let me know!

-

Phone Number: 343-596-9556

Agente principale en politiques, Division de la consultation et de la mobilisation des Autochtones

Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire

Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)

*I acknowledge that the land on which I live and work is the traditional Treaty 6 Territory and Homeland of the Métis*

Je reconnais que les terres sur lesquelles je vis et travaille sont le territoire traditionnel du Traité no 6 et la patrie des Métis

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**From:** [Cheyenna Hunt](#)  
**To:** [Interventions / Interventions \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Jamie Dickson; Robin Kusch; Alfred Dawatsare; Sean Willy; Jenny Wolverine; Boser, Sydney \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#);  
**Subject:** ERFN Intervention  
**Attachments:** [Denison-WheelerRiverProject-EA-Report-Review\\_22Oct2025\\_FINAL.pdf](#);2025 October 24 ERFN Intervention Cover letter.pdf;  
**Sent:** 2025-10-24 3:52:18 PM

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**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES PREUVE DE PRUDENCE

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**Cheyenna R. Hunt B.A., LL.B.**  
Director, Lands & Consultation

English River First Nation  
Urban Office  
321 - 2555 Grasswood Road  
Saskatoon, Sk. S7T0K1

Cell: 306.291.6808

Email: [cheyenna.hunt@desnedhe.com](mailto:cheyenna.hunt@desnedhe.com)



**Des Nédhë Group**  
An English River First Nation Enterprise



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**From:** [Boser, Sydney \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#)  
**To:** ['Cheyenna Hunt'](#)  
**Cc:** [McKeown, Justin \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#); [Way, Jessica \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#); [Gorzowski, Konrad \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#);  
**Subject:** RE: Reminder - Denison Wheeler River Deadlines for Part 2 Hearing  
**Sent:** 2025-10-24 3:58:00 PM

---

Hi Cheyenna,

Unfortunately, we won't be able to accommodate a 30-day extension but we could offer an extension until Friday November 7<sup>th</sup>. The supplemental CMD will be posted on the Registry (including the RIAs) on November 24<sup>th</sup> and CNSC needs two weeks for these to go for internal reviews.

Hope you have a great weekend!

Sydney

---

**From:** Cheyenna Hunt <cheyenna.hunt@desnedhe.com>  
**Sent:** October 24, 2025 2:05 PM  
**To:** Boser, Sydney (CNSC/CCSN) <sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca>  
**Cc:** McKeown, Justin (CNSC/CCSN) <justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca>; Way, Jessica (CNSC/CCSN) <jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca>; Gorzowski, Konrad (CNSC/CCSN) <konrad.gorzowski@cnscccsn.gc.ca>  
**Subject:** RE: Reminder - Denison Wheeler River Deadlines for Part 2 Hearing

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| EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES<br>PREUVE DE PRUDENCE |
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Hi Sydney.

Im in the thick of CNSC stuff at the moment. Is it possible to get a 30 day extension on the RIA review?

Cheyenna

---

**From:** Boser, Sydney <[sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 6, 2025 3:50 PM  
**Cc:** McKeown, Justin <[justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Gorzowski, Konrad <[konrad.gorzowski@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:konrad.gorzowski@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Subject:** Reminder - Denison Wheeler River Deadlines for Part 2 Hearing  
**Importance:** High

Good afternoon,



This is a reminder that if you are interested in submitting a written intervention for the Denison Wheeler River Part 2 hearing happening the week of December 8<sup>th</sup>, the deadline to intervene is **October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025**. The request to intervene must include the following information:

- a written submission of the comments to be presented to the Commission
- a statement setting out whether the requester wishes to intervene by way of written submission only, or by way of written submission and oral presentation
- the requester's name, address, telephone number and email address

These requests can be filed with the Commission Registry using the following email address: [interventions@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:interventions@cnscccsn.gc.ca). Oral presenters who wish to use a PowerPoint presentation are asked to submit their slide decks to the Commission Registry by **November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025**.

For further information on the Commission Hearing, the Notice of Public Hearing is attached above. If you require any clarifications, please don't hesitate to reach out to myself.

Additional information about the Wheeler River EA process can be found on the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry (CIAR Reference: 80178) page for this project: [Wheeler River Project \(iaac-aeic.gc.ca\)](https://www.ciar.gc.ca/iaac-aeic.gc.ca/WheelerRiverProject).

Thank you,

Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)  
Phone Number: 343-596-9556

Agente principale en politiques, Division de la consultation et de la mobilisation des Autochtones  
Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)

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---

**From:** [Cheyenna Hunt](#)  
**To:** [Boser, Sydney \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Photo Consent - ERFN  
**Sent:** 2025-10-31 2:56:18 PM

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EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES PREUVE DE PRUDENCE

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These look good to me

---

**From:** Boser, Sydney (CNSC/CCSN) <[sydney.boser@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnsccsn.gc.ca)>

**Sent:** Friday, October 31, 2025 2:34 PM

**To:** Cheyenna Hunt <[cheyenna.hunt@desnedhe.com](mailto:cheyenna.hunt@desnedhe.com)>

**Subject:** Photo Consent - ERFN

Hi Chey – I am in the process of working on our presentation to the Commission for the Part 2 hearing and I have a couple photos in the presentation showcasing some of the work we have done with ERFN. Let me know if you are okay with us using these photos? Or if you have any other photos from your end that you think would be nice to highlight in the presentation!

Happy Halloween and Happy Friday 😊

Cheers,

Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division

Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission

Email: [sydney.boser@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnsccsn.gc.ca)

Phone Number: 343-596-9556

Agente principale en politiques, Division de la consultation et de la mobilisation des Autochtones

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**From:** [Boser, Sydney \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#)  
**To:** [Cheyenna Hunt](#)  
**Cc:** [McKeown, Justin \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#); [Way, Jessica \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#);  
**Subject:** RE: Reminder - Denison Wheeler River Deadlines for Part 2 Hearing  
**Sent:** 2025-11-07 2:48:00 PM

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Hi Cheyenna,

Thanks for the call today. Just confirming what we discussed that CNSC has granted an extension for ERFN's review of the RIA until Monday November 17<sup>th</sup> at 12pm CST. Just note we will be unable to grant a further extension after November 17<sup>th</sup>.

Have a great long weekend!

Sydney

---

**From:** Cheyenna Hunt <[cheyenna.hunt@desnedhe.com](mailto:cheyenna.hunt@desnedhe.com)>  
**Sent:** October 24, 2025 4:06 PM  
**To:** Boser, Sydney (CNSC/CCSN) <[sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Subject:** RE: Reminder - Denison Wheeler River Deadlines for Part 2 Hearing

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Sure that would be great. Thanks Sydney

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**From:** Boser, Sydney (CNSC/CCSN) <[sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 24, 2025 3:59 PM  
**To:** Cheyenna Hunt <[cheyenna.hunt@desnedhe.com](mailto:cheyenna.hunt@desnedhe.com)>  
**Cc:** McKeown, Justin (CNSC/CCSN) <[justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Way, Jessica (CNSC/CCSN) <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Gorzkowski, Konrad (CNSC/CCSN) <[konrad.gorzowski@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:konrad.gorzowski@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Subject:** RE: Reminder - Denison Wheeler River Deadlines for Part 2 Hearing

Hi Cheyenna,

Unfortunately, we won't be able to accommodate a 30-day extension but we could offer an extension until Friday November 7<sup>th</sup>. The supplemental CMD will be posted on the Registry (including the RIAs) on November 24<sup>th</sup> and CNSC needs two weeks for these to go for internal reviews.

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---

**From:** Cheyenna Hunt <[cheyenna.hunt@desnedhe.com](mailto:cheyenna.hunt@desnedhe.com)>  
**Sent:** October 24, 2025 2:05 PM  
**To:** Boser, Sydney (CNSC/CCSN) <[sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Cc:** McKeown, Justin (CNSC/CCSN) <[justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Way, Jessica (CNSC/CCSN) <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Gorzkowski, Konrad (CNSC/CCSN) <[konrad.gorzowski@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:konrad.gorzowski@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Subject:** RE: Reminder - Denison Wheeler River Deadlines for Part 2 Hearing

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| EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES<br>PREUVE DE PRUDENCE |
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Hi Sydney.

Im in the thick of CNSC stuff at the moment. Is it possible to get a 30 day extension on the RIA review?

Cheyenna

---

**From:** Boser, Sydney <[sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 6, 2025 3:50 PM  
**Cc:** McKeown, Justin <[justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Gorzkowski, Konrad <[konrad.gorzowski@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:konrad.gorzowski@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Subject:** Reminder - Denison Wheeler River Deadlines for Part 2 Hearing  
**Importance:** High

Good afternoon,

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Thank you,

Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnsccsn.gc.ca)  
Phone Number: 343-596-9556

Agente principale en politiques, Division de la consultation et de la mobilisation des Autochtones  
Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnsccsn.gc.ca)

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**From:** [Jean, Arielle \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#)  
**To:** [Cheyenna Hunt](#)  
**Cc:** [Jamie Dickson; Robin Kusch; Boser, Sydney \(CNSC/CCSN\); McKeown, Justin \(CNSC/CCSN\); Zenobi, Adam \(CNSC/CCSN\); Participant Funding Program - Programme de financement des participants \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#);  
**Subject:** RE: For Your Review: ERFN Rights Impact Assessment - Denison Wheeler River  
**Attachments:** [PFP - Contribution Agreement - ERFN - DEN04 - 2025 - RPPPD - SIGNED.pdf](#); [PFP - CA Amendment #1 - ERFN - DEN04 - 2025 - RPPPD.pdf](#);  
**Sent:** 2025-11-10 2:30:30 PM

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Hi Cheyenna,

Please find attached for your review and signature: an amendment to English River First Nation's funding agreement related to the Denison Wheeler River project. I've also attached a copy of the original agreement for your reference. The amendment would increase the CNSC's contribution to a maximum amount of \$97,664.44 to include the additional work required to review the Rights Impact Assessment (RIA).

Let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you!  
Arielle

---

**From:** Jean, Arielle (CNSC/CCSN)  
**Sent:** November 6, 2025 12:03 PM  
**To:** 'Cheyenna Hunt' <[cheyenna.hunt@desnedhe.com](mailto:cheyenna.hunt@desnedhe.com)>  
**Cc:** Jamie Dickson <[jdickson@oktlaw.com](mailto:jdickson@oktlaw.com)>; Robin Kusch <[robin\\_kusch@hotmail.com](mailto:robin_kusch@hotmail.com)>; Participant Funding Program - Programme de financement des participants (CNSC/CCSN) <[pfp@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:pfp@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Subject:** RE: For Your Review: ERFN Rights Impact Assessment - Denison Wheeler River

Hi Cheyenna,

Just sending a quick note to let you know I hope to have the amendment form ready for your review and signature shortly.

Arielle

---

**From:** Cheyenna Hunt <[cheyenna.hunt@desnedhe.com](mailto:cheyenna.hunt@desnedhe.com)>  
**Sent:** October 29, 2025 5:07 PM  
**To:** Jean, Arielle (CNSC/CCSN) <[arielle.jean@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:arielle.jean@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Cc:** Jamie Dickson <[jdickson@oktlaw.com](mailto:jdickson@oktlaw.com)>; Robin Kusch <[robin\\_kusch@hotmail.com](mailto:robin_kusch@hotmail.com)>  
**Subject:** RE: For Your Review: ERFN Rights Impact Assessment - Denison Wheeler River



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PREUVE DE PRUDENCE

Hi Arielle,

My initial instinct was that I thought I would be able to handle the review of the RIA on my own. I have now realized that I am not able to handle all the data and process the information on my own. I would like to bring on Jamie Dickson (Counsel) and Robin Kusch (Technical scientist).

I estimate

[REDACTED]

**Total of \$19,000. Plus admin fees 15%**

In our preliminary discussions we are looking at the following:

- to ensure no misstatements or mischaracterizations of ERFN rights and how they're practiced
- to look at how this document could potentially impact decommissioning
- to look at it through a lens of "what if 10 years from now, the mine is being run by an operator who wishes to change the relationship with ERFN.
- Review the approach to cumulative impacts, and what baseline to measure from

I hope this provides some clarity.

Cheyenna

---

**From:** Jean, Arielle <[arielle.jean@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:arielle.jean@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, October 8, 2025 10:02 AM

**To:** Cheyenna Hunt <[cheyenna.hunt@desnedhe.com](mailto:cheyenna.hunt@desnedhe.com)>

**Cc:** Angie Campbell <[angie.campbell@desnedhe.com](mailto:angie.campbell@desnedhe.com)>; Jamie Dickson <[jdickson@oktlaw.com](mailto:jdickson@oktlaw.com)>;

Boser, Sydney <[sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; McKeown, Justin <[justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>;

Zenobi, Adam <[adam.zenobi@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:adam.zenobi@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Laplante, Anne

<[Anne.Laplante@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:Anne.Laplante@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>

**Subject:** RE: For Your Review: ERFN Rights Impact Assessment - Denison Wheeler River

Hi Cheyenna,

Sydney shared your request with the funding team. Our thought is to amend English River First Nation's current agreement related to the Denison file (attached for reference) to include review of the Rights Impact Assessment (RIA) and the additional funding needed for the review. Could you please let us know how much additional funding will be needed to review the RIA, along with a breakdown of expenses?

We can then work on processing the amendment for your review and signature.

Thank you,  
Arielle

---

**From:** Cheyenna Hunt <[cheyenna.hunt@desnedhe.com](mailto:cheyenna.hunt@desnedhe.com)>  
**Sent:** October 7, 2025 3:24 PM  
**To:** Boser, Sydney <[sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Cc:** Angie Campbell <[Angie.Campbell@desnedhe.com](mailto:Angie.Campbell@desnedhe.com)>; McKeown, Justin <[justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Jamie Dickson <[jdickson@oktlaw.com](mailto:jdickson@oktlaw.com)>  
**Subject:** RE: For Your Review: ERFN Rights Impact Assessment - Denison Wheeler River

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| EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES PREUVE<br>DE PRUDENCE |
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Hi Sydney.

I would like to get some funding to have Jamie Dickson (ERFN's Lawyer) and some Elders work through this RIA with me.

Is it possible to apply for the CNSC funding for this relatively quickly?

Cheyenna

---

**From:** Boser, Sydney <[sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 1, 2025 3:29 PM  
**To:** Cheyenna Hunt <[cheyenna.hunt@desnedhe.com](mailto:cheyenna.hunt@desnedhe.com)>  
**Cc:** Angie Campbell <[angie.campbell@desnedhe.com](mailto:angie.campbell@desnedhe.com)>; McKeown, Justin <[justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Subject:** For Your Review: ERFN Rights Impact Assessment - Denison Wheeler River

Good afternoon Cheyenna,

CNSC staff have completed our draft of the ERFN Right's Impact Assessment (RIA) which is attached above for your review. We are looking to ERFN to review the draft for accuracy and to include any additional information that you feel may be missing with regards to ERFN's land use including any maps, locations, etc. To note, this information in the RIA will be posted and part of the public record for the Denison Part 2 hearing but any additional information shared will aid CNSC in our assessment of the impact to ERFN's rights. You may also include any additional commitments, mitigations and follow-up activities related to environmental monitoring and facility operations contained in agreements with Denison for inclusion into Section 4 of the RIA while also noting these commitments, mitigations and follow-up will become part of the public record.

If you have any questions or clarifications as you navigate your review, we would be happy to set a meeting to discuss further or answer any questions at our meeting scheduled for October 21<sup>st</sup>.

**Please provide your review back to CNSC by October 31<sup>st</sup>.**

Thank you,

Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division

Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission

Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)

Phone Number: 343-596-9556

Agente principale en politiques, Division de la consultation et de la mobilisation des Autochtones

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Homeland of the Métis*

Je reconnais que les terres sur lesquelles je vis et travaille sont le territoire traditionnel du Traité no  
6 et la patrie des Métis

---

**From:** [Cheyenna Hunt](#)  
**To:** [Boser, Sydney \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#); [Levine, Adam \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#); [McKeown, Justin \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#);  
**Cc:** [Jamie Dickson](#); [Robin Kusch](#);  
**Subject:** ERFN RIA feedback- Updated document for submission  
**Attachments:** [ERFN\\_Draft\\_RIA\\_DenisonWheelerRiver\\_17Nov2025\\_Final.docx](#); [ERFN\\_RIA\\_ReviewCoverLetter\\_17Nov2025\\_Final\\_Sign.pdf](#);  
**Sent:** 2025-11-17 11:31:31 AM

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|------------------------|-----------|
| <b>Follow Up Flag:</b> | Follow up |
| <b>Flag Status:</b>    | Flagged   |

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Apologies for sending the wrong document. Please disregard previous email and accept this as our RIA submission.

Happy Monday,

Cheyenna

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**Cheyenna R. Hunt B.A., LL.B.**  
Director, Lands & Consultation

English River First Nation  
Urban Office  
321 - 2555 Grasswood Road  
Saskatoon, Sk. S7T0K1

Cell: 306.291.6808

Email: [cheyenna.hunt@desnedhe.com](mailto:cheyenna.hunt@desnedhe.com)



**Des Nédhé Group**  
An English River First Nation Enterprise



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**English River First Nation  
Lands & Resources Office  
321-2555 Grasswood Road  
Saskatoon, SK S7T 0K1**

Tel: 306.291.6808

Fax: 306.664.8923

E: [cheyenna.hunt@desnedhe.com](mailto:cheyenna.hunt@desnedhe.com)

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November 17, 2025

First Nation Lands Advisory Board  
Resource Centre  
22250 Island Road  
Port Perry, Ontario L9L1B6

ATTN: Mr. Adam Levine

Dear Sir:

RE: English River First Nation (ERFN) Review of the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission's (CNSC's) draft Rights Impact Assessment (RIA) for the Denison Mines Corp's (Denison; Proponent) Wheeler River Project (the Project).

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## **Overview**

ERFN participated in review of The Wheeler River Project Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Pre-review comments were provided August 2022, the draft EIS was submitted to CNSC October 2022, and ERFN provided feedback on the draft document during public review from November 2022 to July 2023. As well, ERFN participated during the CNSC review process as part of the Federal-Indigenous Review Team (FIRT). The final EIS was submitted to CNSC December 2024.

ERFN has submitted the following documents as part of the federal regulatory review process: (1) ERFN's Traditional Knowledge Study and Health and Socio-Economic Study Report, (2) EIS Chapter – Summary of the Health and Socio-Economic Study Results, (3) Consolidated Comments from Indigenous Nations and Communities and the Public on the EIS, and (4) Summary and Categorization of Comments from Technical Review Community Wellness and Rights Report.

Maintaining the health of the environment and humans is a guiding principle in many of ERFN's teachings. ERFN considers it their responsibility to (1) protect all aspects of their Ancestral lands (Nuhtsiye-kwi Benéne in Dene), (2) safeguard their traditional, current and foreseeable way of life, and (3) take action to reclaim their identity and heritage/culture. As such, ERFN maintains that any activity that poses a risk of environmental degradation within or in the vicinity of the Nuhtsiye-kwi Benéne should be considered a threat to the vitality of ERFN people and their ways of life – past, present and future.



ERFN acknowledges the Western science practice that as part of the environmental impact assessment process, which provides the foundation of the EIS, representative and scientifically accepted sensitive receptors are chosen as value components (VCs) of the environment. Potential effects to these VCs are directly examined in the EIS. However, ERFN believes that all environmental components have intrinsic / native value and should be protected. For example, ERFN believes that protection of groundwater should not be limited to its function as a route of exposure to subsequent VCs, such as fish and fish habitat. Effects to groundwater should be avoided or limited to the extent possible, rather than limited to the extent necessary to protect subsequent VCs. ERFN has worked with the Proponent and independent environmental consultants to (1) understand the conservatism concluded by Western science in the chosen VCs and (2) expand the VCs directly examined to aid in community member understanding and acceptance of the effect assessment findings.

Further, even though leadership in general, as well as a portion of community members, now understand (i) the difference between an environmental change, effect and impact and (ii) the rigour / conservatism by which a protective environmental guideline gets established, ERFN maintains their belief that Western science guidelines are not a guarantee against an effect and may not go far enough to prevent an impact. This belief is supported by known examples where meeting environmental protection guidelines has been shown to be inadequate in preventing an unpredicted site-specific effect. These effects may be localized but they would be localized to the Nuhtsiye-kwi Benéne. Additionally, there are examples where meeting guidelines or project-specific limits committed to in EISs has been inadequate to confirm measured effects to subsequent VCs remain within EIS predictions.

Furthermore, ERFN's uncertainty regarding Western science's ability to accurately predict environmental effects (i.e., environmental performance) is central to their concerns regarding the assessment of potential cumulative effects. This is in addition to the inherent limitation of cumulative effects assessments only being able to assess existing operations (i.e., existing conditions based on current operation performance) and planned and foreseeable projects based on publicly available information.

Inherently, the EIS recognizes the need for monitoring and follow-up programs, as well as contingency planning. Although ERFN community members are generally reassured by such commitments, there is uncertainty regarding the effectiveness that would be achievable, and as such there are residual concerns that environmental effects could go undetected either due to monitoring locations and/or frequencies, or changes in site conditions overtime (e.g., water table changes due to climate change). To aid in the community member understanding and acceptance of future findings, the Proponent has made formal and binding commitments to ERFN that they will have the opportunity for input to program design, as well as a comprehensive understanding of the program before implementations. Additionally, ERFN feels there is either (i) an overall limited requirement for contingency planning in the EIS or (ii) ERFN has a limited understanding of feasibility of contingency options available from a Western science perspective to respond to unplanned / unassessed scenarios. Commitments regarding monitoring and follow-up programs do not address ERFN's concerns about the technical and/or economic feasibility of corrective action options. For example, if monitoring data during operation

shows a trend towards exceeding a predicted effect or such a trend goes undetected during the operational phase of the project, which is currently limited.

To address ERFN concerns, the Proponent has committed to mitigating to the extent achievable potential effects to the Rights of ERFN. Recognizing the predicted changes and/or effects would all occur in the Nuhtsiye-kwi Benéne, as well as recognizing ERFN residual uncertainties regarding Western science, the Proponent has made accommodation to ERFN who (1) will be directly affected by the Project and (2) are accountable to past, present and future ancestors for their support of the Proponent and the Project. ERFN did not take lightly their responsibility to review the Project and does not take lightly their decision to support the development of the Project nor their future responsibilities to confirm (i) there are no effects beyond those predicted in the EIS (i.e., effects agreed upon by ERFN considering accommodations made to their community) and (ii) decommissioning and end state requirements result in no land use limitations for future generations.

### **Shared Prosperity Agreement**

On September 26, 2023, a Shared Prosperity Agreement (Agreement) was established between ERFN and the Proponent, on behalf of the Wheeler River joint Venture. The purpose of the agreement included ensuring the Project would be carried out in a manner that would address ERFN concerns, including taking steps to prevent or mitigate adverse environmental effects to the Rights of ERFN. As well as, advancing the shared prosperity and mutual benefit of ERFN and the Proponent. The Agreement does not just set out Denison's commitments in terms of providing accommodation to ERFN to address their concerns, it also sets out effort required of ERFN to confirm potential adverse effects are minimized and potential benefits are optimized.

### **ERFN License**

The Agreement also provides framework for ongoing efforts to maintain community endorsement, including integrating Indigenous Knowledge, environmental, social, economic and cultural values into the Project. Central to the Agreement is the establishment of a ERFN-Denison committee tasked with environmental monitoring and management tracking environmental effects, watching for unplanned impacts and responding to unplanned events. The Proponent and ERFN have agreed on a real-time process to continually respond to items raised by ERFN in relation to implementing warranted mitigation measures as appropriate.

### **Potential Residual Impacts**

There are four priority areas of potential residual impacts to ERFN Rights: (1) Decommissioning and end-state of the Project, (2) Protection of water, (3) Psychological-social effects, and (4) Cumulative effects.

**Decommissioning and End-State:** ERFN acknowledges that closure planning for a mine typically involves an iterative process that begins during the project assessment phase (i.e., EIS review) with the submission of a conceptual framework for closure and high-level end-state goals. This process allows for progressive refinement, including consideration of measured

environmental effects and updated environmental risk predictions that can be based on actual monitoring data. As well, it is meant to facilitate the integration of best available practices and technologies closer to the time of closure. Overall, this appears to be accepted by Western science as a beneficial process. However, because of this process there is increased ERFN uncertainty about the potential for impacts to their Rights over the long-term, as there are several information gaps in the EIS that can be attributed to a lack of clarity regarding closure planning. Further, ERFN is aware of ongoing areas of study pertaining to reclamation / mine closure (e.g., revegetation of waste piles) that after decades are still considered “in progress” and this mining method has never been applied in the region before. Until the final decommissioning and closure plan has been reviewed, ERFN will assume there is the potential for a localized effect / impact within the Nuhtsiye-kwi Benéne to future generations’ water and land use.

**Long-term Groundwater Contamination Effects and Potential Impacts:** Denison plans to leave mine-influenced water underground in the mining zone. The plan includes option of removing mitigation to isolate the mining area during operation (e.g., thawing the freeze wall, inward hydraulic gradient) once certain water quality decommissioning targets are met (progressive decommissioning). ERFN had raised concerns regarding decommissioning targets during the review of the draft EIS. ERFN can better visualize the control a proponent would have over a surface water discharge as opposed to discharge via uncontrolled groundwater seepage. It is easy to visual how one could confirm the effluent is not acutely toxic and characterize it in terms of chronic toxicity prior to release. Until the Proponent can demonstrate the decommissioning targets, decommissioning sequencing and predicted environmental effects (i.e., long-term effects to groundwater, surface water and fish habitat), ERFN will assume there is the potential for a measurable / meaningful change in water quality from contaminants in groundwater migrating to surrounding surface waters, and, as such, there is the potential for a localized effect / impact within the Nuhtsiye-kwi Benéne (e.g., Whitefish Lake) to future generations’ water and land use. The EIS assumes impacts to water and/or land use and furbearer habitat will be “reversible”, but ERFN points out that loss of connection to land interrupts cultural transmission, eroding Section 35 Rights over time. Furthermore, this loss of connection could simply be the result of a perceived effect / impact; this phenomenon is already evident in ERFN communities being reflected in expressed concerns regarding country food consumption.

**Operations Groundwater Contamination Effects and Potential Impacts:** In addition to concerns regarding groundwater decommissioning targets, ERFN’s primary concern regarding the ISR technology, which has not been applied before in the region (i.e., not proven in the geology expected), is the source of contamination expected to occur below ground where the potential migration of contaminants from the mining zone has been raised by ERFN as a concern. Until the Proponent can (1) demonstrate a monitoring program that (i) verifies groundwater containment in the mining area during operations and (ii) verifies predicted migration pathway from underground sources of contamination to the receiving environment, and (2) provide updated long-term environmental effects predictions, ERFN will assume there is the potential for a localized effect / impact within the Nuhtsiye-kwi Benéne (e.g., Whitefish Lake) to future generations’ water and land use.

**Psycho-Social Effects and Potential Impacts:** Like all nuclear-industry projects, the Project faces inherent concerns, fears and unknowns due in part to misinformation, popular culture and

the high profile of nuclear incidents / historical nuclear testing that have resulted in a legacy of social and environmental catastrophes. Even if the Project meet or exceeds technical safety standards, perceived risks cause real psychological distress that could lead to anxiety, fear and a loss of trust in the safety of resources in the Nuhtsiye-kwi Benéne, including those resources of cultural and spiritual significance. These psychological effects can result in the affected persons changing behaviours to avoid certain areas or the maintain a reduced state of mental or psychological wellness because of ongoing concerns about exposure to contaminants and/or the perceived ineffectiveness of protections or apathy of authorities. On an ongoing basis, ERFN is pursuing opportunities to demonstrate to community members the value and quality of resources within the Nuhtsiye-kwi Benéne (e.g., Country Food Study, Medicinal Plant Quality and Cancer Rate Study).

**Environmental Cumulative Effects and Potential Impacts:** It is standard practice for an cumulative effects assessment to claim that effects of previous projects are captured in the baseline conditions, but ERFN acknowledges that operational performance can unpredictably and sometimes significantly change from year to year (e.g., water quality of effluent being consistently, well below limits for years and then suddenly consistently have exceedances) and it might take years to address those unpredicted changes. Further, ERFN recognizes that cumulative effects and impacts assessments are only as good as the data they are based on. Many ERFN community members already perceive the resources in the Nuhtsiye-kwi Benéne that are downwind and/or downstream of mining activities as having been negatively impacted. As such, until the proponent can demonstrate an environmental monitoring program that verifies the extent of their operations' "zone of influence", in relation to those of other proponents, ERFN will assume there is the potential for a localized cumulative effect / impact within the Nuhtsiye-kwi Benéne to future generations' water and land use.

**Cultural Cumulative Effects and Potential Impacts:** It is standard practice from an environmental cumulative effects perspective to limit any planned or proposed activity based on how much the existing effects from current and ongoing operations deviates from recognized protective standards. On the other hand, from a cultural cumulative effects perspective it is standard practice to rationalize potential project-specific effects based on historical / legacy impacts (i.e., the damage is already done). In general, this can include risks often linked to large-scale industrial projects, such as increased substance use, sexual violence and gender-based harms. On an ongoing basis, ERFN is pursuing opportunities to establish harm reduction programs for Northern communities. Communication between the Proponent, relevant authorities (e.g., RCMP, health and service providers) and ERFN are ongoing regarding project-related concerns with the intent to confirm necessary resources are in place to respond to changing community needs. Further, at the mine, the Proponent will provide space for an on-site Elder counsellor to provide culturally relevant programing and support to employees.

As described above in relation to environmental effects, many ERFN community members already perceive the cultural value of areas in the Nuhtsiye-kwi Benéne downwind and/or downstream of mining activities as having been negatively impacted. Although this perception already exists and is already integral to ERFN's rights-based relationship with the land and water in the Nuhtsiye-kwi Benéne, every additional project further undermines the value of the resources present. When traditional livelihoods are diminished, social and cultural relationships

suffer, and the ability to pass on land-based skills to future generations weakens. On an ongoing basis, ERFN is pursuing opportunities to demonstrate to community members the value of resources within the Nuhtsiye-kwi Benéne (e.g., Country Food Study, Medicinal Plant Quality and Cancer Rate Study).

### **Rights Impact Assessment Conclusion**

ERFN and the Proponent have established a strong, positive working relationship. The Project has the potential to affect ERFN Rights even with the strong commitments made and mitigations proposed by the Proponent. As such, the Agreement provides accommodation to ERFN to account for the acknowledged risks (demonstrated and perceived) and uncertainties associated with the Project. ERFN feels the commitments made between them and Denison, as well as Denison and the CNSC, are adequate as the potential effects would be limited to the LSA, and ERFN accepts the responsibility of its ongoing role in terms of confirming realized effects will meet or be below those described in the EIS.

Sincerely,



Cheyenna R. Hunt B.A., LL.B  
Director, Lands & Consultation

**From:** [Boser, Sydney \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#)  
**To:** ['Cheyenna Hunt'; Levine, Adam \(CNSC/CCSN\); McKeown, Justin \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#);  
**Cc:** [Jamie Dickson; Robin Kusch](#);  
**Subject:** RE: ERFN RIA feedback- Updated document for submission  
**Sent:** 2025-11-17 1:01:00 PM

---

Thank you Cheyenna for sending this through. Our team will review and let you know if we have any questions. We can discuss further at our meeting tomorrow.

Best,

Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)  
Phone Number: 343-596-9556

Agente principale en politiques, Division de la consultation et de la mobilisation des Autochtones  
Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)

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Je reconnais que les terres sur lesquelles je vis et travaille sont le territoire traditionnel du Traité no 6 et la patrie des Métis

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**From:** Cheyenna Hunt <cheyenna.hunt@desnedhe.com>  
**Sent:** November 17, 2025 11:31 AM  
**To:** Boser, Sydney (CNSC/CCSN) <sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca>; Levine, Adam (CNSC/CCSN) <Adam.Levine@cnscccsn.gc.ca>; McKeown, Justin (CNSC/CCSN) <justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca>  
**Cc:** Jamie Dickson <jdickson@oktlaw.com>; Robin Kusch <robin\_kusch@hotmail.com>  
**Subject:** ERFN RIA feedback- Updated document for submission

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| EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES<br>PREUVE DE PRUDENCE |
|--|

Apologies for sending the wrong document. Please disregard previous email and accept this as our RIA submission.

Happy Monday,

Cheyenna

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**Cheyenna R. Hunt B.A., LL.B.**  
Director, Lands & Consultation

English River First Nation  
Urban Office  
321 - 2555 Grasswood Road  
Saskatoon, Sk. S7T0K1

Cell: 306.291.6808

Email: [cheyenna.hunt@desnedhe.com](mailto:cheyenna.hunt@desnedhe.com)



**Des Nèdhé Group**  
An English River First Nation Enterprise



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### **C.3 Key Correspondence with Kineepik Métis Local since June 2025**



## Boser, Sydney (CNSC/CCSN)

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**Subject:** KML & CNSC Listening Tour Discussion  
**Location:** CNSC CONF Saskatoon CONF CCSN

**Start:** Thu 2025-07-10 9:00 AM  
**End:** Thu 2025-07-10 11:30 AM  
**Show Time As:** Out of Office

**Recurrence:** (none)

**Meeting Status:** Meeting organizer

**Organizer:** Boser, Sydney  
**Required Attendees:** Damien Georges; nvp.mike@sasktel.net; Bridges, Nick; Gerrish, Meghan; Tran, Nhan  
**Resources:** CNSC CONF Saskatoon CONF CCSN

**Categories:** Outreach

Hello – please see the following invite for July 10<sup>th</sup> from 9am-11:30am to have a discussion on the CNSC listening tour initiative with KML. This meeting will take place in-person at the CNSC Saskatoon office but will have a virtual link option if needed. Please share the invite to anyone who may want to join. We can use the last 30 minutes of this meeting to discuss anything Denison related, if needed. See everyone then!

Sydney

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## Microsoft Teams [Need help?](#)

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Meeting ID: 228 709 748 124 7

Passcode: uX3Le6Ge

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[Find a local number](#)

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For organizers: [Meeting options](#) | [Reset dial-in PIN](#)

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Numéro de réunion : 228 709 748 124 7

Code secret : uX3Le6Ge

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[\(844\) 632-5179,,72781325#](#) Canada (Gratuit)

[Trouvez un numéro local](#)

Numéro de conférence téléphonique : 727 813 25#

Pour les organisateurs : [Options de réunion](#) | [Réinitialiser le code d'appel](#)

---

**From:** [Boser, Sydney](#)  
**To:** [Damien Georges](#)  
**Cc:** [Noakes, Rain](#); [Bridges, Nick](#);  
**Subject:** CNSC & KML Meeting Minutes - July 24th  
**Sent:** 2025-07-30 3:00:00 PM

---

Good afternoon Damien,

Please see below the notes from our last monthly meeting on July 24<sup>th</sup>. I also wanted to note that I am still waiting to receive a map for the Wheeler River consultation report and timing is getting tight. **If I don't receive the map by this Friday August 1<sup>st</sup>, I will have to move forward without it.**

I also wanted to thank KML again for participating in the listening tour discussion with CNSC on July 10<sup>th</sup>. I know you weren't able to attend but if you could pass along to the team that we will be sending over notes from that session in a couple of weeks, that would be greatly appreciated. Ryan and Rain are away on holidays this week but we will be getting back to you shortly on our potential participation in the Elders Gathering!

Thanks,  
Sydney

### **Meeting Minutes – KML Engagement Meeting**

**Date:** July 24, 2025

**Location:** Virtual

**Attendees:**

- CNSC: Rain Noakes, Sydney Boser
- KML: Damien Georges

---

#### **1. Wildfire Impacts**

- KML shared updates on the worsening wildfire situation affecting northern communities.
- CNSC expressed concern and support, noting similar impacts across Saskatchewan.

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#### **2. Elders Gathering and Denison Days**

- KML confirmed planning is underway for the **Elders Gathering**, scheduled for **August 10–15**.
- Denison's participation is expected on **August 12**, with CNSC staff (likely Ryan Froess) attending.
- CNSC will confirm travel plans and accommodations shortly.

---

#### **3. Denison Project Reports**

- CNSC reiterated that the EA report, CMD, and consultation report will be posted publicly on **August 12**.
- KML confirmed receipt of the issues and concerns table and consultation sections.
- CNSC and KML discussed the inclusion of a **basic map** showing community and project locations, with options for confidentiality.

- KML agreed to provide a simplified map and consider submitting the detailed version confidentially to the Commission.
- 

#### **4. Rights Impact Assessment (RIA)**

- CNSC confirmed that RIA drafting will begin after August 12, with collaborative review planned.
  - The RIA is due by **November 24**, ahead of the Part Two hearing.
- 

#### **5. ROR Engagement and Hearing Planning**

- CNSC proposed the **ROR engagement session** for **September 17** in Saskatoon.
  - KML confirmed availability and interest in attending.
  - CNSC will send an email with details and **PFP application information**, due by **August 25**.
  - The **ROR Commission Meeting** is scheduled for **March 2026**, likely in Ottawa with a virtual option.
- 

#### **6. Next Meeting**

- Next monthly meeting scheduled for **August 29 at 11:00 AM**.
- KML will confirm attendees for the Elders Gathering and any accommodation needs.
- KML to send CNSC a map for the KML consultation report section for Wheeler River
- CNSC to confirm attendance for the 2025 KML Elders Gathering
- CNSC to send UMM ROR information to KML (complete)

Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnsccsn.gc.ca)  
Phone Number: 343-596-9556

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Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
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Je reconnais que les terres sur lesquelles je vis et travaille sont le territoire traditionnel du Traité no 6 et la patrie des Métis

**From:** [Boser, Sydney](#)  
**To:** [Damien Georges](#)  
**Subject:** RE: CNSC & KML Meeting Minutes - July 24th  
**Attachments:** [KML Land and Occupancy Map.jpg](#)  
**Sent:** 2025-08-07 3:38:00 PM

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Hi Damien,

I just wanted to follow up on the KML map for the Denison Consultation Report. So I realized that we did have the attached map from the VEC statement that we received from KML for the Denison project a few years ago. I also noticed that this land and occupancy area for KML was included in one of Denison's maps that they used in the EIS so given that it seemed to be publicly accessible information, I have included it in the Denison consultation report as KML's map. I just wanted to let you know.

Thanks,

Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
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**From:** Boser, Sydney  
**Sent:** July 30, 2025 3:00 PM  
**To:** Damien Georges <dgeorges@kineepik.ca>  
**Cc:** Noakes, Rain <rain.noakes@cnscccsn.gc.ca>; Bridges, Nick <nick.bridges@cnscccsn.gc.ca>  
**Subject:** CNSC & KML Meeting Minutes - July 24th

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Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
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---

**From:** [Damien Georges](#)  
**To:** [Boser, Sydney](#)  
**Subject:** Re: CNSC & KML Meeting Minutes - July 24th  
**Sent:** 2025-08-07 3:41:16 PM

---

EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES PREUVE DE PRUDENCE

---

Hey, Sydney.

Perfect!

Thanks,

[Damien Georges, B.S.A](#)

Environment Manager

Kineepik Metis Local 9

Cell: [306-930-5320](tel:306-930-5320)

Email: [dgeorges@kineepik.ca](mailto:dgeorges@kineepik.ca)

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**From:** Boser, Sydney <[sydney.boser@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnsccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 7, 2025 3:38:36 PM  
**To:** Damien Georges <[dgeorges@kineepik.ca](mailto:dgeorges@kineepik.ca)>  
**Subject:** RE: CNSC & KML Meeting Minutes - July 24th

Hi Damien,

I just wanted to follow up on the KML map for the Denison Consultation Report. So I realized that we did have the attached map from the VEC statement that we received from KML for the Denison project a few years ago. I also noticed that this land and occupancy area for KML was included in one of Denison's maps that they used in the EIS so given that it seemed to be publicly accessible information, I have included it in the Denison consultation report as KML's map. I just wanted to let you know.

Thanks,

Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnsccsn.gc.ca)  
Phone Number: 343-596-9556



Agente principale en politiques, Division de la consultation et de la mobilisation des Autochtones  
Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)

*I acknowledge that the land on which I live and work is the traditional Treaty 6 Territory and Homeland of the Métis*

Je reconnais que les terres sur lesquelles je vis et travaille sont le territoire traditionnel du Traité no 6 et la patrie des Métis

---

**From:** Boser, Sydney  
**Sent:** July 30, 2025 3:00 PM  
**To:** Damien Georges <dgeorges@kineepik.ca>  
**Cc:** Noakes, Rain <rain.noakes@cnscccsn.gc.ca>; Bridges, Nick <nick.bridges@cnscccsn.gc.ca>  
**Subject:** CNSC & KML Meeting Minutes - July 24th

Good afternoon Damien,

Please see below the notes from our last monthly meeting on July 24<sup>th</sup>. I also wanted to note that I am still waiting to receive a map for the Wheeler River consultation report and timing is getting tight. **If I don't receive the map by this Friday August 1<sup>st</sup>, I will have to move forward without it.**

I also wanted to thank KML again for participating in the listening tour discussion with CNSC on July 10<sup>th</sup>. I know you weren't able to attend but if you could pass along to the team that we will be sending over notes from that session in a couple of weeks, that would be greatly appreciated. Ryan and Rain are away on holidays this week but we will be getting back to you shortly on our potential participation in the Elders Gathering!

Thanks,  
Sydney

### **Meeting Minutes – KML Engagement Meeting**

**Date:** July 24, 2025

**Location:** Virtual

**Attendees:**

- CNSC: Rain Noakes, Sydney Boser
- KML: Damien Georges

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#### **1. Wildfire Impacts**

- KML shared updates on the worsening wildfire situation affecting northern communities.
- CNSC expressed concern and support, noting similar impacts across Saskatchewan.

---

#### **2. Elders Gathering and Denison Days**

- KML confirmed planning is underway for the **Elders Gathering**, scheduled for **August 10–15**.
- Denison's participation is expected on **August 12**, with CNSC staff (likely Ryan Froess) attending.
- CNSC will confirm travel plans and accommodations shortly.

---

#### **3. Denison Project Reports**

- CNSC reiterated that the EA report, CMD, and consultation report will be posted publicly on **August 12**.
- KML confirmed receipt of the issues and concerns table and consultation sections.

- CNSC and KML discussed the inclusion of a **basic map** showing community and project locations, with options for confidentiality.
  - KML agreed to provide a simplified map and consider submitting the detailed version confidentially to the Commission.
- 

#### 4. Rights Impact Assessment (RIA)

- CNSC confirmed that RIA drafting will begin after August 12, with collaborative review planned.
  - The RIA is due by **November 24**, ahead of the Part Two hearing.
- 

#### 5. ROR Engagement and Hearing Planning

- CNSC proposed the **ROR engagement session** for **September 17** in Saskatoon.
  - KML confirmed availability and interest in attending.
  - CNSC will send an email with details and **PFP application information**, due by **August 25**.
  - The **ROR Commission Meeting** is scheduled for **March 2026**, likely in Ottawa with a virtual option.
- 

#### 6. Next Meeting

- Next monthly meeting scheduled for **August 29 at 11:00 AM**.
- KML will confirm attendees for the Elders Gathering and any accommodation needs.
- KML to send CNSC a map for the KML consultation report section for Wheeler River
- CNSC to confirm attendance for the 2025 KML Elders Gathering
- CNSC to send UMM ROR information to KML (complete)

Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)  
Phone Number: 343-596-9556

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**From:** [Boser, Sydney](#)  
**To:** [Damien Georges](#)  
**Cc:** [McKeown, Justin](#); [Gorzkowski, Konrad](#);  
**Subject:** Denison Wheeler River Project - Update & Draft LCH  
**Attachments:** [LCH Indigenous Engagement Licence Condition - Denison Wheeler River.docx](#)  
**Sent:** 2025-08-22 3:07:00 PM

---

Good afternoon Damien,

CNSC staff are preparing for the upcoming Denison Wheeler River Commission Hearing, Part 1: October 8<sup>th</sup> and Part 2: Week of December 8<sup>th</sup> and have now posted the following documents on the CNSC's website: Commission Member Document (CMD), Environmental Assessment (EA) Report and the Indigenous Consultation Report –

- [Commission Member Document - Wheeler River \(1/3\)](#) The consultation report begins on page 444 of this link and continues into the next 2 links
- [Commission Member Document - Wheeler River \(2/3\)](#)
- [Commission Member Document - Wheeler River \(3/3\)](#)
- [Environmental Assessment Report - Wheeler River Project](#)

As part of the decision by the Commission on the Environmental Assessment and licence application presented by Denison on the Wheeler River Project, the Commission must consider what requirements will be included in the licence, should they decide to issue a licence to Denison. To verify licensee compliance, CNSC staff manage the Licence Condition Handbook (LCH), which includes all licence conditions and includes a list of compliance verification criteria that CNSC staff use to assess a licensee's compliance. CNSC staff provided the Commission a draft version of a licence with all recommended conditions, as well as a draft LCH that describes how CNSC staff plan to verify compliance for the Wheeler River Project.

As part of the proposed licence, CNSC staff are recommending a new specific licence condition on Indigenous engagement. Should the Commission issue a licence, the draft licence condition would require Denison to conduct ongoing Indigenous engagement specific to the Wheeler River Project throughout the site preparation and construction phase and report on these activities to CNSC staff. Licence Condition G.6 sets out the expectation that Denison continues to engage and collaborate with KML on the commitments that Denison has agreed to with KML.

We welcome any comment or feedback from KML on the proposed licence condition. This could be done through KML's intervention to the Commission or we would also be happy to receive any comments directly to consider any revisions to the text in advance of the Part 2 hearing. Please find attached a copy of the draft licence condition.

If you have any questions, we would be happy to discuss at a future meeting or you can reach out directly to myself or the lead Project Officer Konrad Gorzkowski.

Thank you,

Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnsccsn.gc.ca)  
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Traité no 6 et la patrie des Métis

## G.6 Indigenous Engagement

|   |
|---|
| The licensee shall implement and maintain an Indigenous engagement program. |
|---|

### Preamble

The Wheeler River site resides on lands in which many Indigenous Nations and communities have a vested interest and rights. The site is situated within historic Treaty 10 (1906) and Homeland of the Métis and is within the traditional territories of the Dene, Cree, and Métis peoples.

This licence condition requires the creation, submission and implementation of a program to ensure ongoing Indigenous engagement by Denison on the Wheeler River project. As per section 6 of REGDOC-3.2.2, *Indigenous Engagement*, licensees may be required to continue to engage Indigenous Nations and communities after an Environmental Assessment or licensing decision. Licensees may also be required to update the CNSC about their ongoing Indigenous engagement activities – for example, the status of the implementation and effectiveness of mitigation, accommodation measures and commitments to Indigenous Nations and communities.

CNSC staff identified Indigenous Nations and communities who have interests and Indigenous and/or Treaty rights in the area where the Wheeler River Project is located (herein referred to as “identified Indigenous Nations and communities”). The following Indigenous Nations and communities were identified as having Indigenous and/or Treaty rights that may be potentially impacted by the Wheeler River Project:

- English River First Nation (ERFN)
- Kineepik Métis Local (KML)
- Black Lake First Nation, Fond du Lac Denesuline First Nation and Hatchet Lake First Nation, which are represented by Ya’thi Nene Lands and Resource Office (YNLR)
- Métis Nation – Saskatchewan (MN-S)

The following Indigenous Nations and communities were identified as having interest in the Wheeler River Project (herein referred to as “interested Indigenous Nations and communities”):

- Lac La Ronge Indian Band (LLRIB)
- Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation (PBCN)
- Birch Narrows Dene Nation (BNDN)
- Prince Albert Grand Council (PAGC)
- 

For the purposes of this Licence Condition, the term “identified Indigenous Nations and communities” refers specifically to the Indigenous Nations and communities listed above who have demonstrated Indigenous and/or Treaty rights in the Project area.

### Compliance Verification Criteria

In developing the Wheeler River-specific Indigenous Engagement Program required by this licence condition, the licensee should engage with and seek feedback from the identified Indigenous Nations and communities.

The engagement program shall identify specific engagement, activities, commitments and definitions. The development of the engagement program should be a collaborative process between the licensee and the identified Indigenous Nations and communities and tailored to Indigenous Nation and communities' rights, interests and preferences for engagement and communications.

The ongoing engagement in accordance with the engagement program shall be carried out with the identified Indigenous Nations and communities. If an Indigenous Nation and/or community is non-responsive, the licensee shall continue to share information and provide opportunities for engagement, unless the Indigenous Nation and/or community specifically declines the engagement opportunities and requests that Denison stop sharing information regarding the Wheeler River Project. The licensee shall make efforts to involve the interested identified Indigenous Nations and communities in the engagement program, where appropriate, and shall report on these efforts as part of annual reporting on the engagement program.

To ensure ongoing engagement, the licensee's program shall provide for collaboration and engagement with the identified Indigenous Nations and communities on the following:

1. Make reasonable efforts to collaborate with Indigenous Nations and communities to identify and implement approaches to engagement and communication that takes into consideration the knowledge, needs, protocols, language, preferences and interests of each Indigenous Nation and community.
2. Provide knowledge sharing opportunities such as site visits, workshops and information sessions or alternate communication and engagement activities as expressed by Indigenous Nations and communities.
3. Collaborate with Indigenous Nations and communities in relation to monitoring and follow-up activities related to the Wheeler River Project. Monitoring and follow-up activities will include both operational activities and commitments made through the federal EA process including, but not limited to, EA conditions related to environmental monitoring, caribou mitigation, emergency management, baseline data gathering and other follow-up activities that relate directly to concerns raised by Indigenous Nations and communities during the EA and regulatory review process for the Project.
4. Respond to questions, concerns or comments from Indigenous Nations and communities regarding the Wheeler River Project and work collaboratively to reflect feedback and Indigenous Knowledge within the licensee's activities, as appropriate.

Additionally, CNSC staff acknowledge that Denison has made commitments to Indigenous Nations and Communities through the EA and regulatory review process. The licensee shall fulfill their commitments described in the Commitments Registry. The commitments made by Denison that do not fall within the CNSC's mandate and authority will not form part of the compliance verification criteria. However, the CNSC encourages Denison to provide summary

updates on progress in meeting all commitments made to Indigenous Nations and communities through annual reporting in relation to their Wheeler River Indigenous Engagement Program.

### **Reporting Requirements**

As part of the Annual Compliance Monitoring Report discussed under LC 3.2 below, the licensee shall submit to the CNSC information on engagement activities it has undertaken with the identified Indigenous Nations and communities during the reporting year as part of its engagement program. The development of this content should be a collaborative process between the licensee and the identified Indigenous Nations and communities. It is acknowledged that an Indigenous Nation or community may share information with the licensee in confidence. The licensee should work with the Indigenous Nation or community to ensure this information is not disclosed and the Indigenous Nation or community is comfortable with the level of detail communicated within the report.

This reporting shall describe:

- The name of the Indigenous Nation or community.
- The method(s), date(s), location(s), and topics of engagement activities with the Indigenous Nation or community.
- Engagement efforts undertaken within the year in relation to identified and interested Indigenous Nations and communities
- An update on the commitments (items 1 through 4 above) along with any relevant information and context regarding the status of, timelines, and process made on the initiatives and commitments.
- A summary of any issues, interests, or concerns raised, including those in relation to any potential impacts on identified or established Indigenous and/or Treaty rights.
- The measures taken, or that will be taken, to address or respond to the issues or concerns. Alternatively, an explanation as to why no further action is required to address or respond to issues or concerns shall be provided.
- A description of any changes to project activities and/or programs to address and incorporate the measures taken to respond to issues or concerns, or to incorporate knowledge and feedback from Indigenous Nations and communities.
- Discussion of relevant corporate policies and programs with respect to Indigenous initiatives.

### ***Licensee Documents that Require Notification of Change***

| <b>Source</b> | <b>Document Title</b>                     | <b>Prior Notification Required</b> |
|---------------|---|------------------------------------|
| Denison       | Facility Licensing Manual                 | Yes                                |
| Denison       | Public and Indigenous Information Program | Yes                                |
| Denison       | Commitments Registry                      | Yes                                |

## **Guidance**

### ***Guidance Publications***

| <b>Source</b> | <b>Document Title</b>              | <b>Document Number</b> |
|---------------|------------------------------------|------------------------|
| CNSC          | Public Information and Disclosure  | REGDOC-3.2.1           |
| CNSC          | Indigenous Engagement, Version 1.2 | REGDOC-3.2.2           |

**From:** [Registry / Greffe \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#)  
**To:** [Damien Georges](#)  
**Cc:** [Registry / Greffe \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#); [Levine, Adam](#); [Boser, Sydney](#); [McKeown, Justin](#); [Durocher, Diane](#);  
**Subject:** Breakout rooms for Saskatchewan - Denison Mines Corp. Commission Hearing - Week of December 8, 2025  
**Sent:** 2025-08-27 7:37:41 AM

---

Good day,

We're writing to let you know that the Commission Registry has procured the Sheraton Cavalier Hotel for the Commission's Public Hearing for the proposed Denison Wheeler River Project scheduled to take place in Saskatoon during the week of December 8, 2025.

I am reaching out as I was able to reserve **3 breakout rooms** which I am offering to Indigenous Nations intervening in the proceeding. The Hotel Event Manager has informed us that other people are interested in booking these rooms for other events, so you're encouraged to contact the venue **as soon as possible** should you wish to have a breakout room available to you and your Nation. These rooms will be booked **on a first-come, first-served** basis. The Event Manager's contact information is as follows:

**Gurpreet Singh**

Event Manager

Direct: 306-667-0179

Office: 306-652-6791 ext. 3356

Sheraton Cavalier Saskatoon Hotel

612 Spadina Crescent East

Saskatoon, SK, S7K 3G9

Marriott.com/YXESI

[gurpreets@sheratonsaskatoon.com](mailto:gurpreets@sheratonsaskatoon.com)

The potentially available breakout rooms are:

- Canadian Room
- Cavalier Room
- Boardroom
- Starlight Room

You may wish to tell the Event Manager that the official dates of the proceeding will be confirmed towards the end of October 2025, and based on your planned attendance, you may wish to inform the Event Manager the number of anticipated days you may need to the room for. By providing this information you can explore



if your contract includes the necessary flexibility to revise the dates without penalty, as the proceeding may not last the full week.

Should you wish to reserve a room, the contract and payment of the room will be the responsibility of your Nation. Note that PFP funds provided to support your Nation's participation in the Commission Hearing may be used to cover the costs of a breakout room. Additionally, please note that all catering requests must go through the hotel's caterer.

Should you have any questions or need further clarification, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Best regards,

**Annik Tanguay**  
(she/her/elle)

Senior Tribunal Officer, Commission Registry  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
[registry-greffe@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:registry-greffe@cnsccsn.gc.ca) Tel : 613 462-7489

Agente principale du tribunal, Greffe de la Commission  
Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
[registry-greffe@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:registry-greffe@cnsccsn.gc.ca) Tel : 613 462-7489

*Please respond to this email in the official language of your choice | Veuillez répondre à ce courriel dans la langue officielle de votre choix.*

**From:** [Registry / Greffe \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#)  
**To:** [Damien Georges](#)  
**Cc:** [Levine, Adam](#); [Boser, Sydney](#); [McKeown, Justin](#); [Durocher, Diane](#); [Registry / Greffe \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#);  
**Subject:** RE: Breakout rooms for Saskatchewan - Denison Mines Corp. Commission Hearing - Week of December 8, 2025  
**Sent:** 2025-09-04 5:42:25 AM

---

Good day,

Further to my previous email, we would like to inform you that the Canadian room is no longer available. Additionally, due to high demand for room rentals in December, any unreserved breakout rooms will be released after September 12, 2025. If you wish to secure a breakout room, please ensure your reservation is made before that date.

Best regards,

**Annik Tanguay**

(she/her/elle)

Senior Tribunal Officer, Commission Registry  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
[registry-greffe@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:registry-greffe@cnscccsn.gc.ca) Tel : 613 462-7489

Agente principale du tribunal, Greffe de la Commission  
Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
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*Please respond to this email in the official language of your choice | Veuillez répondre à ce courriel dans la langue officielle de votre choix.*

---

**From:** Registry / Greffe (CNSC/CCSN) <[registry-greffe@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:registry-greffe@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 27, 2025 9:38 AM  
**To:** Damien Georges <[dgeorges@kineepik.ca](mailto:dgeorges@kineepik.ca)>  
**Cc:** Registry / Greffe (CNSC/CCSN) <[registry-greffe@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:registry-greffe@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Levine, Adam <[adam.levine@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:adam.levine@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Boser, Sydney <[sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; McKeown, Justin <[justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Durocher, Diane <[diane.durocher@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:diane.durocher@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Subject:** Breakout rooms for Saskatchewan - Denison Mines Corp. Commission Hearing - Week of December 8, 2025

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Event Manager

Direct: 306-667-0179

Office: 306-652-6791 ext. 3356

Sheraton Cavalier Saskatoon Hotel

612 Spadina Crescent East

Saskatoon, SK, S7K 3G9

Marriott.com/YXESI

[gurpreets@sheratonsaskatoon.com](mailto:gurpreets@sheratonsaskatoon.com)

The potentially available breakout rooms are:

- Canadian Room
- Cavalier Room
- Boardroom
- Starlight Room

You may wish to tell the Event Manager that the official dates of the proceeding will be confirmed towards the end of October 2025, and based on your planned attendance, you may wish to inform the Event Manager the number of anticipated days you may need to the room for. By providing this information you can explore if your contract includes the necessary flexibility to revise the dates without penalty, as the proceeding may not last the full week.

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Should you have any questions or need further clarification, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Best regards,

**Annik Tanguay**  
(she/her/elle)

Senior Tribunal Officer, Commission Registry  
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[registry-greffe@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:registry-greffe@cnsccsn.gc.ca) Tel : 613 462-7489

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*Please respond to this email in the official language of your choice | Veuillez répondre à ce courriel dans la langue officielle de votre choix.*

**From:** [Boser, Sydney](#)  
**To:** [Damien Georges](#)  
**Cc:** [Noakes, Rain](#); [Way, Jessica](#); [Gorzkowski, Konrad](#);  
**Subject:** CNSC & KML Meeting Notes - August 29th  
**Attachments:** [Meeting Minutes\\_KML\\_Aug29.docx](#)  
**Sent:** 2025-09-10 2:46:00 PM

---

Hi Damien,

Please see attached the meeting notes from our last meeting on August 29<sup>th</sup>. Let me know if you have any questions and looking forward to seeing KML next week for the ROR engagement session.

Would you happen to have the contact handy for the CFNK 89.9 radio now that Vince has left? I can put my comms people in touch with them regarding a radio ad for the hearing.

Thanks,

Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)  
Phone Number: 343-596-9556

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# Meeting Minutes: KML – CNSC Meeting

**Date:** August 29, 2025

**Location:** MS Teams

**Attendees:** Damien Georges (KML), Sydney Boser (CNSC), Rain Noakes (CNSC) and Konrad Gorzkowski (CNSC)

---

## 1. KML Elders Gathering

- The KML Elders Gathering took place this week but Denison and CNSC were unable to attend.
  - It went well but it was less busy than the previous years.
- 

## 2. Denison Wheeler River Project – Part 1 Hearing

- The Part 1 hearing will occur on **October 8, 2025**.
  - Indigenous Nations and communities will **not** be presenting or intervening in this hearing and it will be an opportunity for CNSC and Denison to present to the Commission. Questions will focus on technical topics and not Indigenous consultation until Part 2.
  - The hearing will be available **virtually** for attendance.
  - The **Commission Member Document, Consultation Report** and **EA Report** have been posted and links were shared with KML.
- 

## 3. Licensing Conditions and Indigenous Engagement

- CNSC has drafted a License Condition Handbook including a new condition on **Indigenous engagement**. Text was shared with KML for review and comment.
  - The **License Condition Handbook** is a **working document** intended to demonstrate how the licensee will comply with the conditions set out.
- 

## 4. Rights Impact Assessment

- CNSC has begun **drafting the RIA** based on traditional land use and other shared information. A draft will be ready for KML **review** by end of September, ahead of the Part Two hearing in December.

---

## 5. Communications and Outreach

- There is interest in placing **advertisements on local radio stations** in northern Saskatchewan to promote the project and upcoming outreach.
- **Action Item (KML):** To provide CNSC with contact information for CFNK 89.9 now that Vince has left

---

## 6. ROR (Regulatory Oversight Report)

- The ROR engagement session will be held on **September 17, 2025** at Wanuskewin Heritage Park
- Expected attendance: **5–7 people** from KML.
- No dietary restrictions noted.
- The ROR Commission Meeting will be held in March 2026 and the format of attendance is still being determined but most likely virtual.
- Next meeting with KML will be a follow up from how the ROR engagement session went and to answer any outstanding questions.
- **Action Item (CNSC):** Sydney Boser to share agenda with KML (complete)

---

## 7. Memorandum of Understanding

- Discussion held regarding the **Memorandum of Understanding** between **English River First Nation** and **KML**. Signing did happen and KML will let CNSC know once the media release goes out.
-

**From:** [Boser, Sydney](#)  
**To:** [Damien Georges](#)  
**Cc:** [Way, Jessica](#); [Gorzowski, Konrad](#);  
**Subject:** KML - CNSC Documents: Denison & ROR  
**Attachments:** [E-DOCS-#7571022-v1-ROR\\_Handout.pdf](#); [Appendix D Regulatory Commitments.docx](#); [LCH Indigenous Engagement Licence Condition - Denison Wheeler River.docx](#);  
**Sent:** 2025-09-24 12:37:00 PM

---

Hi Damien,

As discussed today, please see attached the outstanding Denison conditions and the dashboard handout from the ROR. I have also included the draft licence condition on Indigenous engagement for the Denison project.

Cheers,

Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)  
Phone Number: 343-596-9556

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**From:** [Boser, Sydney](#)  
**To:** [Damien Georges](#)  
**Cc:** [McKeown, Justin](#); [Way, Jessica](#);  
**Subject:** For Your Review: KML Rights Impact Assessment - Denison Wheeler River  
**Attachments:** [KML Draft Rights Impact Assessment - Denison Wheeler River October 2025.docx](#)  
**Sent:** 2025-10-03 3:43:00 PM

---

Good afternoon Damien,

CNSC staff have completed our draft of the KML Right's Impact Assessment (RIA) which is attached above for your review. We are looking to KML to review the draft for accuracy and to include any additional information that you feel may be missing with regards to KML's land use including any maps, locations, etc. To note, this information in the RIA will be posted and part of the public record for the Denison Part 2 hearing but any additional information shared will aid CNSC in our assessment of the impact to KML's rights. You may also include any additional commitments, mitigations and follow-up activities related to environmental monitoring and facility operations contained in agreements with Denison for inclusion into Section 4 of the RIA while also noting these commitments, mitigations and follow-up will become part of the public record.

If you have any questions or clarifications as you navigate your review, we would be happy to set a meeting to discuss further or answer any questions at our meeting scheduled for October 22<sup>nd</sup>. **Please provide your review back to CNSC by November 3<sup>rd</sup>.**

Thank you,

Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)  
Phone Number: 343-596-9556

Agente principale en politiques, Division de la consultation et de la mobilisation des Autochtones  
Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)

*I acknowledge that the land on which I live and work is the traditional Treaty 6 Territory and Homeland of the Métis*

Je reconnais que les terres sur lesquelles je vis et travaille sont le territoire traditionnel du Traité no 6 et la patrie des Métis

**From:** [Boser, Sydney \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#)  
**To:** [Damien Georges](#)  
**Subject:** Registry Info - Denison Hearing  
**Sent:** 2025-10-16 9:31:00 AM

---

Hi Damien,

Thanks for reaching out yesterday regarding providing the Commission information prior to the Denison Part 2 hearing. I mentioned you can reach out to the Registry with your request and they will get back to you. Please contact the Registry through this email - [interventions@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:interventions@cnscccsn.gc.ca)

Thanks,

Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)  
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**From:** [Boser, Sydney \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#)  
**To:** [Damien Georges](#)  
**Cc:** [Way, Jessica \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#)  
**Subject:** REMINDER: Denison Intervention Deadline - Tomorrow  
**Sent:** 2025-10-23 8:14:00 AM

---

Good morning Damien,

I was going to remind you in our meeting this week but since our meeting got moved to tomorrow I figured I would send you an email to remind KML that tomorrow is the deadline for your written intervention for the Denison Part 2 hearing. If you are requiring an extension, please reach out to the Registry ASAP at [interventions@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:interventions@cnscccsn.gc.ca)

Talk more tomorrow at our meeting.

Thanks,

Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)  
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---

**From:** [Damien Georges](#)  
**To:** [Interventions / Interventions \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Mike Natomagan; Boser, Sydney \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#);  
**Subject:** Kineepik's Letter - Denison Intervention  
**Attachments:** [KML to CNSC-WheelerRiverProject support Oct 2025 v3.pdf](#)  
**Sent:** 2025-10-24 4:58:05 PM

---

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES PREUVE DE PRUDENCE

---

Good afternoon,

Attached is Kineepik's written Intervention. We would like to have an oral intervention with the request of 20 minutes, as opposed to the normal 10-minute allocation, as Kineepik is a primary impacted community.

We would also like to request some time with the commission privately ahead of the hearing, allowing us to go over some confidential information - allowing Kineepik to paint a better picture for the commission.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to let me know.

Thanks,

Damien Georges, B.S.A  
Environment Manager  
Kineepik Metis Local Inc  
Cell: 306-930-5320  
Email: [dgeorges@kineepik.ca](mailto:dgeorges@kineepik.ca)

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**From:** [Interventions / Interventions \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#)  
**To:** [Damien Georges](#)  
**Cc:** [Interventions / Interventions \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#); [Mike Natomagan](#); [Boser, Sydney](#)  
([CNSC/CCSN](#));  
**Subject:** Confirmation receipt - RE: Kineepik's Letter - Denison Intervention  
**Sent:** 2025-10-28 10:52:32 AM

---

Good afternoon Damien,

Thank you for your submission — it has been received successfully.

The Registrar will review your request for a closed session, as well as your request for a 20-minute oral presentation.

We will be in touch with you shortly.

Best regards,

Annik Tanguay  
Senior Tribunal Officer, Commission Registry / Agente principale du tribunal,  
Greffé de la Commission  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission / Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
[interventions@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:interventions@cnscccsn.gc.ca)  
Cell: 613 462-7489

---

**From:** Damien Georges <[dgeorges@kineepik.ca](mailto:dgeorges@kineepik.ca)>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 24, 2025 6:58 PM  
**To:** Interventions / Interventions (CNSC/CCSN) <[interventions@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:interventions@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Cc:** Mike Natomagan <[mnatomagan@kineepik.ca](mailto:mnatomagan@kineepik.ca)>; Boser, Sydney (CNSC/CCSN) <[sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Subject:** Kineepik's Letter - Denison Intervention

|  |
|--|
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**From:** [Boser, Sydney \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#)  
**To:** [Damien Georges](#)  
**Cc:** [McKeown, Justin \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#); [Way, Jessica \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#);  
**Subject:** RE: For Your Review: KML Rights Impact Assessment - Denison Wheeler River  
**Attachments:** [KML Draft Rights Impact Assessment - Denison Wheeler River October 2025.docx](#)  
**Sent:** 2025-10-30 3:10:00 PM

---

Hi Damien,

This a reminder that KML's review on the RIA is due back on Monday November 3<sup>rd</sup>. Please let me know if you would like to meet to discuss any of the information further.

Best,

Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)  
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---

**From:** Boser, Sydney  
**Sent:** October 3, 2025 3:44 PM  
**To:** Damien Georges <dgeorges@kineepik.ca>  
**Cc:** McKeown, Justin <justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca>; Way, Jessica <jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca>  
**Subject:** For Your Review: KML Rights Impact Assessment - Denison Wheeler River

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Thank you,

Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
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**From:** [Boser, Sydney \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#)  
**To:** [Damien Georges](#)  
**Cc:** [Noakes, Rain \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#); [Gorzkowski, Konrad \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#); [Way, Jessica \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#);  
**Subject:** KML & CNSC Meeting Notes - September 24th and October 24th  
**Sent:** 2025-10-31 10:11:00 AM

---

Hi Damien,

Please see below the notes from our September meeting as well as our October meeting. I also completely forgot to send out our next meeting invite and it has slipped my mind what day we chose. Would any of the below dates/times work for KML?

- Thursday November 20<sup>th</sup> at 11am
- Anytime on November 24<sup>th</sup>

#### **Meeting Minutes – KML & CNSC Meeting**

**Date:** September 24, 2025

**Participants:**

- Sydney Boser (CNSC)
- Jes Way (CNSC)
- Damien Goerges (KML)

#### **ROR Updates:**

- Last week the ROR engagement took place. KML had no outstanding questions and thought it was a successful day
- KML asked to get a digital copy of the ROR dashboard (complete)
- KML asked if someone from the Ministry of Highways can attend the engagement session next year as highways are a big concern for KML. CNSC responded that the Province of Saskatchewan was there but can look into that for next year

#### **Denison Updates:**

- RIA is currently being drafted and will be sent to KML in early October
- Part One hearing is in two weeks on October 8<sup>th</sup> and will be more focused on technical aspects of Denison's application. Indigenous consultation will be discussed in Part two
- CNSC staff have recommended to the Commission that Denison's caribou offsetting and mitigation plan meet the requirements of EA Condition #3

#### **ACTIONS:**

1. CNSC to send through a digital copy of the ROR dashboard (complete)
2. CNSC to send KML the remaining conditions on Denison from the CMD (complete)
3. CNSC to send KML the RIA for review (complete)

#### **Meeting Minutes – KML & CNSC Meeting**

**Date:** October 24, 2025

**Location:** Virtual (Microsoft Teams)

**Participants:**

- Sydney Boser (CNSC)

- Rain Noakes (CNSC)
  - Konrad Gorzkowski (CNSC)
  - Damien Georges (KML)
- 

#### **1. Intervention Submission**

- KML confirmed their written intervention would be submitted by the afternoon as today is the deadline.
  - Rain reminded participants to include a request for confidential briefing in the submission email, if that's something KML is interested in.
  - Registry is managing logistics for confidential information and will respond based on requests received.
- 

#### **2. Commission Hearing Logistics**

- Hearing scheduled for the week of December 8.
  - KML invited to offer a closing prayer. Options include:
    - In-person at the end of the hearing
    - Virtual delivery
    - Prior to oral intervention
  - Registry requested logistical details (e.g., microphone use, chair availability for elder)
  - KML confirmed that they will give the closing prayer most likely in person after the whole hearing is complete. KML Elder is comfortable speaking into a microphone
- 

#### **3. Rights Impact Assessment (RIA)**

- CNSC provided the RIA to KML for review.
  - KML plans to review the RIA next week.
  - CNSC offered support if questions arise during review. Happy to set up a separate meeting to discuss RIA, if needed
  - KML's review for the RIA is due Monday November 3<sup>rd</sup>
- 

#### **4. Supplemental Submission to Commission**

- CNSC will submit a supplemental document including:
    - Updated consultation table (June–present)
    - Rights Impact Assessment
    - Minor corrections to the EA report (non-technical)
  - Updated EA and Consultation report to be posted on **November 24**.
- 

#### **5. Oral Intervention Planning**

- KML expects 7–8 participants, including elders and youth to participate in their oral intervention.
  - Emphasis on youth engagement and long-term involvement in licensing processes.
- 

#### **6. Road Infrastructure Concerns**

- KML raised concerns about multiple mines using shared roads. Mike will speak to this during KML's oral intervention
  - Ministry of Highways unlikely to attend, but the province and Denison may address related questions.
- 

#### **7. ROR Hearing**

- Scheduled for **March 2026**.
- CMD for ROR expected by end of November.

- Sarah (CNSC) will distribute the link once available.
- 

#### **8. Additional Notes**

- KML encouraged to copy CNSC on their intervention submission.
- CNSC will follow up with Registry regarding KML's interest in the closing prayer and confidential briefing.
- Rain will combine notes from this meeting and the previous one for distribution.
- KML will submit their RIA review to CNSC by deadline

Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnsccsn.gc.ca)  
Phone Number: 343-596-9556

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---

**From:** [Damien Georges](#)  
**To:** [Boser, Sydney \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Mike Natomagan](#)  
**Subject:** Rights Impact Statement Comments  
**Attachments:** [KML Draft Rights Impact Assessment - Denison Wheeler River October 2025 with comments.docx](#)  
**Sent:** 2025-11-03 9:29:29 AM

---

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES PREUVE DE PRUDENCE

---

Good morning, Sydney,

Regarding the KML Draft Rights Impact Assessment – Denison Wheeler River Project, attached please find our version of the document with a few changes, corrects and 2 comments / questions. In general, we believe that this accurately represents the feedback from our community. However, we ask that the map of our traditional territory be kept confidential and not provided into the Public domain for the following reasons:

1. This is a living document, and we would not want it to be shared with entities who we have not had the opportunity to communicate with regarding our on-going collection of information about cultural and active sites within our area. It is likely that over time the map and its boundaries will change as land use changes,
2. There are culturally sensitive areas within the region that we would not want disclosed to entities with which we do not have a working relationships.
3. This is information that we share with our partners and which we maintain at no small cost, we do not want other entities to be able to benefit from and potentially manipulate this information without our consent and knowledge.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on this document and for respecting our request to keep the map content out of the public area.

Thanks,

Damien Georges, B.S.A  
Environment Manager  
Kineepik Metis Local Inc  
Cell: 306-930-5320  
Email: [dgeorges@kineepik.ca](mailto:dgeorges@kineepik.ca)



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**From:** [Boser, Sydney \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#)  
**To:** ['Damien Georges'](#)  
**Cc:** [Mike Natomagan; McKeown, Justin \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#);  
**Subject:** RE: Rights Impact Statement Comments  
**Sent:** 2025-11-04 8:28:00 AM

---

Hi Damien,

Okay thank you. I will add a note in to the document to reflect that statement.

Best,

Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)  
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**From:** Damien Georges <dgeorges@kineepik.ca>  
**Sent:** November 3, 2025 4:13 PM  
**To:** Boser, Sydney (CNSC/CCSN) <sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca>  
**Cc:** Mike Natomagan <mnatomagan@kineepik.ca>; McKeown, Justin (CNSC/CCSN)  
<justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca>  
**Subject:** Re: Rights Impact Statement Comments

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|--|
| EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES<br>PREUVE DE PRUDENCE |
|--|

Hey Sydney,

I just had a quick chat with Mike and we can keep it in the document. Only thing  
that we will continue to request is a note being added that it is a living document,  
so the map can change at any given moment.

Thanks,

Damien Georges, B.S.A  
Environment Manager  
Kineepik Metis Local Inc  
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**Sent:** November 3, 2025 10:00 AM  
**To:** Damien Georges <[dgeorges@kineepik.ca](mailto:dgeorges@kineepik.ca)>  
**Cc:** Mike Natomagan <[mnatomagan@kineepik.ca](mailto:mnatomagan@kineepik.ca)>; McKeown, Justin (CNSC/CCSN) <[justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Subject:** RE: Rights Impact Statement Comments

Hi Damien,

Thank you so much for submitting KML's review of the RIA. We will take a look and let you know if we have any questions. As for the map, the one that is included in the RIA is the same map that is included in our consultation report which is posted on the CNSC website. I have attached our email thread where I reached out regarding the map ensuring that it was okay to include in our consultation report due to it being highlighted in Denison's map in the EIS which is also part of the public domain. However, if you would like me to remove the map from the RIA then I am happy to do so, just let me know!

Best,

Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
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**Sent:** November 3, 2025 9:29 AM  
**To:** Boser, Sydney (CNSC/CCSN) <[sydney.boser@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnsccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Cc:** Mike Natomagan <[mnatomagan@kineepik.ca](mailto:mnatomagan@kineepik.ca)>  
**Subject:** Rights Impact Statement Comments

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Good morning, Sydney,

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**Cc:** [Noakes, Rain \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#); [Gorzowski, Konrad \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#); [Way, Jessica \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#);  
**Subject:** RE: KML & CNSC Meeting Notes - September 24th and October 24th  
**Sent:** 2025-11-12 3:37:00 PM

---

Hi Damien,

Just following up on scheduling our next meeting. Would you be available to meet either at 11am on Thursday Nov 20<sup>th</sup> or else anytime on Nov 24<sup>th</sup>? Let me know and I'll send out an invite!

Thanks,  
Sydney

---

**From:** Boser, Sydney (CNSC/CCSN)  
**Sent:** October 31, 2025 10:11 AM  
**To:** Damien Georges <dgeorges@kineepik.ca>  
**Cc:** Noakes, Rain (CNSC/CCSN) <rain.noakes@cnscccsn.gc.ca>; Gorzowski, Konrad (CNSC/CCSN) <konrad.gorzowski@cnscccsn.gc.ca>; Way, Jessica (CNSC/CCSN) <jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca>  
**Subject:** KML & CNSC Meeting Notes - September 24th and October 24th

Hi Damien,

Please see below the notes from our September meeting as well as our October meeting. I also completely forgot to send out our next meeting invite and it has slipped my mind what day we chose. Would any of the below dates/times work for KML?

- Thursday November 20<sup>th</sup> at 11am
- Anytime on November 24<sup>th</sup>

#### **Meeting Minutes – KML & CNSC Meeting**

**Date:** September 24, 2025

**Participants:**

- Sydney Boser (CNSC)
- Jes Way (CNSC)
- Damien Goerges (KML)

#### **ROR Updates:**

- Last week the ROR engagement took place. KML had no outstanding questions and thought it was a successful day
- KML asked to get a digital copy of the ROR dashboard (complete)
- KML asked if someone from the Ministry of Highways can attend the engagement session next year as highways are a big concern for KML. CNSC responded that the Province of Saskatchewan was there but can look into that for next year

#### **Denison Updates:**

- RIA is currently being drafted and will be sent to KML in early October
- Part One hearing is in two weeks on October 8<sup>th</sup> and will be more focused on technical aspects of Denison's application. Indigenous consultation will be discussed in Part two
- CNSC staff have recommended to the Commission that Denison's caribou offsetting and mitigation plan meet the requirements of EA Condition #3

#### **ACTIONS:**

1. CNSC to send through a digital copy of the ROR dashboard (complete)
2. CNSC to send KML the remaining conditions on Denison from the CMD (complete)
3. CNSC to send KML the RIA for review (complete)

#### **Meeting Minutes – KML & CNSC Meeting**

**Date:** October 24, 2025

**Location:** Virtual (Microsoft Teams)

#### **Participants:**

- Sydney Boser (CNSC)
- Rain Noakes (CNSC)
- Konrad Gorzkowski (CNSC)
- Damien Georges (KML)

---

#### **1. Intervention Submission**

- KML confirmed their written intervention would be submitted by the afternoon as today is the deadline.
- Rain reminded participants to include a request for confidential briefing in the submission email, if that's something KML is interested in.
- Registry is managing logistics for confidential information and will respond based on requests received.

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#### **2. Commission Hearing Logistics**

- Hearing scheduled for the week of December 8.
- KML invited to offer a closing prayer. Options include:
  - In-person at the end of the hearing
  - Virtual delivery
  - Prior to oral intervention
- Registry requested logistical details (e.g., microphone use, chair availability for elder)
- KML confirmed that they will give the closing prayer most likely in person after the whole hearing is complete. KML Elder is comfortable speaking into a microphone

---

#### **3. Rights Impact Assessment (RIA)**

- CNSC provided the RIA to KML for review.
- KML plans to review the RIA next week.
- CNSC offered support if questions arise during review. Happy to set up a separate meeting to discuss RIA, if needed
- KML's review for the RIA is due Monday November 3<sup>rd</sup>

---

#### **4. Supplemental Submission to Commission**

- CNSC will submit a supplemental document including:
  - Updated consultation table (June–present)
  - Rights Impact Assessment

- Minor corrections to the EA report (non-technical)
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- 

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- KML expects 7–8 participants, including elders and youth to participate in their oral intervention.
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- 

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- KML raised concerns about multiple mines using shared roads. Mike will speak to this during KML's oral intervention
  - Ministry of Highways unlikely to attend, but the province and Denison may address related questions.
- 

#### **7. ROR Hearing**

- Scheduled for **March 2026**.
  - CMD for ROR expected by end of November.
  - Sarah (CNSC) will distribute the link once available.
- 

#### **8. Additional Notes**

- KML encouraged to copy CNSC on their intervention submission.
- CNSC will follow up with Registry regarding KML's interest in the closing prayer and confidential briefing.
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- KML will submit their RIA review to CNSC by deadline

Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnsccsn.gc.ca)  
Phone Number: 343-596-9556

Agente principale en politiques, Division de la consultation et de la mobilisation des Autochtones  
Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnsccsn.gc.ca)

*I acknowledge that the land on which I live and work is the traditional Treaty 6 Territory and Homeland of the Métis*

Je reconnais que les terres sur lesquelles je vis et travaille sont le territoire traditionnel du Traité no 6 et la patrie des Métis

---

**From:** [Damien Georges](#)  
**To:** [Boser, Sydney \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Noakes, Rain \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#); [Gorzowski, Konrad \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#); [Way, Jessica \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#); [Rosalena Smith](#);  
**Subject:** Re: KML & CNSC Meeting Notes - September 24th and October 24th  
**Sent:** 2025-11-13 9:18:23 AM

---

EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES PREUVE DE PRUDENCE

---

Hey, Sydney,

We can meet on the 24th. I have added Rose into the email chain. She is the new Executive Director for KML.

I look forward to chatting.

Thanks,

[Damien Georges, B.S.A](#)

Environment Manager

Kineepik Metis Local 9

Cell: [306-930-5320](tel:306-930-5320)

Email: [dgeorges@kineepik.ca](mailto:dgeorges@kineepik.ca)

**NOTICE OF CONFIDENTIALITY --**

This e-mail was intended for a specific recipient. It may contain information that is privileged, confidential or exempt from disclosure. Any privilege that exists is not waived. If you are not the intended recipient, do not distribute it to another person or use it for any other purpose. Please delete it and advise me by return e-mail or telephone. Thank you.

---

**From:** Boser, Sydney (CNSC/CCSN) <[sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 12, 2025 3:37:19 PM  
**To:** Damien Georges <[dgeorges@kineepik.ca](mailto:dgeorges@kineepik.ca)>  
**Cc:** Noakes, Rain (CNSC/CCSN) <[rain.noakes@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:rain.noakes@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Gorzowski, Konrad (CNSC/CCSN) <[konrad.gorzowski@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:konrad.gorzowski@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Way, Jessica (CNSC/CCSN) <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Subject:** RE: KML & CNSC Meeting Notes - September 24th and October 24th

Hi Damien,

Just following up on scheduling our next meeting. Would you be available to meet either at 11am on Thursday Nov 20<sup>th</sup> or else anytime on Nov 24<sup>th</sup>? Let me know and ill send out an invite!

Thanks,  
Sydney

---

**From:** Boser, Sydney (CNSC/CCSN)  
**Sent:** October 31, 2025 10:11 AM  
**To:** Damien Georges <dgeorges@kineepik.ca>  
**Cc:** Noakes, Rain (CNSC/CCSN) <rain.noakes@cnscccsn.gc.ca>; Gorzkowski, Konrad (CNSC/CCSN) <konrad.gorzkowski@cnscccsn.gc.ca>; Way, Jessica (CNSC/CCSN) <jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca>  
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Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnsccsn.gc.ca)  
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Traité no 6 et la patrie des Métis



## **C.4 Key Correspondence with Ya'thi Néné Lands and Resources since June 2025**

**From:** [Boser, Sydney](#)  
**To:** [Garrett Schmidt](#)  
**Cc:** [Katherine Hay](#); [McKeown, Justin](#); [Gorzowski, Konrad](#); [Hunter, Hilary](#);  
**Subject:** Denison Wheeler River Project - Update & Draft LCH  
**Attachments:** [LCH Indigenous Engagement Licence Condition - Denison Wheeler River.docx](#)  
**Sent:** 2025-08-22 3:08:00 PM

---

Good afternoon Garrett,

CNSC staff are preparing for the upcoming Denison Wheeler River Commission Hearing, Part 1: October 8<sup>th</sup> and Part 2: Week of December 8<sup>th</sup> and have now posted the following documents on the CNSC's website: Commission Member Document (CMD), Environmental Assessment (EA) Report and the Indigenous Consultation Report –

- [Commission Member Document - Wheeler River \(1/3\)](#) The consultation report begins on page 444 of this link and continues into the next 2 links
- [Commission Member Document - Wheeler River \(2/3\)](#)
- [Commission Member Document - Wheeler River \(3/3\)](#)
- [Environmental Assessment Report - Wheeler River Project](#)

As part of the decision by the Commission on the Environmental Assessment and licence application presented by Denison on the Wheeler River Project, the Commission must consider what requirements will be included in the licence, should they decide to issue a licence to Denison. To verify licensee compliance, CNSC staff manage the Licence Condition Handbook (LCH), which includes all licence conditions and includes a list of compliance verification criteria that CNSC staff use to assess a licensee's compliance. CNSC staff provided the Commission a draft version of a licence with all recommended conditions, as well as a draft LCH that describes how CNSC staff plan to verify compliance for the Wheeler River Project.

As part of the proposed licence, CNSC staff are recommending a new specific licence condition on Indigenous engagement. Should the Commission issue a licence, the draft licence condition would require Denison to conduct ongoing Indigenous engagement specific to the Wheeler River Project throughout the site preparation and construction phase and report on these activities to CNSC staff. Licence Condition G.6 sets out the expectation that Denison continues to engage and collaborate with YNLR on the commitments that Denison has agreed to with YNLR.

We welcome any comment or feedback from YNLR on the proposed licence condition. This could be done through YNLR's intervention to the Commission or we would also be happy to receive any comments directly to consider any revisions to the text in advance of the Part 2 hearing. Please find attached a copy of the draft licence condition.

If you have any questions, we would be happy to discuss at a future meeting or you can reach out directly to myself or the lead Project Officer Konrad Gorzowski.

Thank you,

Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)  
Phone Number: 343-596-9556

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## G.6 Indigenous Engagement

|   |
|---|
| The licensee shall implement and maintain an Indigenous engagement program. |
|---|

### Preamble

The Wheeler River site resides on lands in which many Indigenous Nations and communities have a vested interest and rights. The site is situated within historic Treaty 10 (1906) and Homeland of the Métis and is within the traditional territories of the Dene, Cree, and Métis peoples.

This licence condition requires the creation, submission and implementation of a program to ensure ongoing Indigenous engagement by Denison on the Wheeler River project. As per section 6 of REGDOC-3.2.2, *Indigenous Engagement*, licensees may be required to continue to engage Indigenous Nations and communities after an Environmental Assessment or licensing decision. Licensees may also be required to update the CNSC about their ongoing Indigenous engagement activities – for example, the status of the implementation and effectiveness of mitigation, accommodation measures and commitments to Indigenous Nations and communities.

CNSC staff identified Indigenous Nations and communities who have interests and Indigenous and/or Treaty rights in the area where the Wheeler River Project is located (herein referred to as “identified Indigenous Nations and communities”). The following Indigenous Nations and communities were identified as having Indigenous and/or Treaty rights that may be potentially impacted by the Wheeler River Project:

- English River First Nation (ERFN)
- Kineepik Métis Local (KML)
- Black Lake First Nation, Fond du Lac Denesuline First Nation and Hatchet Lake First Nation, which are represented by Ya’thi Nene Lands and Resource Office (YNLR)
- Métis Nation – Saskatchewan (MN-S)

The following Indigenous Nations and communities were identified as having interest in the Wheeler River Project (herein referred to as “interested Indigenous Nations and communities”):

- Lac La Ronge Indian Band (LLRIB)
- Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation (PBCN)
- Birch Narrows Dene Nation (BNDN)
- Prince Albert Grand Council (PAGC)
- 

For the purposes of this Licence Condition, the term “identified Indigenous Nations and communities” refers specifically to the Indigenous Nations and communities listed above who have demonstrated Indigenous and/or Treaty rights in the Project area.

### Compliance Verification Criteria

In developing the Wheeler River-specific Indigenous Engagement Program required by this licence condition, the licensee should engage with and seek feedback from the identified Indigenous Nations and communities.

The engagement program shall identify specific engagement, activities, commitments and definitions. The development of the engagement program should be a collaborative process between the licensee and the identified Indigenous Nations and communities and tailored to Indigenous Nation and communities' rights, interests and preferences for engagement and communications.

The ongoing engagement in accordance with the engagement program shall be carried out with the identified Indigenous Nations and communities. If an Indigenous Nation and/or community is non-responsive, the licensee shall continue to share information and provide opportunities for engagement, unless the Indigenous Nation and/or community specifically declines the engagement opportunities and requests that Denison stop sharing information regarding the Wheeler River Project. The licensee shall make efforts to involve the interested identified Indigenous Nations and communities in the engagement program, where appropriate, and shall report on these efforts as part of annual reporting on the engagement program.

To ensure ongoing engagement, the licensee's program shall provide for collaboration and engagement with the identified Indigenous Nations and communities on the following:

1. Make reasonable efforts to collaborate with Indigenous Nations and communities to identify and implement approaches to engagement and communication that takes into consideration the knowledge, needs, protocols, language, preferences and interests of each Indigenous Nation and community.
2. Provide knowledge sharing opportunities such as site visits, workshops and information sessions or alternate communication and engagement activities as expressed by Indigenous Nations and communities.
3. Collaborate with Indigenous Nations and communities in relation to monitoring and follow-up activities related to the Wheeler River Project. Monitoring and follow-up activities will include both operational activities and commitments made through the federal EA process including, but not limited to, EA conditions related to environmental monitoring, caribou mitigation, emergency management, baseline data gathering and other follow-up activities that relate directly to concerns raised by Indigenous Nations and communities during the EA and regulatory review process for the Project.
4. Respond to questions, concerns or comments from Indigenous Nations and communities regarding the Wheeler River Project and work collaboratively to reflect feedback and Indigenous Knowledge within the licensee's activities, as appropriate.

Additionally, CNSC staff acknowledge that Denison has made commitments to Indigenous Nations and Communities through the EA and regulatory review process. The licensee shall fulfill their commitments described in the Commitments Registry. The commitments made by Denison that do not fall within the CNSC's mandate and authority will not form part of the compliance verification criteria. However, the CNSC encourages Denison to provide summary

updates on progress in meeting all commitments made to Indigenous Nations and communities through annual reporting in relation to their Wheeler River Indigenous Engagement Program.

### **Reporting Requirements**

As part of the Annual Compliance Monitoring Report discussed under LC 3.2 below, the licensee shall submit to the CNSC information on engagement activities it has undertaken with the identified Indigenous Nations and communities during the reporting year as part of its engagement program. The development of this content should be a collaborative process between the licensee and the identified Indigenous Nations and communities. It is acknowledged that an Indigenous Nation or community may share information with the licensee in confidence. The licensee should work with the Indigenous Nation or community to ensure this information is not disclosed and the Indigenous Nation or community is comfortable with the level of detail communicated within the report.

This reporting shall describe:

- The name of the Indigenous Nation or community.
- The method(s), date(s), location(s), and topics of engagement activities with the Indigenous Nation or community.
- Engagement efforts undertaken within the year in relation to identified and interested Indigenous Nations and communities
- An update on the commitments (items 1 through 4 above) along with any relevant information and context regarding the status of, timelines, and process made on the initiatives and commitments.
- A summary of any issues, interests, or concerns raised, including those in relation to any potential impacts on identified or established Indigenous and/or Treaty rights.
- The measures taken, or that will be taken, to address or respond to the issues or concerns. Alternatively, an explanation as to why no further action is required to address or respond to issues or concerns shall be provided.
- A description of any changes to project activities and/or programs to address and incorporate the measures taken to respond to issues or concerns, or to incorporate knowledge and feedback from Indigenous Nations and communities.
- Discussion of relevant corporate policies and programs with respect to Indigenous initiatives.

### ***Licensee Documents that Require Notification of Change***

| <b>Source</b> | <b>Document Title</b>                     | <b>Prior Notification Required</b> |
|---------------|---|------------------------------------|
| Denison       | Facility Licensing Manual                 | Yes                                |
| Denison       | Public and Indigenous Information Program | Yes                                |
| Denison       | Commitments Registry                      | Yes                                |

## **Guidance**

### ***Guidance Publications***

| <b>Source</b> | <b>Document Title</b>              | <b>Document Number</b> |
|---------------|------------------------------------|------------------------|
| CNSC          | Public Information and Disclosure  | REGDOC-3.2.1           |
| CNSC          | Indigenous Engagement, Version 1.2 | REGDOC-3.2.2           |

**From:** [Registry / Greffe \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#)  
**To:** [Garrett Schmidt](#)  
**Cc:** [Registry / Greffe \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#); [Levine, Adam](#); [Boser, Sydney](#); [McKeown, Justin](#); [Durocher, Diane](#);  
**Subject:** Breakout rooms for Saskatchewan - Denison Mines Corp. Commission Hearing - Week of December 8, 2025  
**Sent:** 2025-08-27 7:40:42 AM

---

Good day,

We're writing to let you know that the Commission Registry has procured the Sheraton Cavalier Hotel for the Commission's Public Hearing for the proposed Denison Wheeler River Project scheduled to take place in Saskatoon during the week of December 8, 2025.

I am reaching out as I was able to reserve **3 breakout rooms** which I am offering to Indigenous Nations intervening in the proceeding. The Hotel Event Manager has informed us that other people are interested in booking these rooms for other events, so you're encouraged to contact the venue **as soon as possible** should you wish to have a breakout room available to you and your Nation. These rooms will be booked **on a first-come, first-served** basis. The Event Manager's contact information is as follows:

**Gurpreet Singh**

Event Manager

Direct: 306-667-0179

Office: 306-652-6791 ext. 3356

Sheraton Cavalier Saskatoon Hotel

612 Spadina Crescent East

Saskatoon, SK, S7K 3G9

[Marriott.com/YXESI](https://www.marriott.com/YXESI)

[gurpreets@sheratonsaskatoon.com](mailto:gurpreets@sheratonsaskatoon.com)

The potentially available breakout rooms are:

- Canadian Room
- Cavalier Room
- Boardroom
- Starlight Room

You may wish to tell the Event Manager that the official dates of the proceeding will be confirmed towards the end of October 2025, and based on your planned attendance, you may wish to inform the Event Manager the number of anticipated days you may need to the room for. By providing this information you can explore

if your contract includes the necessary flexibility to revise the dates without penalty, as the proceeding may not last the full week.

Should you wish to reserve a room, the contract and payment of the room will be the responsibility of your Nation. Note that PFP funds provided to support your Nation's participation in the Commission Hearing may be used to cover the costs of a breakout room. Additionally, please note that all catering requests must go through the hotel's caterer.

Should you have any questions or need further clarification, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Best regards,

**Annik Tanguay**  
(she/her/elle)

Senior Tribunal Officer, Commission Registry  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
[registry-greffe@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:registry-greffe@cnsccsn.gc.ca) Tel : 613 462-7489

Agente principale du tribunal, Greffe de la Commission  
Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
[registry-greffe@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:registry-greffe@cnsccsn.gc.ca) Tel : 613 462-7489

*Please respond to this email in the official language of your choice | Veuillez répondre à ce courriel dans la langue officielle de votre choix.*



## Boser, Sydney (CNSC/CCSN)

---

**Subject:** Listening Tour Dialogues - YNLR  
**Location:** CNSC CONF Saskatoon CONF CCSN

**Start:** Thu 2025-09-18 8:00 AM  
**End:** Thu 2025-09-18 2:00 PM

**Recurrence:** (none)

**Meeting Status:** Accepted

**Organizer:** Hunter, Hilary  
**Required Attendees:** Hunter, Hilary; McKeown, Justin; Boser, Sydney; Bridges, Nick; Tran, Nhan; Katherine Hay; Garrett Schmidt; Celeste Robillard  
**Optional Attendees:** Levine, Adam; Gerrish, Meghan; Schetselaar, Martijn; Hertz, Sarah  
**Resources:** CNSC CONF Saskatoon CONF CCSN

Hello,

This serves as a placeholder and room booking for our upcoming Listening tour dialogues & CNSC-YNLR TOR quarterly meeting. We will confirm time requirements and agenda over the next couple weeks.

\*\*\*Preference is for the Listening Tour to happen first to accommodate travel plans.

Thanks all,

Hilary

---

## Microsoft Teams [Need help?](#)

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Meeting ID: 261 222 100 312

Passcode: 5TC9V5kk

---

### Dial in by phone

[+1 647-749-9265,,345224812#](#) Canada, Toronto

[\(844\) 632-5179,,345224812#](#) Canada (Toll-free)

[Find a local number](#)

Phone conference ID: 345 224 812#

For organizers: [Meeting options](#) | [Reset dial-in PIN](#)

.....

# Microsoft Teams [Besoin d'aide?](#)

## [Rejoignez la réunion maintenant](#)

Numéro de réunion : 261 222 100 312

Code secret : 5TC9V5kk

---

### Participez à l'appel par téléphone

[+1 647-749-9265,,345224812#](#) Canada, Toronto

[\(844\) 632-5179,,345224812#](#) Canada (Gratuit)

[Trouvez un numéro local](#)

Numéro de conférence téléphonique : 345 224 812#

Pour les organisateurs : [Options de réunion](#) | [Réinitialiser le code d'appel](#)

---

**From:** [Hunter, Hilary](#)  
**To:** [Garrett Schmidt](#)  
**Cc:** [Katherine Hay](#); [Gorzkowski, Konrad](#); [McKeown, Justin](#); [Way, Jessica](#);  
**Subject:** FW: Denison Wheeler River Effluent Characterization / Ore characterization / freeze wall info  
**Sent:** 2025-09-19 6:53:00 AM

---

Hi Garrett,

Konrad has graciously provided the information below which would close out the Wheeler River actions from the May 6<sup>th</sup> TOR meeting. Please share with the committee members and let us know if you have any questions or concerns.

Thanks,

Hilary

---

**From:** Gorzkowski, Konrad <[konrad.gorzkowski@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:konrad.gorzkowski@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Sent:** September 18, 2025 12:50 PM  
**To:** Hunter, Hilary <[hilary.hunter@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:hilary.hunter@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Cc:** Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Subject:** RE: Denison Wheeler River Effluent Characterization

Hi again Hilary,

We have the following list of elements and chemicals in the ore:

Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, CaO, Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, K<sub>2</sub>O, MgO, MnO, Na<sub>2</sub>O, P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>, TiO<sub>2</sub>, SO<sub>4</sub>, U<sub>3</sub>O<sub>8</sub>, U, Ba, Cd, Cr, Pb, Mo, V, Cu, Zn, Co, Ni, As, Se, S.

I hope this is what is needed.

Cheers,  
Konrad Gorzkowski,  
Senior Project Officer, Uranium Mines and Mills Division  
Tel: 343-573-8302

---

**From:** Gorzkowski, Konrad  
**Sent:** September 18, 2025 1:52 PM  
**To:** Hunter, Hilary <[hilary.hunter@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:hilary.hunter@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Cc:** Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Subject:** RE: Denison Wheeler River Effluent Characterization

Hi Hilary,

For the freeze wall, the freeze holes will be spaced 6 meters apart. For further context, the freeze wall will be a minimum of 10 meters thick and installed approximately 25 meters away from the uranium deposit.

We are still awaiting information on the chemical composition of the ore, and will get that as soon as possible.

Cheers,  
Konrad Gorzkowski,  
Senior Project Officer, Uranium Mines and Mills Division  
Tel: 343-573-8302

---

**From:** Hunter, Hilary <[hilary.hunter@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:hilary.hunter@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Sent:** September 18, 2025 12:38 PM  
**To:** Garrett Schmidt <[garrett.schmidt@yathinene.com](mailto:garrett.schmidt@yathinene.com)>  
**Cc:** Katherine Hay <[katherine.hay@yathinene.com](mailto:katherine.hay@yathinene.com)>; McKeown, Justin <[justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Gorzkowski, Konrad <[konrad.gorzkowski@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:konrad.gorzkowski@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Subject:** FW: Denison Wheeler River Effluent Characterization

Hi Garrett,

Passing along the list of effluent characteristics.

Thanks Konrad! Once you have the ore details and distance between the freeze holes, please let us know.

Hilary

Hilary Hunter (she/her)  
Senior Advisor, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission | Commission canadienne de sûreté  
nucléaire  
[hilary.hunter@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:hilary.hunter@cnscccsn.gc.ca) | (306)501-5300

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---

**From:** Gorzkowski, Konrad <[konrad.gorzkowski@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:konrad.gorzkowski@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Sent:** September 18, 2025 9:59 AM  
**To:** Hunter, Hilary <[hilary.hunter@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:hilary.hunter@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Subject:** FW: Denison Wheeler River Effluent Characterization

Here is the effluent list of chemicals (and characteristics) that will be monitored in effluent. Let me know if this is what you need. I am still waiting for ore information, and will pull up freeze hole information when I can find it.

Thank you,

Konrad Gorzkowski,  
Senior Project Officer, Uranium Mines and Mills Division  
Tel: 343-573-8302

---

**From:** Longo, Samantha <[samantha.longo@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:samantha.longo@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Sent:** September 18, 2025 11:48 AM  
**To:** Gorzkowski, Konrad <[konrad.gorzkowski@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:konrad.gorzkowski@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Subject:** Denison Wheeler River Effluent Characterization

Hi Konrad,

Here is the list of radiological and non-radiological parameters for the characterization of effluent for the Wheeler River Project.

| Contaminant or<br>Physical Stressor |
|-------------------------------------|
| Alkalinity                          |
| Ammonia (as N)                      |
| Un-ionized Ammonia                  |
| Hardness                            |
| Conductivity                        |
| Nitrate                             |
| pH                                  |
| Phosphorus                          |
| Sulphate                            |
| TDS                                 |
| Temperature                         |
| TSS                                 |

|              |
|--------------|
| Chloride     |
| Aluminum     |
| Arsenic      |
| Cadmium      |
| Chromium     |
| Cobalt       |
| Copper       |
| Cyanide      |
| Iron         |
| Lead         |
| Manganese    |
| Mercury      |
| Molybdenum   |
| Nickel       |
| Selenium     |
| Strontium    |
| Thallium     |
| Uranium      |
| Vanadium     |
| Zinc         |
| Silver       |
| Antimony     |
| Barium       |
| Beryllium    |
| Boron        |
| Tin          |
| Titanium     |
| Fluoride     |
| Lead-210     |
| Polonium-210 |
| Radium-226   |
| Thorium-230  |
| Uranium-238  |
| Uranium-234  |

**Samantha Longo**

(She/elle)

Environmental Risk Assessment Officer | Agent d'Évaluation des Risques pour  
l'Environnement  
Environmental Risk Assessment Division | Division de l'Évaluation des Risques  
Environnementaux  
Directorate of Environmental and Radiation Protection and Assessment | Direction de la  
Protection et de l'Évaluation de l'Environnement et de la Radioprotection  
[Samantha.longo@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:Samantha.longo@cnscccsn.gc.ca)  
Halifax, Nova Scotia  
Core Hours: M-F 7:30am – 3:30pm EDT | 8:30am – 4:30pm AT

**From:** [Hunter, Hilary](#)  
**To:** [Garrett Schmidt](#)  
**Cc:** [McKeown, Justin](#); [Katherine Hay](#); [Boser, Sydney](#); [Way, Jessica](#);  
**Subject:** Denison timelines and project activities  
**Attachments:** [Denison EA report project activities.pdf](#)  
**Sent:** 2025-09-23 8:21:06 AM

---

Hi Garrett,

Following up to the action item for specific project information for the upcoming hearings.

Here is the updated notice of hearing for Denison -  
[CMD 25-H-09 - Revised Notice of Public Hearing and Participant Funding – Denison Mines Corporation – Licence application to prepare a site for and construct Wheeler River mine and mill project](#)

\*\*\*PowerPoint interventions are due by November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

Please see the attached detailed project activities for the Wheeler River project. This summary was copied directly from section 2 of the EA Report.

Let us know if you have any questions.

Thanks,

Hilary

Hilary Hunter (she/her)  
Senior Advisor, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission | Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
[hilary.hunter@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:hilary.hunter@cnsccsn.gc.ca) | (306)501-5300

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**From:** [Hunter, Hilary](#)  
**To:** [Katherine Hay](#)  
**Cc:** [Garrett Schmidt](#); [Bruce Hanbidge](#); [Boser, Sydney](#); [McKeown, Justin](#);  
**Subject:** RE: EXTERNAL: Denison timelines and project activities  
**Sent:** 2025-10-03 8:30:13 AM

---

Good morning Kathy,

The Rights Impact Assessment related to Denison will be sent out next week.

Thank you for your patience.

Hilary

---

**From:** Katherine Hay <katherine.hay@yathinene.com>  
**Sent:** October 2, 2025 2:19 PM  
**To:** Hunter, Hilary <hilary.hunter@cnscccsn.gc.ca>  
**Cc:** Garrett Schmidt <garrett.schmidt@yathinene.com>; Bruce Hanbidge <bruce.hanbidge@yathinene.com>  
**Subject:** RE: EXTERNAL: Denison timelines and project activities

|  |
|--|
| EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES<br>PREUVE DE PRUDENCE |
|--|

Hi Hilary,

Are there any forthcoming documents with regards to Denison? Like a rights impact report or other supplemental information that would be useful in our analysis.

Thank you,

**Kathy Hay**  
Manager of Corporate Affairs  
Ya'thi Néné Land and Resource Office

**M:** 306-270-4083  
**E:** [katherine.hay@yathinene.com](mailto:katherine.hay@yathinene.com)

---

**From:** Hunter, Hilary <[hilary.hunter@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:hilary.hunter@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Sent:** September 23, 2025 8:21 AM  
**To:** Garrett Schmidt <[garrett.schmidt@yathinene.com](mailto:garrett.schmidt@yathinene.com)>  
**Cc:** McKeown, Justin <[justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Katherine Hay <[katherine.hay@yathinene.com](mailto:katherine.hay@yathinene.com)>; Boser, Sydney <[sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Subject:** EXTERNAL: Denison timelines and project activities

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Hi Garrett,

Following up to the action item for specific project information for the upcoming hearings.

Here is the updated notice of hearing for Denison -  
[CMD 25-H-09 - Revised Notice of Public Hearing and Participant Funding – Denison Mines Corporation – Licence application to prepare a site for and construct Wheeler River mine and mill project](#)

\*\*\*PowerPoint interventions are due by November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

Please see the attached detailed project activities for the Wheeler River project. This summary was copied directly from section 2 of the EA Report.

Let us know if you have any questions.

Thanks,

Hilary

Hilary Hunter (she/her)  
Senior Advisor, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission | Commission canadienne de sûreté  
nucléaire  
[hilary.hunter@cnsc-ccsn.gc.ca](mailto:hilary.hunter@cnsc-ccsn.gc.ca) | (306)501-5300

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---

**From:** [Katherine Hay](#)  
**To:** [Boser, Sydney](#)  
**Cc:** [McKeown, Justin](#); [Way, Jessica](#); [Gorzkowski, Konrad](#); [Bruce Hanbidge](#); [Garrett Schmidt](#);  
**Subject:** RE: EXTERNAL: Reminder - Denison Wheeler River Deadlines for Part 2 Hearing  
**Sent:** 2025-10-07 11:49:13 AM

---

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES PREUVE DE PRUDENCE

---

Good morning Sydney,

I hope you're doing well and thank you for the reminder. Ya'thi Nene plans to submit a written intervention and participate in the oral intervention for Denison Wheeler River. We will be sure to submit formal documentation on or before the below deadlines.

Please kindly include our Strategic Advisor, Bruce Hanbidge (cc'd), on all communication regarding the Denison intervention.

Thanks, and have a wonderful day!

**Kathy Hay**

Manager of Corporate Affairs  
Ya'thi Néné Land and Resource Office

**M:** 306-270-4083

**E:** [katherine.hay@yathinene.com](mailto:katherine.hay@yathinene.com)

---

**From:** Boser, Sydney <[sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>

**Sent:** October 6, 2025 3:50 PM

**Cc:** McKeown, Justin <[justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Gorzkowski, Konrad <[konrad.gorzkowski@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:konrad.gorzkowski@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>

**Subject:** EXTERNAL: Reminder - Denison Wheeler River Deadlines for Part 2 Hearing

**Importance:** High

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Good afternoon,

This is a reminder that if you are interested in submitting a written intervention for the Denison Wheeler River Part 2 hearing happening the week of December 8<sup>th</sup>, the deadline to intervene is **October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025**. The request to intervene must include the following information:

- a written submission of the comments to be presented to the Commission
- a statement setting out whether the requester wishes to intervene by way of written submission only, or by way of written submission and oral presentation
- the requester's name, address, telephone number and email address

These requests can be filed with the Commission Registry using the following email address: [interventions@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:interventions@cnscccsn.gc.ca). Oral presenters who wish to use a PowerPoint presentation are asked to submit their slide decks to the Commission Registry by

**November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025**.

For further information on the Commission Hearing, the Notice of Public Hearing is attached above. If you require any clarifications, please don't hesitate to reach out to myself.

Additional information about the Wheeler River EA process can be found on the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry (CIAR Reference: 80178) page for this project:

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)  
Phone Number: 343-596-9556

Agente principale en politiques, Division de la consultation et de la mobilisation des  
Autochtones  
Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)

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and Homeland of the Métis*

Je reconnais que les terres sur lesquelles je vis et travaille sont le territoire traditionnel du  
Traité no 6 et la patrie des Métis

**From:** [Boser, Sydney](#)  
**To:** [Katherine Hay](#)  
**Cc:** [McKeown, Justin](#); [Way, Jessica](#); [Gorzkowski, Konrad](#); [Bruce Hanbidge](#); [Garrett Schmidt](#);  
**Subject:** RE: EXTERNAL: Reminder - Denison Wheeler River Deadlines for Part 2 Hearing  
**Sent:** 2025-10-07 12:44:00 PM

---

Thank you Kathy for letting us know. I will ensure to copy Bruce on anything Denison related going forward.

When YNLR submits their intervention, please ensure to send it to [interventions@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:interventions@cnscccsn.gc.ca) but you can keep me copied.

Hope you have a great day as well!

Best,

Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)  
Phone Number: 343-596-9556

Agente principale en politiques, Division de la consultation et de la mobilisation des Autochtones  
Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)

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---

**From:** Katherine Hay <katherine.hay@yathinene.com>

**Sent:** October 7, 2025 11:49 AM

**To:** Boser, Sydney <sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca>

**Cc:** McKeown, Justin <justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca>; Way, Jessica <jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca>; Gorzkowski, Konrad <konrad.gorzkowski@cnscccsn.gc.ca>; Bruce Hanbidge <bruce.hanbidge@yathinene.com>; Garrett Schmidt <garrett.schmidt@yathinene.com>

**Subject:** RE: EXTERNAL: Reminder - Denison Wheeler River Deadlines for Part 2 Hearing

|  |
|--|
| EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES<br>PREUVE DE PRUDENCE |
|--|

Good morning Sydney,

I hope you're doing well and thank you for the reminder. Ya'thi Nene plans to submit a written intervention and participate in the oral intervention for Denison Wheeler River. We will be sure to submit formal documentation on or before the below deadlines.

Please kindly include our Strategic Advisor, Bruce Hanbidge (cc'd), on all communication regarding the Denison intervention.

Thanks, and have a wonderful day!

**Kathy Hay**

Manager of Corporate Affairs  
Ya'thi Néné Land and Resource Office

**M:** 306-270-4083

**E:** [katherine.hay@yathinene.com](mailto:katherine.hay@yathinene.com)

---

**From:** Boser, Sydney <[sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>

**Sent:** October 6, 2025 3:50 PM

**Cc:** McKeown, Justin <[justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Gorzkowski, Konrad <[konrad.gorzkowski@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:konrad.gorzkowski@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>

**Subject:** EXTERNAL: Reminder - Denison Wheeler River Deadlines for Part 2 Hearing

**Importance:** High

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Good afternoon,

This is a reminder that if you are interested in submitting a written intervention for the Denison Wheeler River Part 2 hearing happening the week of December 8<sup>th</sup>, the deadline to intervene is **October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025**. The request to intervene must include the following information:

- a written submission of the comments to be presented to the Commission
- a statement setting out whether the requester wishes to intervene by way of written submission only, or by way of written submission and oral presentation
- the requester's name, address, telephone number and email address

These requests can be filed with the Commission Registry using the following email address: [interventions@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:interventions@cnscccsn.gc.ca). Oral presenters who wish to use a PowerPoint presentation are asked to submit their slide decks to the Commission Registry by **November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025**.

For further information on the Commission Hearing, the Notice of Public Hearing is attached above. If you require any clarifications, please don't hesitate to reach out to myself.

Additional information about the Wheeler River EA process can be found on the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry (CIAR Reference: 80178) page for this project: [Wheeler River Project \(iaac-aeic.gc.ca\)](https://www.ciar.gc.ca/iaac-aeic.gc.ca/WheelerRiverProject).

Thank you,

Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnsccsn.gc.ca)  
Phone Number: 343-596-9556

Agente principale en politiques, Division de la consultation et de la mobilisation des Autochtones  
Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnsccsn.gc.ca)

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**From:** [Boser, Sydney](#)  
**To:** [garrett.schmidt@yathinene.com](mailto:garrett.schmidt@yathinene.com)  
**Cc:** [katherine.hay@yathinene.com](mailto:katherine.hay@yathinene.com); [Dana Kellett](#); [bruce.hanbidge@yathinene.com](mailto:bruce.hanbidge@yathinene.com); [McKeown, Justin](#); [Way, Jessica](#);  
**Subject:** For Your Review: YNLR Rights Impact Assessment - Denison Wheeler River  
**Attachments:** [YNLR Draft Rights Impact Assessment - Denison Wheeler River October 2025.docx](#)  
**Sent:** 2025-10-07 1:58:00 PM

---

Good afternoon Garrett,

CNSC staff have completed our draft of the YNLR Right's Impact Assessment (RIA) which is attached above for your review. We are looking to YNLR to review the draft for accuracy and to include any additional information that you feel may be missing with regards to YNLR's land use including any governance structure, maps, locations, etc. To note, this information in the RIA will be posted and part of the public record for the Denison Part 2 hearing but any additional information shared will aid CNSC in our assessment of the impact to YNLR's rights. You may also include any additional commitments, mitigations and follow-up activities related to environmental monitoring and facility operations contained in agreements with Denison for inclusion into Section 4 of the RIA while also noting these commitments, mitigations and follow-up will become part of the public record.

If you have any questions or clarifications as you navigate your review, we would be happy to set up a meeting to discuss further. **Please provide your review back to CNSC by November 6<sup>th</sup>.**

Thank you,

Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)  
Phone Number: 343-596-9556

Agente principale en politiques, Division de la consultation et de la mobilisation des Autochtones  
Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)

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**From:** [Boser, Sydney \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#)  
**To:** [Boser, Sydney \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#)  
**Subject:** RE: YNLR's written submission for the Denison Mines Wheeler River Project  
**Attachments:** [YNLR Submission\\_ CNSC Denison Wheeler River\\_FINAL.pdf](#)  
**Sent:** 2025-11-17 2:15:23 PM

---

---

**From:** Katherine Hay <[katherine.hay@yathinene.com](mailto:katherine.hay@yathinene.com)>  
**Sent:** October 24, 2025 1:12 PM  
**To:** Interventions / Interventions (CNSC/CCSN) <[Interventions@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:Interventions@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Cc:** Hunter, Hilary (CNSC/CCSN) <[hilary.hunter@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:hilary.hunter@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; McKeown, Justin (CNSC/CCSN) <[justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Garrett Schmidt <[garrett.schmidt@yathinene.com](mailto:garrett.schmidt@yathinene.com)>; Dana Kellett <[dana.kellett@yathinene.com](mailto:dana.kellett@yathinene.com)>; Bruce Hanbidge <[bruce.hanbidge@yathinene.com](mailto:bruce.hanbidge@yathinene.com)>  
**Subject:** YNLR's written submission for the Denison Mines Wheeler River Project

|   |
|---|
| EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES PREUVE DE PRUDENCE |
|---|

Good afternoon,

Please find attached Ya'thi Néné Lands and Resources' written submission on the matter of Denison Mines' request to develop an in situ recovery uranium mining and processing operation.

We appreciate the opportunity to participate.

Best regards,

**Kathy Hay**

Manager of Corporate Affairs | Ya'thi Néné Land and Resource Office

---



**T:** 306-477-1251  
**M:** 306-270-4083  
**E:** [katherine.hay@yathinene.com](mailto:katherine.hay@yathinene.com)  
**A:** 100-335 Packham Ave., Saskatoon, SK S7N 4S1  
[www.yathinene.ca](http://www.yathinene.ca)



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**From:** [Boser, Sydney \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#)  
**To:** [garrett.schmidt@yathinene.com](mailto:garrett.schmidt@yathinene.com)  
[katherine.hay@yathinene.com](mailto:katherine.hay@yathinene.com); Dana Kellett;  
**Cc:** [bruce.hanbidge@yathinene.com](mailto:bruce.hanbidge@yathinene.com); McKeown, Justin (CNSC/CCSN); Way, Jessica (CNSC/CCSN);  
**Subject:** RE: For Your Review: YNLR Rights Impact Assessment - Denison Wheeler River  
**Attachments:** [YNLR Draft Rights Impact Assessment - Denison Wheeler River October 2025.docx](#)  
**Sent:** 2025-10-30 3:12:00 PM

---

Hi Garrett,

This a reminder that YNLR's review on the RIA is due back on Thursday November 6<sup>th</sup>. Please let me know if you would like to meet to discuss any of the information further.

Best,

Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)  
Phone Number: 343-596-9556

Agente principale en politiques, Division de la consultation et de la mobilisation des Autochtones  
Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)

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---

**From:** Boser, Sydney  
**Sent:** October 7, 2025 1:59 PM  
**To:** [garrett.schmidt@yathinene.com](mailto:garrett.schmidt@yathinene.com)  
**Cc:** [katherine.hay@yathinene.com](mailto:katherine.hay@yathinene.com); Dana Kellett <[dana.kellett@yathinene.com](mailto:dana.kellett@yathinene.com)>; [bruce.hanbidge@yathinene.com](mailto:bruce.hanbidge@yathinene.com); McKeown, Justin <[justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Subject:** For Your Review: YNLR Rights Impact Assessment - Denison Wheeler River

Good afternoon Garrett,

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If you have any questions or clarifications as you navigate your review, we would be happy to set up a meeting to discuss further. **Please provide your review back to CNSC by November 6<sup>th</sup>.**

Thank you,

Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)  
Phone Number: 343-596-9556

Agente principale en politiques, Division de la consultation et de la mobilisation des Autochtones  
Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)

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---

**From:** [Garrett Schmidt](#)  
**To:** [Boser, Sydney \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Katherine Hay](#); [Dana Kellett](#); [Bruce Hanbidge](#); [McKeown, Justin \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#); [Way, Jessica \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#); [Hunter, Hilary \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#);  
**Subject:** Re: EXTERNAL: RE: For Your Review: YNLR Rights Impact Assessment - Denison Wheeler River  
**Attachments:** [2025-10-20 - YNLR Rights Impact Assessment SUBMIT.docx](#)  
**Sent:** 2025-11-06 4:37:43 PM

---

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES PREUVE DE PRUDENCE

---

Hello Sydney,

Thanks for the reminder email!

YNLR has reviewed the RIA for Wheeler River and have made edits to the document. Please see attached and let me know if you'd like to further discuss.

Regards,

**Garrett Schmidt**

Executive Director | Ya'thi Néné Land and Resource Office

---



**T:** 306-477-1251  
**M:** 306-370-3358  
**E:** [garrett.schmidt@yathinene.com](mailto:garrett.schmidt@yathinene.com)  
**A:** 100-335 Packham Ave., Saskatoon, SK S7N 4S1  
**www.yathinene.ca**



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---

**From:** Boser, Sydney (CNSC/CCSN) <[sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 30, 2025 3:12 PM  
**To:** Garrett Schmidt <[garrett.schmidt@yathinene.com](mailto:garrett.schmidt@yathinene.com)>  
**Cc:** Katherine Hay <[katherine.hay@yathinene.com](mailto:katherine.hay@yathinene.com)>; Dana Kellett <[dana.kellett@yathinene.com](mailto:dana.kellett@yathinene.com)>; Bruce Hanbidge <[bruce.hanbidge@yathinene.com](mailto:bruce.hanbidge@yathinene.com)>; McKeown, Justin (CNSC/CCSN) <[justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Way, Jessica (CNSC/CCSN) <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Subject:** EXTERNAL: RE: For Your Review: YNLR Rights Impact Assessment - Denison Wheeler River

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Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
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Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)  
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---

**From:** Boser, Sydney

**Sent:** October 7, 2025 1:59 PM

**To:** garrett.schmidt@yathinene.com

**Cc:** katherine.hay@yathinene.com; Dana Kellett <dana.kellett@yathinene.com>;  
bruce.hanbidge@yathinene.com; McKeown, Justin <justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca>; Way,  
Jessica <jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca>

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Thank you,

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**To:** ['Garrett Schmidt'](#)  
**Cc:** [Katherine Hay](#); [Dana Kellett](#); [Bruce Hanbidge](#); [McKeown, Justin \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#); [Way, Jessica \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#); [Hunter, Hilary \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#);  
**Subject:** RE: EXTERNAL: RE: For Your Review: YNLR Rights Impact Assessment - Denison Wheeler River  
**Sent:** 2025-11-07 8:27:00 AM

---

Good morning Garrett,

Thank you for sending this along. I will let you know if we have any questions or clarifications as we go through our review.

Best,

Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)  
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Agente principale en politiques, Division de la consultation et de la mobilisation des Autochtones  
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---

**From:** Garrett Schmidt <garrett.schmidt@yathinene.com>  
**Sent:** November 6, 2025 4:37 PM  
**To:** Boser, Sydney (CNSC/CCSN) <sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca>  
**Cc:** Katherine Hay <katherine.hay@yathinene.com>; Dana Kellett <dana.kellett@yathinene.com>; Bruce Hanbidge <bruce.hanbidge@yathinene.com>; McKeown, Justin (CNSC/CCSN) <justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca>; Way, Jessica (CNSC/CCSN) <jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca>; Hunter, Hilary (CNSC/CCSN) <hilary.hunter@cnscccsn.gc.ca>  
**Subject:** Re: EXTERNAL: RE: For Your Review: YNLR Rights Impact Assessment - Denison Wheeler River

|  |
|--|
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|--|



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Regards,

**Garrett Schmidt**

Executive Director | Ya'thi Néné Land and Resource Office

---



T: 306-477-1251  
M: 306-370-3358  
E: [garrett.schmidt@yathinene.com](mailto:garrett.schmidt@yathinene.com)  
A: 100-335 Packham Ave., Saskatoon, SK S7N 4S1

[www.yathinene.ca](http://www.yathinene.ca)



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Bruce Hanbidge <[bruce.hanbidge@yathinene.com](mailto:bruce.hanbidge@yathinene.com)>; McKeown, Justin (CNSC/CCSN)  
<[justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Way, Jessica (CNSC/CCSN) <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>

**Subject:** EXTERNAL: RE: For Your Review: YNLR Rights Impact Assessment - Denison Wheeler River

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**Sent:** October 7, 2025 1:59 PM  
**To:** [garrett.schmidt@yathinene.com](mailto:garrett.schmidt@yathinene.com)  
**Cc:** [katherine.hay@yathinene.com](mailto:katherine.hay@yathinene.com); Dana Kellett <[dana.kellett@yathinene.com](mailto:dana.kellett@yathinene.com)>; [bruce.hanbidge@yathinene.com](mailto:bruce.hanbidge@yathinene.com); McKeown, Justin <[justin.mckeown@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnsccsn.gc.ca)>; Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnsccsn.gc.ca)>  
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## Boser, Sydney (CNSC/CCSN)

---

**Subject:** FW: ALPC-CNSC Meeting  
**Location:** Holiday Inn Express & Suites Saskatoon East - University by IHG (1838 College Drive, Bldg# 2, Saskatoon SK S7N 2Z8)  
  
**Start:** Thu 2025-11-13 8:30 AM  
**End:** Thu 2025-11-13 2:45 PM  
**Show Time As:** Tentative  
  
**Recurrence:** (none)  
  
**Meeting Status:** Not yet responded  
  
**Organizer:** Katherine Hay

---

EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES PREUVE DE PRUDENCE

---

As requested.

-----Original Appointment-----

**From:** Katherine Hay <katherine.hay@yathinene.com>

**Sent:** Tuesday, November 4, 2025 4:21 PM

**To:** Katherine Hay; m.dene.64@gmail.com; archie.disain@outlook.com; christopher.p.toutsaint98@outlook.com; mervin mcdonald; Emil Dzeylion; freddie throassie; Louise E BougieStill; Louise Bougie Still; Garrett Schmidt; Ashley Robillard; Bruce Hanbidge; Dana Kellett; Hunter, Hilary (CNSC/CCSN); McKeown, Justin (CNSC/CCSN); Tran, Nhan (CNSC/CCSN); Bridges, Nick (CNSC/CCSN)

**Subject:** ALPC-CNSC Meeting

**When:** November 13, 2025 8:30 AM-2:45 PM (UTC-06:00) Saskatchewan.

**Where:** Holiday Inn Express & Suites Saskatoon East - University by IHG (1838 College Drive, Bldg# 2, Saskatoon SK S7N 2Z8)

---

EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES PREUVE DE PRUDENCE

---

Attached is the agenda and previous meeting minutes for your preview. Agenda is also listed below for your convenience: the morning portion will be with the CNSC and the afternoon portion will focus on updates from Bruce on the Cumulative Effects Study and updates from NexGen.

We are in the **Evan Thomas Room** at the **Holiday Inn Express & Suites on College Drive**.

### Agenda:

8:30 AM – Welcome, coffee, and opening prayer

8:40 AM – Review and adopt agenda and adopt previous meeting minutes (Sept 18, 2025)

9:00 AM – CNSC Updates and YNLR Updates

9:30 AM – UNDRIP Presentation (by CNSC)

10:15 AM – BREAK

10:30 AM – Review Listening Tour notes

11:00 AM – Overview of RegDoc 3.2.2 (by CNSC)  
11:45 AM – TOR meeting closing remarks, next CNSC-ALPC meeting  
12:00 PM – LUNCH  
1:00 PM – Cumulative Effect Study update (Bruce)  
2:00 PM – NexGen updates (Melissa and Adam to join)  
2:45 PM – closing prayer and meeting adjournment

---

## Microsoft Teams [Need help?](#)

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[+1 639-398-8262,,142446601#](#) Canada, Saskatoon

[Find a local number](#)

Phone conference ID: 142 446 601#

For organizers: [Meeting options](#) | [Reset dial-in PIN](#)

---



**Ya'thi Néné Lands and Resources/Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
YNLR-CNSC Working Group Meeting  
Holiday Inn Express, College Drive, Saskatoon (Evan Thomas Room)  
November 13, 2025, 8:30 am – 2:45 pm**

[Join the meeting now](#)

**Dial in by phone**

[+1 639-398-8262, 142446601#](tel:+16393988262)

**Attendees:**

Archie Disain – ALPC Member (Black Lake)  
Freddie Throassie - ALPC Member (Black Lake)  
Chris Toutsaint - ALPC Member (Fond du Lac)  
Vacant – ALPC Member (Fond du Lac)  
Louise Bougie-Still - ALPC Member (PRO – Uranium City)  
Mervin MacDonald – ALPC Member (PRO – Stony Rapids)  
Mary Denechezhe - ALPC Member (Hatchet Lake, Co-Chair)  
Emil Dzenlioun - ALPC Member (Hatchet Lake)  
Garrett Schmidt - YNLR Executive Director (Co-Chair)  
Kathy Hay – YNLR Corporate Affairs Manager  
Ashley Robillard – YNLR Admin/Comms Assistant  
Bruce Hanbidge – YNLR Strategic Advisor  
Hilary Hunter – CNSC Senior Advisor, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division (Co-Chair)  
Justin McKeown – CNSC Team Lead, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Nhan Tran - Director, Reconciliation Policy and Public Programs Division  
Nick Bridges - CNSC Senior Policy Officer, Reconciliation Policy and Public Programs Division  
Adam Engdahl – NexGen VP Community  
Melissa Scansen – NexGen Engagement Manager  
Paul James – YNLR Contract Technical Advisor  
Dennis Sherratt – YNLR Contract Technical Advisor  
Debi Noseworthy – YNLR Contractor

**Agenda:**

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2:45 PM – closing prayer and meeting adjournment

**C.5            Key Correspondence with Métis Nation – Saskatchewan  
since June 2025**

## Boser, Sydney (CNSC/CCSN)

---

**Subject:** MN-S/CNSC Listening Tour  
**Location:** Louis 20th-Executive

**Start:** Thu 2025-07-10 3:00 PM  
**End:** Thu 2025-07-10 4:30 PM  
**Show Time As:** Out of Office

**Recurrence:** (none)

**Meeting Status:** Not yet responded

**Organizer:** MN-S Reception Booking

**Categories:** Outreach

---

EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES PREUVE DE PRUDENCE

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## Microsoft Teams [Need help?](#)

### [Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 245 727 564 056 4

Passcode: aZ6D5az6

---

For organizers: [Meeting options](#)

---



**From:** [Boser, Sydney](#)  
**To:** [Brent Laroque](#)  
**Cc:** [David Devos](#); [McKeown, Justin](#); [Gorzowski, Konrad](#);  
**Subject:** Denison Wheeler River Project - Update & Draft LCH  
**Attachments:** [LCH Indigenous Engagement Licence Condition - Denison Wheeler River.docx](#)  
**Sent:** 2025-08-22 3:08:00 PM

---

Good afternoon Brent,

CNSC staff are preparing for the upcoming Denison Wheeler River Commission Hearing, Part 1: October 8<sup>th</sup> and Part 2: Week of December 8<sup>th</sup> and have now posted the following documents on the CNSC's website: Commission Member Document (CMD), Environmental Assessment (EA) Report and the Indigenous Consultation Report –

- [Commission Member Document - Wheeler River \(1/3\)](#) The consultation report begins on page 444 of this link and continues into the next 2 links
- [Commission Member Document - Wheeler River \(2/3\)](#)
- [Commission Member Document - Wheeler River \(3/3\)](#)
- [Environmental Assessment Report - Wheeler River Project](#)

As part of the decision by the Commission on the Environmental Assessment and licence application presented by Denison on the Wheeler River Project, the Commission must consider what requirements will be included in the licence, should they decide to issue a licence to Denison. To verify licensee compliance, CNSC staff manage the Licence Condition Handbook (LCH), which includes all licence conditions and includes a list of compliance verification criteria that CNSC staff use to assess a licensee's compliance. CNSC staff provided the Commission a draft version of a licence with all recommended conditions, as well as a draft LCH that describes how CNSC staff plan to verify compliance for the Wheeler River Project.

As part of the proposed licence, CNSC staff are recommending a new specific licence condition on Indigenous engagement. Should the Commission issue a licence, the draft licence condition would require Denison to conduct ongoing Indigenous engagement specific to the Wheeler River Project throughout the site preparation and construction phase and report on these activities to CNSC staff. Licence Condition G.6 sets out the expectation that Denison continues to engage and collaborate with MN-S on the commitments that Denison has agreed to with MN-S.

We welcome any comment or feedback from MN-S on the proposed licence condition. This could be done through MN-S' intervention to the Commission or we would also be happy to receive any comments directly to consider any revisions to the text in advance of the Part 2 hearing. Please find attached a copy of the draft licence condition.

If you have any questions, we would be happy to discuss at a future meeting or you can reach out directly to myself or the lead Project Officer Konrad Gorzowski.

Thank you,

Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)  
Phone Number: 343-596-9556

Agente principale en politiques, Division de la consultation et de la mobilisation des  
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## G.6 Indigenous Engagement

|   |
|---|
| The licensee shall implement and maintain an Indigenous engagement program. |
|---|

### Preamble

The Wheeler River site resides on lands in which many Indigenous Nations and communities have a vested interest and rights. The site is situated within historic Treaty 10 (1906) and Homeland of the Métis and is within the traditional territories of the Dene, Cree, and Métis peoples.

This licence condition requires the creation, submission and implementation of a program to ensure ongoing Indigenous engagement by Denison on the Wheeler River project. As per section 6 of REGDOC-3.2.2, *Indigenous Engagement*, licensees may be required to continue to engage Indigenous Nations and communities after an Environmental Assessment or licensing decision. Licensees may also be required to update the CNSC about their ongoing Indigenous engagement activities – for example, the status of the implementation and effectiveness of mitigation, accommodation measures and commitments to Indigenous Nations and communities.

CNSC staff identified Indigenous Nations and communities who have interests and Indigenous and/or Treaty rights in the area where the Wheeler River Project is located (herein referred to as “identified Indigenous Nations and communities”). The following Indigenous Nations and communities were identified as having Indigenous and/or Treaty rights that may be potentially impacted by the Wheeler River Project:

- English River First Nation (ERFN)
- Kineepik Métis Local (KML)
- Black Lake First Nation, Fond du Lac Denesuline First Nation and Hatchet Lake First Nation, which are represented by Ya’thi Nene Lands and Resource Office (YNLR)
- Métis Nation – Saskatchewan (MN-S)

The following Indigenous Nations and communities were identified as having interest in the Wheeler River Project (herein referred to as “interested Indigenous Nations and communities”):

- Lac La Ronge Indian Band (LLRIB)
- Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation (PBCN)
- Birch Narrows Dene Nation (BNDN)
- Prince Albert Grand Council (PAGC)
- 

For the purposes of this Licence Condition, the term “identified Indigenous Nations and communities” refers specifically to the Indigenous Nations and communities listed above who have demonstrated Indigenous and/or Treaty rights in the Project area.

### Compliance Verification Criteria

In developing the Wheeler River-specific Indigenous Engagement Program required by this licence condition, the licensee should engage with and seek feedback from the identified Indigenous Nations and communities.

The engagement program shall identify specific engagement, activities, commitments and definitions. The development of the engagement program should be a collaborative process between the licensee and the identified Indigenous Nations and communities and tailored to Indigenous Nation and communities' rights, interests and preferences for engagement and communications.

The ongoing engagement in accordance with the engagement program shall be carried out with the identified Indigenous Nations and communities. If an Indigenous Nation and/or community is non-responsive, the licensee shall continue to share information and provide opportunities for engagement, unless the Indigenous Nation and/or community specifically declines the engagement opportunities and requests that Denison stop sharing information regarding the Wheeler River Project. The licensee shall make efforts to involve the interested identified Indigenous Nations and communities in the engagement program, where appropriate, and shall report on these efforts as part of annual reporting on the engagement program.

To ensure ongoing engagement, the licensee's program shall provide for collaboration and engagement with the identified Indigenous Nations and communities on the following:

1. Make reasonable efforts to collaborate with Indigenous Nations and communities to identify and implement approaches to engagement and communication that takes into consideration the knowledge, needs, protocols, language, preferences and interests of each Indigenous Nation and community.
2. Provide knowledge sharing opportunities such as site visits, workshops and information sessions or alternate communication and engagement activities as expressed by Indigenous Nations and communities.
3. Collaborate with Indigenous Nations and communities in relation to monitoring and follow-up activities related to the Wheeler River Project. Monitoring and follow-up activities will include both operational activities and commitments made through the federal EA process including, but not limited to, EA conditions related to environmental monitoring, caribou mitigation, emergency management, baseline data gathering and other follow-up activities that relate directly to concerns raised by Indigenous Nations and communities during the EA and regulatory review process for the Project.
4. Respond to questions, concerns or comments from Indigenous Nations and communities regarding the Wheeler River Project and work collaboratively to reflect feedback and Indigenous Knowledge within the licensee's activities, as appropriate.

Additionally, CNSC staff acknowledge that Denison has made commitments to Indigenous Nations and Communities through the EA and regulatory review process. The licensee shall fulfill their commitments described in the Commitments Registry. The commitments made by Denison that do not fall within the CNSC's mandate and authority will not form part of the compliance verification criteria. However, the CNSC encourages Denison to provide summary

updates on progress in meeting all commitments made to Indigenous Nations and communities through annual reporting in relation to their Wheeler River Indigenous Engagement Program.

### **Reporting Requirements**

As part of the Annual Compliance Monitoring Report discussed under LC 3.2 below, the licensee shall submit to the CNSC information on engagement activities it has undertaken with the identified Indigenous Nations and communities during the reporting year as part of its engagement program. The development of this content should be a collaborative process between the licensee and the identified Indigenous Nations and communities. It is acknowledged that an Indigenous Nation or community may share information with the licensee in confidence. The licensee should work with the Indigenous Nation or community to ensure this information is not disclosed and the Indigenous Nation or community is comfortable with the level of detail communicated within the report.

This reporting shall describe:

- The name of the Indigenous Nation or community.
- The method(s), date(s), location(s), and topics of engagement activities with the Indigenous Nation or community.
- Engagement efforts undertaken within the year in relation to identified and interested Indigenous Nations and communities
- An update on the commitments (items 1 through 4 above) along with any relevant information and context regarding the status of, timelines, and process made on the initiatives and commitments.
- A summary of any issues, interests, or concerns raised, including those in relation to any potential impacts on identified or established Indigenous and/or Treaty rights.
- The measures taken, or that will be taken, to address or respond to the issues or concerns. Alternatively, an explanation as to why no further action is required to address or respond to issues or concerns shall be provided.
- A description of any changes to project activities and/or programs to address and incorporate the measures taken to respond to issues or concerns, or to incorporate knowledge and feedback from Indigenous Nations and communities.
- Discussion of relevant corporate policies and programs with respect to Indigenous initiatives.

### ***Licensee Documents that Require Notification of Change***

| <b>Source</b> | <b>Document Title</b>                     | <b>Prior Notification Required</b> |
|---------------|---|------------------------------------|
| Denison       | Facility Licensing Manual                 | Yes                                |
| Denison       | Public and Indigenous Information Program | Yes                                |
| Denison       | Commitments Registry                      | Yes                                |

## **Guidance**

### ***Guidance Publications***

| <b>Source</b> | <b>Document Title</b>              | <b>Document Number</b> |
|---------------|------------------------------------|------------------------|
| CNSC          | Public Information and Disclosure  | REGDOC-3.2.1           |
| CNSC          | Indigenous Engagement, Version 1.2 | REGDOC-3.2.2           |

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**From:** [Brent Laroque](#)  
**To:** [Boser, Sydney](#)  
**Cc:** [McKeown, Justin](#); [Way, Jessica](#); [Froess, Ryan](#); [David Devos](#); [Hilary Peterson](#); [Marc Wang](#);  
**Subject:** RE: CNSC & MN-S - Issues Tracking Table - For Review: Wheeler River  
**Sent:** 2025-08-26 4:31:37 PM

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**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES PREUVE  
DE PRUDENCE

---

All of the changes made by the MN-S capture important issues and concerns, but if we were to prioritize, we believe the following should definitely be included:

- Maarsii

Director of Environment

**Subject:** RE: CNSC & MN-S - Issues Tracking Table - For Review: Wheeler River

Thank you for sending along. Please see attached the updated tracker.

Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)  
Phone Number: 343-596-9556

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---

**From:** Brent Laroque <[blaroque@mns.ca](mailto:blaroque@mns.ca)>

**Sent:** July 23, 2025 9:39 AM

**To:** Boser, Sydney <[sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>

**Cc:** McKeown, Justin <[justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Froess, Ryan <[ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; David Devos <[ddevos@mns.ca](mailto:ddevos@mns.ca)>; Hilary Peterson <[hpeterson@mns.ca](mailto:hpeterson@mns.ca)>; Marc Wang <[mwang@mns.ca](mailto:mwang@mns.ca)>

**Subject:** RE: CNSC & MN-S - Issues Tracking Table - For Review: Wheeler River

|  |
|--|
| EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES<br>PREUVE DE PRUDENCE |
|--|

Boon Mataen Sydney! Please see the latest version attached.

**Brent Laroque**

Director of Environment

---

**From:** Boser, Sydney <[sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>

**Sent:** Thursday, July 17, 2025 3:34 PM

**To:** Brent Laroque <[blaroque@mns.ca](mailto:blaroque@mns.ca)>

**Cc:** McKeown, Justin <[justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Froess, Ryan <[ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; David Devos <[ddevos@mns.ca](mailto:ddevos@mns.ca)>; Hilary Peterson <[hpeterson@mns.ca](mailto:hpeterson@mns.ca)>

**Subject:** RE: CNSC & MN-S - Issues Tracking Table - For Review: Wheeler River

Good afternoon Brent,

I just wanted to send a reminder that the deadline to provide feedback on the issues tracking table is Wednesday July 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Goodluck with Batoche this weekend!

Thanks,

Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division

Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission

Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)

Phone Number: 343-596-9556

Agente principale en politiques, Division de la consultation et de la mobilisation des Autochtones

Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire

Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)



---

**From:** Boser, Sydney  
**Sent:** June 27, 2025 2:35 PM  
**To:** Brent Laroque <[blaroque@mns.ca](mailto:blaroque@mns.ca)>  
**Cc:** McKeown, Justin <[justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Froess, Ryan <[ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; David Devos <[ddevos@mns.ca](mailto:ddevos@mns.ca)>; Hilary Peterson <[hpeterson@mns.ca](mailto:hpeterson@mns.ca)>  
**Subject:** CNSC & MN-S - Issues Tracking Table - For Review: Wheeler River

Good afternoon Brent,

Please see attached the MN -S' issues tracking table for the Denison Wheeler River Project for your review. This tracking table includes concerns that MN-S has raised throughout the EA process for the Project and includes CNSC's response. This table will be appended to the Consultation Report for the Project in advance of the Part 1 hearing.

Please review the document for **accuracy** and return to us no later than **July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025**. Please note that if we do not receive comments by the deadline then this information will be included without MN-S' feedback. If you have any questions, please reach out to myself or Ryan Froess.

Thanks,

Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)  
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Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)

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Je reconnais que les terres sur lesquelles je vis et travaille sont le territoire traditionnel du Traité no 6 et la patrie des Métis

**From:** [Registry / Greffe \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#)  
**To:** [Brent Laroque](#)  
**Cc:** [Registry / Greffe \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#); [Levine, Adam](#); [Boser, Sydney](#); [McKeown, Justin](#); [Durocher, Diane](#); [ddevos@mns.ca](mailto:ddevos@mns.ca);  
**Subject:** Breakout rooms for Saskatchewan - Denison Mines Corp. Commission Hearing - Week of December 8, 2025  
**Sent:** 2025-08-27 7:42:21 AM

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Good day,

We're writing to let you know that the Commission Registry has procured the Sheraton Cavalier Hotel for the Commission's Public Hearing for the proposed Denison Wheeler River Project scheduled to take place in Saskatoon during the week of December 8, 2025.

I am reaching out as I was able to reserve **3 breakout rooms** which I am offering to Indigenous Nations intervening in the proceeding. The Hotel Event Manager has informed us that other people are interested in booking these rooms for other events, so you're encouraged to contact the venue **as soon as possible** should you wish to have a breakout room available to you and your Nation. These rooms will be booked **on a first-come, first-served** basis. The Event Manager's contact information is as follows:

**Gurpreet Singh**

Event Manager

Direct: 306-667-0179

Office: 306-652-6791 ext. 3356

Sheraton Cavalier Saskatoon Hotel

612 Spadina Crescent East

Saskatoon, SK, S7K 3G9

[Marriott.com/YXESI](https://www.marriott.com/YXESI)

[gurpreets@sheratonsaskatoon.com](mailto:gurpreets@sheratonsaskatoon.com)

The potentially available breakout rooms are:

- Canadian Room
- Cavalier Room
- Boardroom
- Starlight Room

You may wish to tell the Event Manager that the official dates of the proceeding will be confirmed towards the end of October 2025, and based on your planned attendance, you may wish to inform the Event Manager the number of anticipated days you may need to the room for. By providing this information you can explore

if your contract includes the necessary flexibility to revise the dates without penalty, as the proceeding may not last the full week.

Should you wish to reserve a room, the contract and payment of the room will be the responsibility of your Nation. Note that PFP funds provided to support your Nation's participation in the Commission Hearing may be used to cover the costs of a breakout room. Additionally, please note that all catering requests must go through the hotel's caterer.

Should you have any questions or need further clarification, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Best regards,

**Annik Tanguay**

(she/her/elle)

Senior Tribunal Officer, Commission Registry  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
[registry-greffe@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:registry-greffe@cnsccsn.gc.ca) Tel : 613 462-7489

Agente principale du tribunal, Greffe de la Commission  
Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
[registry-greffe@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:registry-greffe@cnsccsn.gc.ca) Tel : 613 462-7489

*Please respond to this email in the official language of your choice | Veuillez répondre à ce courriel dans la langue officielle de votre choix.*

**From:** [Boser, Sydney](#)  
**To:** [Brent Laroque](#)  
**Cc:** [McKeown, Justin](#); [Way, Jessica](#); [Froess, Ryan](#); [David Devos](#); [Hilary Peterson](#); [Marc Wang](#); [Levine, Adam](#);  
**Subject:** RE: CNSC & MN-S - Issues Tracking Table - For Review: Wheeler River  
**Attachments:** [MN-S Updated Issues Tracker - August 27th, 2025.docx](#)  
**Sent:** 2025-08-27 1:31:00 PM

---

Hi Brent,

Thank you for reaching out regarding the Wheeler River issues and concerns table. I want to sincerely apologize for not incorporating MN-S' edits in the Issues or Concern column. It wasn't our intention to leave those out as it was an oversight on our end. Please find attached the updated tracking table, which now includes MN-S' comments. As the document has already been published, we propose submitting this revised table as part of a supplemental submission in advance of the Part 1 Commission Hearing scheduled for October 8<sup>th</sup>. Could MN-S please confirm whether the attached version addresses the outstanding edits?

Regarding the edits that were not incorporated, some extended beyond the intended scope of the table. We suggest that CNSC & MN-S work together to address these points through the Rights Impact Assessment, which will be included in a supplemental submission to the Commission in advance of the Part 2 hearing happening the week of December 8<sup>th</sup>. MN-S may also choose to include this information in your intervention, where appropriate.

CNSC staff are currently drafting the Rights Impact Assessment and expect to share a copy with MN-S for review in late September.

Thank you,

Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnsccsn.gc.ca)  
Phone Number: 343-596-9556

Agente principale en politiques, Division de la consultation et de la mobilisation des Autochtones  
Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnsccsn.gc.ca)

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Je reconnais que les terres sur lesquelles je vis et travaille sont le territoire traditionnel du Traité no 6 et la patrie des Métis

---

**From:** Brent Laroque <blaroque@mns.ca>

**Sent:** August 26, 2025 4:31 PM

**To:** Boser, Sydney <sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca>

**Cc:** McKeown, Justin <justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca>; Way, Jessica <jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca>; Froess, Ryan <ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca>; David Devos <ddevos@mns.ca>; Hilary Peterson <hpeterson@mns.ca>; Marc Wang <mwang@mns.ca>

**Subject:** RE: CNSC & MN-S - Issues Tracking Table - For Review: Wheeler River

EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES  
PREUVE DE PRUDENCE

Taanshi Sydney. We note that the CNSC has rejected all of the MN-S changes in the “Issue or Concern (including impacts to Indigenous and/or Treaty Rights)” Column and rejected or abridged most of the MN-S’s other changes in the document. All of the changes the MN-S made were intended to fully and faithfully capture MN-S concerns so they could be communicated to decision makers. Could you please provide an explanation for why the MN-S’ changes were rejected?

All of the changes made by the MN-S capture important issues and concerns, but if we were to prioritize, we believe the following should definitely be included:

- All references to “harvesting, fishing, hunting and trapping for traditional, subsistence, family subsistence, community support, ceremonial, and commercial purposes”, which provide context and fully explain the nature of Métis traditional land use and rights.
- The reference to “the loss of the socio-economic opportunities which would be available if the project were to be developed under Métis control if the Métis title claim is recognized” and the related statement the “The MN-S has not surrendered its interests in the Project through treaty, and retains an interest in preserving the lands, waters, and wealth if its Homeland until such time as it can establish, through litigation or negotiation, its land claim.” Understanding the nature of the MN-S’ interest in the Project lands is vital to understanding impacts to the Métis from the Project.
- The statement that “Such contaminants risk Métis health, risk permanently harming the Métis commercial fishing industry, and risk giving rise to stigma that alienates Métis from rights-based land use practices.” Stigma and avoidance are otherwise not referenced in your revised version and are a key impact for the Métis.

Maarsii

**Brent Laroque**

Director of Environment

---

**From:** Boser, Sydney <sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca>

**Sent:** Tuesday, July 29, 2025 9:24 AM

**To:** Brent Laroque <blaroque@mns.ca>

**Cc:** McKeown, Justin <justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca>; Way, Jessica <jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca>

[ccsn.gc.ca](mailto:ccsn.gc.ca)>; Froess, Ryan <[ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; David Devos <[ddevos@mns.ca](mailto:ddevos@mns.ca)>; Hilary Peterson <[hpeterson@mns.ca](mailto:hpeterson@mns.ca)>; Marc Wang <[mwang@mns.ca](mailto:mwang@mns.ca)>

**Subject:** RE: CNSC & MN-S - Issues Tracking Table - For Review: Wheeler River

Good morning Brent,

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Best,

Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)  
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**From:** Brent Laroque <[blaroque@mns.ca](mailto:blaroque@mns.ca)>

**Sent:** July 23, 2025 9:39 AM

**To:** Boser, Sydney <[sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>

**Cc:** McKeown, Justin <[justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Froess, Ryan <[ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; David Devos <[ddevos@mns.ca](mailto:ddevos@mns.ca)>; Hilary Peterson <[hpeterson@mns.ca](mailto:hpeterson@mns.ca)>; Marc Wang <[mwang@mns.ca](mailto:mwang@mns.ca)>

**Subject:** RE: CNSC & MN-S - Issues Tracking Table - For Review: Wheeler River

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| EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES<br>PREUVE DE PRUDENCE |
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Boon Mataen Sydney! Please see the latest version attached.

**Brent Laroque**

Director of Environment

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**Sent:** Thursday, July 17, 2025 3:34 PM

**To:** Brent Laroque <[blaroque@mns.ca](mailto:blaroque@mns.ca)>

**Cc:** McKeown, Justin <[justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Froess, Ryan <[ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; David Devos <[ddevos@mns.ca](mailto:ddevos@mns.ca)>; Hilary Peterson <[hpeterson@mns.ca](mailto:hpeterson@mns.ca)>

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Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
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**From:** Boser, Sydney

**Sent:** June 27, 2025 2:35 PM

**To:** Brent Laroque <[blaroque@mns.ca](mailto:blaroque@mns.ca)>

**Cc:** McKeown, Justin <[justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Froess, Ryan <[ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; David Devos <[ddevos@mns.ca](mailto:ddevos@mns.ca)>; Hilary Peterson <[hpeterson@mns.ca](mailto:hpeterson@mns.ca)>

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Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
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Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)  
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| ID    | Issue or concern<br>(including impacts to<br>Indigenous and/or Treaty<br>Rights)  | Theme  | Crown response  | Status of issue/concern  |
|-------|---|--|---|--|
| MNS01 | <p><b>Aquatic and terrestrial environments</b></p> <p>MN-S is worried about possible leaks and contamination in bedrock, and that the bedrock may be permeable. MN-S is also concerned about contamination from effluent (including selenium) particularly the impact on Whitefish and Russell Lake. MN-S has emphasized the potential for stigma and avoidance, and the resulting request that a zero-selenium or no increase in contaminants standard be used. MN-S has expressed that all of these effects have the potential to impact Métis harvesting, fishing, hunting and trapping for traditional, subsistence, family subsistence, community support, ceremonial, and commercial purposes. Such</p> | <p>Aquatic environment/groundwater/fish and fish habitat, accidents and malfunctions/financial guarantee</p> | <p>The CNSC acknowledges MN-S's concerns regarding potential contamination, particularly impacts on Whitefish and Russell Lake. Denison has committed to the implementation of a freeze wall, double-walled piping with leak detection, and a robust groundwater monitoring program to prevent impacts on the groundwater and aquatic environment. In addition, Denison's Groundwater Protection and Monitoring Plan and commitments to remediation provide assurance that environmental protection measures will be put in place if the project is approved.</p> <p>Denison has also committed to avoiding disruption of critical habitats to the extent possible and to</p> | <p>The MN-S does not deem this issue to be resolved as MN-S indicates Denison and the CNSC have not adequately addressed concerns regarding the effects on the aquatic and terrestrial environment.</p> <p>MN-S notes inconsistent information provided by Denison regarding the basement rock permeability and outstanding concerns regarding the use of a mixing zone for treated effluent entering the receiving waterbody. Potential for contaminants entering the receiving environment pose risks to the Métis exercise of traditional activities and Aboriginal rights.</p> |

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|  | <p>impacts could include effectively extinguishing Métis commercial fishing rights through harvester avoidance and market stigma of fish with the potential of contamination.</p> <p>MN-S has also highlighted the need for robust monitoring by Denison, clarity on potential impacts to water resources, financial guarantees for remediation, and a study of the avoidance impacts of past developments such as Cluff Lake.</p> <p>MN-S has also expressed concerns over potential impacts on caribou populations and the broader terrestrial ecosystem, in addition to impacts of increased traffic and noise on wildlife. MN-S has emphasized that provincial caribou recovery plans are inadequate and cannot be relied on to address project impacts.</p> |  | <p>implementing appropriate mitigation measures, including scheduling certain project activities outside of timeframes that are sensitive periods for wildlife and avoiding wetlands and instituting proper buffers, whenever possible, and will have a Road and Traffic Monitoring Plan and Pre-Clearance Wildlife Monitoring Plan. Denison has also developed the Caribou Management Framework, which highlights additional mitigation (offset) measures specific to potential residual effects on caribou, and the Biodiversity Management Plan (for terrestrial and avian species).</p> <p>In addition, Denison has assessed potential impacts caused by the proposed project via changes in air quality and acoustics through modelling. Denison has also committed to mitigation measures to</p> | <p>In addition, the MN-S asserts that caribou health and recovery potential has not been appropriately considered.</p> <p>CNSC is committed to working with MN-S and Denison, as appropriate, to continue to engage and find solutions to address any outstanding concerns in advance of the Part 2 Commission hearing.</p> |
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|  |  |  | <p>address the potential impacts, such as dust suppression techniques and equipment mufflers to reduce acoustic disturbance, to ensure they remain within all applicable limits and regulations.</p> <p>The CNSC requires that both preliminary decommissioning plans and financial guarantees are in place for nuclear facilities to ensure that decommissioning commitments and obligations are met by the licensee, including those relating to the protection of the aquatic environment. In addition, Denison has committed to incorporating or addressing Indigenous concerns into their decommissioning plans as the plans are developed.</p> <p>CNSC staff are satisfied that Denison's proposed project, including its various safety features and components, meet</p> |  |
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|       |   |                    | regulatory requirements and that Denison will have efficient mitigation and prevention measures in place to protect the environment. If a licence were to be issued, CNSC staff would also ensure compliance of the facility against all relevant regulatory requirements through various compliance activities, including regular inspections and desktop reviews. CNSC staff remain committed to engaging and collaborating with MN-S on follow-up and monitoring activities on this topic and other topics of concern, should this Project be approved. |   |
| MNS02 | <p><b>Cumulative effects and past environmental impacts</b></p> <p>MN-S feels the cumulative effects assessment does not account for past environmental and social impacts that persist today, and that it is not sufficient to capture all impacts, such</p> | Cumulative Effects | <p>The CNSC recognizes the importance of assessing cumulative effects for proposed projects, particularly in the context of historical and ongoing impacts on Indigenous Nations and communities.</p> <p>Denison has included a cumulative effects</p>   | The MN-S does not deem this issue to be resolved as the MN-S maintains that cumulative effects have not been appropriately considered and remain concerned that the Métis exercise of traditional activities and Aboriginal rights will be adversely impacted due |

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|  | <p>as to woodland caribou, and to consider Métis perspectives.</p> |  | <p>assessment within their final Environmental Impact Statement that considers impacts on numerous valued components, including on ecosystems and Indigenous land and resource use. Denison considered whether residual adverse effects of the proposed project on a given valued component might overlap spatially or temporally with effects resulting from other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable projects or activities.</p> <p>CNSC staff are satisfied with how Denison addressed cumulative effects within their Environmental Impact Statement as per the requirements of CEAA 2012, consistent with <a href="#"><i>Assessing Cumulative Environmental Effects under the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012</i></a> [17]. CNSC staff expect Denison to continue</p> | <p>to impacts arising from cumulative effects.</p> <p>CNSC is committed to working with MN-S and Denison, as appropriate, to continue to engage and find solutions to address any outstanding concerns in advance of the Part 2 Commission hearing.</p> |
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|       |  |  | engaging with MN-S on these concerns if the project is approved.   |  |
| MNS03 | <p><b>Indigenous participation and trust</b></p> <p>MN-S has emphasized the need for MN-S involvement in monitoring programs and want Métis members to be trained to sample, analyze, and understand environmental data. MN-S has also flagged indicated that they want their input on mitigation plans to be incorporated, and Métis to be involved throughout the lifespan on the Project, including through to closure. The MN-S has emphasized that monitoring alone cannot address project impacts.</p> | Indigenous consultation/environmental monitoring | <p>The CNSC is committed to ensuring that Indigenous communities, including MN-S, are meaningfully involved in environmental oversight for the proposed project if it is approved.</p> <p>CNSC staff have determined that Denison has demonstrated a commitment to working with identified Indigenous Nations and communities throughout the life of the project, including establishing working relationships and developing engagement work plans. Denison has since funded and integrated a Métis Knowledge Study into their final Environmental Impact Statement. Denison has also committed to sharing information on environmental monitoring plans with identified Indigenous Nations and</p> | <p>The MN-S does not deem this issue to be resolved as MN-S seeks firm, enforceable commitments, from Denison, the CNSC, or both, to ensure that it can be an active participant in the monitoring process and can ensure appropriate measures are taken to address any adverse effects of the Project identified through monitoring.</p> <p>CNSC is committed to working with MN-S and Denison, as appropriate, to continue to engage and find solutions to address any outstanding concerns in advance of the Part 2 Commission hearing.</p> |

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|  |  |  | <p>communities as they develop, including the MN-S with respect to decommissioning planning, mitigation, and monitoring.</p> <p>The CNSC ensures that all environmental assessment and licensing decision uphold the honour of the Crown and uphold Indigenous peoples' potential or established Indigenous and/or Treaty Rights, pursuant to Section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982. If the proposed project is accepted, CNSC staff will ensure Denison is meeting their commitments through an environmental assessment follow-up and monitoring program. Denison will also have to meet the requirements in their licence conditions handbook throughout the applicable licensing phase and report to the CNSC on their engagement activities. CNSC staff remain committed to engaging and collaborating</p> |  |
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|       |  |   | with MN-S on follow-up and monitoring activities on this topic and other topics of concern, should this Project be approved.  |   |
| MNS04 | <p><b>Engagement and traditional land use</b></p> <p>MN-S has expressed dissatisfaction with Denison's engagement, citing misleading logs, lack of outreach, Denison's failure to meet created expectations, and insufficient consultation on project activities. MN-S has indicated they feel excluded from regulatory discussions and have concerns about Denison's communication with municipalities instead of MN-S.</p> <p>MN-S is concerned about the lack of engagement regarding potential impacts on Métis traditional use activities and cultural practices. MN-S feel their perspectives, including the concerns of NR1 and NR3</p> | Indigenous consultation/traditional practices/Indigenous Rights | <p>Denison is required to report on its Indigenous engagement activities and has committed to continued engagement with MN-S at their direction, inclusive of engagement in NR1 and NR3. In addition, Denison has funded and integrated a Métis Knowledge Study into their final Environmental Impact Statement, to ensure Métis knowledge, values, and perspectives are considered throughout the process. Denison has also revised their final Environmental Impact Statement to reflect that the project is being proposed within the MN-S Homeland.</p> <p>CNSC staff will ensure Denison is meeting their commitments through an environmental assessment follow-up and monitoring</p> | <p>The MN-S does not deem this issue to be resolved as the MN-S maintains that engagement to-date has not been consistent with a consent-based approach, and that the preliminary Denison-MN-S consent-based discussions that commenced in early 2025 were slow to advance and should be provided with a meaningful opportunity to occur before the Project is assessed.</p> <p>CNSC is committed to working with MN-S and Denison, as appropriate, to continue to engage and find solutions to address any outstanding concerns in advance of the Part 2 Commission hearing.</p> |



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|       | communities, have been overlooked.  |                               | program. Denison will also have to meet the requirements in their licence conditions handbook throughout the applicable licensing phase and report to the CNSC on their engagement activities. CNSC staff are proposing a Project-specific license condition requiring Denison to report progress on Indigenous engagement and implementation of commitments to Nations, including MN-S, annually. |   |
| MNS05 | <p><b>Economic opportunities</b></p> <p>MN-S is concerned over the lack of concrete economic benefits for Métis communities, limited training opportunities, and insufficient support for Métis people to participate in the workforce.</p> <p>MN-S also raises a concern regarding (i) the loss of the value of the economic resource from the Métis title claim if the Métis title claim is recognized and (ii)</p> | Socio-economic considerations | The CNSC acknowledges MN-S's concerns about economic inclusion and is satisfied that Denison's commitments address these concerns. Denison has developed a human resource development plan which prioritizes Indigenous Nations and communities for employment and training, and their procurement strategy emphasizes local Métis businesses.   | <p>The MN-S does not deem this issue to be resolved as MN-S deems the Aboriginal title claim as central to the Métis effort to strengthen the Métis Nation and advance self-government and institutional sovereignty.</p> <p>CNSC is committed to working with MN-S and Denison, as appropriate, to continue to engage and find solutions to address any outstanding concerns</p> |

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|  | <p>the loss of the socio-economic opportunities which would be available if the project were to be developed under Métis control if the Métis title claim is recognized.</p> |  | <p>Although CNSC staff cannot speak directly to economic benefit agreements between proponents and Indigenous Nations and communities, CNSC staff encourage MN-S to continue working with Denison to address concerns relating to potential socio-economic impacts and opportunities for MN-S. CNSC staff will continue to monitor Denison's Indigenous engagement to ensure Denison remains responsive and continues to consider and address concerns raised, to the extent possible.</p> <p>In regard to MN-S' concern on the Métis title claim, CNSC are looking into the title claim to understand how and if it may impact this project. CNSC will continue review information as it is released and encourage MN-S to continue to share any information with CNSC on</p> | <p>in advance of the Part 2 Commission hearing.</p> |
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|       |  |              | the Métis title claim. CNSC staff remain committed to engaging and collaborating with MN-S on follow-up and monitoring activities on this topic and other topics of concern, should this Project be approved.   |  |
| MNS06 | <p><b>Community health and well-being</b></p> <p>MN-S has expressed concerns over potential impacts on community cohesion and health services.</p> | Human health | <p>The CNSC recognizes the importance of community health and wellbeing.</p> <p>Denison's Human Resource Development Plan includes provisions for community-level engagement and support, and the CNSC expects Denison to continue working with MN-S to identify and address health and well-being concerns throughout the facility lifecycle.</p> <p>If the proposed project is accepted, Denison has committed to including country foods (e.g. blueberries, fish, etc.) in their environmental monitoring program and will be developing a country food monitoring</p> | <p>The MN-S does not deem this issue to be resolved as the MN-S remains concerned about activities which result in impacts to communities from illicit substances and transient populations often associated with resource extraction industries. In addition, the MN-S remains concerned that the development of the Aboriginal title claim area will discourage Métis land use in the vicinity of the Project now and in the future.</p> <p>CNSC is committed to working with MN-S and Denison, as appropriate, to continue to engage and find solutions to address any outstanding concerns</p> |

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|       |  |                                    | document to support their licence to operate. Denison will also have to meet the requirements in their licence conditions handbook throughout the applicable licensing phase and report to the CNSC on their engagement activities. CNSC staff are committed to building a meaningful and trusting relationship with MN-S, collaborating with the Nation to address the Nation's issues and concerns. This means engaging and working with MN-S on monitoring, oversight, reporting, and follow-up activities throughout the Project's full lifecycle. | in advance of the Part 2 Commission hearing.  |
| MNS07 | <b>Waste management and long-term impacts</b><br><br>MN-S has expressed concerns about waste disposal methods, hazardous waste storage, and long-term reclamation, fearing contamination and potential abandonment | Waste management/long-term impacts | As the sole nuclear regulator in Canada, the CNSC is committed to upholding the highest standards of environmental protection and safety for all nuclear facilities across the country. The CNSC regulates nuclear facilities throughout entire facility   | The MN-S does not deem this issue to be resolved as the The MN-S does not deem this issue to be resolved as the MN-S requests the CNSC to address the MN-S's concerns regarding its Aboriginal title claim, including the loss of |

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|  | <p>without proper remediation. Additionally, post-decommissioning impacts on animal populations and the ability to harvest for traditional, subsistence, family subsistence, community support, ceremonial, and commercial purposes, including through stigma and avoidance, are also a concern for MN-S.</p> |  | <p>lifecycles and CNSC staff perform various compliance activities to ensure the facilities are operating in a way that is safe for the environment and human health. CNSC staff are committed to building a meaningful and trusting relationship with MN-S, collaborating with the Nation to address the Nation's issues and concerns. This means engaging and working with MN-S on monitoring, oversight, reporting, and follow-up activities throughout the Project's full lifecycle.</p> <p>The CNSC requires that both preliminary decommissioning plans and financial guarantees are in place for nuclear facilities to ensure that decommissioning and waste management commitments and obligations are met by the licensee, including the safe handling and storage of all radioactive materials. In addition, Denison has</p> | <p>socio-economic potential, the potential for alienation from these significant lands through loss of land use knowledge transfers and through stigma, and the potential extinguishment of any Métis exercise of traditional activities and Aboriginal rights.</p> <p>CNSC is committed to working with MN-S and Denison, as appropriate, to continue to engage and find solutions to address any outstanding concerns in advance of the Part 2 Commission hearing.</p> |
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|  |  |  | <p>committed to incorporating or addressing Indigenous concerns into their decommissioning plans as the plans are developed.</p> <p>The CNSC ensures that all environmental assessment and licensing decision uphold the honour of the Crown and uphold Indigenous peoples' potential or established Indigenous and/or Treaty Rights, pursuant to Section 35 of the <i>Constitution Act, 1982</i>. If the proposed project is accepted, CNSC staff will ensure Denison is meeting their commitments through an environmental assessment follow-up and monitoring program. Denison will also have to meet the requirements in their licence conditions handbook throughout the applicable licensing phase. CNSC staff remain committed to engaging and collaborating with MN-S on follow-up and monitoring activities on this topic and</p> |  |
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|       |  |                         | other topics of concern, should this Project be approved.  |   |
| MNS08 | <p><b>Indigenous Consultation and FPIC Process</b></p> <p>MN-S is concerned that no specific efforts have been made by CNSC and Denison to consider MN-S' position through the lens of Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) and to provide a process that is consistent with seeking Métis FPIC.</p> | Indigenous consultation | <p>CNSC staff acknowledge the issues and concerns that MN-S has raised to date related to the Project. CNSC staff have worked to understand, assess and address the concerns to the greatest extent possible through consultation, having focused discussions, providing detailed responses, reflecting MN-S' views in CNSC's documentation, communicating MN-S's concerns to Denison and discussing the Project at regular scheduled meetings with MN-S to better understand their concerns and identify commitments, mitigations and a path forward to addressing the concerns. CNSC staff's view is that the approach to consultation conducted for the Project has been in line with best practises and is flexible based on the specific needs and requests</p> | <p>The MN-S does not deem this issue to be resolved as the MN-S submits that the MN-S has not been afforded a consent-based process.</p> <p>CNSC is committed to working with MN-S and Denison, as appropriate, to continue to engage and find solutions to address any outstanding concerns in advance of the Part 2 Commission hearing.</p> |

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|  |  |  | <p>of each potentially impacted Indigenous Nation and community, including MN-S. CNSC will continue to monitor Denison's commitments to MN-S and engagement through the lifecycle of the Project, if approved and ensure that Denison is addressing MN-S' questions, concerns and requests, as per REGDOC: 3.2.2 <i>Indigenous Engagement</i>.</p> <p>CNSC staff are committed to working with MN-S through the RIA process and further consultation on the Project to identify additional commitments, mitigations and a path forward to addressing the concerns related to the Project, as appropriate in order to work towards consensus on the key issues and the Project.</p> <p>CNSC staff encourage MN-S to share information with CNSC on understanding</p> |  |
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|  |  |  | <p>their FPIC process and position on the Project. CNSC staff will continue to work with MN-S regarding their FPIC process and efforts to work towards seeking their consent for the Project. CNSC staff are proposing a Project-specific license condition requiring Denison to report progress on Indigenous engagement and implementation of commitments to Nations, including MN-S, annually.</p> |  |
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**From:** [Boser, Sydney](#)  
**To:** [Brent Laroque](#)  
**Cc:** [McKeown, Justin](#); [Froess, Ryan](#); [Hilary Peterson](#); [Marc Wang](#); [David Devos](#); [Levine, Adam](#);  
**Subject:** RE: CNSC & MN-S Documents for Review - Denison Wheeler River: Consultation Report and EERRs  
**Attachments:** [MN-S Disposition Table on Outstanding Concerns - August 2025.docx](#)  
**Sent:** 2025-08-28 2:49:00 PM

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Good afternoon Brent,

Hope you are doing well and enjoying your summer. As mentioned in the email below, CNSC staff have been working on a disposition table that responds to key issues, concerns and requests from both the letters and our June 19<sup>th</sup> meeting. Please see attached the disposition table for your review. CNSC staff would also like to request a meeting with MN-S on the Denison project to follow up from our June meeting to discuss the actions and next steps. We are available at the following dates for a virtual meeting:

- Thursday September 4<sup>th</sup> 9:30am-10:30am
- Tuesday September 9<sup>th</sup> 11am-12pm or 2pm-3pm
- Wednesday September 10<sup>th</sup> 9am-10am
- Friday September 19<sup>th</sup> 11am-12pm or 1pm-2pm

Please let me know if any of these dates work for MN-S and I can send out an invite. Hope you have a great long weekend!

Cheers,

Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)  
Phone Number: 343-596-9556

Agente principale en politiques, Division de la consultation et de la mobilisation des Autochtones  
Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)

*I acknowledge that the land on which I live and work is the traditional Treaty 6 Territory and Homeland of the Métis*

Je reconnais que les terres sur lesquelles je vis et travaille sont le territoire traditionnel du Traité no 6 et la patrie des Métis

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**From:** Boser, Sydney

**Sent:** July 11, 2025 3:01 PM

**To:** Brent Laroque <blaroque@mns.ca>

**Cc:** McKeown, Justin <justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca>; Way, Jessica <jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca>; Hilary Peterson <hpeterson@mns.ca>; Marc Wang <mwang@mns.ca>; David Devos <ddevos@mns.ca>

**Subject:** RE: CNSC & MN-S Documents for Review - Denison Wheeler River: Consultation Report and EERRs

Good afternoon Brent,

Apologies on the late responses here as I was away on holidays last week. As for the last sentence, instead of being deleted CNSC has changed the wording to the following: "CNSC staff will also continue to work with MN-S to understand and support their FPIC process and engage in efforts to work towards seeking their consent for the Project, where possible."

When we met on June 19<sup>th</sup>, CNSC indicated an openness to engage with the locals/regions identified and to continue to work with MN-S on your approach to seeking consent on the Project. CNSC also indicated we wanted to hear about how best to approach that type of engagement and how MN-S would like to coordinate that with us and Denison as appropriate. Once we hear back from you on an appropriate approach, CNSC is happy to work with MN-S on that. As for the March 31<sup>st</sup> letter, CNSC did provide a response back to Hilary on April 17<sup>th</sup> which lead to our meetings on May 26<sup>th</sup> and June 19<sup>th</sup>. In that letter CNSC states that we will provide a follow up letter to confirm what was discussed and proposed next steps including a disposition table that responds to key issues, concerns and requests. We are currently working on this and will share back with MN-S when ready. In the meantime, we have also shared the issues tracking table for your review for concerns raised throughout the consultation and engagement process for the Project which is due on July 23<sup>rd</sup>.

We look forward to hearing from you on the following items.

Best,

Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)  
Phone Number: 343-596-9556

Agente principale en politiques, Division de la consultation et de la mobilisation des Autochtones  
Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)

*I acknowledge that the land on which I live and work is the traditional Treaty 6 Territory and Homeland of the Métis*

Je reconnais que les terres sur lesquelles je vis et travaille sont le territoire traditionnel du Traité no 6 et la patrie des Métis

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**From:** Brent Laroque <[blaroque@mns.ca](mailto:blaroque@mns.ca)>

**Sent:** June 27, 2025 4:18 PM

**To:** Boser, Sydney <[sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>

**Cc:** McKeown, Justin <[justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Hilary Peterson <[hpeterson@mns.ca](mailto:hpeterson@mns.ca)>; Marc Wang <[mwang@mns.ca](mailto:mwang@mns.ca)>; David Devos <[ddevos@mns.ca](mailto:ddevos@mns.ca)>

**Subject:** RE: CNSC & MN-S Documents for Review - Denison Wheeler River: Consultation Report and EERRs

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| EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES<br>PREUVE DE PRUDENCE |
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Good afternoon Sydney,

Thank you for passing these revisions back to us, they look consistent with our modifications, with one exception. We would prefer this last sentence be deleted. CNSC staff will also continue to work with MN-S regarding their FPIC process and efforts to work towards seeking their consent for the Project.

The MN-S has never had the opportunity or resources for a true for consent-based process. Our engagement with Denison to date has been conducted under the pressure of hard bargaining tactics, including Denison's shifting position of whether it would participate in consent-focused discussions with the MN-S over a number of years, as we have well documented, and a lack of sufficient resources to meaningfully engage with the 13 Locals, collect important data regarding Métis attitudes towards the Cluff Lake mine site, and advance a robust traditional knowledge inventory, which we have requested from Denison, Saskatchewan and the CNSC (we appreciate the direction to the Stream 1 capacity funding but this alone is insufficient). In our letter of March 31, 2025, we outlined a process to lay the foundation of a subsequent consent-based discussion. As detailed in that letter, that process would require meaningfully engaging with the 13 Locals and NR1 and NR3 to determine how they want to be engaged, and likely the engagement of experts, elders, youth and translators, workshops with community, trips to the lands around the Project site, and other activities. We have yet to receive a response from CNSC regarding the suggested process in our March 31, 2025 letter, and it is unclear to us whether CNSC has given our request any consideration. In this context, while we invite an opportunity to work with CNSC to secure the consent of the Métis community for the Wheeler River Project, including through meaningful and robust engagement with and within our Locals,

we believe it is inaccurate to state that CNSC staff will “continue ... efforts to work towards seeking” Métis consent.

**Brent Laroque**

Director of Environment

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**From:** Boser, Sydney <[sydney.boser@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnsccsn.gc.ca)>

**Sent:** Thursday, June 5, 2025 3:42 PM

**To:** Brent Laroque <[blaroque@mns.ca](mailto:blaroque@mns.ca)>

**Cc:** McKeown, Justin <[justin.mckeown@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnsccsn.gc.ca)>; Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnsccsn.gc.ca)>; Hilary Peterson <[hpeterson@mns.ca](mailto:hpeterson@mns.ca)>; Marc Wang <[mwang@mns.ca](mailto:mwang@mns.ca)>

**Subject:** RE: CNSC & MN-S Documents for Review - Denison Wheeler River: Consultation Report and EERRs

Good afternoon Brent,

Thank you for providing CNSC with your edits on the Consultation and EA report sections. To note, for the EA report all edits were accepted. For the Consultation report, please see attached the updated section where CNSC integrated the information where possible and created a views expressed section to incorporate your edits. CNSC is committed to working with MN-S on understanding and addressing the concerns and questions raised and we also encourage MN-S to share your comments and concerns to the Commission during the Part-2 hearing.

As for your comment in the documentation regarding when the WWH report was sent to MN-S for review- the report was sent to MN-S on July 26<sup>th</sup> 2024 and then it was discussed again at our meeting on August 9<sup>th</sup> 2024 – see attached the original email where it was sent and the notes from the August 9<sup>th</sup> meeting. As part of the discussion in the August 9<sup>th</sup> meeting, CNSC requested feedback from MN-S on the WWH report which is indicated as an action in the meeting summary notes. Although we have not received specific feedback from MN-S to date, we remain open to any comments or feedback MN-S may have.

I have also attached the Stream 1 capacity funding application for MN-S interest as it was mentioned at our meeting on May 26<sup>th</sup>. The deadline for this application is June 27<sup>th</sup> and CNSC would be happy to work with MN-S on scoping your application regarding fear/avoidance, monitoring and attitudes around nuclear facilities as it relates to the Wheeler River project.

Thank you,

Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnsccsn.gc.ca)  
Phone Number: 343-596-9556

Agente principale en politiques, Division de la consultation et de la mobilisation des Autochtones

Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire

Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)

*I acknowledge that the land on which I live and work is the traditional Treaty 6 Territory and Homeland of the Métis*

Je reconnais que les terres sur lesquelles je vis et travaille sont le territoire traditionnel du Traité no 6 et la patrie des Métis

---

**From:** Boser, Sydney

**Sent:** May 30, 2025 1:05 PM

**To:** Brent Laroque <[blaroque@mns.ca](mailto:blaroque@mns.ca)>

**Cc:** McKeown, Justin <[justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Hilary Peterson <[hpeterson@mns.ca](mailto:hpeterson@mns.ca)>; Marc Wang <[mwang@mns.ca](mailto:mwang@mns.ca)>

**Subject:** RE: CNSC & MN-S Documents for Review - Denison Wheeler River: Consultation Report and EERRs

Thank you Brent for submitting MN-S' review of the documentation. I am confirming receipt and CNSC will be reviewing the communication.

Best,

Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division

Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission

Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)

Phone Number: 343-596-9556

Agente principale en politiques, Division de la consultation et de la mobilisation des Autochtones

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---

**From:** Brent Laroque <[blaroque@mns.ca](mailto:blaroque@mns.ca)>

**Sent:** May 29, 2025 5:00 PM

**To:** Boser, Sydney <[sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>

**Cc:** McKeown, Justin <[justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Hilary Peterson <[hpeterson@mns.ca](mailto:hpeterson@mns.ca)>; Marc Wang <[mwang@mns.ca](mailto:mwang@mns.ca)>

**Subject:** RE: CNSC & MN-S Documents for Review - Denison Wheeler River: Consultation Report and EERRs

EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES  
PREUVE DE PRUDENCE

Hello Sydney,

Thank you for this email and for the reminder and extension at our meeting. Please see attached our suggested revisions to ensure the documents are accurate. Where the source of the information in the revision may not be immediately obvious, we have indicated at least one source in a footnote – these citations are in no way reflective of all sources of such information in the record. We have also added context and comments in footnotes.

**Brent Laroque**  
Director of Environment

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**From:** Boser, Sydney <[sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 26, 2025 2:59 PM  
**To:** Brent Laroque <[blaroque@mns.ca](mailto:blaroque@mns.ca)>  
**Cc:** McKeown, Justin <[justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Subject:** RE: CNSC & MN-S Documents for Review - Denison Wheeler River: Consultation Report and EERRs

Sounds good thanks Brent!

Sydney

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**From:** Brent Laroque <[blaroque@mns.ca](mailto:blaroque@mns.ca)>  
**Sent:** May 26, 2025 2:47 PM  
**To:** Boser, Sydney <[sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Cc:** McKeown, Justin <[justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Subject:** RE: CNSC & MN-S Documents for Review - Denison Wheeler River: Consultation Report and EERRs

EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES  
PREUVE DE PRUDENCE

Hey Syd, apologies I missed this. I can have feedback to you by EOD on Thursday if that could work.

**Brent Laroque**  
Director of Environment

---

**From:** Boser, Sydney <[sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 26, 2025 2:46 PM  
**To:** Brent Laroque <[blaroque@mns.ca](mailto:blaroque@mns.ca)>  
**Cc:** McKeown, Justin <[justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Subject:** FW: CNSC & MN-S Documents for Review - Denison Wheeler River: Consultation Report and EERRs

Hi Brent,

Please see attached the Consultation and EA report content for MN-S review of accuracy. The deadline has passed as it was May 23<sup>rd</sup> but we can give you an extension till Thursday May 29th to provide input but if CNSC does not receive comments by that date, we will need to move forward without MN-S' input.

Thanks,

Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)  
Phone Number: 343-596-9556

Agente principale en politiques, Division de la consultation et de la mobilisation des Autochtones  
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---

**From:** Boser, Sydney  
**Sent:** April 30, 2025 3:51 PM  
**To:** Brent Laroque <[blaroque@mns.ca](mailto:blaroque@mns.ca)>  
**Cc:** Andrew Spriggs <[aspriggs@mns.ca](mailto:aspriggs@mns.ca)>; Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; McKeown, Justin <[justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Subject:** CNSC & MN-S Documents for Review - Denison Wheeler River: Consultation Report and EERRs

Good afternoon Brent,

I am writing to provide you with sections of the Consultation and Environmental Assessment Reports. These documents are CNSC staff submissions that will be included in the CNSC Commission Member Document that will be presented to the Commission for the Denison Wheeler River Project hearings. There are two documents attached to this email which contain the following information:



1. Section 4.4 of the Consultation Report which outlines our consultation activities with MN-S related to the Wheeler River project. The Report contains background information on MN-S, a table with key consultation activities to date, a summary of concerns raised to date, and CNSC staff's response. This information will be publicly accessible, once published.
2. The EA Report content for review includes a "Views Expressed" sections for each topic area. As you will see from the table of contents included in the first part of the attachment, the EA report will contain sections for each topic area (ie. Atmospheric, aquatic environment, etc.), each of which will include a description of the environment, the proponents assessment, other views expressed (including how concerns were addressed), CNSC staff's analysis, followed by CNSC staff's conclusions on the significance of effects. The content attached for review includes the Views Expressed section, relevant to issues and concerns raised by MN-S related to each topic area. This information will be included in the EA report, as written and will be publicly accessible, once published.

We are asking you to review both documents for **accuracy** and to provide any comments and suggested edits as necessary. We ask that these documents are returned to us no later than **May 23rd, 2025**. Please note that if we do not receive comments by the deadline then this information will be included without MN-S' feedback. If you have any questions, please reach out to myself or Jes Way or we can set up a meeting to discuss further.

Thanks,  
Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)  
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**Disposition Table: MN-S Concerns Regarding the Wheeler River Project**

| Concern Raised in March Letter and/or on June 19 <sup>th</sup> Meeting   | CNSC Response  | Responsible Parties    | Next Steps   |
|--|--|------------------------|--|
| <p><i>Stigma, contamination, and residual impacts:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Fear and avoidance of the project area</li> <li>-Need more education for the community to understand the process and for the process to be more inclusive of the Métis</li> </ul> | <p>The CNSC is committed to upholding the highest standards of environmental protection and safety for all nuclear facilities across the country. The CNSC regulates nuclear facilities throughout entire facility lifecycles and CNSC staff perform various compliance activities to ensure the facilities are operating in manners that ensure the health and safety for people and the environment. CNSC staff are committed to building a meaningful and trusting relationship with MN-S, collaborating with the Nation, its regions and Citizens, to address the Nation's issues and concerns. This means engaging and working with MN-S on monitoring, oversight, reporting, and follow-up activities throughout the Project's full lifecycle.</p> <p>If the proposed project is accepted, CNSC staff will ensure Denison is meeting their commitments through their environmental assessment follow-up and monitoring program. The CNSC will also oversee that Denison complies with the requirements</p> | <p>MN-S &amp; CNSC</p> | <p>CNSC is open to supporting MN-S in educating the community on nuclear projects and the regulatory process.</p> <p>CNSC is committed to working with MN-S on learning more about radiation and environmental protection and collaborating with MN-S on education, information sharing and engagement with the Metis Regions and Citizens throughout the lifecycle of the Project, if approved.</p> |

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|  | <p>contained in their licence conditions handbook throughout the applicable licensing phases throughout the Project's lifecycle. CNSC staff remain committed to engaging and collaborating with MN-S on follow-up and monitoring activities on this topic and other topics of concern. The CNSC is committed to collaborating with the MN-S on education and information sharing activities, should this Project be approved, to ensure that Métis citizens feel safe when practicing traditional activities near the proposed project site.</p>   |             |  |
| <p><i>Basement rock permeability:</i><br/>           -Concern about integrity of the freeze wall and potential for groundwater contamination<br/>           -Lack of community understanding of technical design</p> | <p>Denison has committed to the implementation of a freeze wall, double-walled piping with leak detection, and a robust groundwater monitoring program to prevent impacts on the groundwater and subsurface environment. In addition, Denison's Groundwater Protection and Monitoring Plan and commitments to remediation provide assurance that environmental protection measures will be put in place if the project is approved. This design includes monitoring of multiple parameters such as pressure and temperature. Data reviewed by CNSC confirms low permeability of basement rock.</p> | MN-S & CNSC | <p>CNSC is open to supporting a community education session(s) that includes visual aids to explain the ISR mining design to MN-S Citizens and allow CNSC experts to explain their assessment of the technical aspects related to basement rock permeability.</p> <p>CNSC is committed to collaborating with MN-S on monitoring and follow-up to ensure the concerns regarding the freeze wall and the potential impacts to groundwater are addressed.</p> |
| <p><i>Losses to Métis title and socio-economic value</i></p>   | <p>CNSC acknowledge the MN-S' interests in the Project area as the lands subject to the 1994 Métis title claim encompass the</p>   | MN-S & CNSC | <p>CNSC will be discussing this further through the Rights</p>   |

|  |  |                            |   |
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| <p>-Concern that the Project will have significant adverse effects on the Métis and specifically the Métis land claim</p>          | <p>proposed Denison Wheeler River mine. CNSC understands the MN-S' position that the MN-S maintains an interest in preserving the lands and waters of the Title Claim area, including the Wheeler River Project area, and seeks the socio-economic benefits from the Title Claim lands as the Métis have never surrendered control.</p> <p>The CNSC is committed to ongoing meaningful consultation and engagement with MN-S to ensure that its rights and interests, to the extent possible, are considered and addressed as part of the regulatory review process, including identifying measures to minimize, mitigate and accommodate potential impacts on rights. CNSC staff remain committed to engaging and collaborating with MN-S on the Rights Impact Assessment to accurately portray the potential impacts to Métis citizens, should the Project be approved, and to continue to work towards consensus on the issues and concerns the MN-S has raised on the Project that fall under the mandate of the CNSC.</p> |                            | <p>Impact Assessment (RIA) process with MN-S.</p>   |
| <p>Effects on Métis harvesting (fishing, caribou, etc.):<br/>-Lack of Métis inclusion in the provincial SK1 range plan process</p> | <p>The CNSC recognizes the importance of assessing cumulative effects for proposed projects, particularly in the context of historical and ongoing impacts on Indigenous Nations and communities.</p>  | <p>MN-S, CNSC, Denison</p> | <p>CNSC staff are working closely with ECCC and have proposed an EA condition for meeting the Federal Recovery Strategy for Woodland Caribou, Boreal Population. This is an important topic that is still</p> |

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| <p>-Called for federal leadership in addressing cumulative effects and caribou recovery</p> <p>-Long-term impacts on commercial and subsistence harvesting</p> | <p>Denison has included a cumulative effects assessment within their final Environmental Impact Statement that considers cumulative and residual impacts on numerous valued components, including on wildlife, terrestrial ecosystems and Indigenous land and resource use. Denison considered whether residual adverse effects of the proposed project on a given valued component might overlap spatially or temporally with effects resulting from other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable projects or activities.</p> <p>CNSC staff are satisfied with Denison's cumulative effects assessment within their Environmental Impact Statement as per the requirements of CEAA 2012, consistent with <a href="#"><u>Assessing Cumulative Environmental Effects under the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012</u></a></p> <p>For caribou, Denison has committed to avoiding disruption of critical habitats to the extent possible and to implementing appropriate mitigation measures, including scheduling certain project activities outside of timeframes that are sensitive periods for wildlife and avoiding wetlands and instituting proper buffers, whenever possible. Denison will also have a Road and Traffic Monitoring Plan and Pre-Clearance Wildlife Monitoring Plan. Denison has also</p> |  | <p>under regular discussion, and CNSC can provide updates to MN-S as these discussions progress and Denison's offsetting and mitigation plans are developed.</p> <p>CNSC is committed to collaborating with MN-S on monitoring and oversight of Denison's commitments and EA/licensing requirements including those in relation to caribou and cumulative effects.</p> |
|--|--|--|--|

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|   | <p>developed the Caribou Management Framework, which highlights additional mitigation (offset) measures specific to potential residual effects on caribou, and the Biodiversity Management Plan (for terrestrial and avian species) to promote the maintenance of biodiversity in the Project area.</p>   |                     |  |
| <p><i>Environmental Monitoring of ongoing impacts:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Emphasized the need for community-led monitoring programs that include integration of Métis knowledge and land users</li> <li>-Ensure there is transparent communication of results</li> </ul> | <p>The CNSC is committed to ensuring that Indigenous communities, including MN-S, are meaningfully involved in environmental oversight for the proposed project if it is approved.</p> <p>CNSC staff have determined that Denison has demonstrated a commitment to working with identified Indigenous Nations and communities throughout the lifecycle of the project, including establishing working relationships and developing engagement work plans. Denison has since funded and integrated a Métis Knowledge Study into their final Environmental Impact Statement to ensure Métis Knowledge was properly represented and considered as part of their environmental assessment. Denison has also committed to sharing information on environmental monitoring plans with identified Indigenous Nations and communities as they develop, including the MN-S, with respect to mitigation, monitoring and decommissioning planning.</p> | MN-S, CNSC, Denison | <p>If the Denison project were to be approved, CNSC would ensure to involve MN-S in the CNSC's Independent Environmental Monitoring Program (IEMP) monitoring activities related to the Wheeler River Project site. This would allow the integration of Métis knowledge into our sampling plans and activities.</p> <p>Denison has also agreed to be a part of the Eastern Athabasca Regional Monitoring Program (EARMP) if the Project is approved, which includes monitoring and sampling activities conducted by Indigenous Nations and communities.</p> <p>CNSC would also be open to having a triparty meeting with</p> |

|  |  |             |  |
|--|--|-------------|--|
|  | <p>If the proposed project is accepted, CNSC staff will ensure Denison is meeting their commitments through their environmental assessment follow-up and monitoring program. The CNSC will also oversee that Denison complies with the requirements in their licence condition handbook throughout the applicable licensing phases and report to the CNSC on their engagement activities. CNSC staff are proposing a Project-specific license condition requiring Denison to report progress on Indigenous engagement and implementation of commitments to Nations, including MN-S, annually. CNSC staff remain committed to engaging and collaborating with MN-S on follow-up and monitoring activities on this topic and other topics of concern, should this Project be approved.</p> |             | Denison to discuss potential monitoring plans and collaboration with MN-S.   |
| <p><i>Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC):</i><br/>           -Concern that FPIC is being treated as a procedural checkbox rather than a substantive process<br/>           -Consent must be built from the ground up with community involvement</p> | <p>CNSC staff acknowledge the issues and concerns that MN-S has raised to date related to the Project. CNSC staff have worked to understand, assess and address the concerns to the greatest extent possible through consultation, having focused discussions, providing detailed responses, reflecting MN-S' views in CNSC's documentation, communicating MN-S's concerns to Denison and discussing the Project at regular scheduled meetings with MN-S to better understand their concerns and identify commitments, mitigations and</p>   | MN-S & CNSC | <p>CNSC has been consulting and engaging directly with MN-S since 2019 on this Project and has been working within MN-S' governing structure. CNSC is currently waiting to hear back from MN-S on the appropriate approach to engaging the identified locals/Regions including a path forward to seeking to obtain MN-S' FPIC for the project.</p> |

|  |   |  |  |
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|  | <p>a path forward and working towards consensus to addressing those concerns.</p> <p>CNSC staff's view is that the approach to consultation conducted for the Project has focused on reaching consensus on issues and concerns, has been in line with best practises, and has been flexible based on the specific needs and requests of each potentially impacted Indigenous Nation and community, including MN-S. CNSC staff are proposing a Project-specific license condition requiring Denison to report progress on Indigenous engagement and implementation of commitments to Nations, including MN-S, annually.</p> <p>CNSC staff are committed to working with MN-S through the RIA process and further consultation on the Project to identify additional commitments, mitigations and a path forward to addressing the concerns related to the Project as appropriate, in order to work towards consensus on the key issues and the Project and seek to obtain MN-S' Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) for the project .</p> <p>CNSC staff encourage MN-S to share information with CNSC on understanding their FPIC process and position on the Project. CNSC staff will continue to work towards consensus with MN-S on the</p> |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|



|   |  |                     |   |
|---|--|---------------------|---|
|   | Project, and support MN-S in communicating its FPIC position with regards to the Project to the Commission to be taken into consideration as part of the decision-making process.  |                     |   |
| <p><i>Indigenous Consultation and Engagement:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Lack of recognition of MN-S as the exclusive representative of Métis rights holders</li> <li>-Denison's engagement tactics perceived as divisive and undermining MN-S governance</li> <li>-The need for CNSC to respect MN-S governance and not engage directly with the locals without involving MN-S</li> </ul> | <p>Denison is required to report on its Indigenous engagement activities and has committed to continued engagement with MN-S at their direction, inclusive of engagement in NR1 and NR3. In addition, Denison has funded and integrated a Métis Knowledge Study into their final Environmental Impact Statement, to ensure Métis knowledge, values, and perspectives are considered throughout the process. Denison has also revised their final Environmental Impact Statement to reflect that the project is being proposed within the MN-S Homeland.</p> <p>CNSC staff will ensure Denison is meeting their commitments through an environmental assessment follow-up and monitoring program. The CNSC will also oversee that Denison complies with the requirements in their licence condition handbook throughout the applicable licensing phase and report to the CNSC on their engagement activities. CNSC staff are proposing a Project-specific license condition requiring Denison to report progress on Indigenous engagement and</p> | MN-S, CNSC, Denison | <p>CNSC reiterated in the June 19, 2025 meeting that since the beginning of the Project, they have been working directly with MN-S for engagement and consultation purposes aside from KML who have asked to represent themselves. CNSC is still waiting to hear back on the appropriate approach from MN-S' perspective to engagement with identified MN-S locals and regions moving forward.</p> <p>CNSC staff sent MN-S the draft licence condition on Indigenous engagement on Aug 22<sup>nd</sup> and are awaiting comment and feedback.</p> |

|   |  |                     |  |
|---|--|---------------------|--|
|   | <p>implementation of commitments to Nations, including MN-S, annually.</p> <p>CNSC staff has, and will continue to respect and follow MN-S established governance process for consultation and engagement, including ongoing direct engagement with MN-S, the Regions and locals at the direction of the MN-S.</p>   |                     |  |
| <p><i>Water Quality:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Concern on bioaccumulation of selenium in fish and aquatic species</li> <li>-Concern on effluent treatment options for selenium</li> <li>-Lack of trust in modeling and monitoring data</li> </ul> | <p>Selenium levels for the Wheeler River Project are predicted to remain below regulatory thresholds. Monitoring on COPC levels will occur quarterly as part of Denison's environmental monitoring program, with adaptive management requirements built into regulatory framework should risks to the aquatic environment be deemed unacceptable.</p> <p>Denison is determining and finalizing effluent treatment technologies and options for the Project. CNSC is committed to having discussions on best available technology that is economically achievable (BATEA) with MN-S in a tri-party technical meeting.</p> | MN-S, CNSC, Denison | CNSC staff are open to having a triparty technical meeting with Denison to discuss these concerns. |

**From:** [Registry / Greffe \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#)  
**To:** [Brent Laroque](#)  
**Cc:** [Levine, Adam](#); [Boser, Sydney](#); [McKeown, Justin](#); [Durocher, Diane](#); [ddevos@mns.ca](mailto:ddevos@mns.ca); [Registry / Greffe \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#);  
**Subject:** RE: Breakout rooms for Saskatchewan - Denison Mines Corp. Commission Hearing - Week of December 8, 2025  
**Sent:** 2025-09-04 5:45:18 AM

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Good day,

Further to my previous email, we would like to inform you that the Canadian room is no longer available. Additionally, due to high demand for room rentals in December, any unreserved breakout rooms will be released after September 12, 2025. If you wish to secure a breakout room, please ensure your reservation is made before that date.

Best regards,

**Annik Tanguay**  
(she/her/elle)

Senior Tribunal Officer, Commission Registry  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
[registry-greffe@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:registry-greffe@cnscccsn.gc.ca) Tel : 613 462-7489

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*Please respond to this email in the official language of your choice | Veuillez répondre à ce courriel dans la langue officielle de votre choix.*

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**From:** Registry / Greffe (CNSC/CCSN) <[registry-greffe@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:registry-greffe@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 27, 2025 9:42 AM  
**To:** Brent Laroque <[blaroque@mns.ca](mailto:blaroque@mns.ca)>  
**Cc:** Registry / Greffe (CNSC/CCSN) <[registry-greffe@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:registry-greffe@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Levine, Adam <[adam.levine@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:adam.levine@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Boser, Sydney <[sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; McKeown, Justin <[justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Durocher, Diane <[diane.durocher@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:diane.durocher@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; [ddevos@mns.ca](mailto:ddevos@mns.ca)  
**Subject:** Breakout rooms for Saskatchewan - Denison Mines Corp. Commission Hearing - Week of December 8, 2025

Good day,

We're writing to let you know that the Commission Registry has procured the Sheraton Cavalier Hotel for the Commission's Public Hearing for the proposed Denison Wheeler River Project scheduled to take place in Saskatoon during the week of December 8, 2025.

I am reaching out as I was able to reserve **3 breakout rooms** which I am offering to Indigenous Nations intervening in the proceeding. The Hotel Event Manager has informed us that other people are interested in booking these rooms for other events, so you're encouraged to contact the venue **as soon as possible** should you wish to have a breakout room available to you and your Nation. These rooms will be booked **on a first-come, first-served** basis. The Event Manager's contact information is as follows:

**Gurpreet Singh**

Event Manager

Direct: 306-667-0179

Office: 306-652-6791 ext. 3356

Sheraton Cavalier Saskatoon Hotel

612 Spadina Crescent East

Saskatoon, SK, S7K 3G9

Marriott.com/YXESI

[gurpreets@sheratonsaskatoon.com](mailto:gurpreets@sheratonsaskatoon.com)

The potentially available breakout rooms are:

- Canadian Room
- Cavalier Room
- Boardroom
- Starlight Room

You may wish to tell the Event Manager that the official dates of the proceeding will be confirmed towards the end of October 2025, and based on your planned attendance, you may wish to inform the Event Manager the number of anticipated days you may need to the room for. By providing this information you can explore if your contract includes the necessary flexibility to revise the dates without penalty, as the proceeding may not last the full week.

Should you wish to reserve a room, the contract and payment of the room will be the responsibility of your Nation. Note that PFP funds provided to support your Nation's participation in the Commission Hearing may be used to cover the costs of a breakout room. Additionally, please note that all catering requests must go through the hotel's caterer.

Should you have any questions or need further clarification, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Best regards,

**Annik Tanguay**

(she/her/elle)

Senior Tribunal Officer, Commission Registry  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
[registry-greffe@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:registry-greffe@cnsccsn.gc.ca) Tel : 613 462-7489

Agente principale du tribunal, Greffe de la Commission  
Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
[registry-greffe@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:registry-greffe@cnsccsn.gc.ca) Tel : 613 462-7489

*Please respond to this email in the official language of your choice | Veuillez répondre à ce courriel dans la langue officielle de votre choix.*

**From:** [Hunter, Hilary](#)  
**To:** [David Devos](#); [Brent Laroque](#); [Hilary Peterson](#);  
**Cc:** [dtc@mns.ca](mailto:dtc@mns.ca); [Boser, Sydney](#); [McKeown, Justin](#); [Levine, Adam](#);  
**Subject:** Correspondence received on the Denison Wheeler River and NexGen Rook I projects  
**Attachments:** [NEXGEN ROOK 1 - Sakitawak Metis.docx](#); [DENISON - Wheeler.docx](#);  
**Sent:** 2025-09-11 12:11:37 PM

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**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

Good afternoon Brent, David, and Hilary,

Our team were just made aware of two letters received in our Interventions mailbox on September 10, 2025 from Sakitawak A la Baie Métis for both the Denison Wheeler River and NexGen Rook I projects.

We would like to set up a Teams meeting to discuss with MN-S. This will ensure that we are following the appropriate protocols for both Sakitawak A la Baie Métis and MN-S, as in our previous meeting we noted we would make you aware of any locals or regions reaching out directly to us. A meeting will help us better understand the situation and how MN-S and Sakitawak A la Baie Métis Local 21 will move forward on both the Denison and NexGen projects.

Please let us know when you would be available to discuss.

Thank you,

Hilary

Hilary Hunter (she/her)  
Senior Advisor, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission | Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
[hilary.hunter@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:hilary.hunter@cnsccsn.gc.ca) | (306)501-5300

*I acknowledge that the land on which I live and work is the traditional Treaty 4 Territory and Homeland of the Métis*

Good morning.

I write to advise that the Sakitawak A la Baie Metis intend to participate in the Wheeler River mine and mill project (Ref.2025-H-09-Revision 1 August 19, 2025) hearings given the mine site is intended to be situate on our traditional territory. We are s. 35 rights holders recognized by the Courts.

We have only recently learned of the details of this project, and we will be submitting our documentation shortly. We will be in communication soon. We intend on fostering a strong relationship with the proponent.

We will be requesting that any hearing take place in Saskatchewan so that our community can participate in this dialogue in person.

As we are new to this process, we are also requesting instruction from your officials on how to navigate this CNSC process. As such we request a meeting to discuss CNSC processes as it relates to the participation of Indigenous peoples as rights holders.

We have also apparently missed the funding deadline. We wish to apply and seek consideration of our funding application.

We look forward to working with you.

Thank you very much.

Louis Gardiner, President  
A La Baie Metis Local 21  
Box 158  
Ile a la Crosse, SK  
S0M 1C0

**From:** [Boser, Sydney](#)  
**To:** [Brent Laroque](#)  
**Cc:** [McKeown, Justin](#); [Froess, Ryan](#); [Hilary Peterson](#); [Marc Wang](#); [David Devos](#); [Levine, Adam](#); [Way, Jessica](#);  
**Subject:** RE: CNSC & MN-S Documents for Review - Denison Wheeler River: Consultation Report and EERRs  
**Sent:** 2025-09-12 1:07:00 PM

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Thanks Brent. I just sent an invite for the afternoon of September 19<sup>th</sup> – see you then!

Sydney

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**From:** Brent Laroque <blaroque@mns.ca>  
**Sent:** September 11, 2025 3:05 PM  
**To:** Boser, Sydney <sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca>  
**Cc:** McKeown, Justin <justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca>; Froess, Ryan <ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca>; Hilary Peterson <hpeterson@mns.ca>; Marc Wang <mwang@mns.ca>; David Devos <ddevos@mns.ca>; Levine, Adam <Adam.Levine@cnscccsn.gc.ca>  
**Subject:** RE: CNSC & MN-S Documents for Review - Denison Wheeler River: Consultation Report and EERRs

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|--|
| EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES<br>PREUVE DE PRUDENCE |
|--|

Apologies for the delay in responding Syd. Would the 19<sup>th</sup> still be available? Say afternoon?

**Brent Laroque**  
Director of Environment

---

**From:** Boser, Sydney <[sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 28, 2025 2:50 PM  
**To:** Brent Laroque <[blaroque@mns.ca](mailto:blaroque@mns.ca)>  
**Cc:** McKeown, Justin <[justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Froess, Ryan <[ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Hilary Peterson <[hpeterson@mns.ca](mailto:hpeterson@mns.ca)>; Marc Wang <[mwang@mns.ca](mailto:mwang@mns.ca)>; David Devos <[ddevos@mns.ca](mailto:ddevos@mns.ca)>; Levine, Adam <[Adam.Levine@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:Adam.Levine@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Subject:** RE: CNSC & MN-S Documents for Review - Denison Wheeler River: Consultation Report and EERRs

Good afternoon Brent,

Hope you are doing well and enjoying your summer. As mentioned in the email below, CNSC staff have been working on a disposition table that responds to key issues,



concerns and requests from both the letters and our June 19<sup>th</sup> meeting. Please see attached the disposition table for your review. CNSC staff would also like to request a meeting with MN-S on the Denison project to follow up from our June meeting to discuss the actions and next steps. We are available at the following dates for a virtual meeting:

- Thursday September 4<sup>th</sup> 9:30am-10:30am
- Tuesday September 9<sup>th</sup> 11am-12pm or 2pm-3pm
- Wednesday September 10<sup>th</sup> 9am-10am
- Friday September 19<sup>th</sup> 11am-12pm or 1pm-2pm

Please let me know if any of these dates work for MN-S and I can send out an invite. Hope you have a great long weekend!

Cheers,

Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnsccsn.gc.ca)  
Phone Number: 343-596-9556

Agente principale en politiques, Division de la consultation et de la mobilisation des Autochtones  
Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnsccsn.gc.ca)

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Je reconnais que les terres sur lesquelles je vis et travaille sont le territoire traditionnel du Traité no 6 et la patrie des Métis

---

**From:** Boser, Sydney  
**Sent:** July 11, 2025 3:01 PM  
**To:** Brent Laroque <[blaroque@mns.ca](mailto:blaroque@mns.ca)>  
**Cc:** McKeown, Justin <[justin.mckeown@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnsccsn.gc.ca)>; Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnsccsn.gc.ca)>; Hilary Peterson <[hpeterson@mns.ca](mailto:hpeterson@mns.ca)>; Marc Wang <[mwang@mns.ca](mailto:mwang@mns.ca)>; David Devos <[ddevos@mns.ca](mailto:ddevos@mns.ca)>  
**Subject:** RE: CNSC & MN-S Documents for Review - Denison Wheeler River: Consultation Report and EERRs

Good afternoon Brent,

Apologies on the late responses here as I was away on holidays last week. As for the last sentence, instead of being deleted CNSC has changed the wording to the following: "CNSC staff will also continue to work with MN-S to understand and support their FPIC process and engage in efforts to work towards seeking their consent for the Project, where possible."

When we met on June 19<sup>th</sup>, CNSC indicated an openness to engage with the locals/regions identified and to continue to work with MN-S on your approach to seeking consent on the Project. CNSC also indicated we wanted to hear about how best to approach that type of engagement and how MN-S would like to coordinate that with us and Denison as appropriate. Once we hear back from you on an appropriate approach, CNSC is happy to work with MN-S on that. As for the March 31<sup>st</sup> letter, CNSC did provide a response back to Hilary on April 17<sup>th</sup> which lead to our meetings on May 26<sup>th</sup> and June 19<sup>th</sup>. In that letter CNSC states that we will provide a follow up letter to confirm what was discussed and proposed next steps including a disposition table that responds to key issues, concerns and requests. We are currently working on this and will share back with MN-S when ready. In the meantime, we have also shared the issues tracking table for your review for concerns raised throughout the consultation and engagement process for the Project which is due on July 23<sup>rd</sup>.

We look forward to hearing from you on the following items.

Best,

Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)  
Phone Number: 343-596-9556

Agente principale en politiques, Division de la consultation et de la mobilisation des Autochtones  
Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)

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---

**From:** Brent Laroque <[blaroque@mns.ca](mailto:blaroque@mns.ca)>

**Sent:** June 27, 2025 4:18 PM

**To:** Boser, Sydney <[sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>

**Cc:** McKeown, Justin <[justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Hilary Peterson <[hpeterson@mns.ca](mailto:hpeterson@mns.ca)>; Marc Wang <[mwang@mns.ca](mailto:mwang@mns.ca)>; David Devos <[ddevos@mns.ca](mailto:ddevos@mns.ca)>

**Subject:** RE: CNSC & MN-S Documents for Review - Denison Wheeler River: Consultation Report and EERRs

EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES  
PREUVE DE PRUDENCE

Good afternoon Sydney,

Thank you for passing these revisions back to us, they look consistent with our modifications, with one exception. We would prefer this last sentence be deleted. CNSC staff will also continue to work with MN-S regarding their FPIC process and efforts to work towards seeking their consent for the Project.

The MN-S has never had the opportunity or resources for a true for consent-based process. Our engagement with Denison to date has been conducted under the pressure of hard bargaining tactics, including Denison's shifting position of whether it would participate in consent-focused discussions with the MN-S over a number of years, as we have well documented, and a lack of sufficient resources to meaningfully engage with the 13 Locals, collect important data regarding Métis attitudes towards the Cluff Lake mine site, and advance a robust traditional knowledge inventory, which we have requested from Denison, Saskatchewan and the CNSC (we appreciate the direction to the Stream 1 capacity funding but this alone is insufficient). In our letter of March 31, 2025, we outlined a process to lay the foundation of a subsequent consent-based discussion. As detailed in that letter, that process would require meaningfully engaging with the 13 Locals and NR1 and NR3 to determine how they want to be engaged, and likely the engagement of experts, elders, youth and translators, workshops with community, trips to the lands around the Project site, and other activities. We have yet to receive a response from CNSC regarding the suggested process in our March 31, 2025 letter, and it is unclear to us whether CNSC has given our request any consideration. In this context, while we invite an opportunity to work with CNSC to secure the consent of the Métis community for the Wheeler River Project, including through meaningful and robust engagement with and within our Locals, we believe it is inaccurate to state that CNSC staff will "continue ... efforts to work towards seeking" Métis consent.

**Brent Laroque**  
Director of Environment

---

**From:** Boser, Sydney <[sydney.boser@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnsccsn.gc.ca)>

**Sent:** Thursday, June 5, 2025 3:42 PM

**To:** Brent Laroque <[blaroque@mns.ca](mailto:blaroque@mns.ca)>

**Cc:** McKeown, Justin <[justin.mckeown@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnsccsn.gc.ca)>; Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnsccsn.gc.ca)>; Hilary Peterson <[hpeterson@mns.ca](mailto:hpeterson@mns.ca)>; Marc Wang <[mwang@mns.ca](mailto:mwang@mns.ca)>

**Subject:** RE: CNSC & MN-S Documents for Review - Denison Wheeler River: Consultation Report and EERRs

Good afternoon Brent,

Thank you for providing CNSC with your edits on the Consultation and EA report sections. To note, for the EA report all edits were accepted. For the Consultation report, please see attached the updated section where CNSC integrated the information where possible and created a views expressed section to incorporate your edits. CNSC is committed to working with MN-S on understanding and addressing the concerns and questions raised and we also encourage MN-S to share your comments and concerns to the Commission during the Part-2 hearing.

As for your comment in the documentation regarding when the WWH report was sent to MN-S for review- the report was sent to MN-S on July 26<sup>th</sup> 2024 and then it was discussed again at our meeting on August 9<sup>th</sup> 2024 – see attached the original email where it was sent and the notes from the August 9<sup>th</sup> meeting. As part of the discussion in the August 9<sup>th</sup> meeting, CNSC requested feedback from MN-S on the WWH report which is indicated as an action in the meeting summary notes. Although we have not received specific feedback from MN-S to date, we remain open to any comments or feedback MN-S may have.

I have also attached the Stream 1 capacity funding application for MN-S interest as it was mentioned at our meeting on May 26<sup>th</sup>. The deadline for this application is June 27<sup>th</sup> and CNSC would be happy to work with MN-S on scoping your application regarding fear/avoidance, monitoring and attitudes around nuclear facilities as it relates to the Wheeler River project.

Thank you,

Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)  
Phone Number: 343-596-9556

Agente principale en politiques, Division de la consultation et de la mobilisation des Autochtones  
Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)

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Je reconnais que les terres sur lesquelles je vis et travaille sont le territoire traditionnel du Traité no 6 et la patrie des Métis

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**From:** Boser, Sydney

**Sent:** May 30, 2025 1:05 PM

**To:** Brent Laroque <[blaroque@mns.ca](mailto:blaroque@mns.ca)>

**Cc:** McKeown, Justin <[justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>

[ccsn.gc.ca](mailto:ccsn.gc.ca)>; Hilary Peterson <[hpeterson@mns.ca](mailto:hpeterson@mns.ca)>; Marc Wang <[mwang@mns.ca](mailto:mwang@mns.ca)>

**Subject:** RE: CNSC & MN-S Documents for Review - Denison Wheeler River: Consultation Report and EERRs

Thank you Brent for submitting MN-S' review of the documentation. I am confirming receipt and CNSC will be reviewing the communication.

Best,

Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)  
Phone Number: 343-596-9556

Agente principale en politiques, Division de la consultation et de la mobilisation des Autochtones  
Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)

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---

**From:** Brent Laroque <[blaroque@mns.ca](mailto:blaroque@mns.ca)>

**Sent:** May 29, 2025 5:00 PM

**To:** Boser, Sydney <[sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>

**Cc:** McKeown, Justin <[justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Hilary Peterson <[hpeterson@mns.ca](mailto:hpeterson@mns.ca)>; Marc Wang <[mwang@mns.ca](mailto:mwang@mns.ca)>

**Subject:** RE: CNSC & MN-S Documents for Review - Denison Wheeler River: Consultation Report and EERRs

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| EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES<br>PREUVE DE PRUDENCE |
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Hello Sydney,

Thank you for this email and for the reminder and extension at our meeting. Please see attached our suggested revisions to ensure the documents are accurate. Where the source of the information in the revision may not be immediately obvious, we have indicated at least one source in a footnote – these citations are in no way reflective of all sources of such information in the record. We have also added context and comments in footnotes.

**Brent Laroque**  
Director of Environment

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**From:** Boser, Sydney <[sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 26, 2025 2:59 PM  
**To:** Brent Laroque <[blaroque@mns.ca](mailto:blaroque@mns.ca)>  
**Cc:** McKeown, Justin <[justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Subject:** RE: CNSC & MN-S Documents for Review - Denison Wheeler River: Consultation Report and EERRs

Sounds good thanks Brent!

Sydney

---

**From:** Brent Laroque <[blaroque@mns.ca](mailto:blaroque@mns.ca)>  
**Sent:** May 26, 2025 2:47 PM  
**To:** Boser, Sydney <[sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Cc:** McKeown, Justin <[justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Subject:** RE: CNSC & MN-S Documents for Review - Denison Wheeler River: Consultation Report and EERRs

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| EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES<br>PREUVE DE PRUDENCE |
|--|

Hey Syd, apologies I missed this. I can have feedback to you by EOD on Thursday if that could work.

**Brent Laroque**  
Director of Environment

---

**From:** Boser, Sydney <[sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 26, 2025 2:46 PM  
**To:** Brent Laroque <[blaroque@mns.ca](mailto:blaroque@mns.ca)>  
**Cc:** McKeown, Justin <[justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Subject:** FW: CNSC & MN-S Documents for Review - Denison Wheeler River: Consultation Report and EERRs

Hi Brent,

Please see attached the Consultation and EA report content for MN-S review of accuracy. The deadline has passed as it was May 23<sup>rd</sup> but we can give you an extension till Thursday May 29th to provide input but if CNSC does not receive comments by that date, we will need to move forward without MN-S' input.

Thanks,

Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnsccsn.gc.ca)  
Phone Number: 343-596-9556

Agente principale en politiques, Division de la consultation et de la mobilisation des Autochtones  
Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnsccsn.gc.ca)

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Je reconnais que les terres sur lesquelles je vis et travaille sont le territoire traditionnel du Traité no 6 et la patrie des Métis

---

**From:** Boser, Sydney  
**Sent:** April 30, 2025 3:51 PM  
**To:** Brent Laroque <[blaroque@mns.ca](mailto:blaroque@mns.ca)>  
**Cc:** Andrew Spriggs <[aspriggs@mns.ca](mailto:aspriggs@mns.ca)>; Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnsccsn.gc.ca)>; McKeown, Justin <[justin.mckeown@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnsccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Subject:** CNSC & MN-S Documents for Review - Denison Wheeler River: Consultation Report and EERRs

Good afternoon Brent,  
I am writing to provide you with sections of the Consultation and Environmental Assessment Reports. These documents are CNSC staff submissions that will be included in the CNSC Commission Member Document that will be presented to the Commission for the Denison Wheeler River Project hearings. There are two documents attached to this email which contain the following information:

1. Section 4.4 of the Consultation Report which outlines our consultation activities with MN-S related to the Wheeler River project. The Report contains background information on MN-S, a table with key consultation activities to date, a summary of concerns raised to date, and CNSC staff's response. This information will be publicly accessible, once published.
2. The EA Report content for review includes a "Views Expressed" sections for each topic area. As you will see from the table of contents included in the first part of the attachment, the EA report will contain sections for each topic area (ie. Atmospheric, aquatic environment, etc.), each of which will include a description of the environment, the proponents assessment, other views expressed (including how concerns were addressed), CNSC staff's analysis, followed by CNSC staff's conclusions on the significance of effects. The content attached for review includes the Views Expressed section, relevant to issues and concerns raised by MN-S related to each topic area. This information will be included in the EA report, as written and will be publicly accessible, once published.

We are asking you to review both documents for **accuracy** and to provide any comments and suggested edits as necessary. We ask that these documents are returned to us no later than **May 23rd, 2025**. Please note that if we do not receive comments by the deadline then this information will be included without MN-S' feedback. If you have any questions, please reach out to myself or Jes Way or we can set up a meeting to discuss further.

Thanks,  
Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnsccsn.gc.ca)  
Phone Number: 343-596-9556

Agente principale en politiques, Division de la consultation et de la mobilisation des Autochtones  
Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnsccsn.gc.ca)

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---

**From:** [Brent Laroque](#)  
**To:** [Boser, Sydney](#)  
**Cc:** [McKeown, Justin](#); [Froess, Ryan](#); [Hilary Peterson](#); [Marc Wang](#); [David Devos](#); [Levine, Adam](#);  
**Subject:** RE: CNSC & MN-S Documents for Review - Denison Wheeler River: Consultation Report and EERRs  
**Attachments:** [2025 3 31 - MN-S Denison Outstanding Issues and Process.pdf](#)  
**Sent:** 2025-09-16 4:16:35 PM

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**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES PREUVE DE PRUDENCE

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## Afternoon Syd

We appreciate the follow up and look forward to meeting on Friday. To frame discussion at that meeting, we have the following comments on the Disposition Table. Overall, the CNSC must take more substantive action to protect Métis rights and interests if the Project is approved:

- As a general comment, the CNSC's planned Next Steps mainly revolve around further education, community sessions, monitoring and reporting, with the exception of the condition on caribou ("meeting the Federal Recovery Strategy for Woodland Caribou, Boreal Population", which we welcome). Education, community engagement, monitoring and reporting, while important, are not a substitute for substantive conditions which would protect Métis rights and interests in the area by, for instance, limiting selenium or other contaminant release to zero, compensating the Métis for losses to title, or substantive Métis direction of monitoring (we are uncertain of the extent of the CNSC's commitment "to involve MN-S in the CNSC's Independent Environmental Monitoring Program") and stringent conditions requiring compliance or shutdown in the event of exceedances. The MN-S suggests further discussing the CNSC's planned conditions to substantively protect Métis rights and interests at our next meeting.
- The CNSC requests feedback regarding the proposed condition "requiring Denison to report progress on Indigenous engagement and implementation of commitments to Nations, including MN-S, annually". This condition is welcome but not sufficient to address MN-S concerns. Transparency on Denison's engagement activities is appropriate but inadequate in at least three respects:
  - First, the MN-S suggests that the condition needs to be more consistent, and involve Indigenous Nations, including the Métis Nation, in decision making. This would require monthly reports, monthly meetings with Denison and the CNSC in respect of the reports, and an opportunity at those meetings to direct or advise on Denison's plans and actions to meet Denison's commitments.
  - Second, the condition should include accountability measures for Denison's failure to meet commitments to Indigenous Nations, including an explicit statement that repeated breaches of commitments to Indigenous Nations can result in the CNSC requiring a suspension of Denison's operations. Such accountability could be implemented through a formal review every two years with the ability to suspend operations if Denison is not meeting its commitments or those commitments are not effective in protecting Indigenous rights and interests, such as those of the Métis. These two-year formal reviews should, the MN-S suggests, also include a socio-economic review of the impact of the Project on the communities of the affected Indigenous Nations, including the Métis Nation.
  - Second, a condition which only requires Denison to abide by commitments it

Without Indigenous involvement in decision making, accountability and enforcement tied specifically to meeting commitments to Nations and to protecting Indigenous rights and interests, the proposed condition is merely another reporting obligation which does nothing to substantively protect Métis rights and interests. The MN-S suggests further discussing the necessary approach to protecting Métis rights and interests at our next meeting.

- The CNSC notes that Denison has “agreed to be a part of the Eastern Athabasca Regional Monitoring Program (EARMP)”. The MN-S is concerned with reliance on the EARMP for regional monitoring in terms of the comprehensiveness of survey locations, and the accessibility of the information for Métis communities. The MN-S suggests further discussing the plans for the incorporation of Wheeler River into the EARMP at our next meeting.
- The CNSC offers to host tri-partite meetings regarding monitoring and water contaminant management. The MN-S appreciates the offer, presuming such meetings can be productive, including facilitating further commitments from Denison to stricter limits on contaminant release/treatment technology. Such discussions are likely best conducted as part of a broader consent-based process as discussed below.
- The CNSC mentions several times that is waiting for direction from the MN-S on an appropriate approach to further engagement. The MN-S has previously, in our letter dated March 31, 2025 (attached for ease of reference), provided our views on the necessary steps to work towards a meaningful and robust process of seeking and securing the free, prior, and informed consent of the MN-S, including Northern Region I and III and the 13 Locals, for the Project. Since that time, there has been further discussion on some issues, such as funding for a study on stigma relating to uranium mining, and the permeability of the basement rock. However, the core of the Métis’ concerns remain the same and largely remain unaddressed by the CNSC, including, importantly, the MN-S’ requests for capacity funding to study the significant impacts of the Project. Given that lack of progress to date, the MN-S suggests that the best next step would be working with the CNSC and Denison on a process agreement for a consent process, which would include (i) the steps to develop appropriate information to take to Northern Region I and III and the 13 Locals to enable them to be fully informed on the impacts of the Project, and then the steps to engage in a discussion with Northern Region I and III and the 13 Locals on consent for the Project and (ii) an accompanying budget for that process. As the MN-S has stated consistently, without meaningful capacity and a shared understanding of what a consent process will look like, the Métis cannot meaningfully contemplate free, prior and informed consent for the Project. The MN-

Director of Environment

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**From:** Brent Laroque

**Sent:** Thursday, September 11, 2025 3:05 PM

**To:** Boser, Sydney <[sydney.boser@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnsccsn.gc.ca)>

**Cc:** McKeown, Justin <[justin.mckeown@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnsccsn.gc.ca)>; Froess, Ryan <[ryan.froess@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:ryan.froess@cnsccsn.gc.ca)>; Hilary Peterson <[hpeterson@mns.ca](mailto:hpeterson@mns.ca)>; Marc Wang <[mwang@mns.ca](mailto:mwang@mns.ca)>; David Devos <[ddevos@mns.ca](mailto:ddevos@mns.ca)>; Levine, Adam <[Adam.Levine@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:Adam.Levine@cnsccsn.gc.ca)>

**Subject:** RE: CNSC & MN-S Documents for Review - Denison Wheeler River: Consultation Report and EERRs

Apologies for the delay in responding Syd. Would the 19<sup>th</sup> still be available? Say afternoon?

**Brent Laroque**

Director of Environment

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**From:** Boser, Sydney <[sydney.boser@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnsccsn.gc.ca)>

**Sent:** Thursday, August 28, 2025 2:50 PM

**To:** Brent Laroque <[blaroque@mns.ca](mailto:blaroque@mns.ca)>

**Cc:** McKeown, Justin <[justin.mckeown@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnsccsn.gc.ca)>; Froess, Ryan <[ryan.froess@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:ryan.froess@cnsccsn.gc.ca)>; Hilary Peterson <[hpeterson@mns.ca](mailto:hpeterson@mns.ca)>; Marc Wang <[mwang@mns.ca](mailto:mwang@mns.ca)>; David Devos <[ddevos@mns.ca](mailto:ddevos@mns.ca)>; Levine, Adam <[Adam.Levine@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:Adam.Levine@cnsccsn.gc.ca)>

**Subject:** RE: CNSC & MN-S Documents for Review - Denison Wheeler River: Consultation Report and EERRs

Good afternoon Brent,

Hope you are doing well and enjoying your summer. As mentioned in the email below, CNSC staff have been working on a disposition table that responds to key issues, concerns and requests from both the letters and our June 19<sup>th</sup> meeting. Please see attached the disposition table for your review. CNSC staff would also like to request a meeting with MN-S on the Denison project to follow up from our June meeting to discuss the actions and next steps. We are available at the following dates for a virtual meeting:

- Thursday September 4<sup>th</sup> 9:30am-10:30am
- Tuesday September 9<sup>th</sup> 11am-12pm or 2pm-3pm
- Wednesday September 10<sup>th</sup> 9am-10am
- Friday September 19<sup>th</sup> 11am-12pm or 1pm-2pm

Please let me know if any of these dates work for MN-S and I can send out an invite. Hope you have a great long weekend!

Cheers,

Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division

Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission

Email: [sydney.boser@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnsccsn.gc.ca)

*I acknowledge that the land on which I live and work is the traditional Treaty 6 Territory and Homeland of the Métis*

Je reconnais que les terres sur lesquelles je vis et travaille sont le territoire traditionnel du Traité no 6 et la patrie des Métis

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**From:** Boser, Sydney

**Sent:** July 11, 2025 3:01 PM

**To:** Brent Laroque <[blaroque@mns.ca](mailto:blaroque@mns.ca)>

**Cc:** McKeown, Justin <[justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Hilary Peterson <[hpeterson@mns.ca](mailto:hpeterson@mns.ca)>; Marc Wang <[mwang@mns.ca](mailto:mwang@mns.ca)>; David Devos <[ddevos@mns.ca](mailto:ddevos@mns.ca)>

**Subject:** RE: CNSC & MN-S Documents for Review - Denison Wheeler River: Consultation Report and EERRs

Good afternoon Brent,

Apologies on the late responses here as I was away on holidays last week. As for the last sentence, instead of being deleted CNSC has changed the wording to the following: "CNSC staff will also continue to work with MN-S to understand and support their FPIC process and engage in efforts to work towards seeking their consent for the Project, where possible."

When we met on June 19<sup>th</sup>, CNSC indicated an openness to engage with the locals/regions identified and to continue to work with MN-S on your approach to seeking consent on the Project. CNSC also indicated we wanted to hear about how best to approach that type of engagement and how MN-S would like to coordinate that with us and Denison as appropriate. Once we hear back from you on an appropriate approach, CNSC is happy to work with MN-S on that. As for the March 31<sup>st</sup> letter, CNSC did provide a response back to Hilary on April 17<sup>th</sup> which lead to our meetings on May 26<sup>th</sup> and June 19<sup>th</sup>. In that letter CNSC states that we will provide a follow up letter to confirm what was discussed and proposed next steps including a disposition table that responds to key issues, concerns and requests. We are currently working on this and will share back with MN-S when ready. In the meantime, we have also shared the issues tracking table for your review for concerns raised throughout the consultation and engagement process for the Project which is due on July 23<sup>rd</sup>.

We look forward to hearing from you on the following items.

Best,

Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)  
Phone Number: 343-596-9556

Agente principale en politiques, Division de la consultation et de la mobilisation des Autochtones  
Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire

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**From:** Brent Laroque <[blaroque@mns.ca](mailto:blaroque@mns.ca)>

**Sent:** June 27, 2025 4:18 PM

**To:** Boser, Sydney <[sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>

**Cc:** McKeown, Justin <[justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Hilary Peterson <[hpeterson@mns.ca](mailto:hpeterson@mns.ca)>; Marc Wang <[mwang@mns.ca](mailto:mwang@mns.ca)>; David Devos <[ddevos@mns.ca](mailto:ddevos@mns.ca)>

**Subject:** RE: CNSC & MN-S Documents for Review - Denison Wheeler River: Consultation Report and EERRs

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| EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES<br>PREUVE DE PRUDENCE |
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Good afternoon Sydney,

Thank you for passing these revisions back to us, they look consistent with our modifications, with one exception. We would prefer this last sentence be deleted. CNSC staff will also continue to work with MN-S regarding their FPIC process and efforts to work towards seeking their consent for the Project.

The MN-S has never had the opportunity or resources for a true for consent-based process. Our engagement with Denison to date has been conducted under the pressure of hard bargaining tactics, including Denison's shifting position of whether it would participate in consent-focused discussions with the MN-S over a number of years, as we have well documented, and a lack of sufficient resources to meaningfully engage with the 13 Locals, collect important data regarding Métis attitudes towards the Cluff Lake mine site, and advance a robust traditional knowledge inventory, which we have requested from Denison, Saskatchewan and the CNSC (we appreciate the direction to the Stream 1 capacity funding but this alone is insufficient). In our letter of March 31, 2025, we outlined a process to lay the foundation of a subsequent consent-based discussion. As detailed in that letter, that process would require meaningfully engaging with the 13 Locals and NR1 and NR3 to determine how they want to be engaged, and likely the engagement of experts, elders, youth and translators, workshops with community, trips to the lands around the Project site, and other activities. We have yet to receive a response from CNSC regarding the suggested process in our March 31, 2025 letter, and it is unclear to us whether CNSC has given our request any consideration. In this context, while we invite an opportunity to work with CNSC to secure the consent of the Métis community for the Wheeler River Project, including through meaningful and robust engagement with and within our Locals, we believe it is inaccurate to state that CNSC staff will "continue ... efforts to work towards seeking" Métis consent.

**Brent Laroque**

[ccsn.gc.ca](mailto:ccsn.gc.ca)>; Hilary Peterson <[hpeterson@mns.ca](mailto:hpeterson@mns.ca)>; Marc Wang <[mwang@mns.ca](mailto:mwang@mns.ca)>

**Subject:** RE: CNSC & MN-S Documents for Review - Denison Wheeler River: Consultation Report and EERRs

Good afternoon Brent,

Thank you for providing CNSC with your edits on the Consultation and EA report sections. To note, for the EA report all edits were accepted. For the Consultation report, please see attached the updated section where CNSC integrated the information where possible and created a views expressed section to incorporate your edits. CNSC is committed to working with MN-S on understanding and addressing the concerns and questions raised and we also encourage MN-S to share your comments and concerns to the Commission during the Part-2 hearing.

As for your comment in the documentation regarding when the WWH report was sent to MN-S for review- the report was sent to MN-S on July 26<sup>th</sup> 2024 and then it was discussed again at our meeting on August 9<sup>th</sup> 2024 – see attached the original email where it was sent and the notes from the August 9<sup>th</sup> meeting. As part of the discussion in the August 9<sup>th</sup> meeting, CNSC requested feedback from MN-S on the WWH report which is indicated as an action in the meeting summary notes. Although we have not received specific feedback from MN-S to date, we remain open to any comments or feedback MN-S may have.

I have also attached the Stream 1 capacity funding application for MN-S interest as it was mentioned at our meeting on May 26<sup>th</sup>. The deadline for this application is June 27<sup>th</sup> and CNSC would be happy to work with MN-S on scoping your application regarding fear/avoidance, monitoring and attitudes around nuclear facilities as it relates to the Wheeler River project.

Thank you,

Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnsccsn.gc.ca)  
Phone Number: 343-596-9556

Agente principale en politiques, Division de la consultation et de la mobilisation des Autochtones  
Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnsccsn.gc.ca)

*I acknowledge that the land on which I live and work is the traditional Treaty 6 Territory and Homeland of the Métis*

Je reconnais que les terres sur lesquelles je vis et travaille sont le territoire traditionnel du Traité no 6 et la patrie des Métis

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**From:** Boser, Sydney  
**Sent:** May 30, 2025 1:05 PM  
**To:** Brent Laroque <[blaroque@mns.ca](mailto:blaroque@mns.ca)>

Thank you Brent for submitting MN-S' review of the documentation. I am confirming receipt and CNSC will be reviewing the communication.

Best,

Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnsccsn.gc.ca)  
Phone Number: 343-596-9556

Agente principale en politiques, Division de la consultation et de la mobilisation des Autochtones  
Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnsccsn.gc.ca)

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**From:** Brent Laroque <[blaroque@mns.ca](mailto:blaroque@mns.ca)>

**Sent:** May 29, 2025 5:00 PM

**To:** Boser, Sydney <[sydney.boser@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnsccsn.gc.ca)>

**Cc:** McKeown, Justin <[justin.mckeown@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnsccsn.gc.ca)>; Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnsccsn.gc.ca)>; Hilary Peterson <[hpeterson@mns.ca](mailto:hpeterson@mns.ca)>; Marc Wang <[mwang@mns.ca](mailto:mwang@mns.ca)>

**Subject:** RE: CNSC & MN-S Documents for Review - Denison Wheeler River: Consultation Report and EERRs

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| EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES<br>PREUVE DE PRUDENCE |
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Hello Sydney,

Thank you for this email and for the reminder and extension at our meeting. Please see attached our suggested revisions to ensure the documents are accurate. Where the source of the information in the revision may not be immediately obvious, we have indicated at least one source in a footnote – these citations are in no way reflective of all sources of such information in the record. We have also added context and comments in footnotes.

**Brent Laroque**  
Director of Environment

---

**From:** Boser, Sydney <[sydney.boser@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnsccsn.gc.ca)>

**Sent:** Monday, May 26, 2025 2:59 PM

**To:** Brent Laroque <[blaroque@mns.ca](mailto:blaroque@mns.ca)>

**Cc:** McKeown, Justin <[justin.mckeown@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnsccsn.gc.ca)>; Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnsccsn.gc.ca)>



Sydney

---

**From:** Brent Laroque <[blaroque@mns.ca](mailto:blaroque@mns.ca)>

**Sent:** May 26, 2025 2:47 PM

**To:** Boser, Sydney <[sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>

**Cc:** McKeown, Justin <[justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>

**Subject:** RE: CNSC & MN-S Documents for Review - Denison Wheeler River: Consultation Report and EERRs

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| EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES<br>PREUVE DE PRUDENCE |
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Hey Syd, apologies I missed this. I can have feedback to you by EOD on Thursday if that could work.

**Brent Laroque**

Director of Environment

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**From:** Boser, Sydney <[sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>

**Sent:** Monday, May 26, 2025 2:46 PM

**To:** Brent Laroque <[blaroque@mns.ca](mailto:blaroque@mns.ca)>

**Cc:** McKeown, Justin <[justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>

**Subject:** FW: CNSC & MN-S Documents for Review - Denison Wheeler River: Consultation Report and EERRs

Hi Brent,

Please see attached the Consultation and EA report content for MN-S review of accuracy. The deadline has passed as it was May 23<sup>rd</sup> but we can give you an extension till Thursday May 29th to provide input but if CNSC does not receive comments by that date, we will need to move forward without MN-S' input.

Thanks,

Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division

Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission

Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)

Phone Number: 343-596-9556

Agente principale en politiques, Division de la consultation et de la mobilisation des Autochtones

Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire

Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)

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---

**From:** Boser, Sydney

**Sent:** April 30, 2025 3:51 PM

**To:** Brent Laroque <[blaroque@mns.ca](mailto:blaroque@mns.ca)>

**Cc:** Andrew Spriggs <[aspriggs@mns.ca](mailto:aspriggs@mns.ca)>; Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; McKeown, Justin <[justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>

**Subject:** CNSC & MN-S Documents for Review - Denison Wheeler River: Consultation Report and EERRs

Good afternoon Brent,

I am writing to provide you with sections of the Consultation and Environmental Assessment Reports. These documents are CNSC staff submissions that will be included in the CNSC Commission Member Document that will be presented to the Commission for the Denison Wheeler River Project hearings. There are two documents attached to this email which contain the following information:

1. Section 4.4 of the Consultation Report which outlines our consultation activities with MN-S related to the Wheeler River project. The Report contains background information on MN-S, a table with key consultation activities to date, a summary of concerns raised to date, and CNSC staff's response. This information will be publicly accessible, once published.
2. The EA Report content for review includes a "Views Expressed" sections for each topic area. As you will see from the table of contents included in the first part of the attachment, the EA report will contain sections for each topic area (ie. Atmospheric, aquatic environment, etc.), each of which will include a description of the environment, the proponents assessment, other views expressed (including how concerns were addressed), CNSC staff's analysis, followed by CNSC staff's conclusions on the significance of effects. The content attached for review includes the Views Expressed section, relevant to issues and concerns raised by MN-S related to each topic area. This information will be included in the EA report, as written and will be publicly accessible, once published.

We are asking you to review both documents for **accuracy** and to provide any comments and suggested edits as necessary. We ask that these documents are returned to us no later than **May 23rd, 2025**. Please note that if we do not receive comments by the deadline then this information will be included without MN-S' feedback. If you have any questions, please reach out to myself or Jes Way or we can set up a meeting to discuss further.

Thanks,

Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division

Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission

Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)

Phone Number: 343-596-9556

Agente principale en politiques, Division de la consultation et de la mobilisation des Autochtones

Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire

Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)

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**From:** [Brent Laroque](#)  
**To:** [Way, Jessica](#)  
**Cc:** [Boser, Sydney](#); [Hilary Peterson](#); [Marc Wang](#); [David Devos](#);  
**Subject:** RE: Additional Metis TLU Regarding Wheeler River  
**Attachments:** [20250918 - LT - MN-S to CNSC - Additional TLU Regarding Wheeler River.pdf](#)  
**Sent:** 2025-09-18 3:24:27 PM

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**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES PREUVE DE PRUDENCE

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Good afternoon Jess. Please see the attached letter regarding additional traditional land use mapping materials. I tried sending an email earlier, but it was too large and it bounced. I am providing the letter on this email and will be sending a second email with a 19MB file. If you do not receive the second email please let me know.

Maarsii!

**Brent Laroque**  
Director of Environment

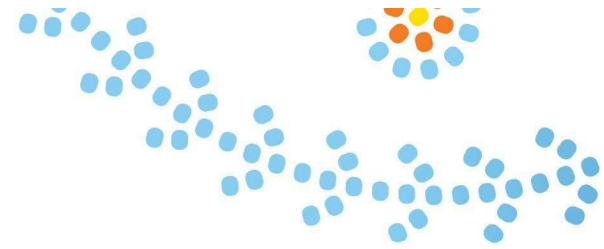
306-361-3189

310-20th Street East  
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan  
Canada S7K 0A7

**Heartland of the Métis and Treaty 6 Territory**



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September 18, 2025

Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Environmental Review Division  
280 Slater Street, P.O. Box 1046, Station B  
Ottawa, ON K1P 5S9  
Attention: Jessica Way, Environmental Review Officer

Taanishi, Hello Ms. Way:

**Re: Additional Métis Traditional Land Use Information regarding Denison Wheeler River Project**

This letter is being provided further to the ongoing consultation process in respect of the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission's ("**CNSC**") duty to consult regarding Denison Mines Corp.'s ("**Denison**") Wheeler River Project ("**Project**").

Consistent with its intent to engage meaningfully in an understanding of the impacts of the Project on Métis rights and title, the MN-S has continued to engage in research efforts on Métis land use in the Project area. Most recently, the MN-S collected a set of information regarding a Métis extended family's use of the lands around the Project. The knowledge shared regarding this Métis family's use of the lands is compiled in the map shown in Attachment "A", which also contains traditional land use information gathered in early 2025 and the traditional land use map from the 2023 Métis Knowledge Study for comparison. To be clear, these maps each present distinct data-sets and must be considered together.

The new information in Attachment "A" clearly shows extensive land use by Métis in direct proximity to the Project. In particular, it reiterates the presence of Métis commercial fishing in Russel Lake, downstream of the Project releases in Whitefish Lake. On the basis of this new information and all information and concerns which the MN-S has previously provided, the CNSC must clearly consider and accommodate Métis rights, interests and title, including economic losses and commercial harvesting, and make every effort to secure Métis consent for the Project prior to any authorization being granted.

This traditional land use information has been provided to Denison concurrently. MN-S looks forward to further engagement with the CNSC on this matter.

Yours truly,

Brent Laroque  
Director of Environment  
Métis Nation – Saskatchewan

cc: Hilary Peterson, Senior General Counsel, MN-S

**From:** [Boser, Sydney](#)  
**To:** [Brent Laroque](#)  
**Cc:** [McKeown, Justin](#); [Way, Jessica](#); [Froess, Ryan](#); [Gorzowski, Konrad](#); [Hilary Peterson](#); [David Devos](#); [Marc Wang](#);  
**Subject:** MN-S and CNSC Meeting September 12th - Denison Wheeler River - Notes  
**Attachments:** [MN-S and CNSC Meeting Notes - September 19th.docx](#)  
**Sent:** 2025-09-22 11:40:00 AM

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Good afternoon Brent,

Thank you for taking the time to meet with us on Friday regarding the Wheeler River project. Attached is the meeting minutes/summary provided by the Microsoft Teams transcription feature. Note, that any changes/additions I made for clarification were completed with "track changes" for transparency. Please note if there are issues with any of the text as I will be accepting the track changes I have included at a later date.

As for our next meeting, would MN-S be available on Friday October 3<sup>rd</sup> 2pm-3pm for a follow up virtual discussion? Let me know and I can send out an invite. We also discussed setting back up a regular meeting series. If you have any specific days/times that work best for MN-S, please let me know and we can work to get that series set back up with discussion points/agenda items.

Best,

Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnsccsn.gc.ca)  
Phone Number: 343-596-9556

Agente principale en politiques, Division de la consultation et de la mobilisation des Autochtones  
Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnsccsn.gc.ca)

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Je reconnais que les terres sur lesquelles je vis et travaille sont le territoire traditionnel du Traité no 6 et la patrie des Métis

## MN-S & CNSC Meeting

September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025  
Virtual

| CNSC Attendees  | MN-S Attendees  |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sydney Boser</li><li>• Justin McKeown</li><li>• Adam Levine</li><li>• Ryan Froess</li><li>• Konrad Gorzkowski</li><li>• Jes Way</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Hilary Peterson (Internal Counsel)</li><li>• Brent Laroque</li><li>• David Devos</li><li>• Marc Wang</li><li>• Taya MacDonald</li></ul> |

Meeting notes:

- **Correspondence with the CNSC Registry and the A La Baie Métis Local**: Adam and Hilary discussed recent correspondence involving the CNSC Registry and the A La Baie Métis Local, clarifying that Louise Gardner's initial letter was misunderstood and a revised response is forthcoming, with all parties reaffirming a unified approach for both the Next Gen. and Denison files.
  - **Clarification of Intent:** Hilary explained that Louise Gardner's letter was misinterpreted and did not reflect his intended message, and that a revised response will be provided to clarify the position.
  - **Unified Approach Commitment:** Hilary confirmed that Louise Gardner and the team are committed to a one-voice approach for both the Next Gen. and Denison files, ensuring consistent communication and governance.
  - **Next Steps:** Adam stated that the CNSC Registry acknowledged the letter outreach and that he and Justin will wait for the revised correspondence before proceeding with any follow-up actions.
- **Wheeler River Project Consultation and Rights Impact Assessment:** Adam, Hilary, Brent, and others discussed ongoing negotiations with Denison, the upcoming two-part Commission hearing, and the collaborative development of a rights impact assessment to address Métis Nation Saskatchewan's (MN-S) rights, interests, and concerns related to the Wheeler River project.
  - **Negotiations with Denison:** Hilary provided an update that discussions with Denison are ongoing, with some communication delays, but a meeting is expected within the next week and a more substantial update is anticipated by the end of September.
  - **Commission Hearing Structure:** Adam explained the two-part structure of the Commission hearing: Part 1 is a public briefing focused on project overview and technical assessment, while Part 2 is a full public hearing with interventions, including discussions on consultation, engagement, and recommendations.
  - **Collaboration on Rights Impact Assessment:** Adam outlined the plan to work collaboratively with MN-S on a rights impact assessment, which will characterize

MN-S's rights and interests, document mitigations and accommodations, and aim for consensus before the Commission hearing.

- **Regular Meetings Commitment:** Adam requested a commitment from MN-S to hold regular meetings to address concerns and work towards consensus, emphasizing the need for focused discussions with clear deliverables rather than general updates. MN-S agreed to setting back up regular meetings with clear outcomes.
- **Clarification of Deliverables:** Brent sought clarification on the nature and deliverables of ongoing meetings with CNSC compared to those with Denison, and Adam clarified that the goal is to resolve specific issues and develop the rights impact assessment collaboratively.
- **Review of Disposition Table and Outstanding Concerns:** Hilary, Brent Sydney, Adam, and others reviewed the disposition table sent by Sydney, discussed MN-S's six key action requests and concerns, and sought CNSC's feedback and commitments on substantive protections for M<sup>é</sup>etis rights and interests.
  - **General Comments on Disposition Table:** Hilary noted that while the disposition table emphasized education, engagement, monitoring, and reporting, MN-S seeks substantive license conditions to protect M<sup>é</sup>etis rights and interests, not just procedural and regulatory measures.
  - **Request for Substantive License Conditions:** Hilary requested CNSC to outline planned substantive license conditions for protecting M<sup>é</sup>etis rights and interests, and Adam responded by describing existing and proposed license conditions, including ongoing engagement and annual reporting requirements for Denison.
  - **Feedback Mechanisms:** Adam explained that CNSC is open to feedback on the proposed license condition and will work with MN-S to ensure commitments are captured in the License Condition Handbook or linked to Denison's commitments register, with compliance and oversight mechanisms in place.
- **Selenium and Contaminant Release Limits and Monitoring:** Hilary, Konrad, Ryan, Brent, and others discussed MN-S's concerns about selenium and other contaminant releases, the regulatory expectations for as low as reasonably achievable (ALARA) limits, ongoing monitoring, and the inclusion of Indigenous knowledge and community participation in monitoring programs.
  - **Regulatory Expectations for Selenium:** Konrad and Ryan explained that Denison must comply with federal and provincial release limits, and the ALARA principle applies, requiring continuous improvement and adoption of best available technology to minimize releases to the environment.
  - **Ongoing Monitoring and Public Reporting:** Ryan described the environmental effects monitoring program, which includes regular sampling of water, fish, and other indicators, with data made publicly available and opportunities for nation participation in studies.
  - **Addressing Stigma and Fear:** Hilary raised concerns about community stigma and fear related to contaminants, and Adam and Ryan emphasized the importance of collaborative monitoring, education, and transparent communication to build trust and address these concerns. This includes MN-S's



application they submitted through Stream 1 on perceptions of Cluff Lake and tailoring that to the Denison project.

- **Community Involvement in Monitoring:** Justin and Adam highlighted the direct involvement of Métis land users in identifying sampling locations and species of concern, and the availability of funding and support for community participation in monitoring activities through our IEMP. Funding is available for these activities through CNSC's Stream 1 and 3 of our Indigenous Capacity Fund.
- **Adaptive Management and Compliance Tools:** Konrad and Adam detailed the CNSC's compliance and enforcement tools, including the ability to require corrective actions, impose penalties, or shut down operations if contaminant levels exceed legal or action thresholds, with responses scaled to the level of risk.
- **Next Steps and Follow-Up Actions:** Adam, Hilary, Sydney, Jessica, and others agreed to schedule a follow-up meeting to continue addressing outstanding concerns, with Sydney and Jessica tasked to propose meeting times and coordinate the agenda for focused discussions.
  - **Scheduling Follow-Up Meeting:** Sydney and Jessica will coordinate with the group to propose times for the next meeting, aiming to continue the discussion on unresolved issues and the rights impact assessment.
  - **Agenda Planning:** Adam suggested preparing an agenda for the next meeting to ensure focused discussions on priority topics and next steps.

Follow-up tasks:

- **Follow-Up on Revised Métis Local Correspondence:** Wait for and review the revised response from Louise Gardner regarding the intent of the local correspondence before proceeding with any further follow-up. (MN-SAdam, Justin)
- **Wheeler River Rights Impact Assessment Collaboration:** Set up regular, focused meetings to collaborate on the rights impact assessment analysis for the Wheeler River project, aiming to address concerns and work towards consensus before the Commission hearing. (CNSC & MN-SAdam, Hilary, Brent, Justin, Sydney, Jessica)
- **Disposition Table Feedback and Discussion:** Go through the six bullet points of actions and requests for further information that MN-S provided in response to the disposition table, and provide CNSC feedback on ongoing concerns in a follow-up meeting. (CNSC & MN-SHilary, Adam, Sydney, Jessica)
- **Details on CNSC Commitment to Monitoring:** Provide further details on CNSC's commitment to substantive collaboration with MN-S and its citizens on monitoring in relation to the Wheeler River project including the funding application MN-S submitted. (CNSCAdam, Ryan, Justin, Sydney)
- **Scheduling Next Follow-Up Discussion:** Send out proposed times and set up the next follow-up discussion to address remaining high-priority topics and outstanding concerns. (CNSCSydney, Jessica)

**From:** [Boser, Sydney](#)  
**To:** [Brent Laroque](#)  
**Cc:** [McKeown, Justin](#); [Way, Jessica](#); [Froess, Ryan](#); [Gorzowski, Konrad](#); [Hilary Peterson](#); [David Devos](#); [Marc Wang](#);  
**Subject:** RE: MN-S and CNSC Meeting September 12th - Denison Wheeler River - Notes  
**Attachments:** [MN-S and CNSC Meeting Notes - September 19th.docx](#)  
**Sent:** 2025-10-01 3:34:00 PM

---

Hi Brent,

I am just following up on my email below. Would Friday work for MN-S for a follow up discussion from our last meeting? If not, we do have some availability on Friday October 10<sup>th</sup>.

Thanks,

Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)  
Phone Number: 343-596-9556

Agente principale en politiques, Division de la consultation et de la mobilisation des Autochtones  
Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
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---

**From:** Boser, Sydney  
**Sent:** September 22, 2025 11:40 AM  
**To:** Brent Laroque <[blaroque@mns.ca](mailto:blaroque@mns.ca)>  
**Cc:** McKeown, Justin <[justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Froess, Ryan <[ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Gorzowski, Konrad <[konrad.gorzowski@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:konrad.gorzowski@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Hilary Peterson <[hpeterson@mns.ca](mailto:hpeterson@mns.ca)>; David Devos <[ddevos@mns.ca](mailto:ddevos@mns.ca)>; Marc Wang <[mwang@mns.ca](mailto:mwang@mns.ca)>  
**Subject:** MN-S and CNSC Meeting September 12th - Denison Wheeler River - Notes

Good afternoon Brent,

Thank you for taking the time to meet with us on Friday regarding the Wheeler River project. Attached is the meeting minutes/summary provided by the Microsoft Teams transcription feature. Note, that any changes/additions I made for clarification were completed with "track changes" for transparency. Please note if there are issues with any of the text as I will be accepting the track changes I have included at a later date.

As for our next meeting, would MN-S be available on Friday October 3<sup>rd</sup> 2pm-3pm for a follow up virtual discussion? Let me know and I can send out an invite. We also discussed setting back up a regular meeting series. If you have any specific days/times that work best for MN-S, please let me know and we can work to get that series set back up with discussion points/agenda items.

Best,

Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnsccsn.gc.ca)  
Phone Number: 343-596-9556

Agente principale en politiques, Division de la consultation et de la mobilisation des Autochtones  
Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
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**From:** [Boser, Sydney](#)  
**To:** [Brent Laroque](#)  
**Cc:** [David Devos](#); [Hilary Peterson](#); [Way, Jessica](#); [McKeown, Justin](#);  
**Subject:** For Your Review: MN-S Rights Impact Assessment - Denison Wheeler River  
**Attachments:** [MN-S Draft Rights Impact Assessment - Denison Wheeler River October 2025.docx](#)  
**Sent:** 2025-10-03 3:47:00 PM

---

Good afternoon Brent,

CNSC staff have completed our draft of the MN-S Right's Impact Assessment (RIA) which is attached above for your review. We are looking to MN-S to review the draft for accuracy and to include any additional information that you feel may be missing with regards to MN-S' land use including any maps, locations, etc. To note, this information in the RIA will be posted and part of the public record for the Denison Part 2 hearing but any additional information shared will aid CNSC in our assessment of the impact to Métis rights. You may also include any additional commitments, mitigations and follow-up activities related to environmental monitoring and facility operations contained in agreements with Denison for inclusion into Section 4 of the RIA while also noting these commitments, mitigations and follow-up will become part of the public record.

If you have any questions or clarifications as you navigate your review, we would be happy to set a meeting to discuss further. **Please provide your review back to CNSC by November 3<sup>rd</sup>.**

Thank you,

Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)  
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**From:** [Boser, Sydney \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#)  
**To:** ['louisgardiner52@gmail.com'](mailto:louisgardiner52@gmail.com)  
**Cc:** [Interventions / Interventions \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#); [Carolanne Inglis-McQuay](#); ['bmerasty@mns.ca'](mailto:bmerasty@mns.ca); [David Devos](#); [Hilary Peterson](#); [McKeown, Justin](#); [Levine, Adam](#); [Hunter, Hilary](#);  
**Subject:** RE: A La Baie Metis Local 21 Revised Letter  
**Attachments:** [A La Baie Metis Local 21 Denison Wheeler Sakitawak Metis Retraction letter to CNSC 2025.pdf](#)  
**Sent:** 2025-10-09 10:10:00 AM

---

Hello Louis,

Thank you for sending in this letter – I am confirming receipt. I also wanted to let you know that I am the CNSC Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Project Lead for the Denison Wheeler River project so if you have any further questions, please don't hesitate to contact myself.

Best,

Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)  
Phone Number: 343-596-9556

Agente principale en politiques, Division de la consultation et de la mobilisation des Autochtones  
Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)

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---

**From:** Louis Gardiner <[louisgardiner52@gmail.com](mailto:louisgardiner52@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** October 5, 2025 8:39 AM  
**To:** Hunter, Hilary <[hilary.hunter@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:hilary.hunter@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Cc:** Interventions / Interventions (CNSC/CCSN) <[Interventions@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:Interventions@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Carolanne Inglis-McQuay <[cinglismcquay@denisonmines.com](mailto:cinglismcquay@denisonmines.com)>; Brennan Merasty <[bmerasty@mns.ca](mailto:bmerasty@mns.ca)>; David Devos <[ddevos@mns.ca](mailto:ddevos@mns.ca)>; Louis Gardiner <[louisgardiner52@gmail.com](mailto:louisgardiner52@gmail.com)>; Hilary <[hpeterson@mns.ca](mailto:hpeterson@mns.ca)>  
**Subject:** A La Baie Metis Local 21 Revised Letter

---

EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES  
PREUVE DE PRUDENCE

Hello

Please find the revised letter from A La Baie Metis Local 21.

Thanks

Louis Gardiner

**October 2, 2025**

Tansi Hilary Hunter,

I write in furtherance of my earlier letter, received by the CNSC on September 10, 2025, in reference to the Wheeler River mine and mill project (Ref.2025-H-09-Revision 1 August 19, 2025).

It has come to our attention that our previous letter has created some confusion. To avoid any uncertainty, the council of A La Baie Métis Local 21 has authorized that it be retracted in full and without exception.

*One Voice*

Local 21 represents Métis residents of the historic community of Île-à-la-Crosse within the Métis Nation of Saskatchewan. 2026, Île-à-la-Crosse is celebrating its 250-year anniversary. For hundreds of years, the Métis, including the Métis of Île-à-la-Crosse, occupied, traded within, and lived off the resources of our Homeland.

Île-à-la-Crosse is part of a network of historic Métis communities within Northern Regions I, II, and III that have been and are interconnected to each other and as part of the Métis Nation through bonds of family, trade, and culture, as recognized repeatedly by the courts.

Much has changed over the past 100 years. We have been dispossessed of our lands and generations of children have been exposed to the trauma and abuse of residential and day-schools. At our expense, governments have permitted mining companies to plunder our lands, which are our inheritance.

In 1994, we, as part of the Métis Nation, filed a claim for Aboriginal title to an area of Northwest and Northcentral Saskatchewan. This year we filed nearly 25,000 records and over 3000 pages of materials in support of that claim, and the Supreme Court of Canada spoke to the significance of the claim and Saskatchewan's awareness thereof.

The significance of Denison's Wheeler River Project to our Local, and to Métis rightsholders in the North, should not be understated. Their project will, once again, enrich companies and governments in the South, while spoiling our lands and depriving our communities of their inheritance under the land claim.

Given the above concerns, Local 21, along with the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan and 12 other Locals in the North, have committed to addressing Wheeler River through a One Voice Approach, including in our engagement with the CNSC and Denison. We respectfully ask that this One Voice Approach be respected, and we recognize the potential confusion which our now-retracted earlier correspondence may have created in this regard.

*Consent Based Approach*

We would like to take this opportunity to express our solidarity with the concerns expressed by the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan, including that any advancement of the Wheeler River Project should not occur unless and until a robust and meaningful process aimed at securing Métis consent has been achieved. The consultation and engagement processes that apply to this Project were designed by the CNSC and Denison, and do not reflect the Federal Court's guidance on the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. We call on the CNSC to pause its current processes that are advancing

the Project in order to allow for a meaningful and robust process aimed at addressing Métis concerns and securing Métis consent.

In accordance with the One Voice Approach, please provide any response to [dtc@mns.ca](mailto:dtc@mns.ca). You are welcome to copy me on the response if you wish [l.gardiner@sasktel.net](mailto:l.gardiner@sasktel.net).

Maarsii, thank you

Louis Gardiner, President



A La Bale Métis Local 21  
Box 158  
Île-à-la-Crosse, SK  
S0M 1C0

Copy:

Public Commission Proceedings Participation Request Form, Canadian Nuclear Safety  
Commission ([interventions@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:interventions@cnsccsn.gc.ca))

Carolanne Inglis-McQuay, Director, Sustainability, Denison Mines Corporation  
([cinglismcquay@denisonmines.com](mailto:cinglismcquay@denisonmines.com))

Brennan Merasty Regional Representative, Northern Region 3, Métis Nation- Saskatchewan  
([bmerasty@mns.ca](mailto:bmerasty@mns.ca))

Dave DeVos, Manager, Consultation, Métis Nation- Saskatchewan ([ddevos@mns.ca](mailto:ddevos@mns.ca))



**From:** [Interventions / Interventions \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#)  
**To:** [David Devos](#)  
[jswitzer@denisonmines.com](#); [Samson, Jude \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#); [Salmon, Candace \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#); [Levine, Adam \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#); [Boser, Sydney \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#); [McKeown, Justin \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#); [Interventions / Interventions \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#);  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** RE: MN-S to CNSC Request for Extension - Denison  
**Attachments:** [2025-10-17 - MN-S to CNSC Request for Extension.pdf](#)  
**Sent:** 2025-10-20 7:02:10 AM

---

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed  
Good morning,

We acknowledge receipt of your correspondence of Friday, October 17, requesting an extension for MN-S to file a written intervention in Hearing 2025-H-09, from the current deadline of October 24, 2025, until November 7, 2025.

The Registry notes your stated deep interest in Denison's project, and your intention to share Indigenous Knowledge with the Commission.

The Registrar has reviewed your request, and we are unable to provide until November 7, 2025. We note your statement that Denison has agreed to this date, but the Registry needs a certain amount of time with documents to prepare them for posting, which must be done at least 30 days before a hearing, as you note in your letter. Further, you reference Indigenous Knowledge in your letter, and we received an email from counsel Matt Hammer indicating MN-S intends to make a confidentiality request for the protection of Indigenous Knowledge. This process also requires some time to complete, and will impact our ability to get material posted within the required 30 day period.

The Registrar notes your stated reason for requesting an extension, being ongoing negotiations with Denison which may address a number of your concerns. This may alter the contents of your intervention, which she acknowledges as an important consideration in providing additional time.

While we cannot provide the extension you've requested, you are granted an additional week. MN-S's submission, including any request for confidentiality, is now due to the Registry by **Friday, October 31, 2025 at 2:00pm EST.**

Please confirm receipt of this message and do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions. We have also copied CNSC staff for awareness.

Sincerely,

Annik Tanguay  
Senior Tribunal Officer, Commission Registry / Agente principale du tribunal,  
Greffé de la Commission  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission / Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire

[interventions@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:interventions@cnscccsn.gc.ca)

Cell: 613 462-7489

---

**From:** David Devos <ddevos@mns.ca>

**Sent:** Friday, October 17, 2025 1:05 PM

**To:** Interventions / Interventions (CNSC/CCSN) <Interventions@cnscccsn.gc.ca>

**Cc:** jschwitzer@denisonmines.com

**Subject:** MN-S to CNSC Request for Extension - Denison

**Importance:** High

|  |
|--|
| EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES<br>PREUVE DE PRUDENCE |
|--|

Good day. Please find the attached letter regarding MN-S requesting an extension for the deadline for requests to intervene and written submissions in Hearing 2025-H-09.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to me directly.

Maarsii,

**Dave DeVos**

Manager, Consultation

306-227-2928

30-20<sup>th</sup> Street East  
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan  
Canada S7K 0A7

**Heartland of the Métis and Treaty 6 Territory**



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Senior Tribunal Officer, Commission Registry  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
280 Slater St  
PO Box 1046 Stn B  
Ottawa ON K1P 5S9  
Email: [interventions@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:interventions@cnsccsn.gc.ca)

October 17, 2024

Re: Hearing 2025-H-09 – Request for Extension to Request to Intervene

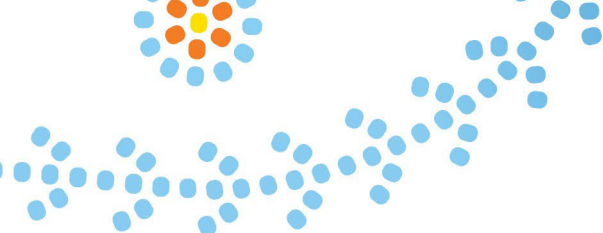
Taanishi,

The Métis Nation – Saskatchewan (“**MN-S**”) intends to request to intervene in the Commission of the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission’s (“**CNSC**”) (“**Commission**”) Hearing 2025-H-09 regarding Denison Mines Corp.’s (“**Denison**”) Wheeler River Project (“**Project**”). The MN-S has a deep interest in the Project because of the Project’s potential effects on the Aboriginal rights and interests of the Métis Nation. The MN-S also possesses Indigenous knowledge which gives it expertise in the Commission’s decision on the Project.

The MN-S writes to request an extension for the deadline for requests to intervene and written submissions in Hearing 2025-H-09. The MN-S requests that it be allowed to submit its request to intervene and written submissions by November 7, 2025, as opposed to the current date of October 24, 2025.

The MN-S has been engaged with Denison in ongoing discussions regarding the Project and the Project’s impacts on the Aboriginal rights and interests of the Métis Nation. Those discussions have the potential to address some of the Métis Nation’s concerns regarding the Project. Accordingly, the Métis Nation requests additional time to determine if the MN-S and Denison can productively address Métis Nation concerns and potential impacts. It is in all parties’ interests and in line with the principles of reconciliation for the MN-S and Denison to attempt to address the MN-S’ concerns outside the Hearing 2025-H-09 process.

The MN-S also respectfully submits that no party will be prejudiced by the MN-S’ request. A submission by November 7, 2025, will give all parties thirty days to review the MN-S’ submissions prior to the oral hearing the week of December 8, 2025. A submission by November 7, 2025, would also align with the *Canadian Nuclear Safety*



*Commission Rules of Procedure*'s<sup>1</sup> requirement that requests to intervene be filed at least thirty days prior to the second day of Hearing 2025-H-09.<sup>2</sup> Denison has also confirmed that it consents to this request.

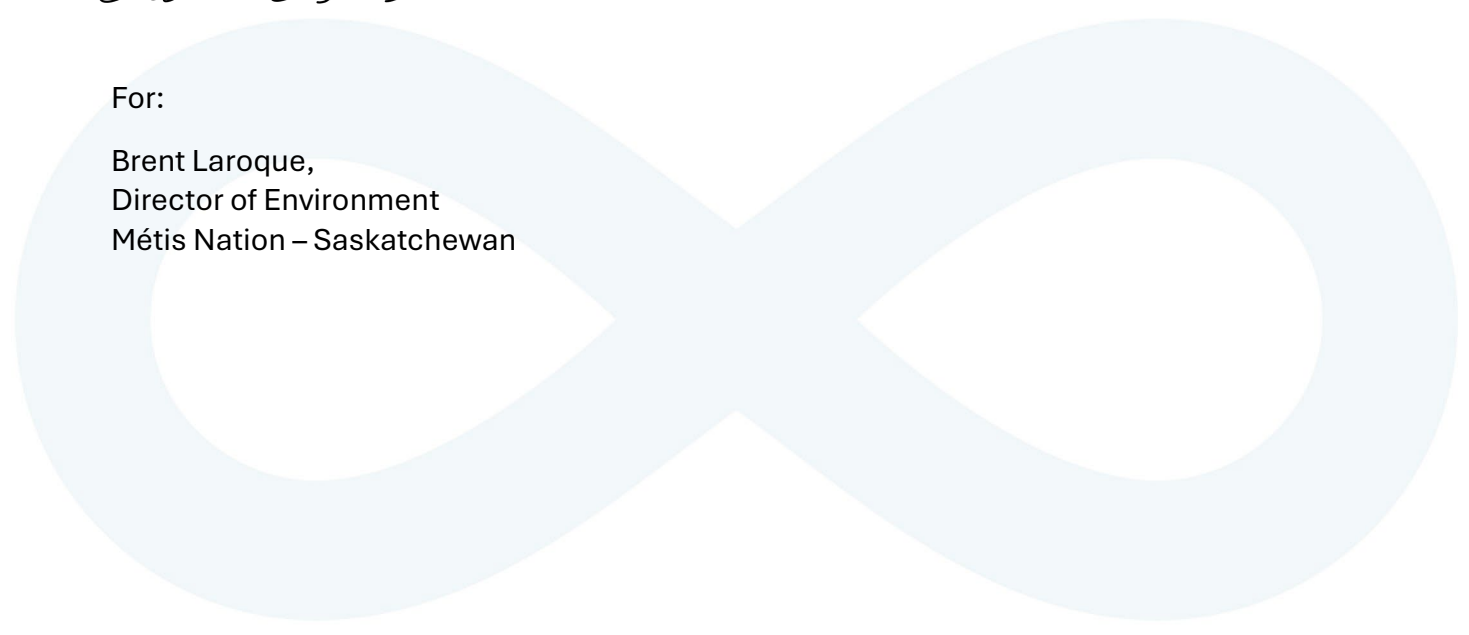
Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions regarding this request or otherwise regarding the MN-S' intended intervention in Hearing 2025-H-09.

Maarsii, thank you.

*David Osew*

For:

Brent Laroque,  
Director of Environment  
Métis Nation – Saskatchewan



---

<sup>1</sup> SOR/2000-211,

<sup>2</sup> *Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission Rules of Procedure*, Rule 19(3).

**From:** [Boser, Sydney \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#)  
**To:** [Taya McDonald](#)  
**Cc:** [Macie Kuppenbender; David Devos;](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Denison Hearing Dates  
**Sent:** 2025-10-22 2:38:00 PM

---

Hi Taya – nice to hear from you again!

Yes that is correct the hearing will take place at the Sheraton in Saskatoon. We don't have specific information on the agenda for that week yet only that it will be held the week of December 8<sup>th</sup>. Once the interventions come in on Friday we will have a better sense of timing for the week so once that information is available, I will let you know!

Cheers,

Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)  
Phone Number: 343-596-9556

Agente principale en politiques, Division de la consultation et de la mobilisation des Autochtones  
Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)

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---

**From:** Taya McDonald <tmcdonald@mns.ca>  
**Sent:** October 22, 2025 11:11 AM  
**To:** Boser, Sydney (CNSC/CCSN) <sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca>  
**Cc:** Macie Kuppenbender <mkuppenbender@mns.ca>; David Devos <ddevos@mns.ca>  
**Subject:** Denison Hearing Dates

|  |
|--|
| EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES<br>PREUVE DE PRUDENCE |
|--|

Hi Sydney,

I hope you are well! I wanted to reach out to ask if you can provide any details on the dates of the upcoming Denison hearing. We are trying to book some hotel

rooms for interveners. I did message Justin this morning and he confirmed that the hearing will be at Sheraton downtown, but we are not sure if any specific dates aside from December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025 to December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025 were public yet.

Best regards,  
**Taya McDonald**  
**Consultation Coordinator**  
**(639) 470-9355**  
310-20th Street East  
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan  
Canada S7K 0A7  
**Heartland of the Métis and Treaty 6 Territory**



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**From:** [Boser, Sydney \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#)  
**To:** [Brent Laroque](#)  
**Cc:** [David Devos](#); [Hilary Peterson](#); [Way, Jessica \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#); [McKeown, Justin \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#);  
**Subject:** RE: For Your Review: MN-S Rights Impact Assessment - Denison Wheeler River  
**Attachments:** [MN-S Draft Rights Impact Assessment - Denison Wheeler River October 2025.docx](#)  
**Sent:** 2025-10-30 3:14:00 PM

---

Hi Brent,

This a reminder that MN-S' review on the RIA is due back on Monday November 3<sup>rd</sup>. Please let me know if you would like to meet to discuss any of the information further.

Best,

Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)  
Phone Number: 343-596-9556

Agente principale en politiques, Division de la consultation et de la mobilisation des Autochtones  
Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
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---

**From:** Boser, Sydney  
**Sent:** October 3, 2025 3:47 PM  
**To:** Brent Laroque <[blaroque@mns.ca](mailto:blaroque@mns.ca)>  
**Cc:** David Devos <[ddevos@mns.ca](mailto:ddevos@mns.ca)>; Hilary Peterson <[hpeterson@mns.ca](mailto:hpeterson@mns.ca)>; Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; McKeown, Justin <[justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Subject:** For Your Review: MN-S Rights Impact Assessment - Denison Wheeler River

Good afternoon Brent,

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If you have any questions or clarifications as you navigate your review, we would be happy to set a meeting to discuss further. **Please provide your review back to CNSC by November 3<sup>rd</sup>.**

Thank you,

Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)  
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---

**From:** [Brent Laroque](#)  
**To:** [Interventions / Interventions \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Boser, Sydney \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#); [David Devos](#); [Hilary Peterson](#); [Marc Wang](#);  
**Subject:** Hearing 2025 H-09 - Request to Intervene and Written Submission  
2025-10-31 - MN-S Request to Intervene - Attachment 1 - Technical  
**Attachments:** Review.pdf;2025-10-31 - MN-S Request to Intervene - CNSC re Denison  
Wheeler River Project.pdf;2025-10-31 - MN-S Request to Intervene -  
Attachment 2 - Self-Government Agreement.pdf;  
**Sent:** 2025-10-31 12:00:44 PM

---

EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES PREUVE DE PRUDENCE

---

Boon mataen. Please see attached letter and attachments.

**Brent Laroque**  
Director of Environment

306-361-3189

310-20th Street East  
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan  
Canada S7K 0A7

**Heartland of the Métis and Treaty 6 Territory**



[Book time to meet with me](#)



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**From:** [Boser, Sydney \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#)  
**To:** [Brent Laroque](#)  
**Cc:** [David Devos; Hilary Peterson; Way, Jessica \(CNSC/CCSN\); McKeown, Justin \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#);  
**Subject:** RE: For Your Review: MN-S Rights Impact Assessment - Denison Wheeler River  
**Attachments:** [MN-S Draft Rights Impact Assessment - Denison Wheeler River October 2025.docx](#)  
**Sent:** 2025-11-05 1:39:00 PM

---

Good afternoon Brent,

I am following up on MN-S's review of the Rights Impact Assessment that was due this past Monday. Is MN-S planning to provide CNSC with a review of the document? If so, we are able to provide you with an extension until EOD Friday November 7<sup>th</sup> but if we do not receive anything from you by Friday then the document will be included in CNSC's supplemental submission for the Part 2 hearing without MN-S feedback.

Thanks,

Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)  
Phone Number: 343-596-9556

Agente principale en politiques, Division de la consultation et de la mobilisation des Autochtones  
Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
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---

**From:** Boser, Sydney (CNSC/CCSN)  
**Sent:** October 30, 2025 3:15 PM  
**To:** Brent Laroque <blaroque@mns.ca>  
**Cc:** David Devos <ddevos@mns.ca>; Hilary Peterson <hpeterson@mns.ca>; Way, Jessica (CNSC/CCSN) <jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca>; McKeown, Justin (CNSC/CCSN) <justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca>  
**Subject:** RE: For Your Review: MN-S Rights Impact Assessment - Denison Wheeler River

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Best,

Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnsccsn.gc.ca)  
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Agente principale en politiques, Division de la consultation et de la mobilisation des Autochtones  
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**From:** Boser, Sydney  
**Sent:** October 3, 2025 3:47 PM  
**To:** Brent Laroque <[blaroque@mns.ca](mailto:blaroque@mns.ca)>  
**Cc:** David Devos <[ddevos@mns.ca](mailto:ddevos@mns.ca)>; Hilary Peterson <[hpeterson@mns.ca](mailto:hpeterson@mns.ca)>; Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnsccsn.gc.ca)>; McKeown, Justin <[justin.mckeown@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnsccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Subject:** For Your Review: MN-S Rights Impact Assessment - Denison Wheeler River

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Thank you,

Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)  
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---

**From:** [David Devos](#)  
**To:** [Boser, Sydney \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#); [Brent Laroque](#);  
**Cc:** [Hilary Peterson](#); [Way, Jessica \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#); [McKeown, Justin \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#);  
**Subject:** RE: For Your Review: MN-S Rights Impact Assessment - Denison Wheeler River  
**Sent:** 2025-11-05 1:55:29 PM

---

EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES PREUVE DE PRUDENCE

---

Good day Sydney. Thank you for following up. MN-S will be submitting our response shortly. Apologies for the missed deadline.

Maarsii,

**Dave DeVos**  
Manager, Consultation

306-227-2928

30-20<sup>th</sup> Street East  
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan  
Canada S7K 0A7

### Heartland of the Métis and Treaty 6 Territory



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**From:** Boser, Sydney (CNSC/CCSN) <sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 5, 2025 1:39 PM  
**To:** Brent Laroque <blaroque@mns.ca>  
**Cc:** David Devos <ddevos@mns.ca>; Hilary Peterson <hpeterson@mns.ca>; Way, Jessica (CNSC/CCSN) <jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca>; McKeown, Justin (CNSC/CCSN) <justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca>  
**Subject:** RE: For Your Review: MN-S Rights Impact Assessment - Denison Wheeler River  
**Importance:** High

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Thanks,

Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
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Phone Number: 343-596-9556

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---

**From:** Boser, Sydney (CNSC/CCSN)

**Sent:** October 30, 2025 3:15 PM

**To:** Brent Laroque <[blaroque@mns.ca](mailto:blaroque@mns.ca)>

**Cc:** David Devos <[ddevos@mns.ca](mailto:ddevos@mns.ca)>; Hilary Peterson <[hpeterson@mns.ca](mailto:hpeterson@mns.ca)>; Way, Jessica (CNSC/CCSN) <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; McKeown, Justin (CNSC/CCSN) <[justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>

**Subject:** RE: For Your Review: MN-S Rights Impact Assessment - Denison Wheeler River

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Best,

Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)  
Phone Number: 343-596-9556

Agente principale en politiques, Division de la consultation et de la mobilisation des Autochtones  
Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
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---

**From:** Boser, Sydney

**Sent:** October 3, 2025 3:47 PM

**To:** Brent Laroque <[blaroque@mns.ca](mailto:blaroque@mns.ca)>

**Cc:** David Devos <[ddevos@mns.ca](mailto:ddevos@mns.ca)>; Hilary Peterson <[hpeterson@mns.ca](mailto:hpeterson@mns.ca)>; Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; McKeown, Justin <[justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>

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Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
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---

**From:** [David Devos](#)  
**To:** [Boser, Sydney \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#); [Way, Jessica \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#); [McKeown, Justin \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#);  
**Cc:** [Brent Laroque](#); [Hilary Peterson](#);  
**Subject:** MN-S Rights Impact Assessment - Denison Wheeler River  
**Attachments:** [MN-S Draft Rights Impact Assessment - Denison Wheeler River October 2025.docx](#)  
**Sent:** 2025-11-05 4:31:23 PM

---

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES PREUVE DE PRUDENCE

---

We appreciate the opportunity to review the Rights Impact Assessment (RIA) and have made several small changes for accuracy and to add additional information on the Métis Nation's rights and land use, shown in track changes in the attached. However, more broadly, we disagree with the conclusions of the RIA that impacts of the Project to the Métis Nation are likely to be non-significant or of low-magnitude. The Project has the potential to significantly impact Métis Nation rights and interests, absent the Métis Nation's consent for the Project.

It is because of the Project's potentially significant impacts that the MN-S has consistently maintained that Métis Nation consent is required for the Project. As the MN-S recently submitted to the Commission, the MN-S is currently in discussions with Denison, as of today's date, for the purpose of identifying opportunities to secure the consent of the Métis Nation.

Absent agreement by Denison and the Métis Nation, including the implementation of bilateral measures to address Métis Nation concerns, the MN-S expects the Crown to involve itself in such consent based-discussions. If Denison does not obtain Métis Nation consent, the MN-S expects to request that the CNSC address the following issues, among others:

- The proposed condition, included in Table 4 of the RIA, "requiring Denison to report progress on Indigenous engagement and implementation of commitments to Nations, including MN-S, annually".
- The commitments in Table 1 and Table 4 regarding monitoring. While monitoring is secondary to substantive protection of Métis rights, Métis-led monitoring is very important to the Métis Nation.
- The recommendation in Table 4 that the Project be included in the Eastern Athabasca Regional Monitoring Program (EARMP).
- The MN-S' requested mitigations for the clear Project impacts to Métis rights, such as a no-selenium release standard or freezing under the ore body.

Maarsii,

**Dave DeVos**  
Manager, Consultation

306-227-2928

30-20<sup>th</sup> Street East  
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan  
Canada S7K 0A7

**Heartland of the Métis and Treaty 6 Territory**



**From:** [McKeown, Justin \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#)  
**To:** [David Devos](#); [Brent Laroque](#); [Hilary Peterson](#);  
**Cc:** [Boser, Sydney \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#); [Way, Jessica \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#); [Levine, Adam \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#);  
**Subject:** RE: MN-S Rights Impact Assessment - Denison Wheeler River  
**Sent:** 2025-11-06 2:20:03 PM

---

Hi David,

Thank you for the response and for providing the reviewed RIA back to us. We appreciate the inclusion of many of the figures and maps shared in the document as well as the changes for accuracy. We also acknowledge MN-S' position on the conclusions drawn on the RIA. We will reflect the stated MN-S position under a "Views Expressed" section in the RIA that will be part of the supplemental submission filed to the Commission and on the Registry in advance of the Part 2 Hearing.

We are encouraged to hear that Denison and MN-S are still in discussions regarding MN-S' consent for the Project. Noting MN-S' expectations on the issues noted below, is there a time that MN-S wishes to discuss any of these items with the CNSC prior to the proceedings beginning on December 8<sup>th</sup>? As always, we remain open to discussing any outstanding issues related to the Project.

Again, thanks for your email and feedback on the RIA, it is helpful in guiding and improving our work. And we look forward to discussing any issues with you at your convenience. Take care.

-Justin

---

**From:** David Devos <ddevos@mns.ca>  
**Sent:** November 5, 2025 3:30 PM  
**To:** Boser, Sydney (CNSC/CCSN) <sydney.boser@cnsccsn.gc.ca>; Way, Jessica (CNSC/CCSN) <jessica.way@cnsccsn.gc.ca>; McKeown, Justin (CNSC/CCSN) <justin.mckeown@cnsccsn.gc.ca>  
**Cc:** Brent Laroque <blaroque@mns.ca>; Hilary Peterson <hpeterson@mns.ca>  
**Subject:** MN-S Rights Impact Assessment - Denison Wheeler River

|  |
|--|
| EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES<br>PREUVE DE PRUDENCE |
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Maarsii,

**Dave DeVos**

Manager, Consultation

306-227-2928

30-20<sup>th</sup> Street East  
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan  
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---

**From:** [Boser, Sydney \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#)  
**To:** ['David Devos'](#)  
**Cc:** [McKeown, Justin \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#); [Way, Jessica \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#); [Gorzkowski, Konrad \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#); [Salmon, Candace \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#); [Brent Laroque](#);  
**Subject:** RE: REMINDER: Denison Part 2 Commission Hearing - PowerPoint Presentation deadline  
**Sent:** 2025-11-18 8:00:00 AM

---

Good morning Dave,

Okay thank you for letting me know!

Best,

Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)  
Phone Number: 343-596-9556

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---

**From:** David Devos <ddevos@mns.ca>  
**Sent:** November 17, 2025 5:53 PM  
**To:** Boser, Sydney (CNSC/CCSN) <[sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Cc:** McKeown, Justin (CNSC/CCSN) <[justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Way, Jessica (CNSC/CCSN) <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Gorzkowski, Konrad (CNSC/CCSN) <[konrad.gorzkowski@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:konrad.gorzkowski@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Salmon, Candace (CNSC/CCSN) <[candace.salmon@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:candace.salmon@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Brent Laroque <[blaroque@mns.ca](mailto:blaroque@mns.ca)>  
**Subject:** RE: REMINDER: Denison Part 2 Commission Hearing - PowerPoint Presentation deadline

|   |
|---|
| EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES PREUVE DE PRUDENCE |
|---|

Good day Sydney. We received an approval for an extension to Friday November 28, 2025 @ 1pm to provide the slide deck from Candace Salmond on November

5, 2025.

I have attached the approval email from Candace to this email.

Maarsii,

**Dave DeVos**  
Manager, Consultation

306-227-2928

30-20<sup>th</sup> Street East  
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan  
Canada S7K 0A7

### Heartland of the Métis and Treaty 6 Territory



This e-mail may be privileged and/or confidential, and the sender does not waive any related rights and obligations.  
Any distribution, use or copying of this e-mail or the information it contains by other than an intended recipient is unauthorized.  
If you received this e-mail in error, please advise me (by return e-mail or otherwise) and destroy it immediately.  
Please review our Privacy Policy.

---

**From:** Boser, Sydney (CNSC/CCSN) <[sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2025 2:44 PM  
**Cc:** McKeown, Justin (CNSC/CCSN) <[justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Way, Jessica (CNSC/CCSN) <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Gorzkowski, Konrad (CNSC/CCSN) <[konrad.gorzowski@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:konrad.gorzowski@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Subject:** REMINDER: Denison Part 2 Commission Hearing - PowerPoint Presentation deadline

Good afternoon,

This is a reminder that if you wish to use a PowerPoint presentation during your oral presentation to the Commission for the Denison Part 2 hearing the week of December 8<sup>th</sup>, it is **due to the Registry on Monday November 24<sup>th</sup>**. The Registry can be contacted at [interventions@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:interventions@cnscccsn.gc.ca)

Thank you,

Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)  
Phone Number: 343-596-9556



Agente principale en politiques, Division de la consultation et de la mobilisation des Autochtones

Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire

Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)

*I acknowledge that the land on which I live and work is the traditional Treaty 6 Territory and Homeland of the Métis*

Je reconnais que les terres sur lesquelles je vis et travaille sont le territoire traditionnel du Traité no 6 et la patrie des Métis

**C.6            Key Correspondence with Lac La Ronge Indian Band since  
June 2025**

**From:** [Interventions / Interventions \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#)  
**To:** [Ty Roberts](#)  
**Cc:** [Kristy Todd; Interventions / Interventions \(CNSC/CCSN\); Boser, Sydney \(CNSC/CCSN\); McKeown, Justin \(CNSC/CCSN\); Salmon, Candace \(CNSC/CCSN\); Samson, Jude \(CNSC/CCSN\);](#)  
**Subject:** Intervention - Lac La Ronge Indian Band (LLRIB)  
**Attachments:** [TEMPLATE Request for Confidentiality form.docx](#)  
**Sent:** 2025-10-16 1:07:05 PM

---

Good afternoon,

Thank you for the confirmation.

We normally publish all interventions on the CNSC website. However, exemptions may be granted by following the Registry's [Directive on Requesting Confidentiality](#). I've attached the Request for Confidentiality form for your convenience. Justin and Sydney who are copied on this email can provide further guidance on completing the form and navigating the confidentiality process.

Best regards,

Annik Tanguay  
Senior Tribunal Officer, Commission Registry / Agente principale du tribunal,  
Greffé de la Commission  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission / Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
[interventions@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:interventions@cnscccsn.gc.ca)  
Cell: 613 462-7489

---

**From:** Ty Roberts <ty.roberts@llrib.ca>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 9, 2025 11:57 AM  
**To:** Interventions / Interventions (CNSC/CCSN) <Interventions@cnscccsn.gc.ca>  
**Cc:** Kristy Todd <Kristy.Todd@cannorth.com>  
**Subject:** RE: Additional information required - RE: Confirmation Receipt - RE: Public Commission Proceedings Participation Request - ID: 244ec01f-4b6f-42eb-8135-a5f25f81a1d7

|  |
|--|
| EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES<br>PREUVE DE PRUDENCE |
|--|

Hello,

To follow up on my last email, I can confirm that I will be making a public oral presentation at the December hearing. At this point, we would prefer that our

submission not be published on the CNSC's public website, as it contains sensitive and confidential cultural data.

Thanks,

**Ty Roberts, M.Ss, B.S.A, PAg.**

**Reserve Lands Manager**

Lac La Ronge Indian Band

Lands & Resources

PO Box 480 • La Ronge, SK • S0J 1L0

☎ 306-420-1060

📠 306-425-2170

📧 [ty.roberts@llrib.ca](mailto:ty.roberts@llrib.ca)



---

**From:** Interventions / Interventions (CNSC/CCSN) <[Interventions@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:Interventions@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>

**Sent:** October 9, 2025 6:34 AM

**To:** Ty Roberts <[ty.roberts@llrib.ca](mailto:ty.roberts@llrib.ca)>

**Cc:** Interventions / Interventions (CNSC/CCSN) <[Interventions@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:Interventions@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>

**Subject:** Additional information required - RE: Confirmation Receipt - RE: Public Commission Proceedings Participation Request - ID: 244ec01f-4b6f-42eb-8135-a5f25f81a1d7

You don't often get email from [interventions@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:interventions@cnscccsn.gc.ca). [Learn why this is important](#)  
[EXTERNAL EMAIL: Be suspicious of content, links, and attachments.]

Good morning,

Following up on my previous email, we would like to inform you that your intervention has been accepted. However, we would like to clarify that the contents of your submission may be published on the CNSC public website.

Additionally, we would like to confirm that Lac La Ronge Indian Band (LLRIB) intends to make a public oral presentation.

Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions or need further clarification.

Best regards,

Annik Tanguay

Senior Tribunal Officer, Commission Registry / Agente principale du tribunal,

Greffe de la Commission

Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission / Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire

[interventions@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:interventions@cnscccsn.gc.ca)

Cell: 613 462-7489

---

**From:** Interventions / Interventions (CNSC/CCSN) <[Interventions@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:Interventions@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 8, 2025 1:42 PM  
**To:** 'ty.roberts@lrib.ca' <[ty.roberts@lrib.ca](mailto:ty.roberts@lrib.ca)>  
**Cc:** Interventions / Interventions (CNSC/CCSN) <[Interventions@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:Interventions@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Subject:** Confirmation Receipt - RE: Public Commission Proceedings Participation Request - ID: 244ec01f-4b6f-42eb-8135-a5f25f81a1d7

Good afternoon,


I acknowledge receipt of your e-mail and the attached written submission regarding the public hearing on Denison Mines Corporation's licence application to prepare a site for and construct Wheeler River mine and mill project. I understand that you wish to present orally at the **Part-2 hearing in December 2025**.

If you would like to submit a PowerPoint presentation alongside your written materials, please ensure it is sent by **November 24, 2025** in **.ppt format**. Please also include the following information with your submission:

- A list of presenters and other participants, including names, email addresses, and phone numbers
- Whether you will be participating **in-person** or **virtually**

If you will be preparing speaker notes, please send a copy by **October 2, 2025** - While not mandatory, they are requested by the interpreters.

The submissions on this matter will be available shortly on the CNSC website at [Download Hearing Documents \(cnscccsn.gc.ca\)](https://www.cnscccsn.gc.ca/DownloadHearingDocuments).

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <p>Please note that for virtual hearings with simultaneous interpretation, there is a requirement to wear a headset with boom microphone for each participant. This equipment is requested to help protect the health and safety of interpreters and ensure that the sound quality is sufficient for interpretation.</p> |  |
|--|--|



Should you have any questions, please contact us at [interventions@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:interventions@cnscccsn.gc.ca).

Regards,

Annik Tanguay

Senior Tribunal Officer, Commission Registry / Agente principale du tribunal,  
Greffe de la Commission  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission / Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
[interventions@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:interventions@cnscccsn.gc.ca)  
Cell: 613 462-7489

---

**From:** cnscccsn.donotreply-nepasrepondre.ccsn <[cnscccsn.donotreply-nepasrepondre.ccsn@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:cnscccsn.donotreply-nepasrepondre.ccsn@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 8, 2025 12:16 PM  
**To:** CNSC DoNotReply/NePasRepondre CCSN <[CNSC.DoNotReply-NePasRepondre.CCSN@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:CNSC.DoNotReply-NePasRepondre.CCSN@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Interventions / Interventions (CNSC/CCSN) <[interventions@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:interventions@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Subject:** Public Commission Proceedings Participation Request - ID: 244ec01f-4b6f-42eb-8135-a5f25f81a1d7

This is an automated message from the Application Form service. Please do not reply to this message.

## Basic Information

Date of proceeding: 2025-12-08

Licensee / Applicant: Denison Mines Corporation

Subject: Denison Mines Corporation's licence application hearing

## Contact information of person requesting to intervene

Title : Mr

If you selected other, which title would you like to use:

First Name: Ty

Last name: Roberts

Organization: Lac La Ronge Indian Band (LLRIB)

Email: [ty.roberts@llrib.ca](mailto:ty.roberts@llrib.ca)

Mailing address: PO Box 480

City: La Ronge

Province/State: Saskatchewan

Postal/Zip code: S0J 1L0

Telephone: 306 4201060

## Participation Details

How would you prefer to be contacted?: By email

How would you prefer to present information?: Both in writing and by making an oral presentation during the proceedings

Language of choice: English

If you wish to give an oral presentation, please include information about your expertise or specific interest, your unique perspective, the value that your presentation would add and how the Commission would benefit from an oral exchange on the issues you are raising: As a LLRIB member I hold Indigenous knowledge that has been shared with me and as a land user I have a deep relationship to the land and waters of northern Sask. I am also a trained professional with a masters and bachelors degrees, years of experience and now the LLRIB Reserve Lands Manager.

Have you received participant funding to present a submission to the Commission?: Yes

## Representative Information

First Name:

Last Name:

Organization:

Mailing address:

City:

Province/State:

Postal/Zip code:

Telephone:

Email:

## **Submission**

Written Submission:

## **Additional Comments**

Where did you hear about this opportunity to participate?: Email notice from the CNSC

Other:

Do you have any other comments, questions or suggestions?:

Form submitted on: 2025-10-08 16:15 UTC

Attachments:

- 4582 LLRIB CNSC Denison Hearing Written Submission\_Rev1.docx



**From:** [Interventions / Interventions \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#)  
**To:** [Ty Roberts](#)  
**Cc:** [Interventions / Interventions \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#); [Boser, Sydney \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#); [McKeown, Justin \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#); [macy.roberts@llrib.ca](mailto:macy.roberts@llrib.ca); [Kristy.Todd@cannorth.com](mailto:Kristy.Todd@cannorth.com);  
**Subject:** RE: LLRIB Request for Confidentiality form\_20Oct25 between Lac La Ronge Indian Band and Ty Roberts is Signed and Filed!  
**Attachments:** [LLRIB Request for Confidentiality form\\_20Oct25 - signed.pdf](#)  
**Sent:** 2025-10-29 9:19:57 AM

---

Good morning,

Thank you for submitting the attached Request for Confidentiality form. You have indicated that the entire content of your written submission should not be made publicly available as it is Indigenous Knowledge.

Please note that we require either a redacted version of the submission or a summary version which can be publicly posted. Please also note that if protection of this document is granted, the document would not be publicly posted but it would be shared with both the proponent Denison and CNSC staff, who would be advised of its protected status.

Please submit a public version to the Interventions mailbox by **Friday, October 31st at noon (Saskatoon time)**.

I've copied Sydney and Justin on this message, from the CNSC staff team, who are available to provide assistance in preparing the redacted or summary version should you wish to reach out to them.

If you have any questions regarding this request, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Regards,

Diane Durocher

Tribunal Officer, Commission Registry | Agente du tribunal, Greffe de la Commission  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission | Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
[interventions@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:interventions@cnscccsn.gc.ca)

---

**From:** Boser, Sydney (CNSC/CCSN) <[sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Sent:** October 21, 2025 12:14 PM  
**To:** Ty Roberts <[ty.roberts@llrib.ca](mailto:ty.roberts@llrib.ca)>  
**Cc:** Interventions / Interventions (CNSC/CCSN) <[Interventions@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:Interventions@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>

**Subject:** RE: LLRIB Request for Confidentiality form\_20Oct25 between Lac La Ronge Indian Band and Ty Roberts is Signed and Filed!

Thank you Ty for sending this along. I am confirming receipt and I will pass this along to the Registry.

Best,

Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)  
Phone Number: 343-596-9556

Agente principale en politiques, Division de la consultation et de la mobilisation des Autochtones  
Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)

*I acknowledge that the land on which I live and work is the traditional Treaty 6 Territory and Homeland of the Métis*

Je reconnais que les terres sur lesquelles je vis et travaille sont le territoire traditionnel du Traité no 6 et la patrie des Métis

---

**From:** Ty Roberts <[ty.roberts@llrib.ca](mailto:ty.roberts@llrib.ca)>

**Sent:** October 21, 2025 9:59 AM

**To:** Boser, Sydney (CNSC/CCSN) <[sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>

**Subject:** Fwd: LLRIB Request for Confidentiality form\_20Oct25 between Lac La Ronge Indian Band and Ty Roberts is Signed and Filed!

EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES PREUVE DE PRUDENCE

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Kristy Todd <[Kristy.Todd@cannorth.com](mailto:Kristy.Todd@cannorth.com)>

**Date:** October 21, 2025 at 8:57:11 AM PDT

**To:** Ty Roberts <[ty.roberts@llrib.ca](mailto:ty.roberts@llrib.ca)>

**Subject:** Fw: LLRIB Request for Confidentiality form\_20Oct25 between Lac La Ronge Indian Band and Ty Roberts is Signed and Filed!

[EXTERNAL EMAIL: Be suspicious of content, links, and attachments.]

Hi Ty,

See attached to send to CNSC.

Kristy

---

**From:** Macy Roberts <[macy.roberts@llrib.ca](mailto:macy.roberts@llrib.ca)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, October 21, 2025 8:48 AM

**To:** Kristy Todd <[Kristy.Todd@cannorth.com](mailto:Kristy.Todd@cannorth.com)>

**Subject:** FW: LLRIB Request for Confidentiality form\_20Oct25 between Lac La Ronge Indian Band and Ty Roberts is Signed and Filed!

*Macy Roberts*

*Administrative Assistant, Lands and Resources*

*Lac La Ronge Indian Band*

*P.O. Box 480*

*La Ronge, SK. S0J 1L0*

*Ph: 306-425-2183*

*Mobile: 306-420-5260*

*Email: [macy.roberts@llrib.ca](mailto:macy.roberts@llrib.ca)*

---

**From:** Adobe Sign <[adobesign@adobesign.com](mailto:adobesign@adobesign.com)>

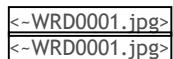
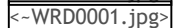
**Sent:** October 21, 2025 8:47 AM

**To:** Macy Roberts <[macy.roberts@llrib.ca](mailto:macy.roberts@llrib.ca)>; Ty Roberts <[ty.roberts@llrib.ca](mailto:ty.roberts@llrib.ca)>

**Subject:** LLRIB Request for Confidentiality form\_20Oct25 between Lac La Ronge Indian Band and Ty Roberts is Signed and Filed!

[EXTERNAL EMAIL: Be suspicious of content, links, and attachments.]

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LLRIB Request for  
Confidentiality form\_20Oct25  
between Lac La Ronge Indian  
Band and Ty Roberts is Signed  
and Filed!

**To:** Macy Roberts and Ty Roberts

Attached is a final copy of **LLRIB Request for Confidentiality form\_20Oct25**.

Copies have been automatically sent to all parties to the agreement.

You can view [the document](#) in your Adobe Acrobat Sign account.

**Why use Adobe Acrobat Sign:**

- Exchange, Sign, and File Any Document. In Seconds!
- Set-up Reminders. Instantly Share Copies with Others.
- See All of Your Documents, Anytime, Anywhere.

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[Terms of Use](#) | [Report Abuse](#)

**From:** [Boser, Sydney \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#)  
**To:** [Interventions / Interventions \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#); [Ty Roberts](#);  
**Cc:** [McKeown, Justin \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#); [macy.roberts@llrib.ca](mailto:macy.roberts@llrib.ca);  
[Kristy.Todd@cannorth.com](mailto:Kristy.Todd@cannorth.com);  
**Subject:** RE: LLRIB Request for Confidentiality form\_20Oct25 between Lac La Ronge Indian Band and Ty Roberts is Signed and Filed!  
**Sent:** 2025-10-30 2:25:00 PM

---

Hi Ty,

I am just following up on this email as I just tried calling your office regarding the email below and sounds like you are at a trappers meeting this afternoon but I just wanted to check in if LLRIB is able to provide the CNSC with either a summary or redacted version by the deadline tomorrow? You can either give me a call back at 306-370-6899 or respond to this email letting us know your preference.

Thanks,

Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)  
Phone Number: 343-596-9556

Agente principale en politiques, Division de la consultation et de la mobilisation des Autochtones  
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Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)

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---

**From:** Interventions / Interventions (CNSC/CCSN) <[Interventions@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:Interventions@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Sent:** October 29, 2025 9:19 AM  
**To:** Ty Roberts <[ty.roberts@llrib.ca](mailto:ty.roberts@llrib.ca)>  
**Cc:** Interventions / Interventions (CNSC/CCSN) <[Interventions@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:Interventions@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Boser, Sydney (CNSC/CCSN) <[sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; McKeown, Justin (CNSC/CCSN) <[justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; [macy.roberts@llrib.ca](mailto:macy.roberts@llrib.ca); [Kristy.Todd@cannorth.com](mailto:Kristy.Todd@cannorth.com)  
**Subject:** RE: LLRIB Request for Confidentiality form\_20Oct25 between Lac La Ronge Indian Band and Ty Roberts is Signed and Filed!  
**Importance:** High

Good morning,

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Diane Durocher

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**Sent:** October 21, 2025 12:14 PM  
**To:** Ty Roberts <[ty.roberts@llrib.ca](mailto:ty.roberts@llrib.ca)>  
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Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnsccsn.gc.ca)  
Phone Number: 343-596-9556

Agente principale en politiques, Division de la consultation et de la mobilisation des  
Autochtones  
Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire

Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)

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**From:** Macy Roberts <[macy.roberts@llrib.ca](mailto:macy.roberts@llrib.ca)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, October 21, 2025 8:48 AM

**To:** Kristy Todd <[Kristy.Todd@cannorth.com](mailto:Kristy.Todd@cannorth.com)>

**Subject:** FW: LLRIB Request for Confidentiality form\_20Oct25 between Lac La Ronge Indian Band and Ty Roberts is Signed and Filed!

*Macy Roberts*

*Administrative Assistant, Lands and Resources*

Lac La Ronge Indian Band  
P.O. Box 480  
La Ronge, SK. S0J 1L0  
Ph: 306-425-2183  
Mobile: 306-420-5260  
Email: [macy.roberts@llrib.ca](mailto:macy.roberts@llrib.ca)

---

**From:** Adobe Sign <[adobesign@adobesign.com](mailto:adobesign@adobesign.com)>  
**Sent:** October 21, 2025 8:47 AM  
**To:** Macy Roberts <[macy.roberts@llrib.ca](mailto:macy.roberts@llrib.ca)>; Ty Roberts <[ty.roberts@llrib.ca](mailto:ty.roberts@llrib.ca)>  
**Subject:** LLRIB Request for Confidentiality form\_20Oct25 between Lac La Ronge Indian Band and Ty Roberts is Signed and Filed!

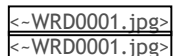
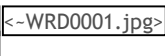
[EXTERNAL EMAIL: Be suspicious of content, links, and attachments.]

 <-WRD0001.jpg>

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**To:** Macy Roberts and Ty Roberts

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---

**From:** [Kristy Todd](#)  
**To:** [Boser, Sydney \(CNSC/CCSN\); Interventions / Interventions \(CNSC/CCSN\); Ty Roberts;](#)  
**Cc:** [McKeown, Justin \(CNSC/CCSN\); macy.roberts@llrib.ca;](#)  
**Subject:** Re: LLRIB Request for Confidentiality form\_20Oct25 between Lac La Ronge Indian Band and Ty Roberts is Signed and Filed!  
**Attachments:** [4582 LLRIB CNSC Denison Hearing Written Submission Summary\\_Rev0.docx](#)  
**Sent:** 2025-10-30 3:38:16 PM

---

EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES PREUVE DE PRUDENCE

---

Hi Sydney,

Please see the attached summary of LLRIB's written submission for the CNSC Denison License Hearing Part 2. Ty is on the road today and tomorrow so asked I send it to you.

Please let me know if you have any questions,  
Kristy

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**From:** Boser, Sydney (CNSC/CCSN) <[sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 30, 2025 2:25 PM  
**To:** Interventions / Interventions (CNSC/CCSN) <[Interventions@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:Interventions@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Ty Roberts <[ty.roberts@llrib.ca](mailto:ty.roberts@llrib.ca)>  
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**Subject:** RE: LLRIB Request for Confidentiality form\_20Oct25 between Lac La Ronge Indian Band and Ty Roberts is Signed and Filed!

Hi Ty,

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Thanks,

Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)  
Phone Number: 343-596-9556

Agente principale en politiques, Division de la consultation et de la mobilisation des Autochtones  
Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)

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**From:** Interventions / Interventions (CNSC/CCSN) <Interventions@cnscccsn.gc.ca>  
**Sent:** October 29, 2025 9:19 AM  
**To:** Ty Roberts <ty.roberts@llrib.ca>  
**Cc:** Interventions / Interventions (CNSC/CCSN) <Interventions@cnscccsn.gc.ca>; Boser, Sydney (CNSC/CCSN) <sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca>; McKeown, Justin (CNSC/CCSN) <justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca>; macy.roberts@llrib.ca; Kristy.Todd@cannorth.com  
**Subject:** RE: LLRIB Request for Confidentiality form\_20Oct25 between Lac La Ronge Indian Band and Ty Roberts is Signed and Filed!  
**Importance:** High

Good morning,

Thank you for submitting the attached Request for Confidentiality form. You have indicated that the entire content of your written submission should not be made publicly available as it is Indigenous Knowledge.

Please note that we require either a redacted version of the submission or a summary version which can be publicly posted. Please also note that if protection of this document is granted, the document would not be publicly posted but it would be shared with both the proponent Denison and CNSC staff, who would be advised of its protected status.

Please submit a public version to the Interventions mailbox by **Friday, October 31st at noon (Saskatoon time)**.

I've copied Sydney and Justin on this message, from the CNSC staff team, who are available to provide assistance in preparing the redacted or summary version should you wish to reach out to them.

If you have any questions regarding this request, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Regards,

Diane Durocher

Tribunal Officer, Commission Registry | Agente du tribunal, Greffe de la Commission  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission | Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
[interventions@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:interventions@cnscccsn.gc.ca)

---

**From:** Boser, Sydney (CNSC/CCSN) <[sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Sent:** October 21, 2025 12:14 PM  
**To:** Ty Roberts <[ty.roberts@llrib.ca](mailto:ty.roberts@llrib.ca)>  
**Cc:** Interventions / Interventions (CNSC/CCSN) <[Interventions@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:Interventions@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Subject:** RE: LLRIB Request for Confidentiality form\_20Oct25 between Lac La Ronge Indian Band and Ty Roberts is Signed and Filed!

Thank you Ty for sending this along. I am confirming receipt and I will pass this along to the Registry.

Best,

Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)  
Phone Number: 343-596-9556

Agente principale en politiques, Division de la consultation et de la mobilisation des Autochtones  
Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)

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---

**From:** Ty Roberts <[ty.roberts@llrib.ca](mailto:ty.roberts@llrib.ca)>

**Sent:** October 21, 2025 9:59 AM

**To:** Boser, Sydney (CNSC/CCSN) <[sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>

**Subject:** Fwd: LLRIB Request for Confidentiality form\_20Oct25 between Lac La Ronge Indian Band and Ty Roberts is Signed and Filed!

|   |
|---|
| EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES PREUVE DE PRUDENCE |
|---|

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Kristy Todd <[Kristy.Todd@cannorth.com](mailto:Kristy.Todd@cannorth.com)>

**Date:** October 21, 2025 at 8:57:11 AM PDT

**To:** Ty Roberts <[ty.roberts@llrib.ca](mailto:ty.roberts@llrib.ca)>

**Subject:** Fw: LLRIB Request for Confidentiality form\_20Oct25 between Lac La Ronge Indian Band and Ty Roberts is Signed and Filed!

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Hi Ty,

See attached to send to CNSC.

Kristy

---

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*Macy Roberts*

*Administrative Assistant, Lands and Resources*

*Lac La Ronge Indian Band*

*P.O. Box 480*

*La Ronge, SK. S0J 1L0*

*Ph: 306-425-2183*

*Mobile: 306-420-5260*

*Email: [macy.roberts@llrib.ca](mailto:macy.roberts@llrib.ca)*

---

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**Sent:** October 21, 2025 8:47 AM

**To:** Macy Roberts <[macy.roberts@llrib.ca](mailto:macy.roberts@llrib.ca)>; Ty Roberts <[ty.roberts@llrib.ca](mailto:ty.roberts@llrib.ca)>

**Subject:** LLRIB Request for Confidentiality form\_20Oct25 between Lac La Ronge Indian Band and Ty Roberts is Signed and Filed!

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**From:** [Boser, Sydney \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#)  
**To:** [Kristy Todd; Interventions / Interventions \(CNSC/CCSN\); Ty Roberts;](#)  
**Cc:** [McKeown, Justin \(CNSC/CCSN\); macy.roberts@llrib.ca;](#)  
**Subject:** RE: LLRIB Request for Confidentiality form\_20Oct25 between Lac La Ronge Indian Band and Ty Roberts is Signed and Filed!  
**Sent:** 2025-10-30 3:42:00 PM

---

Thank you for providing this Kristy. I am confirming receipt and will pass this along to the CNSC Registry. If they have any further questions they will reach out.

Have a great evening,

Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)  
Phone Number: 343-596-9556

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**From:** Kristy Todd <Kristy.Todd@cannorth.com>  
**Sent:** October 30, 2025 3:38 PM  
**To:** Boser, Sydney (CNSC/CCSN) <[sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Interventions / Interventions (CNSC/CCSN) <[Interventions@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:Interventions@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Ty Roberts <[ty.roberts@llrib.ca](mailto:ty.roberts@llrib.ca)>  
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Phone Number: 343-596-9556

Agente principale en politiques, Division de la consultation et de la mobilisation des Autochtones

Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire

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If you have any questions regarding this request, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Regards,

Diane Durocher

Tribunal Officer, Commission Registry | Agente du tribunal, Greffe de la Commission

Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission | Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire

[interventions@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:interventions@cnscccsn.gc.ca)

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Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission

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Kristy

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**Sent:** Tuesday, October 21, 2025 8:48 AM  
**To:** Kristy Todd <[Kristy.Todd@cannorth.com](mailto:Kristy.Todd@cannorth.com)>  
**Subject:** FW: LLRIB Request for Confidentiality form\_20Oct25 between Lac La Ronge Indian Band and Ty Roberts is Signed and Filed!

*Macy Roberts*

*Administrative Assistant, Lands and Resources*

*Lac La Ronge Indian Band*

*P.O. Box 480*

*La Ronge, SK S0J 1L0*

*Ph: 306-425-2183*

*Mobile: 306-420-5260*

*Email: [macy.roberts@llrib.ca](mailto:macy.roberts@llrib.ca)*

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**Sent:** October 21, 2025 8:47 AM  
**To:** Macy Roberts <[macy.roberts@llrib.ca](mailto:macy.roberts@llrib.ca)>; Ty Roberts <[ty.roberts@llrib.ca](mailto:ty.roberts@llrib.ca)>

**Subject:** LLRIB Request for Confidentiality form\_20Oct25 between Lac La Ronge Indian Band and Ty Roberts is Signed and Filed!

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<-WRD0001.jpg>

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**To:** Macy Roberts and Ty Roberts

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**C.7            Key Correspondence with Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation  
since June 2025**

**From:** [Froess, Ryan](#)  
**To:** [Chani Campbell](#); [Way, Jessica](#); [Executive Secretary](#);  
[chiefbeatty@sasktel.net](#); [Ben Merasty](#); [Ted Merasty](#); [McKeown, Justin](#);  
[Noakes, Rain](#); [Boser, Sydney](#);  
**Subject:** RE: Letter to CNSC from Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation  
**Sent:** 2025-07-17 10:36:20 AM

---

Good morning, Chani,

Thank you for sharing PBCNs map attached with CNSC staff. Is this something that PBCN would like protected as confidential or is this something that PBCN would be willing to share with the Commission? If you would like to share it confidentially with the Commission, then there is a separate process for that. This could also be done with the information you have shared with CNSC staff to date. CNSC staff will review and ensure it is treated as confidential until we hear back from PBCN and to hear back from you when Ted has completed his work

CNSC will continue to incorporate any traditional land use information that is shared with the CNSC in our Consultation and EA reports. The final documents will be posted for Indigenous Nations and communities and the public to review the week of August 12, however, CNSC staff will be working with Indigenous Nations and communities to ensure all relevant information is captured in our supplemental filing of our Consultation Report prior to the Part 2 Commission hearing. In the meantime, CNSC is committed to working with PBCN on understanding and addressing the concerns and questions raised to date.

Thank you,

**Ryan Froess**

Environmental Review Officer | Agente d'examen environnementale  
Environmental Review Division | Division de l'examen de l'environnement  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission | Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
[ryan.froess@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:ryan.froess@cnsccsn.gc.ca) | Tél. Cell: 306-914-7892

---

**From:** Chani Campbell <[CCampbell@arlaw.ca](mailto:CCampbell@arlaw.ca)>  
**Sent:** July 15, 2025 6:33 PM  
**To:** Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnsccsn.gc.ca)>; Executive Secretary <[executivesecretary@pbcn.ca](mailto:executivesecretary@pbcn.ca)>  
**Cc:** chiefbeatty@sasktel.net; Ben Merasty <[bmerasty@pbcn.ca](mailto:bmerasty@pbcn.ca)>; Ted Merasty <[tmerasty@pbcn.ca](mailto:tmerasty@pbcn.ca)>; McKeown, Justin <[justin.mckeown@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnsccsn.gc.ca)>; Froess, Ryan <[ryan.froess@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:ryan.froess@cnsccsn.gc.ca)>; Noakes, Rain <[rain.noakes@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:rain.noakes@cnsccsn.gc.ca)>; Boser, Sydney <[sydney.boser@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnsccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Subject:** RE: Letter to CNSC from Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation

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|--|
| EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES<br>PREUVE DE PRUDENCE |
|--|

Hi Jes,

We have attached a draft map outlining additional inputs. Ted is working to provide a cross reference of activities.

Thanks kindly,

Chani Campbell

**Aldridge + Rosling LLP**  
Barristers & Solicitors  
Suite 1320 - 999 W. Hastings St.  
Vancouver, BC, V6C 2W2  
Ph: 604.605.5555 ext. 232 | Fax: 604.684.6402  
Email: [ccampbell@arlaw.ca](mailto:ccampbell@arlaw.ca)

-  
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**From:** Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 10, 2025 9:06 PM  
**To:** Executive Secretary <[executivesecretary@pbcn.ca](mailto:executivesecretary@pbcn.ca)>  
**Cc:** [chiefbeatty@sasktel.net](mailto:chiefbeatty@sasktel.net); Ben Merasty <[bmerasty@pbcn.ca](mailto:bmerasty@pbcn.ca)>; Ted Merasty <[tmerasty@pbcn.ca](mailto:tmerasty@pbcn.ca)>; Chani Campbell <[CCampbell@arlaw.ca](mailto:CCampbell@arlaw.ca)>; McKeown, Justin <[justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Froess, Ryan <[ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Noakes, Rain <[rain.noakes@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:rain.noakes@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
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Good evening Pauline,

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Have a wonderful summer.

Jes

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**From:** Boser, Sydney <[sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 5, 2025 5:51 PM  
**To:** Executive Secretary <[executivesecretary@pbcn.ca](mailto:executivesecretary@pbcn.ca)>  
**Cc:** [chiefbeatty@sasktel.net](mailto:chiefbeatty@sasktel.net); Ben Merasty <[bmerasty@pbcn.ca](mailto:bmerasty@pbcn.ca)>; Ted Merasty <[tmerasty@pbcn.ca](mailto:tmerasty@pbcn.ca)>; Chani Campbell <[CCampbell@arlaw.ca](mailto:CCampbell@arlaw.ca)>; Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; McKeown, Justin <[justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Subject:** RE: Letter to CNSC from Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation

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I also just wanted to follow up on the potential for us to schedule a meeting in-person on the morning of June 19<sup>th</sup> in Saskatoon as Justin McKeown and Adam Levine will be in town. If that works for even a smaller group let me know and I can send out an invite.

Thank you,

Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)  
Phone Number: 343-596-9556

Agente principale en politiques, Division de la consultation et de la mobilisation des Autochtones  
Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)

*I acknowledge that the land on which I live and work is the traditional Treaty 6 Territory and Homeland of the Métis*

Je reconnais que les terres sur lesquelles je vis et travaille sont le territoire traditionnel du Traité no 6 et la patrie des Métis

---

**From:** Boser, Sydney  
**Sent:** May 29, 2025 2:54 PM  
**To:** Executive Secretary <[executivesecretary@pbcn.ca](mailto:executivesecretary@pbcn.ca)>  
**Cc:** [chiefbeatty@sasktel.net](mailto:chiefbeatty@sasktel.net); Ben Merasty <[bmerasty@pbcn.ca](mailto:bmerasty@pbcn.ca)>; Ted Merasty <[tmerasty@pbcn.ca](mailto:tmerasty@pbcn.ca)>; Chani Campbell <[CCampbell@arlaw.ca](mailto:CCampbell@arlaw.ca)>; Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>



[ccsn.gc.ca](mailto:ccsn.gc.ca)>

**Subject:** RE: Letter to CNSC from Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation

Good afternoon Pauline,

Thank you for providing this information. I am confirming receipt and CNSC will be reviewing the communication.

Best,

Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)  
Phone Number: 343-596-9556

Agente principale en politiques, Division de la consultation et de la mobilisation des Autochtones  
Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)

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**From:** Executive Secretary <[executivesecretary@pbcn.ca](mailto:executivesecretary@pbcn.ca)>

**Sent:** May 29, 2025 11:47 AM

**To:** Boser, Sydney <[sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>

**Cc:** [chiefbeatty@sasktel.net](mailto:chiefbeatty@sasktel.net); Ben Merasty <[bmerasty@pbcn.ca](mailto:bmerasty@pbcn.ca)>; Ted Merasty <[tmerasty@pbcn.ca](mailto:tmerasty@pbcn.ca)>; Chani Campbell <[CCampbell@arlaw.ca](mailto:CCampbell@arlaw.ca)>; Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>

**Subject:** Letter to CNSC from Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation

EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES  
PREUVE DE PRUDENCE

Good morning Sydney,

Please see the attached communication from Ben Merasty, Executive Director, Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation.

Best regards,

Pauline Bedard - Executive Secretary

Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation  
Chief Joseph Custer I.R #201  
2300 - 10th Avenue West, P.O Box 2320  
Prince Albert, Saskatchewan  
S6V 6Z1  
Ph: 306.953.4400  
Cell: 639.533.2510  
Fax: 306.953.4420  
Email: [executivesecretary@pbcn.ca](mailto:executivesecretary@pbcn.ca)



**From:** [Way, Jessica](#)  
**To:** [Froess, Ryan](#); [Chani Campbell](#); [Executive Secretary](#);  
**Cc:** [chiefbeatty@sasktel.net](#); [Ben Merasty](#); [Ted Merasty](#); [McKeown, Justin](#);  
[Noakes, Rain](#); [Boser, Sydney](#);  
**Subject:** RE: Letter to CNSC from Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation  
**Attachments:** [CNSC Request to Protect Confidential Information November 4 2024 \(00106410xDD1F1\).pdf](#)  
**Sent:** 2025-09-16 1:14:39 PM

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Hi Chani,

I hope this email finds you and the PBCN team well.

Thanks again for sharing the updated map. I am back in the office and wanted to follow up on the email below.

We wanted to confirm, should this map be protected as confidential? If yes, the existing confidentiality form could be applied to this as well, we just need to confirm.

Would PBCN be interested in having a catch up meeting at some point soon? This could be an opportunity for PBCN to share anything additional related to this new map or cover any other topics of interest to PBCN, in advance of the intervention deadline and upcoming hearings. We would also be interested in hearing how things have been going between yourselves and Denison, if you are willing to share.

Please let me know.

Thanks,  
Jes

---

**From:** Froess, Ryan <[ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 17, 2025 12:36 PM  
**To:** Chani Campbell <[CCampbell@arlaw.ca](mailto:CCampbell@arlaw.ca)>; Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Executive Secretary <[executivesecretary@pbcn.ca](mailto:executivesecretary@pbcn.ca)>  
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**Subject:** RE: Letter to CNSC from Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation

Good morning, Chani,

Thank you for sharing PBCNs map attached with CNSC staff. Is this something that PBCN would like protected as confidential or is this something that PBCN would be willing

to share with the Commission? If you would like to share it confidentially with the Commission, then there is a separate process for that. This could also be done with the information you have shared with CNSC staff to date. CNSC staff will review and ensure it is treated as confidential until we hear back from PBCN and to hear back from you when Ted has completed his work

CNSC will continue to incorporate any traditional land use information that is shared with the CNSC in our Consultation and EA reports. The final documents will be posted for Indigenous Nations and communities and the public to review the week of August 12, however, CNSC staff will be working with Indigenous Nations and communities to ensure all relevant information is captured in our supplemental filing of our Consultation Report prior to the Part 2 Commission hearing. In the meantime, CNSC is committed to working with PBCN on understanding and addressing the concerns and questions raised to date.

Thank you,

**Ryan Froess**

Environmental Review Officer | Agente d'examen environnementale  
Environmental Review Division | Division de l'examen de l'environnement  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission | Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
[ryan.froess@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:ryan.froess@cnsccsn.gc.ca) | Tél. Cell: 306-914-7892

---

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**To:** Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnsccsn.gc.ca)>; Executive Secretary <[executivesecretary@pbcn.ca](mailto:executivesecretary@pbcn.ca)>

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-  
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Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission

Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)  
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**Subject:** Letter to CNSC from Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation

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| EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES<br>PREUVE DE PRUDENCE |
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Best regards,

Pauline Bedard - Executive Secretary  
Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation  
Chief Joseph Custer I.R #201  
2300 - 10th Avenue West, P.O Box 2320  
Prince Albert, Saskatchewan  
S6V 6Z1  
Ph: 306.953.4400  
Cell: 639.533.2510  
Fax: 306.953.4420  
Email: [executivesecretary@pbcn.ca](mailto:executivesecretary@pbcn.ca)





**From:** [McKeown, Justin \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#)  
**To:** [Ben Merasty](#); [Ted Merasty](#); [dwu@arvayfinlay.ca](#); [dredman@arvayfinlay.ca](#); [jiddle@arvayfinlay.ca](#); [hmutch@arvayfinlay.ca](#);  
[Levine, Adam \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#); [Boser, Sydney \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#); [Way, Jessica \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#); [Gorzkowski, Konrad \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#); [Burton, Patrick \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#); [Ringer, Ryan \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#);  
**Cc:** [Levine, Adam \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#); [Boser, Sydney \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#); [Way, Jessica \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#); [Gorzkowski, Konrad \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#); [Burton, Patrick \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#); [Ringer, Ryan \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#);  
**Subject:** Denison Mines Wheeler River Project - Evaluation of Impacts to PBCN Rights  
**Attachments:** [Response\\_PBCN\\_Impacts\\_To\\_Rights\\_2025\\_11\\_14.pdf](#)  
**Sent:** 2025-11-14 4:22:15 PM

---

Good afternoon Mr. Merasty,

In response to PBCN's ongoing engagement with the CNSC and PBCN's assertion that the Denison Wheeler River Project will impact the Nation's Aboriginal and Treaty Rights as affirmed under Section 35 of the *Constitution Act*, 1982, I am reaching out in advance of the Part 2 hearing for the Project to be held in Saskatoon from Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

Attached is our analysis of the traditional use information provided by yourself and PBCN members as it pertains to potential impacts to PBCN's rights as a result of the proposed Project. We are open to receiving any updated information the Nation wishes to share regarding member land use as more Nation members come forward. In addition, we are happy to discuss our findings in a follow-up call should the Nation wish to meet.

Thank you for your time.

**Justin McKeown, B.Sc., P.Biol.**

Team Leader, Western & Northern Regions | Chef d'équipe, régions de l'ouest et du nord  
Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division | Division de la consultation et de la mobilisation des Autochtones  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission | Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
[justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca) | Tél. Cell: 403-466-7185

*I have the privilege of living and working in Moh'kinstsis/Wicîspa/Guts'ists'i, on Treaty 7 lands and on the homeland of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government Districts 5 and 6.*



**November 14, 2025**

Ben Merasty  
Executive Director  
Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation  
Chief Joseph Custer Reserve – 2300 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue West  
Prince Albert, Saskatchewan  
S6V 6Z1

**Subject: Denison Mines Wheeler River Project – Consultation with Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation**

Dear Mr. Merasty:

I would like to thank Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation (PBCN) for your continued interest and engagement with the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) as it relates to the proposed Denison Wheeler River Project (the Project). In correspondence, discussions and through PBCN's written intervention we have heard PBCN's concerns regarding the potential of the Project to impact PBCN members' exercise of rights.

As stated in CNSC correspondence to PBCN, including the October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024 and June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025 meetings between CNSC and PBCN representatives, CNSC has requested specific information regarding PBCN members' land use and exercise of rights in the proposed Wheeler River Project area. In addition to the traditional use map shared in the October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024 meeting, and the November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024 letter outlining a Summary of Evidence of PBCN Aboriginal Rights as they relate to the Project, a map of additional areas of use was provided to CNSC staff via email on July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025. We appreciate PBCN sharing traditional land use information and maps to aid in CNSC staff's understanding of potential impacts on PBCN's Aboriginal and treaty rights as affirmed under Section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*. CNSC staff have evaluated the traditional land use information shared to date and details of our assessment of potential impacts on PBCN's rights related to the Project are contained in Annex A attached to this letter.


The summary analysis contained in Annex A will be included in the publicly available Commission Member Document supplemental submission to outline CNSC staff's analysis and recommendations as it relates to assessing impacts to PBCN's rights. This information is required for the Commission to make an informed decision on the Project. Through PBCN's May 29<sup>th</sup>, 2025 letter addressed to Ms. Boser, we understand PBCN has waived the obligations in the 2024 Confidentiality Agreement to enable the transparent sharing of information.

CNSC staff understand and acknowledge that PBCN's Indigenous Knowledge and traditional land use data are ever-evolving and as more Nation members come forward to share their knowledge,

more historical and contemporary use may be understood. CNSC remains open to receiving information with regards to PBCN's traditional use and practices at any time as the information becomes available.

The CNSC is committed to working with PBCN to collaborate on addressing any outstanding concerns with respect to the Denison Wheeler River Project, including engagement on monitoring initiatives and follow-up activities, where appropriate. Please let us know if you would like to set up a meeting to discuss CNSC staff's analysis of the information shared to date as it relates to PBCN's traditional use and rights, and working on a path forward together.

Yours sincerely,



Digitally signed by McKeown, Justin  
DN: c=CA, o=CC, ou=CNSC-CCSN, cn="McKeown, Justin"  
Reason: I am the author of this document  
Location:  
Date: 2025.11.14 15:03:05-0700'  
Foxit PDF Editor Version: 13.0.1

Justin McKeown  
Team Leader – Western & Northern Regions Team  
Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission

c.c./c.c.: CNSC: A. Levine, S. Boser, J. Way, P. Burton, K. Gorzkowski, D. Wylie, R. Ringer  
PBCN: T. Merasty, D. Wu, D. Redman, J. Riddle, H. Mutch

## Annex A

### CNSC staff's analysis of potential impacts on PBCN's rights as it relates to the Denison Wheeler River Project

#### Summary of Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation Traditional Land Use

Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation (PBCN) representatives have shared correspondence and have met with CNSC staff to provide details of known historical and contemporary use in relation to the Denison Wheeler River Project. PBCN traditional land use data in relation to the Project was described in an October 24, 2024 meeting, a November 7, 2024 letter addressed to Jes Way, and in a draft map showing traditional land use inputs and PBCN member territory edits that was shared via email on July 15, 2025.

Traditional land use data, including specific species and activities shared by PBCN with CNSC staff included the following:

| <b>Item</b>                           | <b>Value</b>  | <b>Description</b>   |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|--|
| <b>Food storage (cache)</b>           | Cultural      | PBCN members in the past would store dried fish and other food here.                             |
| <b>Medicinal plants</b>               | Cultural      | PBCN members have harvested medicinal plants in and near the Project area since time immemorial. |
| <b>Environmental feature corridor</b> | Environmental | The Project area has been identified as an area known to be a caribou crossing.                  |
| <b>Moose</b>                          | Subsistence   | Numerous PBCN members have harvested moose in and around Project area.                           |
| <b>Caribou</b>                        | Subsistence   | Numerous PBCN members have harvested caribou in and around Project area.                         |
| <b>Duck/mallard</b>                   | Subsistence   | PBCN members use this area to harvest duck (mostly in the Fall).                                 |
| <b>Geese</b>                          | Subsistence   | PBCN members use this area to harvest geese (mostly in the Fall).                                |
| <b>Trapping</b>                       | Cultural      | PBCN members have trapped lynx near the Project.   |
| <b>Fungus</b>                         | Cultural      | PBCN members harvested chaga in vicinity of Project  |
| <b>Rat root (weecay)</b>              | Cultural      | PBCN harvests rat root in vicinity of Project  |
| <b>Lynx</b>                           | Subsistence   | PBCN members set traps for lynx near the Project.  |

|                              |          |  |
|------------------------------|----------|--|
| <b>Teaching area</b>         | Cultural | The areas in vicinity of Project have been and are used as a teaching area for fishing, trapping and harvesting. |
| <b>General trapping area</b> | Cultural | Numerous PBCN Members trap muskrat and beaver in vicinity of Project.  |

In addition, the November 7, 2024 letter noted important fish species including grayling, walleye, trout, and northern pike are fished for subsistence in Wollaston Lake and the surrounding lakes in the area by PBCN members.

### **CNSC Evaluation of Traditional Use Data and Impacts to BNDN's Aboriginal and Treaty Rights**

Based on CNSC staff's analysis and independent review of the potential impacts of the Denison Wheeler Project, CNSC staff identified that potential effects on the rights and interests of Indigenous Nations and communities may occur from the proposed Project through effects pathways that include:

- Biophysical effects (effects on wildlife, aquatic resources, fish and fish habitat, vegetation and ecosystems)
- Access to lands and waters relied upon to access resources required for the exercise of rights
- Cultural/spiritual/experiential activities and/or behaviours that may disrupt or cause disturbances related to activities carried out for the exercise of rights
- Governance, stewardship and decision-making on culturally important lands

Changes to these pathways may directly influence the exercise of Indigenous and/or treaty rights rights, as described in the sections that follow.

To evaluate impacts to rights, the CNSC staff assesses the following:

- Changes in the Quantity and Quality of Resources Relating to the Exercise of Rights
- Changes in Access to Areas of Cultural Importance and Areas Containing Resources that Support the Exercise of Rights
- Changes to Governance, Laws, and Cultural Traditions that Inform the Exercise of Rights

### **Changes in the Quantity and Quality of Resources Relating to the Exercise of Rights**

PBCN's use, as shared with CNSC staff by PBCN, is concentrated in the Wollaston Lake and Cree Lake areas as well as two noted areas of use east of the proposed Denison Wheeler River Project near Saskatchewan Highway 905 which is located approximately 85 km east of the Project site, and one traditional use location south of the Project location.

Treated effluent from the proposed Project will be discharged into Whitefish Lake, where waters flow south to Icelandic River into Russell Lake, before flowing northeast into the Wheeler and Geikie River systems, eventually emptying into the southern portion of Wollaston Lake. As such, waters originating at the Project site will flow downstream to Wollaston Lake where PBCN have noted important fish species. However, based on CNSC staff's analysis of the Project and Denison's environmental impact statement (EIS), CNSC staff conclude that any residual impacts will be contained to and managed at the Project site and that there are no predicated impacts in the LSA and RSA to water quantity and quality, fish and fish habitat and sediment quality that may adversely

impact PBCN members' right to fish in the Wollaston Lake area. In addition, there are no predicted impacts in the Cree Lake area as Cree Lake is located in a separate watershed from the Project.

In addition, as discussed in CNSC staff's Environmental Assessment (EA) Report, the residual impacts on key valued components (VC) (soil quantity and quality, vegetation and ecosystems, furbearers, moose and woodland caribou) are expected to be primarily contained to the Project site, and in some instances extend minimally into the LSA. However, with the application of mitigation measures, and follow-up activities outlined in the EA Report, including the proposed condition of requiring Denison to submit a Woodland Caribou Mitigation and Offset Plan, the residual impacts to the noted VCs are predicted to be non-significant in the LSA and RSA. Given PBCN members' predominant land use is either located in areas within the RSA<sup>1</sup>, such as Cree Lake, or in locations outside of the RSA such as Wollaston Lake and Highway 905, it is expected that there will be no direct impacts on PBCN's right to fish, hunt, trap and gather as a result of the Project. In addition, given that the areas of traditional use noted by PBCN are inside and outside of the Project RSA, CNSC staff do not expect there to be any direct impacts to PBCN's rights and interests as they relate to the changes to the quantity and quality of resources required to exercise rights.

#### **Changes in Access to Areas of Cultural Importance And Areas Containing Resources that Support the Exercise of Rights**

PBCN's use, as shared with CNSC staff by PBCN, is concentrated in the Wollaston Lake area, as well as along Saskatchewan Highway 905, south of the Project area and surrounding Cree Lake. The access and travel routes to these culturally important sites are located inside and outside of the Project RSA.

As PBCN members' land use is primarily located in and outside the Project RSA it is expected that there would be no direct impacts on PBCN's right to access lands and resources as a result of the Project. As such, any physical changes to the landscape are not likely to be experienced by PBCN members when accessing areas of cultural importance. Denison will be utilizing the existing access to the Key Lake Mill and McArthur River Mine as part of Project development. Therefore, the Project will not create any new access, and increased access to areas where PBCN has identified land use and exercise of rights. When taking into consideration the mitigation measures and follow up activities outlined in the EA report, as they relate to Indigenous Land and Resource Use, the CNSC does not expect any direct impacts to PBCN's rights and interests to access to areas and sites of cultural importance and areas containing resources that the exercise of rights as a result of the Project.

#### **Changes to Governance, Laws, and Cultural Traditions that Inform the Exercise of Rights**

Based on the information shared to date, access to fishing spots, hunting locations, traplines, gathering locations and cultural sites for PBCN members will not be directly impacted by the proposed Project. The development of the Project will not result in a loss of stewardship over areas used for the exercise of rights and all stewardship and decision-making abilities of the identified culturally and ecologically important lands, based on the noted areas of traditional use, will not be directly impacted by the Project.

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<sup>1</sup> The Project LSA and RSA is based on area watersheds for the Indigenous Land and Resource Use valued component as noted in the Denison Environmental Impact Assessment.

Based on the traditional use data and information shared by PBCN to date, approval and the potential development of the Project will not directly change the experience in accessing and using areas of cultural importance for PBCN members. No new access will be created for the Cree Lake area and there is no predicted increase in activity to the Cree Lake or Wollaston Lake areas as a result of the Project. In addition, Denison has taken steps to minimize the footprint of the proposed mine and mill which helps minimize any potential impacts to views in the Project area. This helps reduce any impacts to Indigenous land user experience when exercising rights in the immediate vicinity of the Project. When taking into consideration the mitigation measures, and follow-up measures contained in the EA report, CNSC staff do not expect any residual potential impacts to PBCN's rights and interests as they relate to governance, laws and cultural traditions resulting from the Project.

### **Cumulative Effects and Regional Monitoring in the Athabasca Basin**

To understand the downstream impacts of uranium mining and milling operations in Northern Saskatchewan, the government of Saskatchewan, and industry partners Orano Canada Inc. and Cameco Corp. developed the Eastern Athabasca Regional Monitoring Program (EARMP). The EARMP program contributes to the assessment of cumulative impacts of the uranium industry through the collection of water, sediment, benthic invertebrate and fish tissue/bone samples in exposure locations in the receiving environment, downstream from operating uranium mines and mills. In addition, the program collects the same sample medium to assess reference locations that are near, but in different watersheds than, operating uranium mines and mills to track natural variability in the environment. The EARMP program also collects samples of traditional foods (fish, mammals, berries, small game, upland birds, and medicinal plants) from traditional land users across Northern Saskatchewan for chemical analysis to monitor the safety of traditionally harvested foods.

The predominant area of traditional use in relation to the Project noted by PBCN members is at and surrounding Wollaston Lake and Cree Lake. Wollaston Lake is noted as a "far-afield" exposure lake, which indicates that it is downstream, but not in the immediate vicinity of the operating uranium mines and mills in Northern Saskatchewan. Cree Lake is an EARMP reference location as it is noted as a pristine environment that is not influenced by any current, historic or proposed uranium mining and milling operations. Based on environmental sampling and analytical testing campaigns as part of EARMP, there have been no residual impacts to surface water quality, fish and fish habitat, benthic invertebrates and wildlife in the vicinity of these locations.

Based on the technical analysis of the proposed Wheeler River Project, cumulative effects arising from the Project are not predicted. In addition, the Denison Wheeler River Project will be recommended for inclusion into EARMP allowing for community-based monitoring to evaluate the ongoing environmental health of the region and to ensure the Project is not contributing to regional cumulative effects. CNSC staff are open to engaging PBCN on EARMP so Nation members can continue carrying out traditional practices in areas of use with confidence.

### **Conclusion**

Based on the assessment of Project residual impacts and factoring in the predominant area of traditional use by PBCN members, CNSC staff do not predict any direct impacts to PBCN's Indigenous and treaty rights as a direct result of the Project if approved, based on the information shared to date. CNSC staff remain committed to continuing to engage and work with PBCN to address any outstanding concerns and questions with regards to the Project and are committed to engaging on monitoring activities to ensure that PBCN and its members have confidence that their traditional territory continues to be healthy and safe for traditional practices and activities.

**C.8            Key Correspondence with Birch Narrows Dene Nation since  
June 2025**



**From:** [Boser, Sydney \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#)  
**To:** [Boser, Sydney \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Letter from Birch Narrows Dene Nation re: Wheeler River Project  
**Attachments:** [BNDN\\_Letter\\_Denison\\_2025.08.28v2.pdf](#)  
**Sent:** 2025-11-18 8:20:18 AM

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**From:** John Glover <[john@tamarackenvironmental.ca](mailto:john@tamarackenvironmental.ca)>  
**Sent:** August 29, 2025 1:06 PM  
**To:** Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; [jswitzer@denisonmines.com](mailto:jswitzer@denisonmines.com); Dereniwski, Jeff ENV <[jeff.dereniwski@gov.sk.ca](mailto:jeff.dereniwski@gov.sk.ca)>  
**Cc:** McKeown, Justin <[justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Chief Jonathon P Sylvestre <[chief1@birchnarrows.ca](mailto:chief1@birchnarrows.ca)>  
**Subject:** Letter from Birch Narrows Dene Nation re: Wheeler River Project

|   |
|---|
| EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES PREUVE DE PRUDENCE |
|---|

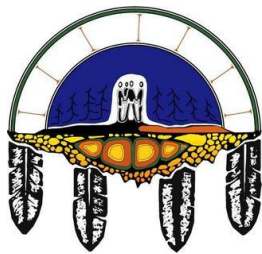
Hello Jessica, Jeff, and Janna,

On behalf of Chief Sylvestre and Birch Narrows Dene Nation, please find attached a letter regarding the Denison Mines Corp. Wheeler River Project.

We are available to meet to discuss at your earliest convenience.

Thanks,

—  
**John Glover**  
Director  
Tamarack Environmental Associates Inc.  
(519) 272-3498  
[john@tamarackenvironmental.ca](mailto:john@tamarackenvironmental.ca)



## Birch Narrows Dene Nation

General Delivery  
Turnor Lake, SK  
S0M 3E0

August 29, 2025

Janna Switzer  
VP Environment,  
Sustainability & Regulatory  
Denison Mines Corp.  
jswitzer@denisonmines.com

Jessica Way  
Environmental Review  
Specialist  
Canadian Nuclear Safety  
Commission  
jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca

Jeff Dereniowski  
Sr. Environmental  
Assessment Administrator,  
Saskatchewan Ministry of  
Environment  
jeff.dereniowski@gov.sk.ca

### **Subject: Denison Mines Wheeler River Project – Failure of the Crown’s Duty to Consult and Accommodate Birch Narrows Dene Nation**

Hello,

This letter serves as both a response to Denison Mines Corp.’s letter from July 7, 2025, and as a formal notice to the Province of Saskatchewan and the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) that Birch Narrows Dene Nation (BNDN) considers the Crown’s constitutional duty to consult and accommodate to be unfulfilled with respect to the Wheeler River Project (the “Project”). The positions advanced by Denison, and the Province’s and CNSC’s apparent endorsement of those positions, represent a breach of the Crown’s obligations under section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*, Treaty 10, and Canada’s commitments under the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (2021)*.

Denison’s position, as stated in the letter, that BNDN is not owed “deep consultation or engagement” is not only wrong—it is unlawful, offensive, and a direct denial of our existence as a Treaty Nation. It strikes at the very heart of reconciliation, and it will not stand unchallenged.

Denison’s so-called “systematic and comprehensive process” is nothing more than a paper exercise designed to exclude inconvenient Nations. It relies on third-party data and bureaucratic boundaries while ignoring the knowledge, presence, and lived reality of our people on the land. No mining company—no matter how long it has held tenure on paper—knows this territory better than the Dene who have lived, hunted, trapped, and protected it since time immemorial. For Denison to claim otherwise because they have owned the property since 2004, is not only absurd, but also deeply insulting.

What makes this situation even more concerning is Denison's claim that its approach has been endorsed by the Province of Saskatchewan and the CNSC. If true, then both the Province and the CNSC have failed in their legal obligations. The Supreme Court of Canada has been unequivocal in *Haida Nation v. British Columbia, Taku River Tlingit, Mikisew Cree, and Rio Tinto Alcan*: the Crown has a duty to consult and accommodate whenever our rights may be impacted. That duty cannot be delegated away to a mining company. By endorsing Denison's erasure of our Nation, the Crown is in breach of its highest constitutional obligations.

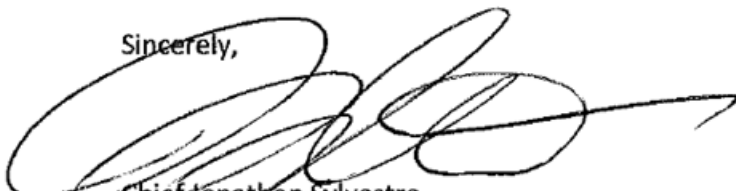
Canada has further committed, through the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (2021)*, to uphold the standard of free, prior, and informed consent (FPIC). Yet here we face the same old colonial pattern: a corporation decides which Nations count, and the Crown nods along.

BNDN has not been silent. Since May 2021 we have consistently raised our rights, our land use, and our environmental concerns. We provided a technical review of the Wheeler River Project identifying serious gaps, and we still await answers to 64 outstanding comments. We are now completing Indigenous Knowledge and land use research, which will confirm what we have said all along: this Project will cause adverse impacts to our Treaty rights, to our way of life, and to the land and waters we hold sacred. If Denison expects BNDN to even consider supporting this Project, then it must mitigate those impacts and accommodate our Nation in a meaningful way. Anything less will never secure our consent.

As it stands, the duty to consult and accommodate has not been met. Denison's dismissive approach, combined with the Province and CNSC's apparent willingness to endorse it, is legally indefensible, ethically shameful, and an assault on Treaty 10 itself. If these failures are not corrected, BNDN will use every tool available to us to ensure that our rights are protected.

Our Treaty rights are not optional, our voice is not expendable, and our people will not be erased. We remain ready to engage in a process rooted in respect, recognition, and reconciliation. But if Denison, the Province, and the CNSC continue down this path of denial, Birch Narrows Dene Nation will stand firm, defend our lands, and uphold our Treaty rights as we have done for generations.

Sincerely,



Chief Jonathon Sylvestre  
Birch Narrows Dene Nation

**From:** [Way, Jessica](#)  
**To:** [John Glover](#); [Chief Jonathon P Sylvestre](#);  
[McKeown, Justin](#); [Levine, Adam](#); [Boser, Sydney](#); [Trevor Moberly](#); [Terrie Campbell](#); [Keegan McGrath](#); [Froess, Ryan](#); [Janna Switzer](#); [Jeff ENV](#);  
**Cc:** [Carolanne Inglis-McQuay](#); [Brienne England](#); [Burton, Patrick](#); [Gorzowski, Konrad](#); [Wylie, Doug](#); [Ringer, Ryan](#);  
**Subject:** RE: Letter from Birch Narrows Dene Nation re: Wheeler River Project  
**Attachments:** [2025-09-11 - CNSC Response to BNDN September Letter.pdf](#)  
**Sent:** 2025-09-11 2:24:48 PM

---

Hi John and Chief Sylvestre,

Please see the attached letter in response to BNDN's August 29<sup>th</sup> letter.

CNSC staff look forward to further discussing this in tomorrow's meeting.

Sincerely,  
Jes

**Jes Way, MEnv, PMP**  
(she / her / elle)

Environmental Review Officer | Agente d'examen environnementale  
Environmental Review Division | Division de l'examen de l'environnement  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission | Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
[Jessica.Way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:Jessica.Way@cnscccsn.gc.ca) | Tel: 343-540-6213

*My work hours might not be the same as your work hours – please reply at your convenience.*

---

**From:** Way, Jessica  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 10, 2025 11:36 AM  
**To:** John Glover <[john@tamarackenvironmental.ca](mailto:john@tamarackenvironmental.ca)>  
**Cc:** McKeown, Justin <[justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Chief Jonathon P Sylvestre <[chief1@birchnarrows.ca](mailto:chief1@birchnarrows.ca)>; Boser, Sydney <[sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Trevor Moberly <[trevor.moberly@birchnarrows.ca](mailto:trevor.moberly@birchnarrows.ca)>; Rodney Laprise <[rodney.laprise@birchnarrows.ca](mailto:rodney.laprise@birchnarrows.ca)>; Terrie Campbell <[terrie.campbell@birchnarrows.ca](mailto:terrie.campbell@birchnarrows.ca)>; robert.sylvester <[robert.sylvester@birchnarrows.ca](mailto:robert.sylvester@birchnarrows.ca)> <[robert.sylvester@birchnarrows.ca](mailto:robert.sylvester@birchnarrows.ca)>; Kim Sylvestre <[kimsylvestre@birchnarrows.ca](mailto:kimsylvestre@birchnarrows.ca)>; Conrad Sylvestre <[conrad.sylvestre@birchnarrows.ca](mailto:conrad.sylvestre@birchnarrows.ca)> <[conrad.sylvestre@birchnarrows.ca](mailto:conrad.sylvestre@birchnarrows.ca)>; Keegan McGrath <[keegan@tamarackenvironmental.ca](mailto:keegan@tamarackenvironmental.ca)>; Froess, Ryan <[ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Subject:** RE: Letter from Birch Narrows Dene Nation re: Wheeler River Project

Hi John,

This would work for CNSC staff. Sydney will send out a meeting request.

I am out of office on Friday unfortunately, I'm sorry that I have to miss it. I know BNDN has worked with Ryan Froess in the past and he will be attending on my behalf. Sydney and Justin will also be there.

Thanks,  
Jes

---

**From:** John Glover <[john@tamarackenvironmental.ca](mailto:john@tamarackenvironmental.ca)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 9, 2025 2:57 PM  
**To:** Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Cc:** McKeown, Justin <[justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Chief Jonathon P Sylvestre <[chief1@birchnarrows.ca](mailto:chief1@birchnarrows.ca)>; Boser, Sydney <[sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Trevor Moberly <[trevor.moberly@birchnarrows.ca](mailto:trevor.moberly@birchnarrows.ca)>; Rodney Laprise <[rodney.laprise@birchnarrows.ca](mailto:rodney.laprise@birchnarrows.ca)>; Terrie Campbell <[terrie.campbell@birchnarrows.ca](mailto:terrie.campbell@birchnarrows.ca)>; robert.sylvester <[robert.sylvester@birchnarrows.ca](mailto:robert.sylvester@birchnarrows.ca)> <[robert.sylvester@birchnarrows.ca](mailto:robert.sylvester@birchnarrows.ca)>; Kim Sylvestre <[kimsylvestre@birchnarrows.ca](mailto:kimsylvestre@birchnarrows.ca)>; Conrad Sylvestre <[conrad.sylvestre@birchnarrows.ca](mailto:conrad.sylvestre@birchnarrows.ca)> <[conrad.sylvestre@birchnarrows.ca](mailto:conrad.sylvestre@birchnarrows.ca)>; Keegan McGrath <[keegan@tamarackenvironmental.ca](mailto:keegan@tamarackenvironmental.ca)>  
**Subject:** RE: Letter from Birch Narrows Dene Nation re: Wheeler River Project

|  |
|--|
| EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES<br>PREUVE DE PRUDENCE |
|--|

Hi Jessica,

Chief is good with Friday at 10 AM SK time via Teams.

Look forward to chatting with you.

Thanks,  
John

---

**John Glover**  
Director  
Tamarack Environmental Associates Inc.  
(519) 272-3498  
[john@tamarackenvironmental.ca](mailto:john@tamarackenvironmental.ca)

---

**From:** Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Sent:** September 5, 2025 8:02 PM  
**To:** John Glover <[john@tamarackenvironmental.ca](mailto:john@tamarackenvironmental.ca)>

**Cc:** McKeown, Justin <[justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Chief Jonathon P Sylvestre <[chief1@birchnarrows.ca](mailto:chief1@birchnarrows.ca)>; Boser, Sydney <[sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>

**Subject:** RE: Letter from Birch Narrows Dene Nation re: Wheeler River Project

Hi John,

Apologies for the delay on my reply - thank you for your email. We have been reviewing BNDN's comments and will provide a response soon.

We would also like to meet to discuss this, and would prefer not to wait before getting something in the calendar. Are there some dates or times in the month of September that could work for your team to meet in a MS Teams call?

Have a good weekend.

Thanks,  
Jes

---

**From:** John Glover <[john@tamarackenvironmental.ca](mailto:john@tamarackenvironmental.ca)>

**Sent:** Friday, August 29, 2025 3:06 PM

**To:** Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; jswitzer@denisonmines.com; Dereniwski, Jeff ENV <[jeff.dereniwski@gov.sk.ca](mailto:jeff.dereniwski@gov.sk.ca)>

**Cc:** McKeown, Justin <[justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Chief Jonathon P Sylvestre <[chief1@birchnarrows.ca](mailto:chief1@birchnarrows.ca)>

**Subject:** Letter from Birch Narrows Dene Nation re: Wheeler River Project

|  |
|--|
| EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES<br>PREUVE DE PRUDENCE |
|--|

Hello Jessica, Jeff, and Janna,

On behalf of Chief Sylvestre and Birch Narrows Dene Nation, please find attached a letter regarding the Denison Mines Corp. Wheeler River Project.

We are available to meet to discuss at your earliest convenience.

Thanks,

–

**John Glover**

Director

Tamarack Environmental Associates Inc.

(519) 272-3498

[john@tamarackenvironmental.ca](mailto:john@tamarackenvironmental.ca)



**September 11, 2025**

Chief Jonathan Sylvestre  
Birch Narrows Dene Nation  
Turnor Lake, Saskatchewan  
S0M 3E0

**Subject: Denison Mines Wheeler River Project – Failure of the Crown’s Duty to Consult and Accommodate Birch Narrows Dene Nation**

Dear Chief Sylvestre:

Thank you for your letter dated August 29<sup>th</sup>, 2025, addressed to the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) regarding Birch Narrows Dene Nation’s (BNDN) position on the Denison Wheeler River Project (the Project).

To date, BNDN has not provided CNSC staff or Denison with specific information regarding their land use and exercise of rights in the proposed Project area. CNSC respectfully requests that BNDN share any available land and resource use data to help inform CNSC’s understanding of potential impacts on BNDN’s rights under Section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*. While CNSC staff understand that BNDN is currently collecting Indigenous Knowledge, we kindly request any existing and preliminary information that demonstrates BNDN’s use in the Project area so we are able to understand the potential impacts to BNDN’s Indigenous and/or Treaty rights in the Project area.

Concerning Denison’s consultation and engagement activities with your Nation to date, through discussions with Denison we understand that there appears to be an impasse, particularly over the 64 outstanding comments noted in your letter. It is CNSC staff’s expectation that all parties continue to work through the issues and concerns raised on the Project in good faith and with the mutual goal of achieving consensus. The CNSC does not formerly endorse or refute Denison’s approach to consultation and engagement with BNDN, however CNSC staff encourages BNDN to share their Indigenous Knowledge and land use with Denison so that Denison can properly assess the Project’s potential impacts to BNDN’s rights. To support these discussions, CNSC staff remain open to bilateral and/or trilateral meetings with BNDN and Denison, as necessary. The CNSC is committed to discussing BNDN’s outstanding issues and concerns with you and working together to address them.

CNSC staff will continue to engage in discussions regarding BNDN’s rights and interests as they pertain to the Project in ways that are meaningful to your Nation. We look forward to continuing our

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discussions with BNDN in ways that respect BNDN's governance structures, rights and protocols and to build upon the positive work that has been done with your Nation to date. We look forward to the upcoming September 12th meeting, in order to continue discussions on this topic.

Yours sincerely,

Jessica Way  
Environmental Review Officer  
Environmental Review Division  
Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission

c.c./c.c.: CNSC: A. Levine, S. Boser, J. McKeown, P. Burton, K. Gorzkowski, D. Wylie, R. Ringer  
Denison: J. Switzer, C. Inglis-McQuay, B. England  
Birch Narrows Dene Nation: T. Moberly, T. Campbell, K. McGrath, J. Glover



**From:** [Boser, Sydney](#)  
**To:** [Chief Jonathon P Sylvestre](#)  
**Cc:** [Trevor Moberly](#); [rodney.laprise@birchnarrows.ca](mailto:rodney.laprise@birchnarrows.ca); [Terrie Campbell](#); [John Glover](#); [McKeown, Justin](#); [Froess, Ryan](#); [Noakes, Rain](#); [Gorzkowski, Konrad](#); [Way, Jessica](#);  
**Subject:** CNSC & BNDN Meeting Minutes - September 12th  
**Sent:** 2025-09-18 3:45:00 PM

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Good afternoon Chief,

Thank you for taking the time to meet with us last week on the Denison project. Please see below the notes from that meeting!

Thanks,

Sydney

---

### **Meeting Minutes**

**Date:** September 12, 2025

**Location:** Virtual Meeting

**Subject:** Meeting between Birch Narrows Dene Nation and CNSC on Wheeler River Project

---

### **Attendees**

#### **Birch Narrows Dene Nation (BNDN):**

- Chief Jonathon Sylvestre
- Councillors Trevor Moberly, Rodney LaPrise
- Elder Eric Sylvester
- John Glover (Environmental Consultant)

#### **Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC):**

- Justin McKeown – Team Leader, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement
- Sydney Boser – Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement
- Ryan Froess – Environmental Review Officer, Environmental Review Division
- Rain Noakes – Environmental Review Officer, Environmental Review Division
- Konrad Gorzkowski – Senior Project Officer, Uranium Mines and Mills Division

---

### **Opening Remarks**

- CNSC acknowledged receipt of BNDN's letter and expressed willingness to consult on the issues raised by BNDN.

## **BNDN Concerns and Assertions**

### **Recognition & Consultation:**

- BNDN expressed feeling excluded and disrespected by Denison Mines due to not being included as a community of interest for this project.
- BNDN raised that they do have historical and contemporary land use and people using the land in the Denison area around Cree Lake, southwest of the Project site
- Requested recognition as an Indigenous community of interest.

### **Historical and Contemporary Land Use:**

- Elder Eric Sylvester provided extensive historical context on Dene land use, kinship ties, and impacts of colonial policies.
- Emphasized ongoing traditional activities in the broader project area (including Cree Lake)

### **Environmental Concerns:**

- Strong emphasis on water as sacred and central to life.
- Concerns about the in-situ recovery (ISR) mining method and potential contamination.
- Desire for environmental monitoring and community involvement.

### **Consultation and Accommodation:**

- BNDN requested deep and meaningful consultation, including:
  - Community meetings
  - Environmental monitoring roles
  - Impact Benefit Agreement (IBA)
  - Respectful engagement and information sharing
  - Funding

### **Traditional Knowledge (TK):**

- BNDN has collected TK data with CNSC funding but is unwilling to share it with Denison at this time due to lack of trust and confidentiality protections.
- Will consider sharing TK data with CNSC staff under confidentiality agreements or directly with the Commission.

## **CNSC Responses**

- CNSC clarified its role as a health and safety regulator and that the CNSC does not have an economic mandate.
- Acknowledged BNDN's concerns and offered:

- Confidentiality agreements for TK data
- Sharing TK information directly with the Commission
- Technical presentations on ISR mining and water
- Reiterated that BNDN was scoped into the project for consultation and received PFP funding from the CNSC.

#### Next Steps

- BNDN to review CNSC's confidentiality agreement and consider sharing TK data.
- Awaiting Denison's response to BNDN's letter.
- BNDN preparing for participation in the December Commission hearing.
- CNSC offered further engagement and technical meetings if desired.

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#### Action Items

| Item  | Responsible | Timeline                |
|---|-------------|-------------------------|
| Review CNSC confidentiality agreement for TK data | BNDN        | ASAP                    |
| Consider sharing TK data with CNSC                | BNDN        | Before December hearing |
| Await Denison's response to BNDN letter           | Denison     | Pending                 |
| CNSC to provide technical overview of ISR mining  | CNSC        | Upon request            |
| BNDN to register for Commission hearing           | BNDN        | Before deadline         |

Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
 Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
 Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)  
 Phone Number: 343-596-9556

Agente principale en politiques, Division de la consultation et de la mobilisation des Autochtones  
 Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
 Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)

*I acknowledge that the land on which I live and work is the traditional Treaty 6 Territory and Homeland of the Métis*

Je reconnais que les terres sur lesquelles je vis et travaille sont le territoire traditionnel du Traité no 6 et la patrie des Métis

**From:** [Boser, Sydney](#)  
**To:** [John Glover](#); [Chief Jonathon P Sylvestre](#);  
**Cc:** [Trevor Moberly](#); [rodney.laprise@birchnarrows.ca](#); [Terrie Campbell](#); [McKeown, Justin](#); [Froess, Ryan](#); [Noakes, Rain](#); [Gorzkowski, Konrad](#); [Way, Jessica](#);  
**Subject:** RE: CNSC & BNDN Meeting Minutes - September 12th  
**Attachments:** [E-DOCS-#6277642-v3-Request\\_to\\_Protect\\_Confidential\\_Information\\_Outside\\_of\\_Commission\\_Proceedings.docx](#)  
**Sent:** 2025-09-22 9:51:00 AM

---

Morning John,

See attached the confidentiality form for protecting TLU information that is submitted to CNSC.

Best,

Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)  
Phone Number: 343-596-9556

Agente principale en politiques, Division de la consultation et de la mobilisation des Autochtones  
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---

**From:** John Glover <[john@tamarackenvironmental.ca](mailto:john@tamarackenvironmental.ca)>  
**Sent:** September 22, 2025 9:00 AM  
**To:** Boser, Sydney <[sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Chief Jonathon P Sylvestre <[chief1@birchnarrows.ca](mailto:chief1@birchnarrows.ca)>  
**Cc:** Trevor Moberly <[trevor.moberly@birchnarrows.ca](mailto:trevor.moberly@birchnarrows.ca)>; rodney.laprise@birchnarrows.ca; Terrie Campbell <[terrie.campbell@birchnarrows.ca](mailto:terrie.campbell@birchnarrows.ca)>; McKeown, Justin <[justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Froess, Ryan <[ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Noakes, Rain <[rain.noakes@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:rain.noakes@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Gorzkowski, Konrad <[konrad.gorzkowski@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:konrad.gorzkowski@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Subject:** RE: CNSC & BNDN Meeting Minutes - September 12th

|   |
|---|
| EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES PREUVE DE PRUDENCE |
|---|

Thanks Sydney!

Do you have a draft of the confidentiality agreement we can review?

—  
**John Glover**  
Director  
Tamarack Environmental Associates Inc.  
(519) 272-3498  
[john@tamarackenvironmental.ca](mailto:john@tamarackenvironmental.ca)

---

**From:** Boser, Sydney <[sydney.boser@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnsccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Sent:** September 18, 2025 5:46 PM  
**To:** Chief Jonathon P Sylvestre <[chief1@birchnarrows.ca](mailto:chief1@birchnarrows.ca)>  
**Cc:** Trevor Moberly <[trevor.moberly@birchnarrows.ca](mailto:trevor.moberly@birchnarrows.ca)>; [rodney.laprise@birchnarrows.ca](mailto:rodney.laprise@birchnarrows.ca); Terrie Campbell <[terrie.campbell@birchnarrows.ca](mailto:terrie.campbell@birchnarrows.ca)>; John Glover <[john@tamarackenvironmental.ca](mailto:john@tamarackenvironmental.ca)>; McKeown, Justin <[justin.mckeown@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnsccsn.gc.ca)>; Froess, Ryan <[ryan.froess@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:ryan.froess@cnsccsn.gc.ca)>; Noakes, Rain <[rain.noakes@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:rain.noakes@cnsccsn.gc.ca)>; Gorzkowski, Konrad <[konrad.gorzkowski@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:konrad.gorzkowski@cnsccsn.gc.ca)>; Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnsccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Subject:** CNSC & BNDN Meeting Minutes - September 12th

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Thanks,  
Sydney

---

### **Meeting Minutes**

**Date:** September 12, 2025

**Location:** Virtual Meeting

**Subject:** Meeting between Birch Narrows Dene Nation and CNSC on Wheeler River Project

---

### **Attendees**

#### **Birch Narrows Dene Nation (BNDN):**

- Chief Jonathon Sylvestre
- Councillors Trevor Moberly, Rodney LaPrise
- Elder Eric Sylvester
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#### **Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC):**

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|------|-------------|----------|
|      |             |          |

|   |         |                         |
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| Review CNSC confidentiality agreement for TK data | BNDN    | ASAP                    |
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Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)  
Phone Number: 343-596-9556

Agente principale en politiques, Division de la consultation et de la mobilisation des Autochtones  
Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)

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Je reconnais que les terres sur lesquelles je vis et travaille sont le territoire traditionnel du Traité no 6 et la patrie des Métis

**From:** [McKeown, Justin](#)  
**To:** [John Glover](#); [Boser, Sydney](#); [Chief Jonathon P Sylvestre](#);  
**Cc:** [Froess, Ryan](#); [Noakes, Rain](#); [Gorzkowski, Konrad](#); [Way, Jessica](#);  
**Subject:** RE: CNSC & BNDN Meeting Minutes - September 12th  
**Sent:** 2025-10-01 9:37:16 AM

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Hi John,

Thanks for the form. The manner in which BNDN shares this information is up to BNDN. Generally speaking, most Nations provide a copy of their study and maps for CNSC and we keep internally and protect their confidentiality. However, if you'd prefer to provide the information in an overview on Teams that is fine. The issue is if we aren't provided a copy of the materials we have nothing to go back on for review. Just something to consider and honestly not something I have personally faced but I could speak to colleagues to see how we would manage.

Concerning what CNSC is trying to obtain is an understanding of BNDN's land use in the Project area and a pathway of impacts from the Project to BNDN's Section 35 rights. I'm not sure we made it abundantly clear, and for that I apologize, however, the term "Community of Interest" is a proponent term. It is not how CNSC classifies Nations and communities.

I have brought forward your other questions below in an attempt to best answer them.

- How will CNSC ultimately make their decision? **We will ultimately look at the information provided by BNDN to determine if the pathways of impacts to BNDN's Section 35 rights requires re-evaluation and updating. And we would do this on the basis of Project impacts and the areas of use and extent of use by BNDN members in the Project area.**
  - What factors will be considered in relation to elevating BNDNs consultation status? **Any information deemed pertinent would be discussed internally to determine if any changes/updates to consultation and accommodation with BNDN would be warranted. We would have deliberations and share our assessment with you. In addition, if BNDN seeks to have Denison change the classification of BNDN to a "COI" we'd need to discuss with BNDN how that information may be shared with the proponent.**
- How long will it take for a decision to be made? **We may need to discuss this to get clarity on your question. I can't give you a firm timeline on our response with respect to our assessment but I would be thinking we'd be able to complete in 2-3 weeks. However, it bears repeating that staff do not make the decisions, we make recommendations to the Commission. As such, any full decision with respect to BNDN's position on the Duty to Consult and Accommodate being unfulfilled would be made following the hearing and based on the presentations of Denison, the CNSC and BNDN's intervention.**

Hopefully this helps John but if you require more information please do not hesitate to reach out.

-Justin



---

**From:** John Glover <[john@tamarackenvironmental.ca](mailto:john@tamarackenvironmental.ca)>  
**Sent:** September 30, 2025 10:07 AM  
**To:** Boser, Sydney <[sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Chief Jonathon P Sylvestre <[chief1@birchnarrows.ca](mailto:chief1@birchnarrows.ca)>  
**Cc:** McKeown, Justin <[justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Froess, Ryan <[ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Noakes, Rain <[rain.noakes@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:rain.noakes@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Gorzkowski, Konrad <[konrad.gorzkowski@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:konrad.gorzkowski@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Subject:** RE: CNSC & BNDN Meeting Minutes - September 12th

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| EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES<br>PREUVE DE PRUDENCE |
|--|

Hi Sydney,

Here is the confidentiality form re: Wheeler River.

We are finishing up a summary presentation of the IK data BNDN has collected. Our understanding is CNSC staff has requested to view this information (confidentially) to make a determination on whether BNDN is a "Indigenous Community of Interest." BNDNs position is that they already are a "Indigenous Community of Interest" and do not need to prove that. However, if this is the only path forward we will consider it.

Some questions on process:

- How will this be done? Teams?
- How will CNSC ultimately make their decision?
  - What factors will be considered in relation to elevating BNDNs consultation status?
- How long will it take for a decision to made?

Thanks,  
John

—  
**John Glover**  
Director  
Tamarack Environmental Associates Inc.  
(519) 272-3498  
[john@tamarackenvironmental.ca](mailto:john@tamarackenvironmental.ca)

---

**From:** Boser, Sydney <[sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Sent:** September 22, 2025 11:52 AM  
**To:** John Glover <[john@tamarackenvironmental.ca](mailto:john@tamarackenvironmental.ca)>; Chief Jonathon P Sylvestre <[chief1@birchnarrows.ca](mailto:chief1@birchnarrows.ca)>  
**Cc:** Trevor Moberly <[trevor.moberly@birchnarrows.ca](mailto:trevor.moberly@birchnarrows.ca)>; [rodney.laprise@birchnarrows.ca](mailto:rodney.laprise@birchnarrows.ca); Terrie Campbell <[terrie.campbell@birchnarrows.ca](mailto:terrie.campbell@birchnarrows.ca)>; McKeown, Justin <[justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Froess, Ryan <[ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Noakes, Rain <[rain.noakes@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:rain.noakes@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Gorzkowski, Konrad <[konrad.gorzkowski@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:konrad.gorzkowski@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Way, Jessica

<[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>

**Subject:** RE: CNSC & BNDN Meeting Minutes - September 12th

Morning John,

See attached the confidentiality form for protecting TLU information that is submitted to CNSC.

Best,

Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)  
Phone Number: 343-596-9556

Agente principale en politiques, Division de la consultation et de la mobilisation des Autochtones  
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---

**From:** John Glover <[john@tamarackenvironmental.ca](mailto:john@tamarackenvironmental.ca)>

**Sent:** September 22, 2025 9:00 AM

**To:** Boser, Sydney <[sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Chief Jonathon P Sylvestre <[chief1@birchnarrows.ca](mailto:chief1@birchnarrows.ca)>

**Cc:** Trevor Moberly <[trevor.moberly@birchnarrows.ca](mailto:trevor.moberly@birchnarrows.ca)>; Rodney Laprise <[rodney.laprise@birchnarrows.ca](mailto:rodney.laprise@birchnarrows.ca)>; Terrie Campbell <[terrie.campbell@birchnarrows.ca](mailto:terrie.campbell@birchnarrows.ca)>; McKeown, Justin <[justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Froess, Ryan <[ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Noakes, Rain <[rain.noakes@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:rain.noakes@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Gorzkowski, Konrad <[konrad.gorzowski@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:konrad.gorzowski@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>

**Subject:** RE: CNSC & BNDN Meeting Minutes - September 12th

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| EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES<br>PREUVE DE PRUDENCE |
|--|

Thanks Sydney!

Do you have a draft of the confidentiality agreement we can review?

—

**John Glover**

Director

Tamarack Environmental Associates Inc.

(519) 272-3498

[john@tamarackenvironmental.ca](mailto:john@tamarackenvironmental.ca)

---

**From:** Boser, Sydney <[sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>

**Sent:** September 18, 2025 5:46 PM

**To:** Chief Jonathon P Sylvestre <[chief1@birchnarrows.ca](mailto:chief1@birchnarrows.ca)>

**Cc:** Trevor Moberly <[trevor.moberly@birchnarrows.ca](mailto:trevor.moberly@birchnarrows.ca)>; Rodney LaPrise <[rodney.laprise@birchnarrows.ca](mailto:rodney.laprise@birchnarrows.ca)>; Terrie Campbell <[terrie.campbell@birchnarrows.ca](mailto:terrie.campbell@birchnarrows.ca)>; John Glover <[john@tamarackenvironmental.ca](mailto:john@tamarackenvironmental.ca)>; McKeown, Justin <[justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Froess, Ryan <[ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Noakes, Rain <[rain.noakes@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:rain.noakes@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Gorzkowski, Konrad <[konrad.gorzkowski@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:konrad.gorzkowski@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>

**Subject:** CNSC & BNDN Meeting Minutes - September 12th

Good afternoon Chief,

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Thanks,

Sydney

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**Meeting Minutes**

**Date:** September 12, 2025

**Location:** Virtual Meeting

**Subject:** Meeting between Birch Narrows Dene Nation and CNSC on Wheeler River Project

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**Attendees****Birch Narrows Dene Nation (BNDN):**

- Chief Jonathon Sylvestre
- Councillors Trevor Moberly, Rodney LaPrise
- Elder Eric Sylvester
- John Glover (Environmental Consultant)

**Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC):**

- Justin McKeown – Team Leader, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement
- Sydney Boser – Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement
- Ryan Froess – Environmental Review Officer, Environmental Review Division

- Rain Noakes – Environmental Review Officer, Environmental Review Division
  - Konrad Gorzkowski– Senior Project Officer, Uranium Mines and Mills Division
- 

### **Opening Remarks**

- CNSC acknowledged receipt of BNDN's letter and expressed willingness to consult on the issues raised by BNDN.

### **BNDN Concerns and Assertions**

#### **Recognition & Consultation:**

- BNDN expressed feeling excluded and disrespected by Denison Mines due to not being included as a community of interest for this project.
- BNDN raised that they do have historical and contemporary land use and people using the land in the Denison area around Cree Lake, southwest of the Project site
- Requested recognition as an Indigenous community of interest.

#### **Historical and Contemporary Land Use:**

- Elder Eric Sylvester provided extensive historical context on Dene land use, kinship ties, and impacts of colonial policies.
- Emphasized ongoing traditional activities in the broader project area (including Cree Lake)

#### **Environmental Concerns:**

- Strong emphasis on water as sacred and central to life.
- Concerns about the in-situ recovery (ISR) mining method and potential contamination.
- Desire for environmental monitoring and community involvement.

#### **Consultation and Accommodation:**

- BNDN requested deep and meaningful consultation, including:
  - Community meetings
  - Environmental monitoring roles
  - Impact Benefit Agreement (IBA)
  - Respectful engagement and information sharing
  - Funding

#### **Traditional Knowledge (TK):**

- BNDN has collected TK data with CNSC funding but is unwilling to share it with Denison at this time due to lack of trust and confidentiality protections.
- Will consider sharing TK data with CNSC staff under confidentiality agreements or directly with the Commission.

## CNSC Responses

- CNSC clarified its role as a health and safety regulator and that the CNSC does not have an economic mandate.
- Acknowledged BNDN's concerns and offered:
  - Confidentiality agreements for TK data
  - Sharing TK information directly with the Commission
  - Technical presentations on ISR mining and water
- Reiterated that BNDN was scoped into the project for consultation and received PFP funding from the CNSC.

## Next Steps

- BNDN to review CNSC's confidentiality agreement and consider sharing TK data.
- Awaiting Denison's response to BNDN's letter.
- BNDN preparing for participation in the December Commission hearing.
- CNSC offered further engagement and technical meetings if desired.

---

## Action Items

| Item  | Responsible | Timeline                |
|---|-------------|-------------------------|
| Review CNSC confidentiality agreement for TK data | BNDN        | ASAP                    |
| Consider sharing TK data with CNSC                | BNDN        | Before December hearing |
| Await Denison's response to BNDN letter           | Denison     | Pending                 |
| CNSC to provide technical overview of ISR mining  | CNSC        | Upon request            |
| BNDN to register for Commission hearing           | BNDN        | Before deadline         |

Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)  
Phone Number: 343-596-9556

Agente principale en politiques, Division de la consultation et de la mobilisation des Autochtones  
Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)

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---

**From:** [John Glover](#)  
**To:** [McKeown, Justin](#); [Boser, Sydney](#); [Chief Jonathon P Sylvestre](#);  
**Cc:** [Froess, Ryan](#); [Noakes, Rain](#); [Gorzowski, Konrad](#); [Way, Jessica](#);  
**Subject:** RE: CNSC & BNDN Meeting Minutes - September 12th  
**Sent:** 2025-10-03 12:09:18 PM

---

EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES PREUVE  
DE PRUDENCE

---

Thanks Justin, appreciate the detailed response.

I have put some comments below in green.

Take care,  
John

—

**John Glover**

Director

Tamarack Environmental Associates Inc.

(519) 272-3498

[john@tamarackenvironmental.ca](mailto:john@tamarackenvironmental.ca)

---

**From:** McKeown, Justin <justin.mckeown@cnsccsn.gc.ca>

**Sent:** October 1, 2025 11:37 AM

**To:** John Glover <john@tamarackenvironmental.ca>; Boser, Sydney <sydney.boser@cnsccsn.gc.ca>; Chief Jonathon P Sylvestre <chief1@birchnarrows.ca>

**Cc:** Froess, Ryan <ryan.froess@cnsccsn.gc.ca>; Noakes, Rain <rain.noakes@cnsccsn.gc.ca>; Gorzkowski, Konrad <konrad.gorzowski@cnsccsn.gc.ca>; Way, Jessica <jessica.way@cnsccsn.gc.ca>

**Subject:** RE: CNSC & BNDN Meeting Minutes - September 12th

Hi John,

Thanks for the form. The manner in which BNDN shares this information is up to BNDN. Generally speaking, most Nations provide a copy of their study and maps for CNSC and we keep internally and protect their confidentiality. However, if you'd prefer to provide the information in an overview on Teams that is fine. The issue is if we aren't provided a copy of the materials we have nothing to go back on for review. Just something to consider and honestly not something I have personally faced but I could speak to colleagues to see how we would manage.

BNDN will consider sharing a summary presentation of findings that we will present on Teams. But we were not provided enough funding to produce a fulsome IK Report.

Concerning what CNSC is trying to obtain is an understanding of BNDN's land use in the Project area and a pathway of impacts from the Project to BNDN's Section 35 rights. I'm not sure we made it abundantly clear, and for that I apologize, however, the term "Community of Interest" is a proponent term. It is not how CNSC classifies Nations and communities.

Acknowledged, however I would assume that the Proponent is verifying their approach with CNSC and you are aware that Denison is providing a lower standard of consultation/accommodation to BNDN.

I have brought forward your other questions below in an attempt to best answer them.

- How will CNSC ultimately make their decision? We will ultimately look at the information provided by BNDN to determine if the pathways of impacts to BNDN's Section 35 rights requires re-evaluation and updating. And we would do this on the basis of Project impacts and the areas of use and extent of use by BNDN members in the Project area.

Understood



Understood, at this point Denison has not responded to our last letter. We certainly do seek to have that definition changed and have made that know to both CNSC and Denison. BNDN knows their legal standing, cultural connection, and land use at the Project site.

- How long will it take for a decision to made? We may need to discuss this to get clarity on your question. I can't give you a firm timeline on our response with respect to our assessment but I would be thinking we'd be able to complete in 2-3 weeks. However, it bears repeating that staff do not make the decisions, we make recommendations to the Commission. As such, any full decision with respect to BNDN's position on the Duty to Consult and Accommodate being unfulfilled would be made following the hearing and based on the presentations of Denison, the CNSC and BNDN's intervention.

Understood.

Hopefully this helps John but if you require more information please do not hesitate to reach out.

-Justin

---

**From:** John Glover <[john@tamarackenvironmental.ca](mailto:john@tamarackenvironmental.ca)>  
**Sent:** September 30, 2025 10:07 AM  
**To:** Boser, Sydney <[sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Chief Jonathon P Sylvestre <[chief1@birchnarrows.ca](mailto:chief1@birchnarrows.ca)>  
**Cc:** McKeown, Justin <[justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Froess, Ryan <[ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Noakes, Rain <[rain.noakes@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:rain.noakes@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Gorzkowski, Konrad <[konrad.gorzkowski@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:konrad.gorzkowski@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Subject:** RE: CNSC & BNDN Meeting Minutes - September 12th

|  |
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| EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES<br>PREUVE DE PRUDENCE |
|--|

Hi Sydney,

Here is the confidentiality form re: Wheeler River.

We are finishing up a summary presentation of the IK data BNDN has collected. Our understanding is CNSC staff has requested to view this information (confidentially) to make a determination on whether BNDN is a "Indigenous Community of Interest." BNDNs position is that they already are a "Indigenous Community of Interest" and do not need to prove that. However, if this is the only path forward we will consider it.

Some questions on process:

- How will this be done? Teams?
- How will CNSC ultimately make their decision?
  - What factors will be considered in relation to elevating BNDNs consultation status?
- How long will it take for a decision to made?

Thanks,  
John

—  
**John Glover**  
Director

---

**From:** Boser, Sydney <[sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>

**Sent:** September 22, 2025 11:52 AM

**To:** John Glover <[john@tamarackenvironmental.ca](mailto:john@tamarackenvironmental.ca)>; Chief Jonathon P Sylvestre <[chief1@birchnarrows.ca](mailto:chief1@birchnarrows.ca)>

**Cc:** Trevor Moberly <[trevor.moberly@birchnarrows.ca](mailto:trevor.moberly@birchnarrows.ca)>; [rodney.laprise@birchnarrows.ca](mailto:rodney.laprise@birchnarrows.ca); Terrie Campbell <[terrie.campbell@birchnarrows.ca](mailto:terrie.campbell@birchnarrows.ca)>; McKeown, Justin <[justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Froess, Ryan <[ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Noakes, Rain <[rain.noakes@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:rain.noakes@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Gorzkowski, Konrad <[konrad.gorzkowski@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:konrad.gorzkowski@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>

**Subject:** RE: CNSC & BNDN Meeting Minutes - September 12th

Morning John,

See attached the confidentiality form for protecting TLU information that is submitted to CNSC.

Best,

Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)  
Phone Number: 343-596-9556

Agente principale en politiques, Division de la consultation et de la mobilisation des Autochtones  
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---

**From:** John Glover <[john@tamarackenvironmental.ca](mailto:john@tamarackenvironmental.ca)>

**Sent:** September 22, 2025 9:00 AM

**To:** Boser, Sydney <[sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Chief Jonathon P Sylvestre <[chief1@birchnarrows.ca](mailto:chief1@birchnarrows.ca)>

**Cc:** Trevor Moberly <[trevor.moberly@birchnarrows.ca](mailto:trevor.moberly@birchnarrows.ca)>; [rodney.laprise@birchnarrows.ca](mailto:rodney.laprise@birchnarrows.ca); Terrie Campbell <[terrie.campbell@birchnarrows.ca](mailto:terrie.campbell@birchnarrows.ca)>; McKeown, Justin <[justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Froess, Ryan <[ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Noakes, Rain <[rain.noakes@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:rain.noakes@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Gorzkowski, Konrad <[konrad.gorzkowski@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:konrad.gorzkowski@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>

**Subject:** RE: CNSC & BNDN Meeting Minutes - September 12th

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| EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES<br>PREUVE DE PRUDENCE |
|--|

**John Glover**

Director

Tamarack Environmental Associates Inc.

(519) 272-3498

[john@tamarackenvironmental.ca](mailto:john@tamarackenvironmental.ca)

---

**From:** Boser, Sydney <[sydney.boser@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnsccsn.gc.ca)>

**Sent:** September 18, 2025 5:46 PM

**To:** Chief Jonathon P Sylvestre <[chief1@birchnarrows.ca](mailto:chief1@birchnarrows.ca)>

**Cc:** Trevor Moberly <[trevor.moberly@birchnarrows.ca](mailto:trevor.moberly@birchnarrows.ca)>; [rodney.laprise@birchnarrows.ca](mailto:rodney.laprise@birchnarrows.ca); Terrie Campbell <[terrie.campbell@birchnarrows.ca](mailto:terrie.campbell@birchnarrows.ca)>; John Glover <[john@tamarackenvironmental.ca](mailto:john@tamarackenvironmental.ca)>; McKeown, Justin <[justin.mckeown@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnsccsn.gc.ca)>; Froess, Ryan <[ryan.froess@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:ryan.froess@cnsccsn.gc.ca)>; Noakes, Rain <[rain.noakes@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:rain.noakes@cnsccsn.gc.ca)>; Gorzkowski, Konrad <[konrad.gorzowski@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:konrad.gorzowski@cnsccsn.gc.ca)>; Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnsccsn.gc.ca)>

**Subject:** CNSC & BNDN Meeting Minutes - September 12th

Good afternoon Chief,

Thank you for taking the time to meet with us last week on the Denison project. Please see below the notes from that meeting!

Thanks,

Sydney

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### Meeting Minutes

**Date:** September 12, 2025

**Location:** Virtual Meeting

**Subject:** Meeting between Birch Narrows Dene Nation and CNSC on Wheeler River Project

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### Attendees

#### Birch Narrows Dene Nation (BNDN):

- Chief Jonathon Sylvestre
- Councillors Trevor Moberly, Rodney LaPrise
- Elder Eric Sylvester
- John Glover (Environmental Consultant)

#### Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC):

- Justin McKeown – Team Leader, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement
- Sydney Boser – Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement
- Ryan Froess – Environmental Review Officer, Environmental Review Division
- Rain Noakes – Environmental Review Officer, Environmental Review Division

- CNSC acknowledged receipt of BNDN's letter and expressed willingness to consult on the issues raised by BNDN.

## **BNDN Concerns and Assertions**

### **Recognition & Consultation:**

- BNDN expressed feeling excluded and disrespected by Denison Mines due to not being included as a community of interest for this project.
- BNDN raised that they do have historical and contemporary land use and people using the land in the Denison area around Cree Lake, southwest of the Project site
- Requested recognition as an Indigenous community of interest.

### **Historical and Contemporary Land Use:**

- Elder Eric Sylvester provided extensive historical context on Dene land use, kinship ties, and impacts of colonial policies.
- Emphasized ongoing traditional activities in the broader project area (including Cree Lake)

### **Environmental Concerns:**

- Strong emphasis on water as sacred and central to life.
- Concerns about the in-situ recovery (ISR) mining method and potential contamination.
- Desire for environmental monitoring and community involvement.

### **Consultation and Accommodation:**

- BNDN requested deep and meaningful consultation, including:
  - Community meetings
  - Environmental monitoring roles
  - Impact Benefit Agreement (IBA)
  - Respectful engagement and information sharing
  - Funding

### **Traditional Knowledge (TK):**

- BNDN has collected TK data with CNSC funding but is unwilling to share it with Denison at this time due to lack of trust and confidentiality protections.
- Will consider sharing TK data with CNSC staff under confidentiality agreements or directly with the Commission.

## **CNSC Responses**

- CNSC clarified its role as a health and safety regulator and that the CNSC does not have an economic mandate.
- Acknowledged BNDN's concerns and offered:
  - Confidentiality agreements for TK data
  - Sharing TK information directly with the Commission

- BNDN to review CNSC's confidentiality agreement and consider sharing TK data.
- Awaiting Denison's response to BNDN's letter.
- BNDN preparing for participation in the December Commission hearing.
- CNSC offered further engagement and technical meetings if desired.

---

#### Action Items

| Item  | Responsible | Timeline                |
|---|-------------|-------------------------|
| Review CNSC confidentiality agreement for TK data | BNDN        | ASAP                    |
| Consider sharing TK data with CNSC                | BNDN        | Before December hearing |
| Await Denison's response to BNDN letter           | Denison     | Pending                 |
| CNSC to provide technical overview of ISR mining  | CNSC        | Upon request            |
| BNDN to register for Commission hearing           | BNDN        | Before deadline         |

Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
 Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
 Email: [sydney.boser@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnsccsn.gc.ca)  
 Phone Number: 343-596-9556

Agente principale en politiques, Division de la consultation et de la mobilisation des Autochtones  
 Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
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---

**From:** [John Glover](#)  
**To:** [Boser, Sydney](#); [McKeown, Justin](#); [Chief Jonathon P Sylvestre](#);  
**Cc:** [Froess, Ryan](#); [Noakes, Rain](#); [Gorzowski, Konrad](#); [Way, Jessica](#);  
**Subject:** RE: CNSC & BNDN Meeting Minutes - September 12th  
**Sent:** 2025-10-07 2:08:15 PM

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EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES PREUVE  
DE PRUDENCE

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Hi Sydney,

Lets go with the Thursday.

Thanks!

—

**John Glover**

Director

Tamarack Environmental Associates Inc.

(519) 272-3498

[john@tamarackenvironmental.ca](mailto:john@tamarackenvironmental.ca)

---

**From:** Boser, Sydney <sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca>

**Sent:** October 7, 2025 2:52 PM

**To:** John Glover <john@tamarackenvironmental.ca>; McKeown, Justin <justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca>; Chief Jonathon P Sylvestre <chief1@birchnarrows.ca>

**Cc:** Froess, Ryan <ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca>; Noakes, Rain <rain.noakes@cnscccsn.gc.ca>; Gorzkowski, Konrad <konrad.gorzkowski@cnscccsn.gc.ca>; Way, Jessica <jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca>

**Subject:** RE: CNSC & BNDN Meeting Minutes - September 12th

Hi John,

Would BNDN be available virtually to give this presentation at either of the following dates:

- Thursday October 23<sup>rd</sup> between 1pm-3pm CST
- Friday October 24<sup>th</sup> between 10am-12pm CST

Let me know and I can send out an invite.

Best,

Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division

Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission

Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)

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**Subject:** RE: CNSC & BNDN Meeting Minutes - September 12th

EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES  
PREUVE DE PRUDENCE

Hi Justin,

What are some dates CNSC is available for the TK Summary Presentation?

Thanks,  
John

–

**John Glover**

Director

Tamarack Environmental Associates Inc.

(519) 272-3498

[john@tamarackenvironmental.ca](mailto:john@tamarackenvironmental.ca)

---

**From:** John Glover

**Sent:** October 3, 2025 2:09 PM

**To:** 'McKeown, Justin' <[justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Boser, Sydney <[sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Chief Jonathon P Sylvestre <[chief1@birchnarrows.ca](mailto:chief1@birchnarrows.ca)>

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**Subject:** RE: CNSC & BNDN Meeting Minutes - September 12th

Thanks Justin, appreciate the detailed response.

I have put some comments below in **green**.

Take care,  
John

–

**John Glover**

Director

Tamarack Environmental Associates Inc.

(519) 272-3498

[john@tamarackenvironmental.ca](mailto:john@tamarackenvironmental.ca)

---

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**Sent:** October 1, 2025 11:37 AM

**To:** John Glover <[john@tamarackenvironmental.ca](mailto:john@tamarackenvironmental.ca)>; Boser, Sydney <[sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Chief Jonathon P Sylvestre <[chief1@birchnarrows.ca](mailto:chief1@birchnarrows.ca)>

**Cc:** Froess, Ryan <[ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Noakes, Rain <[rain.noakes@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:rain.noakes@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>



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Acknowledged, however I would assume that the Proponent is verifying their approach with CNSC and you are aware that Denison is providing a lower standard of consultation/accommodation to BNDN.

I have brought forward your other questions below in an attempt to best answer them.

- How will CNSC ultimately make their decision? We will ultimately look at the information provided by BNDN to determine if the pathways of impacts to BNDN's Section 35 rights requires re-evaluation and updating. And we would do this on the basis of Project impacts and the areas of use and extent of use by BNDN members in the Project area.

Understood

- What factors will be considered in relation to elevating BNDNs consultation status? Any information deemed pertinent would be discussed internally to determine if any changes/updates to consultation and accommodation with BNDN would be warranted. We would have deliberations and share our assessment with you. In addition, if BNDN seeks to have Denison change the classification of BNDN to a "COI" we'd need to discuss with BNDN how that information may be shared with the proponent.

Understood, at this point Denison has not responded to our last letter. We certainly do seek to have that definition changed and have made that know to both CNSC and Denison. BNDN knows their legal standing, cultural connection, and land use at the Project site.

- How long will it take for a decision to be made? We may need to discuss this to get clarity on your question. I can't give you a firm timeline on our response with respect to our assessment but I would be thinking we'd be able to complete in 2-3 weeks. However, it bears repeating that staff do not make the decisions, we make recommendations to the Commission. As such, any full decision with respect to BNDN's position on the Duty to Consult and Accommodate being unfulfilled would be made following the hearing and based on the presentations of Denison, the CNSC and BNDN's intervention.

Understood.

Hopefully this helps John but if you require more information please do not hesitate to reach out.

-Justin

---

From: John Glover <[john@tamarackenvironmental.ca](mailto:john@tamarackenvironmental.ca)>

Sent: September 30, 2025 10:07 AM

<[konrad.gorzkowski@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:konrad.gorzkowski@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>

**Subject:** RE: CNSC & BNDN Meeting Minutes - September 12th

EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES  
PREUVE DE PRUDENCE

Hi Sydney,

Here is the confidentiality form re: Wheeler River.

We are finishing up a summary presentation of the IK data BNDN has collected. Our understanding is CNSC staff has requested to view this information (confidentially) to make a determination on whether BNDN is a "Indigenous Community of Interest." BNDNs position is that they already are a "Indigenous Community of Interest" and do not need to prove that. However, if this is the only path forward we will consider it.

Some questions on process:

- How will this be done? Teams?
- How will CNSC ultimately make their decision?
  - What factors will be considered in relation to elevating BNDNs consultation status?
- How long will it take for a decision to made?

Thanks,  
John

—  
**John Glover**

Director

Tamarack Environmental Associates Inc.

(519) 272-3498

[john@tamarackenvironmental.ca](mailto:john@tamarackenvironmental.ca)

---

**From:** Boser, Sydney <[sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>

**Sent:** September 22, 2025 11:52 AM

**To:** John Glover <[john@tamarackenvironmental.ca](mailto:john@tamarackenvironmental.ca)>; Chief Jonathon P Sylvestre <[chief1@birchnarrows.ca](mailto:chief1@birchnarrows.ca)>

**Cc:** Trevor Moberly <[trevor.moberly@birchnarrows.ca](mailto:trevor.moberly@birchnarrows.ca)>; rodney.laprise@birchnarrows.ca; Terrie Campbell <[terrie.campbell@birchnarrows.ca](mailto:terrie.campbell@birchnarrows.ca)>; McKeown, Justin <[justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Froess, Ryan <[ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Noakes, Rain <[rain.noakes@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:rain.noakes@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Gorzkowski, Konrad <[konrad.gorzkowski@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:konrad.gorzkowski@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>

**Subject:** RE: CNSC & BNDN Meeting Minutes - September 12th

Morning John,

See attached the confidentiality form for protecting TLU information that is submitted to CNSC.

Best,

Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)

Je reconnais que les terres sur lesquelles je vis et travaille sont le territoire traditionnel du  
Traité no 6 et la patrie des Métis

**Subject:** RE: CNSC & BNDN Meeting Minutes - September 12th

Good afternoon Chief,

## **Meeting Minutes**

**Date:** September 12, 2025

**Location:** Virtual Meeting

**Subject:** Meeting between Birch Narrows Dene Nation and CNSC on Wheeler River Project

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### **Attendees**

#### **Birch Narrows Dene Nation (BNDN):**

- Chief Jonathon Sylvestre
- Councillors Trevor Moberly, Rodney LaPrise
- Elder Eric Sylvester
- John Glover (Environmental Consultant)

#### **Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC):**

- Justin McKeown – Team Leader, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement
- Sydney Boser – Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement
- Ryan Froess – Environmental Review Officer, Environmental Review Division
- Rain Noakes – Environmental Review Officer, Environmental Review Division
- Konrad Gorzkowski – Senior Project Officer, Uranium Mines and Mills Division

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### **Opening Remarks**

- CNSC acknowledged receipt of BNDN's letter and expressed willingness to consult on the issues raised by BNDN.

### **BNDN Concerns and Assertions**

#### **Recognition & Consultation:**

- BNDN expressed feeling excluded and disrespected by Denison Mines due to not being included as a community of interest for this project.
- BNDN raised that they do have historical and contemporary land use and people using the land in the Denison area around Cree Lake, southwest of the Project site
- Requested recognition as an Indigenous community of interest.

#### **Historical and Contemporary Land Use:**

- Elder Eric Sylvester provided extensive historical context on Dene land use, kinship ties, and impacts of colonial policies.
- Emphasized ongoing traditional activities in the broader project area (including Cree Lake)

#### **Environmental Concerns:**

- Strong emphasis on water as sacred and central to life

- BNDN requested deep and meaningful consultation, including:
  - Community meetings
  - Environmental monitoring roles
  - Impact Benefit Agreement (IBA)
  - Respectful engagement and information sharing
  - Funding

#### **Traditional Knowledge (TK):**

- BNDN has collected TK data with CNSC funding but is unwilling to share it with Denison at this time due to lack of trust and confidentiality protections.
- Will consider sharing TK data with CNSC staff under confidentiality agreements or directly with the Commission.

#### **CNSC Responses**

- CNSC clarified its role as a health and safety regulator and that the CNSC does not have an economic mandate.
- Acknowledged BNDN's concerns and offered:
  - Confidentiality agreements for TK data
  - Sharing TK information directly with the Commission
  - Technical presentations on ISR mining and water
- Reiterated that BNDN was scoped into the project for consultation and received PFP funding from the CNSC.

#### **Next Steps**

- BNDN to review CNSC's confidentiality agreement and consider sharing TK data.
- Awaiting Denison's response to BNDN's letter.
- BNDN preparing for participation in the December Commission hearing.
- CNSC offered further engagement and technical meetings if desired.

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#### **Action Items**

| Item  | Responsible | Timeline                |
|---|-------------|-------------------------|
| Review CNSC confidentiality agreement for TK data | BNDN        | ASAP                    |
| Consider sharing TK data with CNSC                | BNDN        | Before December hearing |
| Await Denison's response to BNDN letter           | Denison     | Pending                 |
| CNSC to provide technical overview of ISR mining  | CNSC        | Upon request            |
| BNDN to register for Commission hearing           | BNDN        | Before deadline         |

Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)  
Phone Number: 343-596-9556

Agente principale en politiques, Division de la consultation et de la mobilisation des Autochtones

Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)

*I acknowledge that the land on which I live and work is the traditional Treaty 6 Territory and Homeland of the Métis*

Je reconnais que les terres sur lesquelles je vis et travaille sont le territoire traditionnel du Traité no 6 et la patrie des Métis

**From:** [Boser, Sydney \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#)  
'John Glover'; Chief Jonathon P Sylvestre; Way, Jessica (CNSC/CCSN);  
**To:** [McKeown, Justin \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#); [Trevor Moberly](#); [Rodney Laprise](#); [Terrie Campbell](#); [robert.sylvester <robert.sylvester@birchnarrows.ca>](mailto:robert.sylvester@birchnarrows.ca); [kimsylvestre@birchnarrows.ca](mailto:kimsylvestre@birchnarrows.ca); [conradsylvestre@birchnarrows.ca](mailto:conradsylvestre@birchnarrows.ca); [Keegan McGrath](#);  
**Cc:** [Froess, Ryan \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#); [Noakes, Rain \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#);  
**Subject:** RE: BNDN TK Summary Presentation to CNSC: Denison  
**Sent:** 2025-10-24 10:21:00 AM

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Good morning John,

Thank you for passing this along and thank you to the rest of BNDN who met with us yesterday and shared this thoughtful information with CNSC staff. I am confirming receipt of the presentation and CNSC will take this information back to review. We will be in touch about a follow up meeting.

Have a great weekend!

Cheers,

Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)  
Phone Number: 343-596-9556

Agente principale en politiques, Division de la consultation et de la mobilisation des Autochtones  
Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)

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Je reconnais que les terres sur lesquelles je vis et travaille sont le territoire traditionnel du Traité no 6 et la patrie des Métis

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**From:** John Glover <[john@tamarackenvironmental.ca](mailto:john@tamarackenvironmental.ca)>  
**Sent:** October 24, 2025 8:54 AM  
**To:** Boser, Sydney (CNSC/CCSN) <[sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Chief Jonathon P Sylvestre <[chief1@birchnarrows.ca](mailto:chief1@birchnarrows.ca)>; Way, Jessica (CNSC/CCSN) <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; McKeown, Justin (CNSC/CCSN) <[justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Trevor Moberly <[trevor.moberly@birchnarrows.ca](mailto:trevor.moberly@birchnarrows.ca)>; Rodney Laprise <[rodney.laprise@birchnarrows.ca](mailto:rodney.laprise@birchnarrows.ca)>; Terrie Campbell <[terrie.campbell@birchnarrows.ca](mailto:terrie.campbell@birchnarrows.ca)>; [robert.sylvester <robert.sylvester@birchnarrows.ca>](mailto:robert.sylvester@birchnarrows.ca) <[robert.sylvester@birchnarrows.ca](mailto:robert.sylvester@birchnarrows.ca)>

kimsylvestre@birchnarrows.ca; conradsylvester@birchnarrows.ca; Keegan McGrath  
<keegan@tamarackenvironmental.ca>

**Cc:** Froess, Ryan (CNSC/CCSN) <ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca>; Noakes, Rain (CNSC/CCSN)  
<rain.noakes@cnscccsn.gc.ca>

**Subject:** RE: BNDN TK Summary Presentation to CNSC: Denison

EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES  
PREUVE DE PRUDENCE

Good morning all,

Thank you to the CNSC Staff for taking the time to meet with Birch Narrows Dene Nation and the Nuh Nene Department. It was a productive, enlightening, and respectful dialogue. Thank you also to the BNDN members who supported in the presentation, your words were truly powerful. As discussed, BNDN would like to share, in good faith, and under our Confidentiality Agreement the slide deck that was presented.

We are hopeful the message is now clear to CNSC that the Denison Wheeler River will unequivocally impact the rights, culture, land use of Birch Narrows Dene Nation; in addition to posing adverse environmental impacts on the lands and waters in BNDNs homeland/Treaty lands.. We look forward to the results of your assessment and future meetings that will hopefully advance meaningful consultation/accommodation measures for Birch.

Respectfully,

—

**John Glover**

Director

Tamarack Environmental Associates Inc.

(519) 272-3498

[john@tamarackenvironmental.ca](mailto:john@tamarackenvironmental.ca)

-----Original Appointment-----

**From:** Boser, Sydney <[sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>

**Sent:** October 7, 2025 4:30 PM

**To:** Boser, Sydney; John Glover; Chief Jonathon P Sylvestre; Way, Jessica; McKeown, Justin; Trevor Moberly; Rodney Laprise; Terrie Campbell; robert.sylvester <[robert.sylvester@birchnarrows.ca](mailto:robert.sylvester@birchnarrows.ca)>; [kimsylvestre@birchnarrows.ca](mailto:kimsylvestre@birchnarrows.ca); [conradsylvester@birchnarrows.ca](mailto:conradsylvester@birchnarrows.ca); Keegan McGrath

**Cc:** Gorzkowski, Konrad; Froess, Ryan; Noakes, Rain

**Subject:** BNDN TK Summary Presentation to CNSC: Denison

**When:** October 23, 2025 1:00 PM-2:30 PM (UTC-06:00) Saskatchewan.

**Where:** Microsoft Teams Meeting

BNDN to share TK information with CNSC



**From:** [Way, Jessica \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#)  
**To:** [Boser, Sydney \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#); [Froess, Ryan \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#); [Noakes, Rain \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#);  
**Cc:** [Wylie, Doug \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#); [Levine, Adam \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#); [McKeown, Justin \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#);  
**Subject:** FW: Denison Response to Further Technical Comments from Birch Narrows Dene Nation on the Wheeler River Project  
**Attachments:** [20251024-LTR-DEN\\_BNDN-FutherResponse\\_CommentResponse\\_F.pdf](#)  
**Sent:** 2025-10-24 2:38:22 PM

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**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed  
As discussed.

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**From:** Carolanne Inglis-McQuay <cinglismcquay@denisonmines.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 24, 2025 1:26 PM  
**To:** Chief Jonathon P Sylvestre <chief1@birchnarrows.ca>  
**Cc:** Way, Jessica (CNSC/CCSN) <jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca>; McKeown, Justin (CNSC/CCSN) <justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca>; David Cates <dcates@denisonmines.com>; Janna Switzer <jswitzer@denisonmines.com>; Dereniowski, Jeff ENV <jeff.dereniowski@gov.sk.ca>  
**Subject:** Denison Response to Further Technical Comments from Birch Narrows Dene Nation on the Wheeler River Project  
**Importance:** High

|  |
|--|
| EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES<br>PREUVE DE PRUDENCE |
|--|

Dear Chief Sylvestre:

On behalf of Janna Switzer, please find attached correspondence and technical responses from Denison to Birch Narrows in regard to further technical comments provided by Birch Narrows to Denison in May, 2025 on the Wheeler River Project.

Sincerely,  
Carolanne Inglis-McQuay

**Carolanne Inglis-McQuay**  
Director, Sustainability

t: 306-652-8200 x 128 | f: 306-652-8202  
345 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue South  
Saskatoon, SK, Canada, S7K 1N3



TSX: DML | NYSE MKT: DNN

[www.denisonmines.com](http://www.denisonmines.com)

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October 24, 2025

Chief Jonathon Sylvestre  
Birch Narrows Dene Nation  
Turnor Lake, Saskatchewan S0M 3E0

Sent via email: [chief1@birchnarrows.ca](mailto:chief1@birchnarrows.ca)

**Re: Further response to Letters from Birch Narrow Dene Nation dated May 26, 2025 and August 29, 2025**

Dear Chief Sylvestre:

On behalf of Denison Mines Corp. (“**Denison**”), I write further to our letter of July 3, 2025, which contained our initial response to your letter dated May 26, 2025 addressed to the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (“**CNSC**”) and copied to Denison regarding Birch Narrow Dene Nation’s (“**BNDN**”) change in position regarding the Wheeler River Project (the “**Project**”). I also write in response to BNDN’s letter dated August 29, 2025 addressed to Denison, CNSC and the Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment (“**SK MoE**”), regarding the assertion that the Crown’s duty to consult and accommodate BNDN in respect of the Project remains unfulfilled.

As described in our prior letter, Denison’s technical team has been reviewing and working to respond to BNDN’s further comments on the Project Technical Review Table. Please find enclosed Denison’s detailed responses to your concerns.

We understand BNDN’s principal concern to be that it has not been identified as an Indigenous Community of Interest in respect of the Project, and that Denison has not entered into an impact benefit or project agreement with BNDN which provides for BNDN’s active involvement in the construction, operation, and decommissioning of the Project.

Denison does not determine which Indigenous Nations the Crown is obligated to consult with. That obligation is fulfilled by the relevant Crown authority. For the Project, each of the SK MoE and CNSC identified Indigenous Nations with the potential to experience appreciable adverse impacts to their Aboriginal rights from the Project. Denison has carried out engagement activities and assisted in fulfilling the procedural aspects of the Crown’s duty to consult with the Indigenous Nations identified by the CNSC and SK MoE.

We described Denison’s approach to Indigenous engagement in our prior letter. Our approach has been informed by our work in the region and discussions with those Indigenous Nations with the potential to be adversely affected by Project activities, and responsive to direction from the SK MoE and CNSC. We have adjusted this approach as necessary to account for new or updated information regarding the potential for adverse impacts to the Indigenous and Treaty rights of Indigenous communities.

CNSC identified BNDN as potentially interested in the Project in 2019, and since that time, Denison has made repeated requests for details regarding BNDN’s land-use activities near the Project. This information is required so we can better understand the potential for adverse impacts to BNDN. In 2023, BNDN informed us they had land-use information which demonstrated the Project is in their traditional territory. At the request of BNDN, we provided a confidentiality agreement to facilitate the transmission of that information. The confidentiality agreement was never executed and such land-use information was never shared with Denison or, as far as we are aware, with a regulator.

At present, our understanding is limited to BNDN’s statement that the Project is located within its traditional territory. We have not received any material information from BNDN to demonstrate impacts on their Aboriginal rights have not been adequately addressed by Denison.

During the environmental assessment process, Denison worked closely with the two communities located closest to the site (English River First Nation and Kineepik Métis Local)<sup>1</sup> and with other Indigenous communities with an interest in the Project to better understand and mitigate potential impacts of the Project on the most intensive resource users. Indigenous Land and Resource Use was identified as a stand alone Valued Component, with resource abundance, access to traditional lands and waters, and perceived suitability of land and resources therein used as key indicators. As a result of proven controls on traffic, noise, air and water emissions, any residual effects on Indigenous land users are expected to be minimal.

The SK MoE has issued its approval for the Project. The CNSC has accepted the Project’s final Environmental Impact Statement and hearings are scheduled for December 2025. However, further Project planning and detailed engineering will be needed to advance the Project and to support licensing and subsequent regulatory processes. Going forward, Denison will continue to work with Indigenous communities of interest on environmental management and monitoring programs, including planning for decommissioning.

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<sup>1</sup> In terms of travel distance by existing transportation routes, BNDN is located 570 km away from the Project. For comparison, Kineepik Métis Local is 270 km away (by existing transportation routes) and English River First Nation has a reserve approximately 16 km away.

We anticipate that the data collected through monitoring programs and refinements to decommission planning will be relevant to all land users and to all Indigenous Nations that have expressed interest in the Project. This information will be shared through subsequent regulatory processes and as directed by regulators. As a result, Denison has not entered into separate process agreements in respect of these matters.

As reflected in our Indigenous Peoples Policy, Denison is committed to respecting Indigenous knowledge and values regarding environmental stewardship and Indigenous peoples' connection to the land, and to minimize potential effects, wherever possible. Our team recently delivered a revised confidentiality agreement which we hope can be used to facilitate Denison's understanding of BNDN's interest in respect of the Project. Denison remains interested in engaging with BNDN in respect of the current Project and in the next phases of Project approval.

Sincerely,



Janna Switzer  
Vice President, Environment, Sustainability & Regulatory

cc: David Cates: President & Chief Executive Officer, Denison Mines Corp.  
Carolanne Inglis-McQuay: Director, Corporate Social Responsibility, Denison Mines Corp.  
Jessica Way: Environmental Review Specialist, Environmental Review Division, Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Justin McKeown: Senior Advisor, Indigenous Consultation, Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Jeff Dereniwski: Senior Environmental Assessment Administrator, Environmental Assessment and Stewardship Branch, Ministry of Environment

Attach: Denison Response to BNDN's Further Comments on the Project Technical Review Table.

Denison’s Further Responses to Comment from Birch Narrows Dene Nation (May 26, 2025)  
for the Wheeler River Project Environmental Impact Statement

| Ref. No. | Source   | Reference to EIS, appendix, or supporting documentation | Birch Narrows Dene Nation Comments I<br>(all original submissions can be found on Canadian Impact Assessment Registry reference: 80171)   | Denison Response I (November 29, 2023)  | Birch Narrows Dene Nation Comments II<br>(January 16, 2024) | Birch Narrows Dene Nation Comments III (May 26, 2025)  | Denison Response II (October 24, 2025)   |
|----------|--|---|---|---|---|--|--|
| 1        |  |   |   |   |   |  |  |
| 2        | Birch Narrows Dene Nation (BNDN) (February 28, 2023) | Section 5.7; 5.8.1                                      | <p>Comment #1: The Project is located within the treaty and ancestral lands of BNDN and maintains both current and historical significance to the community. BNDN Indigenous Knowledge, Land Use and Occupancy are not currently considered within the EIS. Should the Project proceed without the consideration of BNDN’s Knowledge, Land Use and Occupancy, it may cause irreparable loss of culturally significant sites and access to resources that the community depends upon. It may also contribute to a loss in cultural transmission.</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p> <p>Denison should provide BNDN with funds to conduct a community-led Indigenous Knowledge, Land Use and Occupancy Study for consideration within the EIS process. At minimum, the Study should consider BNDN’s Indigenous Ecological Knowledge, commercial and non-commercial harvesting practices, and cultural occupation of the region (including historical sites). The Study should also consider cultural transmission, information about the history of the area and BNDN community members’ perspectives on the Project.</p> <p>a) The community-led Indigenous Knowledge, Land Use and Occupancy Study should be a component of a broader process agreement between BNDN and Denison that serves as a pathway for obtaining BNDN’s consent for the Project.</p> <p>b) Denison should work with BNDN to consider the appropriate integration of the results into all aspects of the EIS and management/monitoring plans, as well as any additional appropriate mitigation and/or accommodation measures.</p> <p>c) See Section 4.1 for additional information on this topic.</p> | <p>Denison’s engagement with BNDN is consistent with the identification of BNDN as an Indigenous Community who has expressed an interest in the Project. However, Denison acknowledges and understands this information from BNDN. As such, over the past year(s), Denison has met with BNDN and has respectfully requested further information from BNDN in respect to the land use activities occurring in and around the Project in order to more meaningfully understand the potential for adverse impacts to BNDN and therefore consider the potential for further studies and/or integration into the EIS of such information. Denison remains of the perspective that receipt of this information from BNDN is a necessary first step in this process, and has not received information in this regard to date.</p> <p>Project effects have been mitigated for the most intensive resource user(s), irrespective of affiliation.</p> <p>Denison continues to work with its Indigenous Communities of Interest with reserves and residential communities most proximal to the Project, Denison has committed to collaborating with English River First Nation and Kineepik Métis Local on a community specific monitoring regime, suited to each of their interests and needs, in an agreed-upon fashion. Denison is committed to continual improvement in relation to such collaborative monitoring programs, in order to adapt to areas of interest which can change over time. It is expected that the data collected through such monitoring regimes would also be relevant to other Indigenous nations who may have interest in the Project. Therefore, Denison does not anticipate separate funding for BNDN at this time.</p> <p>Further, the assessment has been completed based on Valued Components (VCs), including the VC of Indigenous Land and Resource Use. Key indicators for Indigenous Land and Resource Use include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>resource availability for harvesting subsistence resources (distribution and abundance of animals, plants, and wildlife for harvest and suitability of animals, plants, and wildlife for consumption);</li><li>land/water availability to practice traditional land use (TLU); and</li><li>perceived suitability of lands and resources therein.</li></ul> <p>Measurable parameters are identified for each of the key indicators, as presented in Table 11.1-1 of the EIS.</p> | <p><b>Adequately Addressed.</b></p>                         | <p><b>Not Addressed.</b></p> <p>While the proponent has requested Indigenous Knowledge from BNDN, they have not made any resources available for BNDN to collect it, nor has the company engaged in any efforts to sign any agreements that provide assurances around confidentiality. BNDN lacks capacity and requires such resources and assurances to be able to provide Indigenous Knowledge; further, it is standard procedure for proponents to provide such financial capacity.</p> <p>The project is located in a critically important area for BNDN; Cree Lake and surrounding areas fosters important caribou habitat that BNDN members rely on. BNDN carries out rights protected activities throughout the project location, which falls within BNDN’s treaty and ancestral lands. BNDN’s rights and interests will be impacted by the project if it is approved.</p> <p>I) BNDN requires capacity funding from the proponent to conduct a community-led and project-specific Indigenous Knowledge study so BNDN can evaluate the impacts the project will have on BNDN and so the results of the study may inform the project and its evaluation.</p> <p>II) BNDN requires the EIS to be updated based on the results of BNDN’s Indigenous Knowledge Study. BNDN must be engaged on how its results are used to update the EIS.</p> | <p>Denison has continuously sought details regarding BNDN’s land-use activities near the Project so it can better understand the potential for adverse impacts to BNDN and, where needed, incorporate that information into the EIS. Denison remains of the perspective that receipt of this information from BNDN is a necessary next step to progress the assessment. No information has been provided to change our assessment of the potential for the Project to impact BNDN rights.</p> <p>Denison has expressed a willingness to enter into a confidentiality agreement with BNDN since February 2023, and provided a draft confidentiality agreement to BNDN in April 2023.</p> <p>As previously described, Denison has mitigated impacts for the most intensive resource users and is collaborating with English River First Nation and Kineepik Métis Local on tailored monitoring programs whose data will be relevant to all lands users in the Project area. Therefore Denison did not anticipate separate funding for BNDN in November 2023.</p> <p>The environmental assessment focuses on Valued Components - particularly Indigenous Land and Resource Use -using indicators such as resource abundance, access to traditional lands and waters, and perceived suitability. Proven controls on traffic, noise, air emissions and land resource competition mean any residual effects on BNDN are expected to be minimal. Guided by its Indigenous Peoples Policy, Denison remains committed to incorporating Indigenous knowledge and continuously refining these collaborative measures.</p> |

| Ref. No. | Source                      | Reference to EIS, appendix, or supporting documentation  | Birch Narrows Dene Nation Comments I<br>(all original submissions can be found on Canadian Impact Assessment Registry reference: 80171)   | Denison Response I (November 29, 2023)   | Birch Narrows Dene Nation Comments II<br>(January 16, 2024) | Birch Narrows Dene Nation Comments III (May 26, 2025)  | Denison Response II (October 24, 2025)  |
|----------|-----------------------------|--|---|--|---|--|---|
|          |                             |  |   | <p>The assessment does not take a distinctions based approach (i.e., the potential impact on each Indigenous community is not evaluated separately), but rather on the key indicators and associated measurable parameters.</p> <p>Mitigation to eliminate, reduce, or control potential adverse effects of the Project on Indigenous Land and Resource Use would apply to any BNDN uses proximal to the Project. Given proven mitigation is to be applied to traffic disturbances, noise, air quality, and increased competition for resources, the effects are expected to be minimal.</p> <p>As outlined in Denison’s Indigenous Peoples Policy, Denison is committed to respecting Indigenous knowledge and values regarding environmental stewardship and Indigenous peoples’ connection to the land, and to minimize potential effects, wherever possible.</p>   |   |  |   |
| 3        | BNDN<br>(February 28, 2023) | Heritage Baseline Study 2017 (Golder);<br>Heritage Resource Impact Assessment 2020 (Golder);<br>Heritage Resources Management Plan 2022 (Canada North) | <p>Comment #2: Archaeology as a profession has been dominated in North America by non-Indigenous researchers, despite most sites being Indigenous in origin. It is positive that Golder Associates made efforts to engage and involve Indigenous communities (by including an ERFN representative in fieldwork and by considering ERFN and Pinehouse Kineepik Metis land use maps) in their 2017 heritage baseline study and 2020 heritage resource impact assessment.</p> <p>Notwithstanding, the proposed Project area is within BNDN’s treaty and ancestral lands and there may be heritage sites that the community is aware of. BNDN was not involved in either of these studies and BNDN may have Indigenous Knowledge of important heritage sites within the Study Area that should be considered.</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p> <p>a) Denison should provide BNDN with funds to conduct a community-led Indigenous Knowledge, Land Use and Occupancy Study for consideration within the EIS process.</p> <p>b) The Heritage Resources Management Plan should be updated following the consideration of Indigenous Knowledge, Land Use and Occupancy provided by BNDN. This may result in the requirement for further assessment and/or mitigation measures, which should be developed in consultation with BNDN.</p> <p>c) Denison should facilitate BNDN involvement in any additional archaeological fieldwork that takes place, including providing BNDN with capacity funding for members who participate. Terms to facilitate BNDN involvement in future archaeological work should be a component of a broader process agreement between BNDN and Denison.</p> <p>See Section 4.1 for additional information on this topic (p. 12-14).</p> | <p>Denison’s engagement with BNDN is consistent with the identification of BNDN as an Indigenous Community who has expressed an interest in the Project. However, Denison understands this information from BNDN. As such, over the past year(s), Denison has met with BNDN and has respectfully requested further information from BNDN in respect to the land use activities to occurring in and around the Project, in order to more meaningfully understand the potential for adverse impacts to BNDN and therefore consider the potential for further studies and/ or integration into the EIS of such information. Denison remains of the perspective that receipt of this information from BNDN is a necessary first step in this process, and has not received information in this regard to date.</p> <p>Project effects have been mitigated for the most intensive resource user(s), irrespective of affiliation.</p> <p>Denison continues to work with its Indigenous Communities of Interest with reserves and residential communities most proximal to the Project, Denison has committed to collaborating with English River First Nation and Kineepik Métis Local on a community specific monitoring regime, suited to each of their interests and needs, in an agreed-upon fashion. Denison is committed to continual improvement in relation to such collaborative monitoring programs, in order to adapt to areas of interest which can change over time. It is expected that the data collected through such monitoring regimes would also be relevant to other Indigenous nations who may have interest in the Project. Therefore, Denison does not anticipate separate funding for BNDN at this time.</p> <p>Following the implementation of the mitigation measures outlined in the Heritage Resource Management Plan (HRMP), the likelihood of residual effects is considered low and residual effects on Heritage Resources will occur infrequently and can be mitigated with the HRMP. Known archaeological resources identified in the Project Area were</p> | <b>Adequately Addressed.</b>                                | <p><b>Not Addressed.</b></p> <p>While the proponent has requested Indigenous Knowledge from BNDN, they have not made any resources available for BNDN to collect it, nor has the company engaged in any efforts to sign any agreements that provide assurances around confidentiality. BNDN lacks capacity and requires such resources and assurances to be able to provide Indigenous Knowledge; further, it is standard procedure for proponents to provide such financial capacity. Proposed mitigation measures for project effects are inadequate to BNDN and have been developed without consideration of BNDN land use and knowledge; the proponents’ suggestion that the mitigation measures are adequate for impacts to BNDN that have not been assessed is deficient.</p> <p>The project is located within BNDN’s treaty and ancestral lands where members have deep ancestral ties and continue to exercise rights to this day. Most archaeological material in Canada is Indigenous in origin; there is a significant chance that any archaeological material found on site derives from BNDN ancestors. BNDN has inherent rights to its cultural heritage, as affirmed by UNDRIP.</p> <p>I) BNDN requires capacity funding from the proponent to conduct a community-led and project-specific Indigenous Knowledge study so BNDN can evaluate the impacts the project will have on BNDN and so the results of the study may inform the project and its evaluation.</p> <p>II) The Heritage Resources Management Plan should be updated following the consideration of BNDN’s Indigenous Knowledge study.</p> <p>III) The proponent must engage with BNDN to discuss opportunities for</p> | <p>Please see response to Comment #2 and Comment #13 for Denison’s response on BNDN Indigenous knowledge and capacity funding</p> <p>The Heritage Resource Management Plan keeps residual effects on archaeological resources low: known sites require no further action, and any newly discovered resources will be protected or assessed under The Heritage Property Act. With only two identified sites, both near existing trails and away from primary developments, the risk of heritage loss is considered negligible.</p> |

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|----------|--------------------------|--|--|--|---|--|---|
|          |                          |  |  | <p>deemed to have low potential for archaeological interpretation and additional work or mitigation measures were not required for the sites; the Heritage Conservation Branch had no further concerns with these sites and work could proceed as planned. Should unknown archaeological and cultural resources be identified during the Project, effects will be mitigated using the HRMP. While effects to archaeological resources are irreversible, they can be mitigated by following the HRMP, by either avoiding additional damage to the resource by creating a buffer zone around the site, or by assessing the resource according to The Heritage Property Act to enable the full interpretation of the site before continuing with work.</p> <p>Furthermore, based on the low occurrence of known Heritage Resources in the Project Area (two), and the location of the Heritage Resources (near waterbodies, along an existing trail and away from the main developments), there is a low potential for the identification or disturbance of previously unknown archaeological sites throughout the life of the Project.</p> <p>Therefore, any residual effects (i.e., destruction of Heritage Resources) is considered to be negligible. Further, HRMP includes feedback from Indigenous nations with demonstrated significant land use activities in and around the Project.</p> <p>As outlined in Denison’s Indigenous Peoples Policy, Denison is committed to respecting Indigenous knowledge and values regarding environmental stewardship and Indigenous peoples’ connection to the land, and to minimize potential effects, wherever possible.</p> <p>Please see Section 11.3.2 Influence of Indigenous Knowledge, Local Knowledge, and Engagement on the Assessment for Heritage Resources. The Section describes how field assistants from local Indigenous communities were involved with the HRIA baseline studies, allowing for in-field consultation during the assessment to make sure that areas deemed to have potential by the land users were surveyed.</p> |   | BNDN to participate in archaeological work moving forward.   |   |
| 4        | BNDN (February 28, 2023) | Heritage Baseline Study 2017 (Golder) – methods; Heritage Resource Impact Assessment 2020 (Golder) – methods | Comment #3: The methodology within both the 2017 and 2020 heritage studies included ‘judgmental’ shovel probing and initial troweling through soil to identify cultural heritage material. While the discretion of a professional archaeologist needs to be taken into account, relying subjectively on which areas to shovel test and not employing a systematic approach is not reproduceable and may result in sites being missed; this is of particular concern given that large sections of the areas retaining potential were not subject to shovel testing. Further, troweling through soil rather than subjecting all excavated soil to sifting through 6mm mesh means that artifacts/ecofacts may easily be overlooked. Given that the north of Saskatchewan has not been thoroughly investigated archaeologically and given that 76 sites and nine find areas were recorded just 35 km south of the Project area as part of Dr. David Meyer’s multi-year | The 2017 and 2020 heritage studies were reviewed by the Heritage Conservation Branch. The HRIA was completed using standard pedestrian reconnaissance and visual inspection field techniques, complimented by the excavation of shovel probes and shovel tests and it was determined the site has limited interpretive potential. Please see Section 11.3.2 Influence of Indigenous Knowledge, Local Knowledge, and Engagement on the Assessment for Heritage Resources. The Section describes how field assistants from local Indigenous communities were involved with the HRIA baseline studies, allowing for in-field consultation during the assessment to make sure that areas deemed to have potential by the land users were surveyed. The details of monitoring and follow-up plans are being developed to support the separate process of Project licensing and permitting.  | <b>Adequately Addressed.</b>                                | <p><b>Not Addressed.</b></p> <p>BNDN will not retain confidence in the results of the heritage assessments until the nation is able to complete an Indigenous Knowledge Study and the results are incorporated into the EIS.</p> <p>The project is located within BNDN’s treaty and ancestral lands where members have deep ancestral ties and continue to exercise rights to this day. Most archaeological material in Canada is Indigenous in origin; there is a significant chance that any archaeological material found on site derives from BNDN ancestors. BNDN has inherent rights to its cultural heritage, as affirmed by UNDRIP.</p> <p>I) BNDN requires capacity funding from the proponent to conduct a</p> | Please see response to Comment #2 and Comment #13 for Denison’s response on BNDN Indigenous knowledge and capacity funding. |



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|----------|--------------------------|--|---|---|---|--|--|
|          |                          |  | <p>archaeological investigation, the results of these assessments do not seem rigorous.</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p> <p>a) BNDN recommends that Denison undertake further archaeological investigations based on the results of the BNDN TKLU study prior to construction of the project.</p> <p>b) Future archaeological assessment programs should be designed collaboratively with BNDN and other Impacted Indigenous Nations.</p> <p>See Section 4.1 for additional information on this topic (p. 12-14).</p> | <p>The specific means by which provincial and federal authorities, and Indigenous Nations and communities will be engaged in developing the follow-up and monitoring program, including the information-sharing program, are currently under consideration with the Denison project team. It is noted that Section 4.2.1 of the draft EIS provides the variety of ways in which Denison has engaged with Interested Parties to date and it is assumed it would continue to use these means and others that may be identified to fulfill its key corporate principals for developing positive relationships (see draft EIS Section 4.2).</p> <p>Denison continues to work with its Indigenous Communities of Interest with reserves and residential communities most proximal to the Project, Denison has committed to collaborating with English River First Nation and Kineepik Métis Local on a community specific monitoring regime, suited to each of their interests and needs, in an agreed-upon fashion. Denison is committed to continual improvement in relation to such collaborative monitoring programs, in order to adapt to areas of interest which can change over time. It is expected that the data collected through such monitoring regimes would also be relevant to other Indigenous nations who may have interest in the Project. Therefore, Denison does not anticipate separate funding for BNDN at this time. Please see Section 11.3.2 Influence of Indigenous Knowledge, Local Knowledge, and Engagement on the Assessment for Heritage Resources. The Section describes how field assistants from local Indigenous communities were involved with the HRIA baseline studies, allowing for in-field consultation during the assessment to make sure that areas deemed to have potential by the land users were surveyed.</p> |   | <p>community-led and project-specific Indigenous Knowledge study so BNDN can evaluate the impacts the project will have on BNDN and so the results of the study may inform the project and its evaluation.</p> <p>II) BNDN requires the EIS to be updated based on the results of BNDN's Indigenous Knowledge Study. BNDN must be engaged on how its results are used to update the EIS.</p> <p>III) The proponent must commit to engaging Indigenous Nations, including BNDN in decision making related to Indigenous archaeological material and sites rather than merely informing these nations.</p> |  |
| 5        | BNDN (February 28, 2023) | Heritage Baseline Study 2017 (Golder) – methods; Heritage Resource Impact Assessment 2020 (Golder) – methods | <p>Comment #4: The presence of strandlines are noted as being an indicator of archaeological potential; however, it is unclear within the reports whether any strandlines are present within the Study Area. Most of the investigations and shovel probes that took place were around existing waterbodies.</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p> <p>Please indicate whether strandlines are present anywhere in the Study Area.</p> <p>See Section 4.1 for additional information on this topic (p. 12-14).</p>           | <p>Strandlines, like other linear landforms, do increase archaeological potential, however heritage resources are only directly effected by Project activities and there are no strandlines located in the Phoenix Site area (Government of Saskatchewan. N.d. 250K Surficial Geology Linear Landforms. Available at: <a href="https://geohub.saskatchewan.ca/datasets/saskatchewan::250k-surficial-geology-linear-landforms/explore?location=57.247957%2C-106.370278%2C6.33">https://geohub.saskatchewan.ca/datasets/saskatchewan::250k-surficial-geology-linear-landforms/explore?location=57.247957%2C-106.370278%2C6.33</a> [Accessed November 29, 2023]).</p>  | <b>Adequately Addressed.</b>                                | <b>Addressed.</b>  |  |
| 6        | BNDN (February 28, 2023) | Heritage Baseline Study 2017 (Golder) – methods; Heritage Resource Impact Assessment 2020 (Golder) – methods | <p>Comment #5: It is unclear whether the locations identified by other Indigenous communities in their Land Use maps were investigated archaeologically and subject where appropriate to shovel testing. Knowing this will give confidence to BNDN that areas they may identify as retaining potential may undergo further assessment if necessary.</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p>  | <p>Please see Section 11.3.2 Influence of Indigenous Knowledge, Local Knowledge, and Engagement on the Assessment for Heritage Resources. The Section describes how field assistants from local Indigenous communities were involved with the HRIA baseline studies, allowing for in-field consultation during the assessment to make sure that areas deemed to have potential by the land users were surveyed.</p>   | <b>Adequately Addressed.</b>                                | <b>Addressed.</b>  |  |

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|----------|--------------------------|--|---|--|---|---|--|
|          |                          |  | <p>Please indicate whether the areas identified by other Indigenous communities in their Land Use maps were investigated archaeologically.</p> <p>See Section 4.1 for additional information on this topic (p. 12-14).</p>  |  |   |   |  |
| 7        | BNDN (February 28, 2023) | Heritage Resources Management Plan 2022 (Canada North) – 4.0 | <p>Comment #6: The archaeological context provided is very Western/Scientific. Denison must also include historical/pre-historical accounts of Indigenous communities to provide an appropriate and comprehensive assessment of the archaeological context of the region.</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p> <p>Denison must include a write-up of Indigenous historical and prehistorical accounts in consultation with relevant Indigenous communities. This write up must include historic context provided through oral history interviews as part of BNDN’s community-led Indigenous Knowledge, Land Use and Occupancy Study for the Project. See Section 4.1 for additional information on this topic (p. 12-14).</p> | <p>Denison’s engagement with BNDN is consistent with the identification of BNDN as an Indigenous Community who has expressed an interest in the Project. However, Denison understands this information from BNDN. As such, over the past year(s), Denison has met with BNDN and has respectfully requested further information from BNDN in respect to the land use activities to occurring in and around the Project, in order to more meaningfully understand the potential for adverse impacts to BNDN and therefore consider the potential for further studies and/ or integration into the EIS of such information. Denison remains of the perspective that receipt of this information from BNDN is a necessary first step in this process, and has not received information in this regard to date.</p> <p>Project effects have been mitigated for the most intensive resource user(s), irrespective of affiliation.</p> <p>Denison continues to work with its Indigenous Communities of Interest with reserves and residential communities most proximal to the Project, Denison has committed to collaborating with English River First Nation and Kineepik Métis Local on a community specific monitoring regime, suited to each of their interests and needs, in an agreed-upon fashion. Denison is committed to continual improvement in relation to such collaborative monitoring programs, in order to adapt to areas of interest which can change over time. It is expected that the data collected through such monitoring regimes would also be relevant to other Indigenous nations who may have interest in the Project.</p> <p>Following the implementation of the mitigation measures outlined in the Heritage Resource Management Plan (HRMP), the likelihood of residual effects is considered low and residual effects on Heritage Resources will occur infrequently and can be mitigated with the HRMP. Known archaeological resources identified in the Project Area were deemed to have low potential for archaeological interpretation and additional work or mitigation measures were not required for the sites; the Heritage Conservation Branch had no further concerns with these sites and work could proceed as planned. Should unknown archaeological and cultural resources be identified during the Project, effects will be mitigated using the HRMP. While effects to archaeological resources are irreversible, they can be mitigated by following the HRMP, by either avoiding additional damage to the resource by creating a buffer zone around the site, or by assessing the resource according to The Heritage Property Act to enable the full interpretation of the site before continuing with work.</p> | <b>Adequately Addressed.</b>                                | <p><b>Not Addressed.</b></p> <p>Denison’s response does not address the recommendation posed by BNDN regarding the revision of the archaeological context to include a write-up of Indigenous historical and prehistorical accounts, in consultation with impacted Indigenous communities.</p> <p>Further, while the proponent has requested Indigenous Knowledge from BNDN, they have not made any resources available for BNDN to collect it, nor has the company engaged in any efforts to sign any agreements that provide assurances around confidentiality. BNDN lacks capacity and requires such resources and assurances to be able to provide Indigenous Knowledge; further, it is standard procedure for proponents to provide such financial capacity. Proposed mitigation measures for project effects are inadequate to BNDN and have been developed without consideration of BNDN land use and knowledge; the proponents’ suggestion that the mitigation measures are adequate for impacts to BNDN that have not been assessed is deficient.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I) BNDN requires capacity funding from the proponent to conduct a community-led and project-specific Indigenous Knowledge study so BNDN can evaluate the impacts the project will have on BNDN and so the results of the study may inform the project and its evaluation.</li> <li>II) BNDN requires all documents, including the HRMP to be updated based on the results of BNDN’s Indigenous Knowledge Study. BNDN must be engaged on how its results are used to update the HRMP.</li> </ul> | <p>Please see response to Comment #2 and Comment #13 for Denison’s response on BNDN Indigenous knowledge and capacity funding.</p> <p>The Heritage Resource Management Plan keeps residual effects on archaeological resources low: known sites require no further action, and any newly discovered resources will be protected or assessed under The Heritage Property Act. With only two identified sites, both near existing trails and away from primary developments, the risk of heritage loss is considered negligible. Field assistants from local Indigenous communities were involved with the HRIA baseline studies, allowing for in-field consultation during the assessment to make sure that areas deemed to have potential by the land users were surveyed.</p> |

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|----------|-----------------------------|--|---|--|---|---|--|
|          |                             |  |   | <p>Furthermore, based on the low occurrence of known Heritage Resources in the Project Area (two), and the location of the Heritage Resources (near waterbodies, along an existing trail and away from the main developments), there is a low potential for the identification or disturbance of previously unknown archaeological sites throughout the life of the Project.</p> <p>Therefore, any residual effects (i.e., destruction of Heritage Resources) is considered to be negligible. Further, HRMP includes feedback from Indigenous nations with demonstrated significant land use activities in and around the Project.</p> <p>As outlined in Denison’s Indigenous Peoples Policy, Denison is committed to respecting Indigenous knowledge and values regarding environmental stewardship and Indigenous peoples’ connection to the land, and to minimize potential effects, wherever possible.</p> <p>Please see Section 11.3.2 Influence of Indigenous Knowledge, Local Knowledge, and Engagement on the Assessment for Heritage Resources. The Section describes how field assistants from local Indigenous communities were involved with the HRIA baseline studies, allowing for in-field consultation during the assessment to make sure that areas deemed to have potential by the land users were surveyed.</p> |   |   |  |
| 8        | BNDN<br>(February 28, 2023) | Heritage Resources Management Plan 2022 (Canada North) – 5.1 1e & 1f | <p>Comment #7: BNDN notes that there has been limited engagement of our Nation as part of the archaeological baseline studies undertaken at the site. The Wheeler River Project is within our Treaty and Ancestral Lands where our members have deep ancestral ties and continue to exercise our rights to this day. As stewards of the land since time immemorial and holders of both Treaty and Aboriginal rights in the Project area, Denison must engage with us as partners on their activities on our lands. This includes their planning and decision-making related to archaeological materials to which our members have ancestral and spiritual ties.</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Indigenous communities should be consulted and engaged in decision making rather than merely informed if the archaeological material is expected to be Indigenous in origin.</li> </ul> <p>See Section 4.1 for additional information on this topic (p. 12-14).</p> | <p>Please see Section 11.3.2 Influence of Indigenous Knowledge, Local Knowledge, and Engagement on the Assessment for Heritage Resources. The Section describes how field assistants from local Indigenous communities were involved with the HRIA baseline studies, allowing for in-field consultation during the assessment to make sure that areas deemed to have potential by the land users were surveyed.</p> <p>Even the most thorough investigations may not identify all archaeological materials that may be present. Denison advises that if unanticipated archaeological materials or features are encountered as a result of construction or reclamation activities, all work in the immediate area should cease and the Heritage Conservation Branch and local authorities (if applicable) contacted.</p>  | <b>Adequately Addressed.</b>                                | <p><b>Not addressed.</b></p> <p>Denison’s engagement efforts related to archaeology have been deficient. No representatives from BNDN were involved in field assessments nor has BNDN Indigenous Knowledge been considered.</p> <p>The project is located within BNDN’s treaty and ancestral lands where members have deep ancestral ties and continue to exercise rights to this day. Most archaeological material in Canada is Indigenous in origin; there is a significant chance that any archaeological material found on site derives from BNDN ancestors. BNDN has inherent rights to its cultural heritage, as affirmed by UNDRIP.</p> <p>The proponent must commit to engaging Indigenous Nations, including BNDN in decision making related to Indigenous archaeological material and sites rather than merely informing these nations.</p> | <p>Please see response to Comment #2 and Comment #13 for Denison’s response on BNDN Indigenous knowledge and capacity funding.</p> <p>The Heritage Resource Management Plan includes feedback from Indigenous nations with demonstrated significant land use activities in and around the Project.</p> |
| 9        | BNDN<br>(February 28, 2023) | Heritage Resources Management Plan 2022 (Canada North) – 5.1 7       | <p>Comment #8: Given the Ancestral and Treaty ties our members have to the project area, our members have valuable knowledge and context to inform the Heritage Resource Impact Assessment (HRIA) for the Project that must be considered prior to being reviewed or approved by any regulatory body.</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The draft HRIA should be reviewed by BNDN and other impacted Indigenous Nations prior to being submitted for regulatory approval.</li> </ul>  | <p>Denison’s engagement with BNDN is consistent with the identification of BNDN as an Indigenous Community who has expressed an interest in the Project. However, Denison understands this information from BNDN. As such, over the past year(s), Denison has met with BNDN and has respectfully requested further information from BNDN in respect to the land use activities to occurring in and around the Project, in order to more meaningfully understand the potential for adverse impacts to BNDN and therefore consider the</p>   | <b>Adequately Addressed.</b>                                | <p><b>Not Addressed.</b></p> <p>Denison’s response does not address the request put forward by BNDN to be given an opportunity to review the draft HRIA.</p> <p>Further, while the proponent has requested Indigenous Knowledge from BNDN, they have not made any resources available for BNDN to collect it, nor has the company engaged in any efforts to sign any agreements that provide assurances around confidentiality. BNDN lacks</p>  | <p>Please see response to Comment #2 and Comment #13 for Denison’s response on BNDN Indigenous knowledge and capacity funding.</p>   |

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|          |        |   | See Section 4.1 for additional information on this topic (p. 12-14).  | <p>potential for further studies and/ or integration into the EIS of such information. Denison remains of the perspective that receipt of this information from BNDN is a necessary first step in this process, and has not received information in this regard to date.</p> <p>Project effects have been mitigated for the most intensive resource user(s), irrespective of affiliation.</p> <p>Denison continues to work with its Indigenous Communities of Interest with reserves and residential communities most proximal to the Project, Denison has committed to collaborating with English River First Nation and Kineepik Métis Local on a community specific monitoring regime, suited to each of their interests and needs, in an agreed-upon fashion. Denison is committed to continual improvement in relation to such collaborative monitoring programs, in order to adapt to areas of interest which can change over time. It is expected that the data collected through such monitoring regimes would also be relevant to other Indigenous nations who may have interest in the Project.</p> <p>Following the implementation of the mitigation measures outlined in the Heritage Resource Management Plan (HRMP), the likelihood of residual effects is considered low and residual effects on Heritage Resources will occur infrequently and can be mitigated with the HRMP. Known archaeological resources identified in the Project Area were deemed to have low potential for archaeological interpretation and additional work or mitigation measures were not required for the sites; the Heritage Conservation Branch had no further concerns with these sites and work could proceed as planned. Should unknown archaeological and cultural resources be identified during the Project, effects will be mitigated using the HRMP. While effects to archaeological resources are irreversible, they can be mitigated by following the HRMP, by either avoiding additional damage to the resource by creating a buffer zone around the site, or by assessing the resource according to The Heritage Property Act to enable the full interpretation of the site before continuing with work.</p> <p>Furthermore, based on the low occurrence of known Heritage Resources in the Project Area (two), and the location of the Heritage Resources (near waterbodies, along an existing trail and away from the main developments), there is a low potential for the identification or disturbance of previously unknown archaeological sites throughout the life of the Project.</p> <p>Therefore, any residual effects (i.e., destruction of Heritage Resources) is considered to be negligible. Further, HRMP includes feedback from Indigenous nations with demonstrated significant land use activities in and around the Project.</p> <p>As outlined in Denison’s Indigenous Peoples Policy, Denison is committed to respecting Indigenous knowledge and values regarding environmental stewardship and Indigenous peoples’ connection to</p> |   | <p>capacity and requires such resources and assurances to be able to provide Indigenous Knowledge; further, it is standard procedure for proponents to provide such financial capacity.</p> <p>I) The draft HRIA should be reviewed by BNDN and other impacted Indigenous Nations prior to being submitted for regulatory approval.</p> <p>II) BNDN requires capacity funding from the proponent to conduct a community-led and project-specific Indigenous Knowledge study so BNDN can evaluate the impacts the project will have on BNDN and so the results of the study may inform the project and its evaluation.</p> |  |

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|----------|--------------------------|--|--|--|---|---|---|
|          |                          |  |  | <p>the land, and to minimize potential effects, wherever possible.</p> <p>Please see Section 11.3.2 Influence of Indigenous Knowledge, Local Knowledge, and Engagement on the Assessment for Heritage Resources. The Section describes how field assistants from local Indigenous communities were involved with the HRIA baseline studies, allowing for in-field consultation during the assessment to make sure that areas deemed to have potential by the land users were surveyed.</p>   |   |   |   |
| 10       | BNDN (February 28, 2023) | Heritage Resources Management Plan 2022 (Canada North) – 5.1 1 | <p>Comment #9: Discerning archaeological artifacts/ecofacts is difficult at times even to the trained eye; consequently, it is important to undergo training to understand what you could be looking for.</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p> <p>a) Staff should undergo training regarding the cultural material they may encounter while on site</p> <p>b) BNDN and other Indigenous communities should be invited to attend this training</p> <p>See Section 4.1 for additional information on this topic (p. 12-14).</p>  | <p>Section 5.1.1 describes how all staff working on the Project should be informed of the possibility that they could encounter archaeological resources during their work or leisure time, which will include the proper procedure to follow in the case of a chance find. This could be facilitated by a short archaeological education section in the employee orientation, outlining the types of sites and artifacts that could be encountered in the area, as well as what to do when a potential artifact or site is found. If the chance find is deemed to be an archaeological site, then an HRIA is required and a qualified archaeologist must complete the assessment.</p> <p>Section 11.3.5 Mitigation Measures describes the management of archaeological resources and includes the assessment of the discovery by a qualified archaeologist and mitigation measures including avoidance of the site, shovel testing, systematic and intensive shovel testing, excavation, and/or construction monitoring. The HRMP outlines mechanisms for Indigenous engagement including the communities and implementation of appropriate cultural protocols.</p> | <b>Adequately Addressed.</b>                                | <p><b>Not Addressed.</b></p> <p>Stronger language must be used to ensure archaeological education does occur as part of staff orientation. The proponent must commit to the requirement that staff undergo training by a qualified archaeologist regarding the cultural material they may encounter while on site as part of staff orientation.</p> <p>BNDN requires confirmation that BNDN and other impacted Indigenous Nations will be invited to attend this training. The project is located in BNDN’s treaty and ancestral lands; given that no Indigenous Knowledge research has been completed to date for this project by BNDN, there is significant concern that ancestral materials will be encountered but not identified, leading to irreparable damage.</p> | <p>An archaeological component will be provided in staff orientation such that all personnel understand the possibility of chance findings and the steps to follow; if a find is deemed an archaeological site, a qualified archaeologist must carry out an HRIA. Denison will work with Indigenous COIs to determine their level of interest in relation to archaeological training.</p> <p>Furthermore, any discovery will be assessed by a professional archaeologist and managed through avoidance, graduated shovel testing, excavation, or construction monitoring, with Indigenous engagement and cultural protocols governed by the HRMP.</p> <p>As outlined in Denison’s Indigenous Peoples Policy, Denison is committed to respecting Indigenous knowledge and values regarding environmental stewardship and Indigenous peoples’ connection to the land, and to minimize potential effects, wherever possible.</p> |
| 11       | BNDN (February 28, 2023) | Heritage Resources Management Plan 2022 (Canada North) – 5.3   | <p>Comment #10: In numerous instances the Heritage Resources Management Plan (HRMP), Denison has used noncommittal language to describe future Indigenous engagement related to heritage resources. BNDN notes that engagement of impacted Nations is essential for proper heritage resource management and as such the language in the HRMP should reflect the necessity of this engagement.</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Throughout the HRMP, Denison must change the language of “should” to “will” where appropriate. For example: management options will be presented to the applicable Indigenous communities for feedback and will include consultation.</li> </ul> <p>See Section 4.1 for additional information on this topic (p. 12-14).</p> | The Heritage Resources Management Plan will be revisited for use of language ‘should’ to ‘will’ where appropriate.   | <b>Adequately Addressed.</b>                                | <p><b>Partially addressed.</b></p> <p>The proponent should report back to BNDN regarding how the language was updated and whether there were any instances the proponent did not update the language from ‘should’ to ‘will’; justification should be provided in these instances.</p>  | Denison updated the HRMP in a manner as committed to. A revised HRMP has been filed with the regulators.  |
| 12       | BNDN (February 28, 2023) | Heritage Resources Management Plan 2022 (Canada North) – 5.3.1 | Comment #11: BNDN notes that Section 5.3.1 does not confirm that impacted Indigenous Nations will have the opportunity to participate in future archaeological fieldwork. While BNDN understands that many impacted Nations will have arrangements directly with Denison to facilitate member participation, this should additionally be made available to all impacted Indigenous Nations as part of best practices at the Project.   | As the Indigenous Communities of Interest with reserves and residential communities most proximal to the Project, Denison has committed to collaborating with English River First Nation and Kineepik Métis Local on a monitoring regime, suited to each of their interests and needs. As part of these programs, Denison and the Indigenous community of ERFN and KML will be sharing information in an   | <b>Adequately Addressed.</b>                                | <p><b>Not addressed.</b></p> <p>The project is located within BNDN’s treaty and ancestral lands where members have deep ancestral ties and continue to exercise rights to this day. Most archaeological material in Canada is Indigenous in origin; there is a significant chance that any archaeological material found on site derives from BNDN ancestors. BNDN has</p>  | <p>Please see response to Comment #2 and Comment #13 for Denison’s response on BNDN Indigenous knowledge and capacity funding.</p> <p>With the HRMP in force, including the mitigation / management measures identified therein, effects on heritage resources are not expected. The known</p>  |

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|          |                          |   | <p>Request/recommendation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In addition to any provisions developed in a Project Agreement between BNDN and Denison for the Wheeler River Project, Denison should include a clause that confirms that all impacted Indigenous communities will be invited to have monitors participate in any additional fieldwork and that Denison will provide capacity funding for Nations that wish to participate.</li> </ul> <p>See Section 4.1 for additional information on this topic (p. 12-14).</p>   | <p>agreed-upon fashion. It is expected that the data collected through such monitoring regimes as described above would also be relevant to other Indigenous nations who may have interest in the Project. Denison does not anticipate separate funding for BNDN at this time.</p> <p>BNDN will be informed throughout the monitoring program design and implementation process. Monitoring program design and implementation will be guided by the following principles: meet regulatory requirements, confirm the effectiveness of mitigation measures and predictions made in the assessment, implementing adaptive management (if/where applicable) to reduce effects during the lifetime of the Project, and will ensure that spatial boundaries are sufficiently extensive to measure EIS predictions.</p>  |   | <p>inherent rights to its cultural heritage, as affirmed by UNDRIP.</p> <p>The proponent must engage with BNDN to discuss opportunities for BNDN to participate in archaeological work moving forward.</p>  | <p>archaeological sites in the Project area have limited interpretive value, and the Heritage Conservation Branch has authorized work without further mitigation. If previously unknown artifacts emerge, the HRMP requires immediate protection—either by creating a buffer or by full assessment under The Heritage Property Act before work resumes. Although any disturbance is irreversible, strict HRMP procedures keep residual effects to a minimum.</p>   |
| 13       | BNDN (February 28, 2023) | Section 13.0  | <p>Comments #12, 14 and 15: BNDN is not included as a Local Study Area (LSA) Community despite being closer to the Project than other LSA Communities. The Project is situated on BNDN’s ancestral lands. BNDN members currently and historically use the LSA for harvesting (commercial and personal) and ceremonial purposes.</p> <p>Without the LSA Community designation, BNDN members are less likely to be employed or trained through the Project. BNDN members are not entitled to priority training and employment provisions from Denison on the Project. Further, BNDN businesses and partnerships are not entitled to priority procurement provisions from Denison on the Project.</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BNDN must be identified as a LSA Community. BNDN members and businesses must be eligible for LSA priority status for employment, training, and contracting opportunities. The EIS should be revised accordingly.</li> <li>A formal agreement between BNDN and Denison is required to outline socioeconomic offsetting measures and benefits should the Project move forward. This must include ways for BNDN businesses and member owned businesses to participate in the Project.</li> </ul> <p>Denison references a Human Resource Development Plan (HRDP) as a mitigation measure to ensure local and regional community members are hired in priority. However, Denison does not provide sufficient details to allow Birch to assess the adequacy of the HRDP.</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BNDN requests the ability to review and comment on Denison’s Human Resource Development Plan to provide input and recommendations to encourage community participation and employment in the Project.</li> </ul> <p>See Section 4.2 for additional information on this topic (p. 19-23).</p> | <p>Spatial boundaries for the Economy VC were selected to reflect the geographic areas where economic impacts from the Project are likely to be detectable and measurable. These impacts are expected to be driven primarily by the relationship and interactions between the Project and the COI. Economic benefits surrounding Project employment (including income and training) are likely to be targeted toward the communities identified within the spatial boundaries. Economic impacts extending beyond the LSA are likely to be diffused and undetectable within the broader economy. The spatial boundaries were selected based on the consideration of communities where Project recruitment is likely to be prioritized, consideration of previous EAs conducted in the region, and consideration of information shared through key persons in the interview program. The LSA for the assessment of the economy includes the following communities: ERFN (including Indian Reserve Wapachewunak 192D and Indian Reserve La Plonge 192) and Patuanak, Northern Hamlet (Patuanak); Pinehouse Lake, Northern Village; and Beauval, Northern Village.</p> <p>Denison, through a Human Resource Development Plan, will initially prioritize Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities in the LSA in terms of employment and training opportunities (anticipated to be in institutions in northern Saskatchewan) and will work with the leadership of these communities to assist in determining hiring and training practices during all phases of the Project, which could include such items as on-the-job training and career counselling to help with advancement from foundational positions, advance sharing of job qualification requirements, clearly identifying training requirements and working with various training institutions to make sure such appropriate training is available, and creation of scholarship and support programs. Priority for employment and training will then focus on Indigenous and non-Indigenous residents of the RSA and then beyond the RSA.</p> | <b>Adequately Addressed.</b>                                | <p><b>Not Addressed.</b></p> <p>BNDN is still not being considered a Local Study Area (LSA) community despite being closer to the Project than other LSA communities. Without the LSA Community designation, BNDN members are less likely to be employed or trained through the Project. BNDN members are not entitled to priority training and employment provisions from Denison on the Project. Further, BNDN businesses and partnerships are not entitled to priority procurement provisions from Denison on the Project. This is unacceptable. Denison and BNDN must work together to develop an Accommodation Agreement (e.g. Impact Benefit Agreement or Mutual Benefit Agreement) in order to accommodate for the impacts of the Project on BNDNs rights, interests, and the environment.</p> | <p>Denison acknowledges BNDN’s interest in a process or impact benefit agreement with Denison.</p> <p>Denison has utilized a principled approach to identifying and engaging with Indigenous communities of interest and LSA communities with respect to the Project. That assessment been responsive to directions from provincial and federal regulators, and has been refined based on new or updated information regarding the potential for adverse impacts to the Indigenous and Treaty rights of Indigenous communities.</p> <p>Denison has continuously sought details regarding BNDN’s land-use activities near the Project so it can better understand the potential for adverse impacts to BNDN and, where needed, incorporate that information into the EIS. Denison remains of the perspective that receipt of this information from BNDN is a necessary next step to progress the assessment.</p> <p>Denison has expressed a willingness to enter into a confidentiality agreement with BNDN since February 2023, and provided a draft confidentiality agreement to BNDN in April 2023. Despite this commitment, no such information has been supplied by BNDN to Denison.</p> <p>Denison will prioritize employment and training of Indigenous and non-Indigenous residents of the RSA over residents beyond the RSA.</p> |

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| 14       | BNDN<br>(February 28, 2023) | Section 12.0 and 13.0                                   | <p>Comment #13: There is no BNDN specific Indigenous Knowledge or socioeconomic data presented in the EIS. Request/recommendation:</p> <p>Denison must conduct Indigenous Knowledge and Community well-being Study (or similar) to gather BNDN specific information. These studies will allow for a more fulsome assessment of the Project on BNDN rights and interests. Additionally, BNDN specific data will enhance Denison’s baseline data and help to inform mitigation and monitoring measures. See Section 4.2 for additional information on this topic (p. 19-22).</p> | <p>Denison’s engagement with BNDN is consistent with the identification of BNDN as an Indigenous Community who has expressed an interest in the Project. However, Denison understands this information from BNDN. As such, over the past year(s), Denison has met with BNDN and has respectfully requested further information from BNDN in respect to the land use activities to occurring in and around the Project, in order to more meaningfully understand the potential for adverse impacts to BNDN and therefore consider the potential for further studies and/or integration into the EIS of such information. Denison remains of the perspective that receipt of this information from BNDN is a necessary first step in this process, and has not received information in this regard to date.</p> <p>Spatial boundaries for the Economy VC were selected to reflect the geographic areas where economic impacts from the Project are likely to be detectable and measurable. These impacts are expected to be driven primarily by the relationship and interactions between the Project and the COI. Economic benefits surrounding Project employment (including income and training) are likely to be targeted toward the communities identified within the spatial boundaries. Economic impacts extending beyond the LSA are likely to be diffused and undetectable within the broader economy. The spatial boundaries were selected based on the consideration of communities where Project recruitment is likely to be prioritized, consideration of previous EAs conducted in the region, and consideration of information shared through key persons in the interview program. The LSA for the assessment of the economy includes the following communities: ERFN (including Indian Reserve Wapachewunak 192D and Indian Reserve La Plonge 192) and Patuanak, Northern Hamlet (Patuanak); Pinehouse Lake, Northern Village; and Beauval, Northern Village.</p> <p>The spatial boundaries selected for Community Well-being were chosen because they permit baseline characterization in sufficient detail to enable potential interactions between the Project and the well-being of the community. These boundaries were developed in consideration of where interactions are likely to occur. The spatial boundaries were derived based on the consideration of communities where Project recruitment is likely to be prioritized, consideration of previous EAs conducted in the region, and consideration of information shared through key persons in the interview program. The LSA for the Community Well-being VC includes ERFN (including Indian Reserves Wapachewunak 192D and La Plonge 192) and Patuanak, Northern Hamlet; Pinehouse Lake, Northern Village; and Beauval, Northern Village.</p> | <b>Adequately Addressed.</b>                                | <p><b>Not Addressed.</b></p> <p>While the proponent has requested Indigenous Knowledge from BNDN, they have not made any resources available for BNDN to collect it, nor has the company engaged in any efforts to sign any agreements that provide assurances around confidentiality. BNDN lacks capacity and requires such resources and assurances to be able to provide Indigenous Knowledge; further, it is standard procedure for proponents to provide such financial capacity.</p> <p>The project is located in a critically important area for BNDN; Cree Lake and surrounding areas fosters important caribou habitat that BNDN members rely on; impacts to these animals and areas will undoubtedly impact BNDN’s well-being. However, this and related issues have not been considered in the project. Further, BNDN carries out economic activities in within the study area; however, the economic impacts of the project on BNDN has not been assessed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I) BNDN requires capacity funding from the proponent to conduct a community-led and project-specific Indigenous Knowledge study so BNDN can evaluate the impacts the project will have on BNDN and so the results of the study may inform the project and its evaluation.</li> <li>II) BNDN requires the EIS to be updated based on the results of BNDN’s Indigenous Knowledge study – including the sections on economy and community well-being VCs. BNDN must be engaged on how its results are used to update the EIS.</li> </ul> | <p>Please see response to Comment #2 and Comment #13 for Denison’s response on BNDN Indigenous knowledge and capacity funding.</p> <p>Denison notes that effects of the Project on traditional land and resources uses (including that related to country food harvesting including of caribou) were assessed in Section 11 of the EIS. Specific to the BNDN’s comment, this assessment, as it related to caribou, considered information provided by COIs as available to the Denison team, information derived from baseline surveys and other available sources. This assessment was further informed by other aspects of the EIS, such as the assessment of effects on the terrestrial environment (Section 9) and human health (Section 10). Denison understands the important of the country food economy to local resource users and provided a thoughtful assessment of potential project and cumulative effects in the EIS. As it concerns caribou specifically the EIS concluded that the potential loss of opportunity for caribou harvest would be negligible and that continued dietary intake of caribou and other country foods would not negatively affect human health. Additionally, it was concluded that the effects on caribou habitats and caribou population sustainability would not be significantly adversely affected. Despite the finding of non-significant effects Denison committed to working with the Province on caribou management and has worked with the Province since the draft EIS (October 2022) was submitted to develop a Caribou Mitigation and Offset Plan that is supported by the Province ad was recently submitted to CNSC. It is expected that the plan will evolve further as the SK-1 range plan is developed and with input from COIs.</p> |

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| 15       | BNDN<br>(February 28, 2023) | Section 12.0  | <p>Comment #16: While EIS does consider the effects of population changes related to the Project on social adaptability, demand for services and housing, it does not address the full range of potential impacts associated with a transient workforce. Significant research has been conducted to demonstrate the negative impacts of remote workers and work camps on Indigenous women and girls. This must be considered in the EIS.</p> <p>The EIS must include an assessment of all potential effects of a transient workforce and changes to population dynamics, including those disproportionately experienced by Indigenous women and girls, and other segments of the population. This must incorporate findings of research like the 2017 study completed by Lake Babine Nation and Nak’azdli Whut’en (Indigenous Communities and Industrial Camps), and/or related research in the context of the LSA.</p> <p>See Section 4.2 for additional information on this topic (p. 19-21).</p> | <p>Both the construction and operation camps will operate on a fly-in/out basis, meaning the opportunities for interactions between the workforce and Indigenous communities are limited as workers will be transported by air directly to the site. Section 12.2.4.2.1 provides the actions to minimize the extent the Project contributes to in-and out-migration in the LSA, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Denison will initially prioritize the COI in terms of employment opportunities and will work with the leadership of these communities to assist in determining hiring practices during all phases of the Project. Priority for hiring will then focus on Indigenous and non-Indigenous residents of the RSA and then beyond the RSA.</li> <li>Employees will not be permitted to commute to the site by any means other than the fly-in/fly-out worker rotation systems (i.e., they cannot drive to the site).</li> <li>Pick-up and drop-off points are being planned at two locally central points in communities within the LSA, at one additional site in Saskatchewan (i.e., Saskatoon), and potentially at other locations.</li> <li>Housing for workers will be provided at the camps with free accommodations and meals.</li> </ul> <p>Although difficult to predict, communities in the LSA are not expected to experience any substantial population growth or change in demographics as a result of the Project, particularly with mitigation measures identified. Although the potential exists for some individuals to return to the COI, it is anticipated that this would be difficult to discern from existing in-/out-migration rates. As population and demographics are not expected to experience any change as a result of the Project, this pathway will not be carried forward to the residual effects assessment.</p> | <b>Adequately Addressed.</b>                                | <p><b>Not Addressed.</b></p> <p>Fly-in/fly-out (FIFO) work camps for mining operations in Canada do not eliminate interactions between the workforce and Indigenous communities and the social problems that arise as a result. The FIFO approach may create new issues. The discussion and mitigation measures the proponent proposes does not include a fulsome analysis of all the potential effects of transient workforce and population dynamics, and understates the potential impacts on community well-being. The proponent’s response furthermore does not discuss nor address BNDN’s concern regarding the impacts of the project on Indigenous women and girls, and other segments of the population.</p> <p>I) BNDN requires the proponent to include a fulsome assessment of the potential impacts of transient workforce and the FIFO approach on Indigenous communities, including on Indigenous women and girls and other segments of the population.</p> <p>II) The EIS must incorporate the findings of research like the 2017 study completed by Lake Babine Nation and Nak’azdli Whut’en (Indigenous Communities and Industrial Camps), and/or related research in the context of the LSA.</p> | While Denison acknowledges the comments provided by BNDN and does not dispute the findings of the study referenced, Denison believes it has considered the implications of its planned FIFO operation appropriately. Both the construction and operation camps will be operated as a fly-in/fly-out mine, meaning the opportunities for interactions between the workforce and Indigenous communities are limited as workers will be transported by air directly to the site. The proposed camp or accommodations facility is anticipated to be a turnkey building manufactured off site and assembled and commissioned on site. Other measures to protect community well-being of people employed on the site include health and wellness programming, life skills programming, employee and family assistance programming, implementing a no drug and alcohol policy on site, and offering culturally sensitive employment policies available to all employees. On-site staff will not have access to personal (or company) vehicles and will largely be "confined" to the camp and work areas during their shifts. |
| 16       | BNDN<br>(February 28, 2023) | Section 12.0 and 13.0                                   | <p>Comment #17: BNDN notes that no specific management or monitoring plan has been included in the EIS documentation related to the verification of residual socio-economic impacts, both positive and negative, for the local economy.</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p> <p>a) Denison must develop a Socio-Economic Monitoring Plan for the life of the Project to verify the effects assessment included in the EIS and to be included in the Project’s approach to adaptive management. This Plan would include an approach, co-developed with Indigenous groups in the LSA (including BNDN), to monitoring the realization of the benefits and impacts of the Project (e.g., employment and procurement targets, training and capacity building, community investments, etc.) as mitigation and enhancement measures are implemented. Monitoring and subsequent regular evaluation would allow for the real-time adjustment of targets and/or an approach to</p>                              | <p>As the Indigenous Communities of Interest with reserves and residential communities most proximal to the Project, Denison has committed to collaborating with English River First Nation and Kineepik Métis Local on a monitoring regime, suited to each of their interests and needs. As part of these programs, Denison and the Indigenous community of ERFN and KML will be sharing information in an agreed-upon fashion. It is expected that the data collected through such monitoring regimes as described above would also be relevant to other Indigenous nations who may have interest in the Project. Denison does not anticipate separate funding for BNDN at this time.</p> <p>BNDN will be informed throughout the monitoring program design and implementation process. Monitoring program design and implementation will be guided by the following principles: meet regulatory requirements, confirm the effectiveness of mitigation measures and predictions made in the</p>  | <b>Adequately Addressed.</b>                                | <p><b>Not Addressed.</b></p> <p>Denison does not commit to monitoring BNDN specific socio-economic indicators as part of the Project and continues to exclude BNDN from fulsome consultation and engagement in favour of other Indigenous groups.</p> <p>Denison mischaracterizes BNDN as not being part of “Indigenous Communities of Interest with reserves and residential communities most proximal to the Project”. BNDN is located closer (232 km) to the Project than Kineepik Métis Local (235 km). Further, the Project is located on BNDN’s Treaty Lands (Treaty 10), whereas Kineepik Métis Local has no Treaty lands or Treaty rights. As such, BNDN must be treated as a Indigenous Community of Interest with reserves and residential communities most proximal to the Project, not as some secondary community. Denison’s position of BNDN requiring</p>  | Please see response to Comment #2 and Comment #13 for Denison’s response to the request for a project or mutual benefits agreement.   |



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|----------|--------------------------|---|--|---|---|--|---|
|          |                          |   | <p>adjusting enhancement measures or identifying offsetting benefits where targets are not met.</p> <p>See Section 4.2 for additional information on this topic (p. 19-21).</p> <p>[Additional questions on this topic directed to regulators or government entities are included in the CNSC table]</p>   | <p>assessment, implementing adaptive management (if/where applicable) to reduce effects during the lifetime of the Project, and will ensure that spatial boundaries are sufficiently extensive to measure EIS predictions.</p>  |   | <p>consultation and accommodation that is less meaningful than KML is unacceptable and wrong.</p> <p>Denison and BNDN must work together to develop an Accommodation Agreement (e.g. Impact Benefit Agreement or Mutual Benefit Agreement) in order to accommodate for the impacts of the Project on BNDNs rights, interests, and the environment. This will include provisions to monitor socioeconomic indicators.</p>   |   |
| 17       | BNDN (February 28, 2023) | Section 12.0 and 13.0                                   | <p>Comment #17: BNDN notes that no specific management or monitoring plan has been included in the EIS documentation related to the verification of residual socio-economic impacts, both positive and negative, for the local economy.</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p> <p>a) The Crown must include the development of a Socio-Economic Monitoring Plan as a condition of approval for the Project.</p> <p>See Section 4.2 for additional information on this topic (p. 19-21).</p> <p>[Additional questions on this topic directed to the proponent are included in the CNSC table]</p>   | <p>As the Indigenous Communities of Interest with reserves and residential communities most proximal to the Project, Denison has committed to collaborating with English River First Nation and Kineepik Métis Local on a monitoring regime, suited to each of their interests and needs. As part of these programs, Denison and the Indigenous community of ERFN and KML will be sharing information in an agreed-upon fashion. It is expected that the data collected through such monitoring regimes as described above would also be relevant to other Indigenous nations who may have interest in the Project. Denison does not anticipate separate funding for BNDN at this time.</p> <p>BNDN will be informed throughout the monitoring program design and implementation process. Monitoring program design and implementation will be guided by the following principles: meet regulatory requirements, confirm the effectiveness of mitigation measures and predictions made in the assessment, implementing adaptive management (if/where applicable) to reduce effects during the lifetime of the Project, and will ensure that spatial boundaries are sufficiently extensive to measure EIS predictions.</p> | <b>Adequately Addressed.</b>                                | <p><b>Not Addressed.</b></p> <p>Denison does not commit to monitoring BNDN specific socio-economic indicators as part of the Project and continues to exclude BNDN from fulsome consultation and engagement in favour of other Indigenous groups.</p> <p>Denison mischaracterizes BNDN as not being part of “Indigenous Communities of Interest with reserves and residential communities most proximal to the Project”. BNDN is located closer (232 km) to the Project than Kineepik Métis Local (235 km). Further, the Project is located on BNDN’s Treaty Lands (Treaty 10), whereas Kineepik Métis Local has no Treaty lands or Treaty rights. As such, BNDN must be treated as a Indigenous Community of Interest with reserves and residential communities most proximal to the Project, not as some secondary community. Denison’s position of BNDN requiring consultation and accommodation that is less meaningful than KML is unacceptable and wrong.</p> <p>Denison and BNDN must work together to develop an Accommodation Agreement (e.g. Impact Benefit Agreement or Mutual Benefit Agreement) in order to accommodate for the impacts of the Project on BNDNs rights, interests, and the environment. This will include provisions to monitor socioeconomic indicators.</p> | <p>Please see response to Comment #2 and Comment #13 for Denison’s response to the request for a project or mutual benefits agreement.</p> <p>Additionally, it is noted that the original review comment was related to an actionable item for the Crown and as such Denison defers to the Crown in this matter.</p>  |
| 18       | BNDN (February 28, 2023) | Appendix 9B Section 2.5.1<br>Appendix 8E Table 4        | <p>Comment #18: In several instances in the draft EIS Denison has noted that Indigenous Nations are concerned with the possibility of mercury contamination from mining operations. BNDN shares these concerns with other Indigenous Nations. Due to the very low concentrations of mercury present in the Phoenix deposit, Denison has not meaningfully studied the potential impacts the Project may have on altering mercury biogeochemistry in the downstream environment.</p> <p>BNDN notes that background mercury concentrations can be elevated in many unexpected and remote locations due to atmospheric deposition (often due to coal plants) (Jackson, 1997). BNDN is very concerned that Denison has not analyzed for mercury as part of their baseline soil geochemistry assessments for the Project, especially in wetlands downstream of the Project.</p> <p>Mercury concentrations in wetland soils are sensitive to changes in water chemistry that can lead to increased mercury methylation.</p> <p>This is especially acute from increases in nutrients and sulphates which can active sulfate reducing</p> | <p>Although baseline concentrations of total mercury in sediment were not collected during the baseline program, Denison will collect background information pertaining to sediment total and methyl mercury from LSA lakes and rivers prior to site development.</p> <p>As indicated in draft EIS Section 8.4.6.1, Residual Effects Characterization, mercury is not associated with the local geology and is not expected to be released in the effluent at measurable levels and was therefore not identified as a COPC. Denison notes that there is potential for increased methylmercury production in the receiving environment under a certain combination of factors to which the Project may contribute; however, prediction of methylmercury production is not practical. Denison commits to monitoring mercury and methylmercury in the aquatic environment over the life of the Project to determine the potential changes in mercury concentrations in fish tissue over time. As the Project advances and operational monitoring is</p>  | <b>Adequately Addressed.</b>                                | <p><b>a. Partially Addressed</b></p> <p>BNDN notes that Denison has committed to monitoring total and methyl mercury in lakes and rivers in the LSA prior to site development and over the life of the Project. However, as stated in the original comment, monitoring of <i>wetlands</i> is of high importance for BNDN. Wetlands are a well-known source of mercury accumulation, with conditions that favour the development of methylmercury (Zhang et al., 2023). Where developments cause changes to these wetlands, such as altered water levels, it can precipitate changes that cause increases in the discharge of mercury to downstream environments (Ullrich, Tanton, &amp; Abdrashitova, 2001). For this reason, omitting wetlands from mercury monitoring is a glaring gap that must be addressed.</p> <p>Ullrich, S. M., Tanton, T. W., &amp; Abdrashitova, S. A. (2001). Mercury in the aquatic environment: a review of factors affecting methylation. <i>Critical reviews in environmental science and technology</i>,</p>   | <p>a. To reiterate, EIS Section 8.4.6.1 finds mercury is not identified as uniquely being associated with the local geology and was not identified as a project specific issue based on mining and milling methods. Despite that Denison has acknowledged that specific environmental conditions could still promote methylmercury formation. Accordingly, Denison will track mercury and methylmercury in water, sediment and fish throughout the Project. Mercury will also be considered, as will other constituents of potential concern, within routine updates of the Environmental Risk Assessment to confirm protection of ecological and human receptors.</p> <p>With specific reference to wetlands the following is noted. Project emissions are not anticipated to interact with discrete wetlands. Areas characterized as wetlands</p> |

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|----------|--------------------------|---|---|---|---|--|---|
|          |                          |   | <p>microorganisms that methylate mercury (Liu, Li, &amp; Cai, 2012). Table 4 of Appendix 8e shows that the effluent discharged to Whitefish Lake will have mercury concentrations almost 5,700 times background concentrations. This dramatic increase in sulfate loading to Whitefish Lake may not exceed water quality objectives unto itself but may be sufficient to meaningfully change mercury biogeochemistry in downstream wetlands.</p> <p>BNDN is very concerned with the complete lack of assessment and analysis of baseline mercury concentrations and the potential changes to mercury cycling that could be induced by the Project.</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p> <p>a) BNDN requests that Denison undertake baseline studies of mercury concentrations in soils, with a focus on baseline concentrations of mercury in organic wetland soils downstream of the project. Note that mercury sampling should sample total mercury and methylmercury in all analyses, as well as porewater total mercury and methylmercury. The study design and implementation should be undertaken collaboratively with BNDN.</p> <p>b) BNDN recommends that the CNSC requires Denison to undertake a baseline assessment of mercury in soils (with a focus on wetlands) prior to construction of the Project. This may be established as a condition of approval for the Project.</p> <p>c) Depending on the findings of the baseline mercury in soils and wetlands studies, the CNSC should include a condition of approval on the Project that requires Denison to monitor mercury biogeochemistry in the receiving environment over the life of mine.</p> <p>See Section 4.3 for additional information on this topic (p. 25-28).</p> <p>[Additional questions on this topic directed to regulators or government entities are included in the CNSC table]</p> | <p>underway, Denison will assess health risks from fish consumption by comparing fish tissue data collected during operation from the monitoring program against Health Canada’s mercury guideline of 0.5 ug/g wet weight.</p> <p>This is a human health risk-based maximum permissible concentration. Mercury data presented throughout the draft EIS represents total mercury. Denison agrees to include methylmercury as part of the constituents monitored in fish throughout all project phases.</p> <p>Engagement on licensing requirements, such as the development of the environmental monitoring program and the associated monitoring regime will occur to support Project permitting and licensing efforts.</p>   |   | <p>31(3), 241-293. Zhang, J., Li, C., Tang, W., Wu, M., Chen, M., He, H., ... &amp; Zhong, H. (2023). Mercury in wetlands over 60 years: research progress and emerging trends. <i>Science of the Total Environment</i>, 869, 161862.</p> <p><b>b. Not Addressed</b></p> <p>Comments for regulators will be addressed through future engagement with the appropriate regulator.</p> <p><b>c. Not Addressed.</b></p> <p>BNDN requires active involvement in the mercury monitoring program design and implementation. BNDN’s involvement must be formalized in a mutual benefits agreement between Denison and BNDN for the Wheeler River Project.</p>  | <p>according to provincial data in the EIS are actually more correctly / precisely described as littoral zones of lakes in the LSA that contain emergent and submergent vegetation and are contiguous with the lakes. These littoral zones area will be sampled as part of the planned aquatic monitoring programs.</p> <p>b. Comment for regulators.</p> <p>c. Please see response to Comment #2 and Comment #13 for Denison’s response to the request for a project or mutual benefits agreement.</p>   |
| 19       | BNDN (February 28, 2023) | Appendix 7C Section 3.5.6.2.1 Figures 7.6-10 and 7.6-11 | <p>Comment #19: Figure 7.6-10 and 7.6-11 of the draft EIS show the results of Denison’s modelling of uranium mobility and adsorption from the ore body following the decommissioning of the mine. The figures show that the model indicates that all dissolved uranium will be effectively removed from solution within a short distance of the orebody via adsorption to clays present in the bedrock. In Section 3.5.6.2.1 of Appendix 7c of the draft EIS Denison notes that there is very limited literature available on uranium fate and transport, especially in similar environments to the Wheeler River Project. Denison’s uranium speciation model relies almost entirely on a single academic article studying the partitioning of uranium in the alteration halo surrounding the Cigar Lake uranium deposit. Of very important note is that this paper is focused on the pre-mining environment at Cigar Lake and does not examine how uranium partitioning may be dramatically altered by ISR mining. Health Canada published a document on uranium in drinking water in 2017 literature review of uranium mobility, complexation and chemistry in groundwater which documents the widely varying behaviour of uranium in groundwater</p>   | <p>Denison’s engagement with BNDN is consistent with the identification of BNDN as an Indigenous Community who has expressed an interest in the Project. As the Indigenous Communities of Interest with reserves and residential communities most proximal to the Project, Denison has committed to collaborating with English River First Nation (ERFN) and Kineepik Métis Local (KML) on details and updates to the decommissioning plan which includes mining area remediation plans and associated post-decommissioning modelling of groundwater from the remediated mining area, suited to each of their interests and needs. As part of these updates, Denison and the Indigenous community of ERFN and KML will be sharing information in an agreed-upon fashion. It is expected that updates to the decommissioning plan and groundwater modelling would also be relevant to other Indigenous nations who may have an interest in the Project. As such, Denison will not be developing a process agreement with the BNDN to address concerns raised about pertaining to long-term groundwater quality for the</p> | <b>Adequately Addressed.</b>                                | <p><b>a. Not Addressed –</b> Denison mischaracterizes BNDN as not being part of “Indigenous Communities of Interest with reserves and residential communities most proximal to the Project”. BNDN is located closer (232 km) to the Project than Kineepik Métis Local (235 km). Further, the Project is located on BNDN’s Treaty Lands (Treaty 10), whereas Kineepik Métis Local has no Treaty lands or Treaty rights. As such, BNDN must be treated as a Indigenous Community of Interest with reserves and residential communities most proximal to the Project, not as some secondary community. Denison’s position of BNDN requiring consultation and accommodation that is less meaningful than KML is unacceptable and wrong.</p> <p>Denison and BNDN must work together to develop an Accommodation Agreement (e.g. Impact Benefit Agreement or Mutual Benefit Agreement) in order to accommodate for the impacts of the Project on BNDNs rights, interests, and the environment. This will include</p> | <p>a. Please see response to Comment #2 and Comment #13 for Denison’s response to the request for a project or mutual benefits agreement.</p> <p>b. For reference, Denison notes that the modelling work undertaken to support the Project has undergone a great deal of review and scrutiny by various subject matter experts; notwithstanding the statement by BNDN that their review has been limited. The modelling as detailed in the associated documentation was transparent, conservative in nature, highlighted uncertainties where such existed and tested the uncertainties with sensitivity analyses. Denison responded to dozens of IRs in related topics, completed additional analyses in relation to the IRs and the model outcomes have been deemed appropriate and supportive of the EIS conclusions.</p> |

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|----------|--------|---|---|---|---|--|--|
|          |        |   | <p>depending on redox conditions, pH, pressure, and other ions available for complexation which may increase or decrease uranium mobility (Health Canada, 2017).</p> <p>Uranium will be present in extremely high concentrations (100 mg/l) in the restoration solution. Many other anions and cations which uranium is known to form complexes with will also be present in the solution at very high concentrations. The limited literature upon which Denison has developed their models to predict uranium mobility post- decommissioning is insufficient to confidently assert that the very concentrated restoration solution will behave as predicted. Uranium is a common groundwater contaminant around the world and is known to be stable in dissolved forms in groundwater in many locations. Furthermore, some studies have indicated that the effectiveness of adsorption as a mechanism for attenuation of uranium in solution is significantly overstated, especially in environments where there is competition from other ions, as there will be in the restoration solution (Gandhi, Sampath, &amp; Maliyekkal, 2022).</p> <p>BNDN is very concerned that Denison has portrayed their groundwater contamination model in Appendix 7c with an inappropriate level of confidence given the level of uncertainty reasonably inferred from the lack of foundational literature relevant to the circumstances at Wheeler River and the well-understood complexity of uranium fate and transport in groundwater.</p> <p>It is not impossible to imagine that surface water contamination could eventually occur, especially given the exceptionally high concentrations of uranium in the restoration solution. By consenting to the Wheeler River Project,</p> <p>BNDN is supporting a process that will be irreversible once it commences and may be very difficult to manage should the underlying modeling assumption prove to be inaccurate by a significant margin. As a Nation whose members put a very high emphasis on the protection of groundwater resources, BNDN requires substantially greater reassurance through dialogue with Denison and further studies to have confidence that the Project will not irreparably degrade the natural environment in our Ancestral Lands.</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Denison must develop a process agreement with BNDN to work through our concerns related to long-term groundwater contamination from the Project. This process agreement would lay out the pathway to obtaining BNDN consent for the Project through providing our Nation with confidence that the groundwater and surface water near to the project will not be irreparably contaminated. The process agreement will include additional studies and consultation activities with BNDN that Denison must undertake. The satisfaction of all terms in the process agreement would be defined by the signing of a Project</li> </ul> <p>Agreement between Denison and BNDN.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BNDN recommends that Denison commit to funding bench-scale studies to validate the outputs from their</li> </ul> | <p>Wheeler River Project. This comment is also applicable to other comments where the same request was made by the BNDN. The balance of this response pertains to groundwater quality and the numerical groundwater model presented in draft EIS will focus on the technical content of the concerns raised.</p> <p>Denison’s groundwater SME and author of the modelling report (Appendix 7C) acknowledges that the modelling report did not include a lengthy discussion of uranium speciation and mobility. However, the reactive transport modelling done using the PHREEC geochemical code was carefully informed by relevant literature, and was certainly not restricted to consideration of one study (Cigar Lake). In Section 3.5.3 of Appendix 7C we reference important studies pertaining to uranium complexation in solution by carbonate species (Guillaumont et al. 2003; Gorman-Lewis et al., 2008; Grenthe et al., 2020) and ternary complexes of uranium with calcium and magnesium and carbonates in solution (Dong and Brooks, 2006). These complexation reactions were added into the Project-specific PHREEQC database developed as part of the work presented in Appendix 7C. The database was updated to include solution-phase complexes of uranium in Guillaumont, 2003, which is a comprehensive summary of known reaction constants for uranium with dissolved-phase ligands. Further, the consideration of sorption of uranium-carbonate complexes to quartz, goethite and illite is shown in Appendix E of Appendix 7C, and relies on information from multiple publications. The reactive transport modelling was done using piChem (FELOW + PHREEQC) because of the ability of that approach to carefully consider speciation of uranium, and the potential interactions of uranium with other species in solution.</p> <p>The comment to which the BNDN refer in Section 3.5.6.2.1 of Appendix 7C is: “[t]o the best of our knowledge, there is very little information published about the solid-phase speciation of uranium and other constituents associated with ore bodies and the overlying and underlying rocks in the Athabasca basin”. This is not speaking specifically to the speciation of uranium in the solid phase. Experimental work that provide information on solid-phase speciation include sequential extraction schemes and spectroscopic studies, such as recent work by Bayle et al., 2023 (<a href="https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/37417589/">https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/37417589/</a>). Research on the solid-phase speciation of uranium is not addressed in Health Canada (2017). As indicated, we were not able to find research pertaining to sequential extractions of spectroscopic studies of uranium in the solid phase for relevant materials/conditions. It is for this reason that we presented results of solid-phase uranium speciation in the available study by Percival 1989. It is acknowledged that this study was for Cigar Lake. The</p> |   | <p>provisions to monitor groundwater and surface water; and to keep consult with BNDN as an impacted First Nation.</p> <p><b>b. Not Addressed</b> – BNDN notes that Denison did not agree to bench scale testing as requested. BNDN further notes that the position Denison has taken around the appropriateness of water quality modelling has to be taken at Denison’s word. BNDN requires an opportunity to review the effluent quality models input and outputs, followed by a discussion between BNDN, Denison and the CNSC to have confidence that the modelling has been done in a manner that BNDN can trust that the findings are a reasonable forecast of what will occur when the mine operates. Future discussions on this matter should occur within the framework of a BNDN-Denison process agreement for the Project.</p> |  |

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|----------|--------------------------|---|---|--|---|---|---|
|          |                          |   | FEFLOW and PHREEQC modelling. The bench-scale studies should be undertaken by an independent academic.<br><br>See Section 4.3 for additional information on this topic (p. 25-28).  | relevance of the work for the Wheeler River Project is high.   |   |   |   |
| 20       | BNDN (February 28, 2023) | Section 7.6.2.1<br>Appendix 7C<br>Section 4.6           | <p>Comment #20: In Section 7.6.2.1 of the draft EIS, Denison mentions that they anticipate the outward migration of lixiviant as is observed at other ISR operations globally and has incorporated their assumed concentrations of metals and the extent of area affected by flare from the ISR operations. Section 4.6 of Appendix 7c states that the flare zone is expected to extend 11 to 13 m but have modelled with a “conservative 50 m flare zone.</p> <p>It is not clear how Denison derived their assessment that the flare zone would extend 11 to 13 m and that a 50 m flare zone is considered conservative for the purposes of modelling. BNDN requires further information to have confidence that the design is as conservative as the Proponent has suggested.</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BNDN requests that Denison provide further information on how the size of the area above the deposit affected by flare was calculated and how they determined that 50% restoration solution was determined as the appropriate concentration to base water quality modelling.</li> </ul> <p>This item would be best addressed and resolved with BNDN through the process agreement to address BNDN’s concerns related to long term groundwater contamination from the Project.</p> <p>See Section 4.3 for additional information on this topic (p. 25-28).</p> | <p>Groundwater modelling and flow path analysis calibrated to field conditions have evaluated upward solution migration and demonstrated that the maximum height that injected fluids will migrate upwards from the ore zone during active mining is likely between 11 to 13 m (Section 2 of the draft EIS). For conservatism, a 50-m vertical zone above the deposit was assumed to be potentially disturbed by mining activities. Denison specified 50m flare threshold based on their commitment to maintain inward hydraulic gradients, and or adding extraction wells as necessary to limit the migration of the flare.</p> <p>With the engineered controls described above, flare is not anticipated above 11-13 m. However, the decision was made to assume 50% of the restored solution uniformly between 15 and 50 m above the mineralized zone because there will be a natural gradient from 100% restored solution to 0% restored solution (i.e., baseline conditions) over this distance. The uncertainty associated with this decision was addressed in the uncertainty analysis presented in Section 4.7 of Appendix 7C, where 100% restored solution was assumed to be present over the entire 50 m height above the ore zone. The results of the model under both scenarios was consistent: no water quality effects above groundwater screening criteria, apart from those that reflect natural conditions, in Whitefish Lake.</p> <p>Over the life of the Project, groundwater quantity and quality monitoring activities will be completed to assess the performance of various components of the Project associated with engineering mining designs and performance and infrastructure designs to protect groundwater. A detailed Groundwater Monitoring Plan (GWMP) will be prepared to support licensing. The GWMP will include an Excursion Contingency Plan, and measures for adaptive management. The GWMP will be informed by the understanding of existing groundwater conditions at the Project Area (Appendix 7-A), the reactive transport modelling of groundwater COPCs associated with the restored mining area (Appendix 7-C), and the commitments made within the Geology and Groundwater section of the EIS.</p> <p>Please refer to the first part of Denison’s response to BNDN comment #19 in regard to BNDN’s suggestion of a process agreement.</p> | <b>Adequately Addressed.</b>                                | <p><b>Not Addressed.</b></p> <p>BNDN notes that the Proponent has not provided any reason that the flare is reasonably estimated to migrate 11 – 13m upwards. This number appears to be arbitrarily selected from BNDN’s perspective. BNDN requests that the Proponent provide case studies from comparable sites (or other evidence) that justifies their estimated flare distance. Future discussions on this matter should occur within the framework of a BNDN-Denison process agreement for the Project.</p> | <p>Please see response to Comment #2 and Comment #13 for Denison’s response to the request for a project or mutual benefits agreement.</p> <p>Denison disagrees with the characterization of the prediction of potential mining solution migration as being arbitrary. The estimate is based on predictive modelling calibrated to field conditions, which have been characterized extensively, evidence of which has been provided in the Final EIS.</p> |
| 21       | BNDN (February 28, 2023) | Appendix 7C<br>Section 3.2.2.1                          | Comment #21: Section 3.2.2.1 of Appendix 7C of the draft EIS describes the natural redox conditions in the ore zone as naturally reducing. The operation of the wellfield will result in the groundwater in the ore zone becoming oxidizing. Post decommissioning, the groundwater in the   | Solution-phase concentrations of metals and uranium are what influence the desorption of these elements from clays over time; but the BNDN is correct that there may be hysteresis, or a kinetic component to desorption to equilibrium conditions. Re-establishment of reducing redox conditions – primarily through scavenging of residual oxidant with  | <b>Adequately Addressed.</b>                                | <p><b>Not Addressed.</b></p> <p>Similar to comment 19b, BNDN requests the opportunity to review the modelling work completed by Denison prior to considering this comment satisfactorily addressed. This comment can be addressed simultaneously with comment</p>   | Please see response to Comment #2 and Comment #13 for Denison’s response to the request for a project or mutual benefits agreement.   |

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|----------|-----------------------------|---|---|--|---|--|--|
|          |                             |   | <p>ore zone can be reasonably anticipated to return to baseline (reducing) redox conditions.</p> <p>BNDN notes that as redox conditions becoming increasingly reducing post closure, adsorption kinetics of contaminants adsorbed to clays could shift so that contaminants desorb from clays and are remobilized into solution. It is not clear to BNDN that the evolution of redox geochemistry and its implication on adsorption kinetics has been adequately considered by Denison.</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BNDN requests further information on how increasingly reducing groundwater conditions post decommissioning may impact adsorption kinetics of contaminants expected to adsorb to clays.</li> </ul> <p>This item would be best addressed and resolved with BNDN through the process agreement to address BNDN’s concerns related to long term groundwater contamination from the Project.</p> <p>See Section 4.3 for additional information on this topic (p. 25-28).</p>   | <p>pyrite – with progressive movement of natural groundwater through the mining area in the Decommissioning period is anticipated to result in concentrations of metals and uranium at baseline conditions because the same mineral phases as are present now are expected to control the solubility of those elements. Secondary minerals may influence concentrations for a small number of constituents. In all cases. concentrations of these elements will not exceed those assumed in the model.</p> <p>In the model as presented, desorption from clays was taken into account for protons that had sorbed to chlorite in the mining area as a sensitivity analysis. The desorption of protons did not have an adverse effect on the water quality in Whitefish Lake. See draft EIS Appendix 7-C Sections 3.5.6.4 and 4.7.</p> <p>Please refer to the first part of Denison’s response to BNDN comment #19 in regard to BNDN’s suggestion of a process agreement.</p>   |   | 19b. This discussion should occur within the framework of a BNDN-Denison process agreement for the Project.  |  |
| 22       | BNDN<br>(February 28, 2023) | Appendix 7C<br>Section 3.4                              | <p>Comment #22: In Section 3.4 of Appendix 7C Denison reports that they have excluded colloids from their post-decommissioning geochemical modelling. Denison has also noted that colloids would serve to enhance mobility of contaminants and they could precipitate out of solution.</p> <p>BNDN is concerned that by excluding the precipitation of colloids with adsorbed contaminants as a pathway for contaminant transport, Denison has significantly underestimated the mobility of contaminants and the consequent risks to the receiving environment.</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BNDN requests that Denison prepare an additional geochemical model that considers the roles that colloids could potentially contribute to contaminant transport. The findings of this additional model (along with the other models) should be reviewed with BNDN.</li> </ul> <p>This item would be best addressed and resolved with BNDN through the process agreement to address BNDN’s concerns related to long term groundwater contamination from the Project.</p> <p>See Section 4.3 for additional information on this topic (p. 25-28).</p> | <p>The authors acknowledged in Appendix 7C the potential for transport of COPCs in association with colloids was possible, and used previous research in a highly relevant system (Cigar Lake) to make the professional judgement that this process would not significantly alter the results of the numerical model. Colloid transport is not included routinely in reactive transport modelling because of the difficulty in</p> <p>a) accurately measuring the colloidal fraction in groundwater under existing conditions as the basis for the numerous assumptions that would need to made to include them in numerical modelling and</p> <p>b) the challenges with applying modelling approaches that have been developed at the scale of regional models (e.g., Molnar et al., <a href="https://www.pure.ed.ac.uk/ws/portalfiles/portal/109261203.15/109261203._Molnar._PFV.pdf">https://www.pure.ed.ac.uk/ws/portalfiles/portal/109261203.15/109261203._Molnar._PFV.pdf</a>).</p> <p>Refinement of the mining area decommissioning objectives and associated modelling will be done as the Project progresses through updates to the Decommissioning Plan; nevertheless, the objectives as they may evolve will be bound by the objectives evaluated in the EIS, which as shown are protective of aquatic biota in Whitefish Lake. The final acceptable mining area decommissioning objectives will be developed prior to initiation of groundwater remediation, as part of the Detailed Decommissioning Plan (DDP). Prior to executing decommissioning activities, Denison shall prepare and submit the DDP to regulators for acceptance. In this case the DDP would reflect input that will be solicited from Indigenous Nations and communities and others prior to its submission and would also be informed by conditions on the ground at the site at that time, operational experience that has been gained and the regulatory landscape at that time. As is highlighted above, the decommissioning plan will evolve over time and the plan will become more refined as the Project advances.</p> | <b>Adequately Addressed.</b>                                | <p><b>Not Addressed</b></p> <p>BNDN sees the lack of assessment of the risks from colloids as a significant gap in the modelling for the Project. The fact that it is difficult to model the impacts of colloids does not diminish the need to assess their potential impacts when they are a known risk to the receiving environment.</p> <p>It is essential that Denison work with our Nation within the context of a process agreement to develop mutually agreeable mitigation measures to monitor this risk to the receiving environment.</p> | <p>To clarify, the reason the potential impact of colloids was excluded from the modelling was not because it is difficult as has been suggested. As noted in the original response, its exclusion was a science-based decision made by subject matter experts based on research conducted at a nearby site. Upon review of this relevant research, it was deemed that inclusion of colloids as a specific consideration for modelling would not be material to the modelling outcomes.</p> <p>Please see response to Comment #2 and Comment #13 for Denison’s response to the request for a project or mutual benefits agreement.</p> |

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|----------|-----------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|          |                             |   |   | Please refer to the first part of Denison’s response to BNDN comment #19 in regard to BNDN’s suggestion of a process agreement.   |   |   |   |
| 23       | BNDN<br>(February 28, 2023) | Appendix 7C<br>Section 4.0                              | <p>Comment #23: In Section 4.0 of Appendix 7c of the draft EIS, Denison reports that the composition of restoration solution 1 and restoration solution 2 were derived from metallurgical testing.</p> <p>While this is likely the best, BNDN notes that the initial solution used in the geochemical modelling is enormously consequential in the accuracy of the modelling and require further confirmation and confidence that the restoration solutions are accurate to within a reasonable margin of error for the geochemical modelling.</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BNDN requests that Denison provide further information on how the chemistry in restoration solution 1 and restoration solution 2 were derived and any evidence they can provide that gives them confidence that these solutions are an accurate reflection of what will be observed in the wellfield.</li> </ul> <p>This item would be best addressed and resolved with BNDN through the process agreement to address BNDN’s concerns related to long term groundwater contamination from the Project.</p> <p>See Section 4.3 for additional information on this topic (p. 25-28).</p>   | <p>Further information on how the chemistry in restoration solutions #1 and #2 were derived and evidence providing confidence that the reflect conditions that are expected in the mining area with remediation of the mining area is provided in the Denison Feasibility Report (2023) and a summary is attached here as part of Denison’s response to Federal Indigenous Review Team (FIRT) information requirement #67.</p> <p>Please refer to the first part of Denison’s response to BNDN comment #19 in regard to BNDN’s suggestion of a process agreement.</p>   | <b>Adequately Addressed.</b>                                | <b>Not Addressed.</b><br><br>BNDN requires discussion with Denison and their SMEs to better understand their findings, especially the replicability and clarification on the suitability of the methodology chosen. This discussion should occur within the framework of a BNDN-Denison process agreement for the Project.                | Please see response to Comment #2 and Comment #13 for Denison’s response to the request for a project or mutual benefits agreement. |
| 24       | BNDN<br>(February 28, 2023) | Appendix 7C   | <p>Comment #24: BNDN notes that Denison has not provided any discussion on the extent to which the lixiviant and the solution used to flush the wellfield at the end of operations will interact with the underlying paleo weathered bedrock. BNDN notes that is it possible that there are mineral phases within the paleo weathered bedrock that are also readily soluble when exposed to the lixiviant. While BNDN recognizes that the paleo weathered bedrock has a low permeability, it is unclear to BNDN as to whether the lixiviant will contribute to mobilization of contaminants from the paleo weathered bedrock that requires consideration in the post- decommissioning groundwater model.</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BNDN requests that Denison provide any available information on how the bedrock may be altered (through dissolution of soluble mineral phases) by the lixiviant and the flushing of the wellfield during decommissioning, and whether this has been factored into their post-decommissioning groundwater model.</li> </ul> <p>This item would be best addressed and resolved with BNDN through the process agreement to address BNDN’s concerns related to long term groundwater contamination from the Project.</p> <p>See Section 4.3 for additional information on this topic (p. 25-28).</p> | In the modelling presented in Appendix 7-C, the mining area is assumed to span the entirety of the depth of the paleoweathered zone within the area of the freeze wall, as described in Section 4.6. Thus, in the Decommissioning period, the water quality in that entire portion of the paleoweathered zone was assumed to be equivalent to that of the “restored solution”. This reflects, as the BNDN notes, the dissolution of soluble minerals associated with the paleoweathered zone due to interaction with the mining solutions. This assumption is conservative because the whole of the paleoweathered zone does not have the uranium mineralization of the ore zone, nor the concentrations of other COPC-containing mineral phases. Some alteration of the clays is expected, as is some bleaching (loss of iron-rich minerals); however, there is uncertainty with respect to the specific changes in the nature of the paleoweathered zone that have continued to be explored by Denison through experimental/metallurgical work. The decision was made in the numeric modelling to treat the portion of the paleoweathered zone within the freeze as geochemically unreactive – meaning that no sorption to clays or desorption from clays (with the exception of chlorite in the “pH tail” scenario (Section 3.5.6.4) was assumed for this zone. Thus, sorption of COPCs to clays in the paleoweathered zone within the numeric model occurred only outside of the freeze wall footprint, where the minerals will not have been exposed to mining solutions and will not have been altered. | <b>Adequately Addressed.</b>                                | <b>Provisionally Addressed.</b><br><br>BNDN understands the modelling assumptions and would accept them assuming that the other unaddressed comments regarding modeling assumptions are addressed.<br><br>Note that this does not address the need for a process agreement for the entirety of the Wheeler River Project with our Nation. | Please see response to Comment #2 and Comment #13 for Denison’s response to the request for a project or mutual benefits agreement. |



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|----------|-----------------------------|---|---|--|---|---|---|
|          |                             |   |   | Please refer to the first part of Denison’s response to BNDN comment #19 in regard to BNDN’s suggestion of a process agreement.  |   |   |   |
| 25       | BNDN<br>(February 28, 2023) | Appendix 7C<br>Section 5.2.2                            | <p>Comment #25: In section 5.2.2 of Appendix 7c of the draft EIS Denison reports the assumptions built into their post-decommissioning groundwater modelling. BNDN notes that Denison has assumed that adsorption reaction sites are assumed to be available uniformly throughout the subsurface parameter zones. The presence of sufficient adsorption sites is a primary variable which determines the outcomes of the groundwater modelling, as adsorption of ions out of solution is the primary means by which contaminant transport is attenuated in Denison’s modelling. BNDN is concerned that the presence of a variable that is so consequential to the findings of the model is based primarily on assumptions with limited information to base the assumptions upon.</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p> <p>BNDN requests that Denison provide justification for the assumption that adsorption sites will be uniformly available throughout the sub-surface parameter zones. BNDN requests that Denison provide information on how they estimated the extent to which adsorption sites are already saturated prior to mining.</p> <p>This item would be best addressed and resolved with BNDN through the process agreement to address BNDN’s concerns related to long term groundwater contamination from the Project.</p> <p>See Section 4.3 for additional information on this topic (p. 25-28).</p> | <p>We note the uncertainty assessment in the draft EIS tests conditions where less sorption sites are available (1/10th of the characterized amount). Further, refinement of the mining area decommissioning objectives and associated modelling will be done as the Project progresses through updates to the Decommissioning Plan; nevertheless, the objectives as they may evolve will be bound by the objectives evaluated in the EIS, which as shown are protective of aquatic biota in Whitefish Lake. The final acceptable mining area decommissioning objectives will be developed prior to initiation of groundwater remediation, as part of the Detailed Decommissioning Plan (DDP). Prior to executing decommissioning activities, Denison shall prepare and submit the DDP to regulators for acceptance. In this case the DDP would reflect input that will be solicited from Indigenous Nations and communities and others prior to its submission and would also be informed by conditions on the ground at the site at that time, operational experience that has been gained and the regulatory landscape at that time. As is highlighted above, the decommissioning plan will evolve over time and the plan will become more refined as the Project advances. Denison is committed to continue to engage with Indigenous Nations and communities to solicit input.</p> <p>Please refer to the first part of Denison’s response to BNDN comment #19 in regard to BNDN’s suggestion of a process agreement.</p> | <b>Adequately Addressed.</b>                                | <p><b>Not Addressed</b></p> <p>BNDN notes that should the assumptions turn out to be incorrect (for example, contaminants in solution are not effectively removed from solution via adsorption), then it will be extremely challenging for Denison to prevent the migration of contaminants in the restored solution. BNDN requires additional understanding of the modelling assumptions (as discussed above) and agreement on potential mitigation measures should attenuation of contaminants through adsorption occur at much lower rates than anticipated.</p> | <p>The comment is noted and it is Denison's intent to continue to evaluate what is reasonably achievable with respect to remediation of the mining zone water quality prior to discontinuation of containment measures. Based on routine and ongoing monitoring throughout the life of the mine, Denison will be in a better position to update predictions and have enhanced confidence in the predictive modelling. Flushing of the source zone is part of the planned remediation and would only be stopped once the target level of remediation has been achieved. Beyond that flushing period (which may take years), if conditions indicate additional long-term source control is required, then Denison may have to do that, but our current understanding suggests long-term source control is not needed so long as the flushing is able to reduce source concentrations to the target concentrations. Lab testing suggests the proposed flushing will be effective at reducing concentrations to the target values.</p> <p>Additionally, we note that refinement of the mining area decommissioning objectives and associated modelling will be done as the Project progresses through updates to the Decommissioning Plan; nevertheless, the objectives as they may evolve will be bound by the objectives evaluated in the EIS. The final acceptable mining area decommissioning objectives will be developed prior to initiation of groundwater remediation, as part of the Detailed Decommissioning Plan (DDP). Prior to executing decommissioning activities, Denison shall prepare and submit the DDP to regulators for acceptance. In this case the DDP would reflect input that will be solicited from Indigenous Nations and communities and others prior to its submission and would also be informed by conditions on the ground at the site at that time, operational experience that has been gained and the regulatory landscape at that time. As is highlighted above, the decommissioning plan will evolve over time and the plan will become more refined as the Project.</p> |

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| 26       | BNDN<br>(February 28, 2023) | Appendix 7C Table 3-10                                  | <p>Comment #26: Table 3-10 of Appendix 7c of the draft EIS shows the expected adsorbing mineral properties of the mineral phases to which contaminants are expected to adsorb out of solution. BNDN notes that the lixiviant and restoration solution could affect the ability of adsorption. In particular, the clays immediately surrounding the orebody are within the freeze wall and will be directly exposed to the lixiviant during operations, which may impact the clay’s ability to adsorb contaminants out of solution.</p> <p>BNDN notes that the clays immediately surrounding the orebody may be soluble in the presence of the lixiviant or may be altered to have a lower capacity to adsorb metals. BNDN requires further information from Denison to have confidence that the clay phases which play a crucial role in contaminant attenuation will not have their adsorptive capacity impacted by the operation of the wellfield.</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BNDN requests that Denison provide available information on whether clay mineral phases are anticipated to dissolve through the ISR mining process, and whether the restoration solution will impact the ability of clays to effectively adsorb contaminants.</li> </ul> <p>This item would be best addressed and resolved with BNDN through the process agreement to address BNDN’s concerns related to long term groundwater contamination from the Project.</p> <p>See Section 4.3 for additional information on this topic (p. 25-28).</p> | <p>Please see Denison’s response above to BNDN Comment #24. Sorbing phases including clays were excluded from the mining area in the numeric model. Sorption occurs only to materials outside of the mining area that are not exposed to, and thus no altered by interaction with the mining solutions.</p> <p>Please refer to the first part of Denison’s response to BNDN comment #19 in regard to BNDN’s suggestion of a process agreement.</p> | <b>Adequately Addressed.</b>                                | <p><b>Provisionally Addressed.</b></p> <p>BNDN understands the modelling assumptions and would accept them assuming that the other unaddressed comments regarding modeling assumptions are addressed.</p> <p>Note that this does not address the need for a process agreement for the entirety of the Wheeler River Project with our Nation.</p> | <p>A highlighted above, Denison notes that the modelling work undertaken to support the Project has undergone and great a deal of review and scrutiny by various subject matter experts; notwithstanding the statement by BNDN that their review has been limited. The modelling as detailed in the associated documentation was transparent, conservative in nature, highlighted uncertainties where such existed and tested the uncertainties with sensitivity analyses. Denison responded to dozens of IRs in related topics, completed additional analyses in relation to the IRs and the model outcomes have been deemed appropriate and supportive of EIS conclusions.</p> <p>Please see response to Comment #2 and Comment #13 for Denison’s response to the request for a project or mutual benefits agreement.</p> |
| 27       | BNDN<br>(February 28, 2023) | Section 1.1.1   | <p>Comment #26: In Section 1.1.1 of the Draft EIS, Denison notes that “the Gryphon deposit is not amenable to ISR mining and, accordingly, is not included in the EIS”. Denison has previously reported that the Gryphon deposit has nearly as much uranium as the Phoenix deposit. While the Gryphon deposit is not amenable to ISR, it is potentially still an economic resource which Denison may wish to mine.</p> <p>While the Gryphon deposit is not in scope for this environmental assessment, BNDN expects to be kept informed of future potential mining activities on the Wheeler River Project which Denison may be considering, including additional exploration on the Property, as future activities on the Property will also have impacts on our Treaty and aboriginal rights and interests.</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Given the potential longer term mining activities at the Wheeler River project beyond the Phoenix deposit, BNDN requests that any project agreement between BNDN and Denison include terms for ongoing dialogue related to future exploration and project development activities at the Wheeler River Project and at all Denison Projects on BNDN Ancestral Lands.</li> </ul> <p>See Section 4.3 for additional information on this topic (p. 25-28).</p>   | <p>Denison acknowledges that, if development of the Gryphon deposit as an underground mine is proposed in the future, this would require additional regulatory review and approval as well as engagement with Indigenous Communities of Interest. Please also refer to the first part of Denison’s response to BNDN comment #19 in regard to BNDN’s suggestion of a process agreement.</p>   | <b>Adequately Addressed.</b>                                | <p><b>Addressed</b></p> <p>BNDN notes that the acknowledgement addressed the concern specific to this comment but does not address the need for a process agreement for the entirety of the Wheeler River Project with our Nation.</p>   |   |



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| 28       | BNDN<br>(February 28, 2023) | Section 2.3.3.1.3                                       | <p>Comment #28: In Section 2.3.3.1.3 of the draft EIS Denison describes the proposed decontamination, demolition and disposal activities at the Project. BNDN notes that Denison has described a detailed process for decommissioning the injection and recovery wells but has not described how the freeze wells will be decommissioned. BNDN notes that the freeze well holes may serve as preferential pathways for contaminated groundwater movement. Given the proximity of freeze wells to the orebody and the number of freeze wells proposed to be drilled, proper closure of freeze wells is also important for protection water quality long term.</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p> <p>a) BNDN request that Denison clarify the process by which they will decommission the freeze wells.</p> <p>b) BNDN requests that Denison decommission the freeze wells using the same process as is proposed for the decommissioning of the injection and recovery wells.</p> <p>See Section 4.3 for additional information on this topic (p. 25-28).</p> | The freeze holes will be decommissioned in the same manner as the ISR wellfield injection and recovery wells. All wells once decommissioned will undergo a mechanical integrity and leak off test prior to being grouted and sealed internally preventing interaction of surface water from the underlying aquifer at the mineralized depth. The freeze pipes, which will be located inside the freeze holes, will simply be unthreaded and removed from site after the freeze wall is no longer required.   | <b>Adequately Addressed.</b>                                | <b>Addressed</b> , pending future engagement on environmental matters with BNDN through a process agreement and eventual mutual benefits agreement.   |  |
| 29       | BNDN<br>(February 28, 2023) | Section 2.3.3.1.3                                       | <p>Comment #29: Denison describes the thawing of the freeze wall as part of the decommissioning of the mine. BNDN notes that water expands when frozen and could potentially be capable of expanding pre-existing joints and fractures within the host rock. BNDN is concerned that the thawing of the freeze wall could lead to expanded joints and fractures which would allow for far more rapid contaminant transport away from the ore body and restoration solution than is modelled in the post-decommissioning groundwater model.</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BNDN request that Denison provide evidence from academic literature or other mine sites employing freeze wall technology to determine the extent the freeze wall could expands joints and fractures within the rock once thawed, including at unconformities or other pre-existing structural weaknesses within the host rock.</li> </ul> <p>See Section 4.3 for additional information on this topic (p. 25-28).</p>                   | Please refer to Attachment IR-10 for information on the freeze wall integrity and basis for the design, which relies on site field data and lived experience from several existing Saskatchewan mining operations.   | <b>Adequately Addressed.</b>                                | <b>Addressed</b> , pending future engagement on environmental matters with BNDN through a process agreement and eventual mutual benefits agreement.   |  |
| 30       | BNDN<br>(February 28, 2023) | Figure 2.2-15<br>Section 2.2.3                          | <p>Comment #30: Denison notes that they have made the conservative assumption that no water would be recycled as mining solution as part of their water balance calculations. BNDN agrees that this conservative assumption is appropriate for assessment of potential impacts of the Project. While this assumption is appropriate for the environmental assessment, BNDN wishes to understand the proportion of industrial wastewater that may be recycled on site and any commitments Denison is willing to make regarding continual refinement of the water treatment process to increase the proportion of water that is recycled.</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p> <p>a) BNDN requests that Denison commit to continual refinement of the Industrial Wastewater Treatment</p>   | The EIS carried forward two options for the source of freshwater: 1) surface water and 2) groundwater. This freshwater will meet all Project needs for potable water, drilling, and process water and allow Denison to obtain the water from groundwater wells or from the surface water (Whitefish lake). The effluent quality and volume predictions in the EIS provide a bounding scenario of the basis of the assessment of Project effects. Denison is undertaking a sequential EA and licensing process under the Nuclear Safety and Control Act. For context, the EA process for a Project under CEAA 2012 and the Saskatchewan Environmental Assessment Act is long and complex. As such, the inputs and outputs (including IWWTP water recycle volumes and effluent quality) developed for the IWWTP were necessary and determined by Denison’s Project | <b>Adequately Addressed.</b>                                | <p><b>Addressed</b>, pending future engagement on environmental matters with BNDN through a process agreement and eventual mutual benefits agreement.</p> <p><b>Comments for regulators are not addressed</b> and will be addressed through future engagement with the appropriate regulator.</p> |  |

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|----------|--------------------------|---|--|--|---|--|--|
|          |                          |   | <p>Plant (IWWTP) treatment process to maximize the amount of water that is recycled to the deposit.</p> <p>b) BNDN recommends that the Crown include a condition of approval for the project regarding continual improvement of water treatment to maximize recycling.</p> <p>c) BNDN requests that Denison share available information on the proportion of water that they currently anticipate being able to recycle.</p> <p>See Section 4.3 for additional information on this topic (p. 25-28).</p> <p>[Additional questions on this topic directed to regulators or government entities are included in the CNSC table]</p>  | <p>engineers early in the EA process to allow for the EIS biophysical and human assessments to advance. Detailed design information on the IWWTP, including recycle volumes, were not available, which is standard for engineering and EA sequencing for major projects. Denison intends to continue to refine effluent quality and volume predictions as part of the BATEA assessment and licensing phase of the Project. The predictions provided in the EIS will continue to bound the assessment and provide a conservative representation of risk to human health and the environment. Further, more detailed information regarding the design and operation of the IWWTP and water management infrastructure (including discharge rates, recycle rates among many other things), as informed in part by the BATEA assessment, will be included with Denison’s application for the license to operate which will provide opportunity for review and comment by Interested Parties. For reference, the IWWTP would be commissioned prior to the Operation phase as no discharge of treated effluent would occur until that time.</p>   |   |  |  |
| 31       | BNDN (February 28, 2023) | Figure 2.2-15<br>Section 2.2.3.2                        | <p>Comment #31: In Section 2.2.3.2 and Figure 2.2-15 of the draft EIS, Denison describes their water balance for the project and anticipated water needs to operate the ISR wellfield.</p> <p>BNDN notes that the EIS does not describe how Denison derived their estimate for the quantity of water required to operate the ISR wellfield. BNDN is concerned that the volume of water required to operate the wellfield may be substantially greater than is estimated in the draft EIS. Utilizing greater volumes of water in the wellfield would have cascading effects throughout the water balance, including greater demand on the IWWTP, greater storage volumes required in the process water storage pond, greater UBS holding pond capacity and greater volumes of effluent discharge to Whitefish Lake. BNDN is concerned with the potential cascading risks associated with an inaccurate assessment of the volume of water required to operate the ISR wellfield.</p> <p>BNDN also wishes to understand whether it is possible that Denison will be required to operate the wellfields at a higher pressure, even if only temporarily. BNDN notes that operating wells at higher pressure come with additional workplace and environmental hazards, especially when dealing with a strongly acidic lixiviant.</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p> <p>a) To demonstrate that Denison has not significantly underestimated the volume of water required to operate the wellfield, BNDN requests that Denison provide evidence that the volume of water required to operate the wellfield is accurate. This should include an assessment of their level of confidence they have in their estimated water consumption.</p> <p>b) BNDN requests that Denison provide BNDN with information on potential contingency measures (such as constructing additional process water pond capacity) should their estimated water consumption</p> | <p>a) Based on Denison’s site-specific drilling, development, and pumping requirements over several years of exploration activities, the wellfield drilling water estimates presented in the EIS water balances are achievable. Denison’s recently released feasibility study reaffirms the EIS assumptions related to water use and water recycle abilities.</p> <p>b) A key aspect of Denison’s management system will be ongoing evaluation of the Project’s performance compared to EIS predictions as well as continual improvement and adaptive management, as required. Should water consumption needs fall below those outlined in the EIS, Denison will follow all required permitting, licensing, and engagement with Indigenous nations and communities to describe and assess what those contingency measures would be.</p> <p>c) The near-field analysis (Section 8.2.4.2.3) identified that under all flow regime scenarios (i.e., 7Q10, monthly low, and monthly average), constituents are expected to be well mixed within Whitefish Lake (LA-5) and below the most restrictive criteria for the protection of aquatic life (Table 8.2-10; Appendix 8-C and Appendix 8-D). Additionally, the extent of the mixing zone in Whitefish Lake is estimated to be less than 5 m under all flow scenarios assessed (Table 8.2-11). Denison will comply with the Water Security Agency’s Guidelines for Effluent Mixing Zones and Denison would update modeling if the base assumptions associated with the discharge of treated effluent to Whitefish Lake were changed, as needed.</p> <p>d) Wellfield pressures were described in the draft EIS, Sections 2.2.1.4.2 and 2.2.1.4.3. In terms of</p> | <b>Adequately Addressed.</b>                                | <p><b>a. Addressed</b></p> <p><b>b. Addressed</b>, pending future engagement on environmental matters with BNDN through a process agreement and eventual mutual benefits agreement.</p> <p><b>c. Addressed</b>, pending future engagement on environmental matters with BNDN through a process agreement and eventual mutual benefits agreement.</p> <p><b>d. Not Addressed.</b> Denison has not provided information on the implications of operating the wellfield at substantially higher pressures than currently anticipated. This is important as ISR technology for ore extraction is novel in the Athabasca Basin and higher pressures than currently modeled may be required to achieve the uranium recovery rates anticipated by the Proponent.</p> <p>Further discussions on this matter should be done within the terms set out in a process agreement between Denison and BNDN for the Wheeler River Project.</p> | <p>d. At this time, and based on the results of both predictive modelling and in-field testing Denison does not see the need to operate the wellfield at “substantially higher pressures than currently anticipated” and sees no need or value in evaluating that scenario.</p> <p>Please see response to Comment #2 and Comment #13 for Denison’s response to the request for a project or mutual benefits agreement.</p> |

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|----------|--------------------------|---|---|---|---|--|--|
|          |                          |   | <p>be underestimated Denison must commit to updating their mixing zone assessment should they find it necessary to discharge greater quantities of effluent to Whitefish Lake than is estimated in the draft EIS. Denison must document the implications of operating the wellfield at a substantially higher pressure than currently expected.</p> <p>See Section 4.3 for additional information on this topic (p. 25-28).</p>   | <p>pressures, ISR mining is planned at nominal pressures of 100 psi and intermittent pressures of up to 250 psi.</p>  |   |  |  |
| 32       | BNDN (February 28, 2023) | Table 2.3-3   | <p>Comment #32: Table 2.3-3 of the draft EIS shows Denison’s proposed mining area decommissioning objectives, which are the groundwater quality objectives for the residual water in the ore zone following the flushing of the system during mine decommissioning. BNDN is surprised to see that relatively high concentrations of metals are expected to remain in the restoration solution as a final objective, such as 100 mg/l uranium and 2 mg/l cobalt, amongst many other metals.</p> <p>BNDN notes that potential risks to groundwater and surface water could be dramatically reduced through more stringent mining area decommissioning objectives. It is also feasible that processing efficiencies and high uranium prices may allow for substantially lower concentrations of uranium to be mined economically. The long- term contamination of groundwater from the high concentration of metals in the restoration solution is one of BNDN’s primary concerns with the Wheeler River Project, and BNDN would strongly prefer that Denison strive to minimize the residual contamination remaining in groundwater following decommissioning to the greatest extent possible.</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p> <p>a) BNDN requests that Denison provide documentation that estimates the time, efforts and costs associated with reducing concentrations of metals in the restoration solution by 1 order of magnitude and 2 orders of magnitude. Note that these calculations should include costs that could be recovered by processing subeconomic UBS.</p> <p>b) BNDN requests that Denison work with BNDN through terms defined in a BNDN project agreement to establish achievable decommissioning objectives that would be satisfactory to BNDN.</p> <p>c) BNDN requests that the Crown place a condition of approval upon the Wheeler River Project that Denison is required to work with BNDN to establish mutually agreeable mining area decommissioning objectives.</p> <p>d) BNDN requests that Denison undertake a study of ISR operations elsewhere in the world to determine the lowest concentrations of UBS that could be processed economically utilizing industry best practices and commit to exceeding global standards.</p> <p>See Section 4.3 for additional information on this topic (p. 25-28).</p> <p>[Additional questions on this topic directed to regulators or government entities are included in the CNSC table]</p> | <p>Groundwater remediation targets provided in the draft EIS were derived from metallurgical test results completed from 2017 to 2021 with over 125 kg of material recovered from Phoenix deposit that underwent leaching and neutralization test work (see response to IR-67). In 2022 and 2023, metallurgical test work continued to further optimize remediation and strategies and confirm test work results presented in the draft EIS. It is expected that metallurgical test work will continue in the future to further optimize remediation targets, and this will be advanced through updates to the Decommissioning Plan. The Feasibility Field Test (FFT) provided additional confirmation that pH target and remediation targets could be met. Data gathered during the neutralization phase of the FFT provide confidence that groundwater targets proposed in the draft EIS can be met technically and economically. Based on laboratory testing and the results of the 2022 field testing, subsurface remediation is planned to consist of rinsing the ore zone with 35 pore volumes of fresh water, slowly raising the pH and then pumping about 75 pore volumes of basic solution through the same portion of the ore zone. This basic solution will in effect further raise the pH to a level that impedes further leaching of the deposit and reduces aqueous concentrations of contaminants of concern to below their environmental target levels.</p> <p>Refinement of the mining area decommissioning objectives and associated modelling will be done as the Project progresses through updates to the Decommissioning Plan; nevertheless, the objectives as they may evolve will be bound by the objectives evaluated in the EIS, which as shown are protective of aquatic biota in Whitefish Lake. The final mining area decommissioning objectives will be developed prior to initiation of groundwater remediation as part of the Detailed Decommissioning Plan (DDP). Prior to executing decommissioning activities, Denison shall prepare and submit the DDP to regulators for approval. The DDP would reflect input that will be solicited from Indigenous Nations and communities and others prior to its submission and would also be informed by conditions on the ground at the site at that time, operational experience that has been gained and the regulatory landscape at that time. As is highlighted above, the decommissioning plan will evolve over time and the plan will become more refined as the Project advances.</p> | <b>Adequately Addressed.</b>                                | <p><b>a. Not Addressed.</b> BNDN does not see it as acceptable to postpone the commitment to more stringent residual water in the ore zone to later permitting stages. Denison did not respond to our request for additional contextual information on the additional costs to further reduce metals concentrations in the residual solution. BNDN reiterates this request and recommends that it be addressed within the protocols established in a process agreement between Denison and BNDN.</p> <p><b>b. Not Addressed.</b> BNDN reiterates our request to address these concerns through a process agreement and eventual mutual benefits agreement for the Project.</p> <p><b>c. Not Addressed.</b> BNDN intends to work with the Crown on this condition of approval.</p> <p><b>d. Not Addressed.</b> BNDN reiterates the request for the comparative analysis of reasonably achievable concentrations of uranium in the residual water.</p> <p><b>Comments for regulators are not addressed</b> and will be addressed through future engagement with the appropriate regulator.</p> | <p><b>a.</b> Denison has committed to meeting the mining area decommissioning objectives presented in the draft EIS (Table 2.3-3). These were modelled in draft EIS Section 7 with recharge to Whitefish Lake. Refinement of mining area decommissioning objectives is expected as part of updates to the decommissioning plan, which forms the basis of the decommissioning cost estimate and associated financial assurance. The conceptual decommissioning plan (CDP) included in the draft EIS (Section 2.3.3) contains the appropriate level of detail for this stage of the Project and recognizes that the details of the decommissioning plan and the elements thereof (including remediation and restoration targets and monitoring) will evolve and become more detailed and specific as the Project advances.</p> <p><b>b.</b> Please see response to Comment #2 and Comment #13 for Denison’s response to the request for a project or mutual benefits agreement.</p> <p><b>c.</b> Not an actionable item for Denison.</p> <p><b>d.</b> It is unclear from the additional comment what information is being sought – the initial comment was in regard to UBS while the May 26 comment was in regard to reasonably achievable concentrations of uranium in the residual water.</p> |

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|----------|-----------------------------|---|---|--|---|---|--|
|          |                             |   |   | As the Indigenous Communities of Interest with reserves and residential communities most proximal to the Project, Denison has committed to collaborating with English River First Nation and Kineepik Métis Local on a monitoring regime, suited to each of their interests and needs. As part of these programs, Denison and the Indigenous community of ERFN and KML will be sharing information in an agreed-upon fashion. It is expected that the data collected through such monitoring regimes as described above would also be relevant to other Indigenous nations who may have interest in the Project. Denison does not anticipate separate funding for BNDN at this time.   |   |   |  |
| 33       | BNDN<br>(February 28, 2023) | Section 2.2.2.2.2<br>Figure 2.2-18                      | <p>Comment #33: In Figure 2.2-18 of the draft EIS, Denison shows the proposed design of the double composite liner system for the ponds on site and the uranium bearing solution (UBS) holding area. BNDN notes that the risks associated with temporary storage of UBS is much greater than other contact water on site which is proposed to be stored in a similar means. As such, BNDN is concerned that the proposed UBS holding area does not have adequate leak detection given the additional risk associated with the UBS relative to contact water on site. BNDN also notes that open air storage of UBS presents the risk of incidental interactions with wildlife near to the project (such as birds), which would potentially be acutely toxic.</p> <p>BNDN is also concerned that there is no leak detection system below the secondary HDPE geomembrane and geosynthetic clay liner. Should the secondary containment layers also become compromised, Denison does not have a system planned to detect this.</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p> <p>a) BNDN requests that Denison commit to storing UBS in appropriate tanks as opposed to open air storage.</p> <p>b) BNDN requests that Denison include a leak detection pipe in the prepared subgrade below the secondary containment as well as between the primary and secondary containment layers. BNDN also requests that the prepared subgrade be engineered to facilitate maximum utility of the leak detection below the secondary containment.</p> <p>See Section 4.3 for additional information on this topic (p. 25-28).</p> | As outlined in draft EIS Section 2.2.2.2.2, Denison will evaluate options to use tanks instead of holding area as engineering advances. It is also important to note that Denison is completing a sequential EA and licensing process for the Project (see draft EIS Section 1). Denison considers the EA to be a planning and decision-making tool that assesses the potential effects of the Project in a careful and precautionary manner and integrates results of engagement with Indigenous nations and communities. The details requested by BNDN will be developed to support licensing and will be included in Management System programs / plans including for example the Groundwater Monitoring Plan and the Emergency Response and Preparedness Plan. | <b>Adequately Addressed.</b>                                | <p><b>a. Not Addressed.</b> BNDN sees it as a reasonable and necessary precaution to store UBS in tanks instead of open air storage. BNDN reiterates this request and recommends that it be addressed within the protocols established in a process agreement between Denison and BNDN.</p> <p><b>b. Not Addressed.</b> BNDN sees it as a reasonable and necessary precaution to incorporate a leak detection system into UBS storage. BNDN reiterates this request and recommends that it be addressed within the protocols established in a process agreement between Denison and BNDN.</p> | <p>a. Denison plans to store UBS in open ponds. The ponds are doubled lined with integrated leak detection. This design provides an appropriate level of risk mitigation. Worker exposure risks associated with the UBS ponds were assessed as part of the Worker Dose Assessment (Appendix 10-C of the EIS) and no risk to worker health was identified. Risks from a potential release of leachate from the UBS ponds was evaluated as part of the Accident and Malfunction Assessment (Appendix 14A to the EIS) and the environmental risk of such an incident was deemed to have been mitigated to a level that is as low as reasonably practicable (ALARP).</p> <p>b. See above.</p> <p>Please see response to Comment #2 and Comment #13 for Denison’s response to the request for a project or mutual benefits agreement.</p> |
| 34       | BNDN<br>(February 28, 2023) | Figure 2.3-1  | <p>Comment #34: Denison shows an additional ore body to the Southwest of Phase 5. Denison has not included this additional ore body in the mine plan in the draft EIS and has not discussed whether they have intentions to mine this ore body or undertaking a project change at a later date to include this additional ore body.</p> <p>It is unclear whether this additional ore body has any implications for the long-term groundwater quality modelling either through the additional orebody altering anticipated groundwater chemistry, or the restoration solution dissolving metals in the additional orebody increasing overall metal loading. Given the probable difference in groundwater and mineral geochemistry in the additional orebody relative to the overlying sandstone and</p>  | a) and b) The small deposit to the SW of Phase 5 is amendable to ISR but is of lower grade than the areas targeted in mining phases 1 through 5 and mining of that low grade areas is not being considered at this time. It is noted that The Project mining and milling capacity will be bound by the assumptions in the EIS, which includes a production rate higher than the current reserves. The Project would be reviewed to determine what if any changes to the design basis would be anticipated and then what permitting would be required, should additional mining beyond what is contemplate by the EA be considered in the future.   | <b>Adequately Addressed.</b>                                | <b>Addressed</b>  |  |

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|----------|-----------------------------|---|--|--|---|---|--|
|          |                             |   | <p>underlying basement rock, there is likely to be interaction between the restored solution and the additional orebody post-closure.</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p> <p>a) BNDN requests that Denison clarify whether they are considering adding the additional orebody to the southwest of Phase 5 into the mine plan, including clarifying whether the additional ore body is amenable to ISR mining.</p> <p>b) BNDN requests that Denison clarify what the anticipated permitting associated with the additional ore body would be.</p> <p>c) BNDN requests that the post-decommissioning groundwater modelling for the Project include interactions between the additional ore body and the restoration solution to understand if the ore body poses a risk of additional metal loading to groundwater.</p> <p>See Section 4.3 for additional information on this topic (p. 25-28).</p>   | <p>c) The additional modelling recommended by the review comment is unnecessary at this time. The low grade area is not considered in the mine plan at this time. Should that change, as noted above, the Project would be reviewed to determine what if any changes to the design basis would be anticipated and then what permitting would be required. Such modeling as envisioned by the review comment would be done that time as may be required. Hydrogeological investigations have been ongoing in the field and in laboratories since 2014. Packer, open hole, and cross hole tests have been completed in conjunction with exploration drilling programs. As well, permeability tests have been completed on sections of available competent core within the Phoenix deposit. Open hole water level surveys have been completed across the site in 2015, 2017, 2021 and 2022. Data gathered during the field tests have been utilized for both the EA groundwater model as well as the mining model. The primary direction of groundwater flow at depth is to the north east, which means restored solutions will move away from the small deposit to the SW. Additionally, as noted in the response to BNDN Comment #32, the restored solution will be basic and will further raise the pH to a level that impedes further leaching of the deposit and reduces aqueous concentrations of contaminants of concern to below their environmental target levels.</p> |   |   |  |
| 35       | BNDN<br>(February 28, 2023) | Section 2.2.1.3<br>Section 7.6.2.1                      | <p>Comment #35: Denison intends to use a freeze wall as tertiary containment for the operation of the wellfield during operations. In general, BNDN is supportive of this containment measure but requires further information to have confidence that the freeze walls will operate as designed. In particular, BNDN notes that while the freeze wall will be continuous from the ground surface all the way into the basement rocks underlying the orebody, the freeze wall is by far the most consequential immediately around the ore body itself. The orebody is approximately 400 m below the ground surface (where the earth would be significantly warmer) and the lixiviant is expected to be at least 10 degrees warmer than the surrounding groundwater would be. Considering that the cold brine will need to be injected nearly half a kilometer into the earth where warm lixiviant will be injected into the wellfield, BNDN is concerned that the freeze wall may be ineffective in and around the ore body where it is required. Furthermore, BNDN is concerned that the monitoring system for assessing the stability of the freeze wall may not adequately detect the continuity of the freeze wall at depth. As such, BNDN is concerned that the freeze wall may be ineffective and in fact obscure our ability to recognize contamination of the surrounding groundwater from the freeze wall operating ineffectively.</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p> <p>a) BNDN requests that Denison provide information to demonstrate that the freeze wall will in fact be frozen</p> | <p>a) Please refer to Attachment IR-10 for information on the freeze wall integrity and basis for the design, which relies on site field data and lived experience from several existing Saskatchewan mining operations.</p> <p>b) The following explains how the continuous freeze wall will be monitored. The alignment of the freeze wall is located 25 m offset from the lateral extent of the recoverable ore and the freeze wall will grow in thickness both towards the ore and away from the ore. The freeze wall will solidify all liquid porewater and develop into a contiguous impermeable barrier many metres thick. Ground temperature monitoring will be installed through a series of continuous fiberoptic temperature and pressure wells from surface to the depth of impermeable basement rock below the unconformity. Such monitoring wells/systems will be installed on both the ore (inside) and non-ore (outside) sides of the freeze wall to confirm the thickness of frozen ground. There will be sufficient operational controls in place to verify that the freeze plant is operating, to measure the temperature in the ore zone, and to measure the temperature on opposite sides (inside and outside) of the freeze wall so that early detection of any upset conditions can be identified and addressed. Options for addressing issues include: lowering</p>  | <b>Adequately Addressed.</b>                                | <p><b>a. Addressed</b>, pending future engagement on environmental matters with BNDN through a process agreement and eventual mutual benefits agreement.</p> <p><b>b. Addressed</b>, pending future engagement on environmental matters with BNDN through a process agreement and eventual mutual benefits agreement.</p> <p><b>c. Not Addressed</b>, BNDN requires a commitment from Denison to include BNDN into the development and implementation of the monitoring plan, which should be formalized in a BNDN-Denison process agreement and eventual Mutual Benefits Agreement.</p> <p><b>d. Not Addressed</b>, BNDN requires a commitment from Denison to include BNDN into the development and implementation of the monitoring plan, which should be formalized in a BNDN-Denison process agreement and eventual Mutual Benefits Agreement.</p> | c. Please see response to Comment #2 and Comment #13 for Denison’s response to the request for a project or mutual benefits agreement. |

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|----------|--------------------------|---|--|--|---|--|---|
|          |                          |   | <p>in and around the ore body. If there is any doubt that the freeze wall will indeed be frozen around the ore body, Denison should describe further measures they can undertake to ensure that the freeze wall is frozen as intended around the ore body.</p> <p>b) Denison must provide BNDN with further information on how they will monitor the performance and continuity of the freeze wall.</p> <p>c) BNDN requests further information on the proposed groundwater monitoring program around the wellfield.</p> <p>d) BNDN requests the opportunity to review the groundwater monitoring plan and to review groundwater monitoring data as part of a BNDN-Denison environmental committee developed through a BNDN-Denison project agreement.</p> <p>See Section 4.3 for additional information on this topic (p. 25-28).</p>   | <p>the temperature of the freeze system to draw more heat out; increasing the freeze coolant flow rates in freeze wells nearer to active ISR cells; and/or to adaptively manage the lixiviant injection and recovery rates in cells located nearest to the freeze wall.</p> <p>c) Regarding the monitoring program: A framework for the groundwater monitoring plan was provided in Section 7.8.2 of the draft EIS and is commensurate with the level of development of the Project. Further details regarding the Environmental Management Program and its associated plans (of which the groundwater monitoring plan is one) will be developed later in 2023 and 2024 as part of the licensing process. Engagement on licensing requirements, including on program and plan documentation will occur at that time.</p> <p>d) As the Indigenous Communities of Interest with reserves and residential communities most proximal to the Project, Denison has committed to collaborating with English River First Nation and Kineepik Métis Local on monitoring regimes, suited to each of their interests and needs. As part of these programs, Denison and the Indigenous community of ERFN and KML will be sharing information in an agreed-upon fashion. It is expected that the data collected through such monitoring regimes as described above would also be relevant to other Indigenous nations who may have interest in the Project, such as BNDN. Denison does not anticipate separate funding for BNDN at this time.</p> |   |  |   |
| 36       | BNDN (February 28, 2023) | Section 2.9.1.3.1                                       | <p>Comment #36: Denison documents their conceptual level environmental protection program, including several proposed management and monitoring plans which they will develop to manage operations on site.</p> <p>The environmental protection measures which Denison undertakes at the Project site are highly consequential to BNDN, and BNDN requires the opportunity to provide our knowledge and input into environmental protection measures developed for activities within our Ancestral Lands.</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p> <p>a) BNDN requests that Denison commit to involving BNDN in the development, review and approval of all environmental monitoring plans developed for the Project. Details of BNDN involvement in the development of environmental monitoring plans should be undertaken within an Environmental Committee, with specific terms defined within a BNDN-Denison Project Agreement for the Wheeler River Project</p> <p>b) BNDN requests that the CNSC impose a condition of approval on the project which states the requirement for Denison to consult with BNDN on all</p> | <p>As the Indigenous Communities of Interest with reserves and residential communities most proximal to the Project, Denison has committed to collaborating with English River First Nation and Kineepik Métis Local on a monitoring regime, suited to each of their interests and needs. As part of these programs, Denison and the Indigenous community of ERFN and KML will be sharing information in an agreed-upon fashion. It is expected that the data collected through such monitoring regimes as described above would also be relevant to other Indigenous nations who may have interest in the Project. Denison does not anticipate separate funding for BNDN at this time.</p> <p>BNDN will be informed throughout the monitoring program design and implementation process. Monitoring program design and implementation will be guided by the following principles: meet regulatory requirements, confirm the effectiveness of mitigation measures and predictions made in the assessment, implementing adaptive management (if/where applicable) to reduce effects during the lifetime of the Project, and will ensure that spatial boundaries are sufficiently extensive to measure EIS predictions.</p>  | <b>Adequately Addressed.</b>                                | <p><b>a. Not Addressed.</b> BNDN requires a commitment from Denison to include BNDN into the development and implementation of all project environmental management and monitoring plans, which should be formalized in a BNDN-Denison process agreement and eventual Mutual Benefits Agreement.</p> <p><b>b. Not Addressed,</b> Comments for regulators are not addressed and will be addressed through future engagement with the appropriate regulator.</p> | <p>a. Please see response to Comment #2 and Comment #13 for Denison’s response to the request for a project or mutual benefits agreement.</p> |

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|----------|--------------------------|---|---|---|---|--|--|
|          |                          |   | <p>environmental management and monitoring plans for the project.</p> <p>See Section 4.3 for additional information on this topic (p. 25-28).</p> <p>[Additional questions on this topic directed to regulators or government entities are included in the CNSC table]</p>  | <p>The details of monitoring and follow-up plans are being developed to support the separate process of Project licensing and permitting. The specific means by which provincial and federal authorities, and Indigenous Nations and communities will be engaged in developing the follow-up and monitoring program, including the information-sharing program, are currently under consideration with the Denison project team. It is noted that Section 4.2.1 of the draft EIS provides the variety of ways in which Denison has engaged with Interested Parties to date and it is assumed it would continue to use these means and others that may be identified to fulfil its key corporate principals for developing positive relationships (see draft EIS Section 4.2).</p>   |   |  |  |
| 37       | BNDN (February 28, 2023) | Section 7.6.2.3   | <p>Comment #37: In Section 7.6.2.3 of the draft EIS and the geology and groundwater summary table in Appendix 16A, Denison states that they expect no residual effects to groundwater quality during the operations, decommissioning or future centuries period of the Project. Denison has also not placed a significance determination on the impacts to groundwater quality based on the findings of the draft EIS due to groundwater being considered an intermediate VC.</p> <p>BNDN disagrees with both the residual effects assessment and the fact that groundwater quality has been assessed solely as an intermediate VC. The protection of groundwater resources is highly important to BNDN. Our members place immense value on clean spring water and the protection of groundwater more generally. The advancement of the Wheeler River Project will permanently impair groundwater resources in and around the Wheeler River Project.</p> <p>The contamination of groundwater at the Project will have a significant impact on our members’ connection to the land and ability to exercise our Treaty and Aboriginal rights. BNDN see the limited interpretation of residual effects and the lack of inclusion of groundwater quality as a receptor VC as a significant oversight in the assessment of impacts of the Project on the environment and BNDN Treaty and Aboriginal rights. This must be corrected to properly assess the Project and thus ensure that project impacts are appropriately mitigated and accommodated. Request/recommendation:</p> <p>a) Denison must apply a significant determination to groundwater quality and quantity for all projects phases, including the future centuries period. The significance determination must be developed following consultation and engagement with BNDN.</p> <p>b) Denison must re-evaluate the residual effects of the project on groundwater quality including the future centuries period. This re-evaluation must be following consultation and engagement with BNDN.</p> <p>c) BNDN requests that the CNSC work with our Nation to understand the significant impacts that the permanent contamination of groundwater caused by the project will have on our Treaty and Aboriginal rights.</p> | <p>The Groundwater Quality VC was carried through the EIS as an intermediate VC. The shallow and deeper groundwaters are not considered to be a potable water source currently nor in the future within the LSA (defined in Section 7.1.3.1), as detailed in Section 7.1.1.1. Within the LSA, the Groundwater VC was considered an intermediate VC as it is a pathway to the aquatic environment and considered in the future centuries period in Section 8. It is also important to note that the mining area is 400 m below surface and the existing/baseline groundwater quality in the ore zone area is poor (e.g., high in iron and uranium compared to shallower groundwater; Figure 7.3-11). Section 7.6 describes the residual effects evaluation for geology and groundwater, including for the life of mine (0 to 38 years) and the future centuries period. It is Denison’s opinion that the approach associated with evaluating Project effects to groundwater quality is appropriate and reasonable for the reasons presented in the draft EIS.</p> <p>Denison continues to work with its Indigenous Communities of Interest with reserves and residential communities most proximal to the Project, Denison has committed to collaborating with English River First Nation and Kineepik Métis Local on a community specific monitoring regime, suited to each of their interests and needs, in an agreed-upon fashion. One of the key goals of such collaboration with each Indigenous nation will be to provide the information necessary to the communities such that it provides confidence to community members regarding the impacts from the Project to the aspects of the environment which matter the most to them. Denison is committed to continual improvement in relation to such collaborative monitoring programs, in order to adapt to areas of interest which can change over time. It is expected that the data collected through such monitoring regimes would also be relevant to other Indigenous First Nations who may have interest in the Project. The details of monitoring and follow-up plans are being developed to support the separate process of Project licensing and permitting. The specific means by which provincial and federal authorities, and Indigenous Nations and communities will be engaged in developing the</p> | <b>Adequately Addressed.</b>                                | <p><b>a. Not Addressed.</b><br/>BNDN reiterates our request to carry through groundwater as a receptor VC, as groundwater resources are highly culturally and spiritually important to our Nation.</p> <p><b>b. Not Addressed.</b><br/>BNDN reiterates our request to carry through groundwater as a receptor VC into the future centuries period, as groundwater resources are highly culturally and spiritually important to our Nation.</p> <p><b>c. Not Addressed.</b> Comments for regulators are not addressed and will be addressed through future engagement with the appropriate regulator.</p> | <p>a/b. Denison acknowledges that maintaining groundwater quality and quantity is important for maintenance of surface water quality and health and the shared value of water and its life-sustaining properties. In Denison’s view, the approach associated with evaluating Project effects to groundwater quality remains appropriate and reasonable for the reasons presented in the EIS and consistent with typical ESA practice. The groundwater pathway has been fully integrated into the assessment of potential project and cumulative effects on receptor VCs and in Denison’s view the assessment has been completed in a comprehensive manner.</p> |

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|          |                             |   | See Section 4.3 for additional information on this topic (p. 25-28).<br><br>[Additional questions on this topic directed to regulators or government entities are included in the CNSC table]   | follow- up and monitoring program, including the information- sharing program, are currently under consideration with the Denison project team. It is noted that Section 4.2.1 of the draft EIS provides the variety of ways in which Denison has engaged with Interested Parties to date and it is assumed it would continue to use these means and others that may be identified to fulfil its key corporate principals for developing positive relationships (see draft EIS Section 4.2).   |   |   |   |
| 38       | BNDN<br>(February 28, 2023) | Section 7.8.2   | <p>Comment #38: Section 7.8.2 of the draft EIS documents the groundwater monitoring proposed for the surface facilities and the ISR recovery area. It also describes a conceptual excursion contingency plan wherein Denison has proposed their plans to manage situations where groundwater contamination occurs beyond what is predicted in the EIS. BNDN notes that Section 7.8.2 lacks information on the involvement of Indigenous Nations related to groundwater monitoring.</p> <p>As stated previously, BNDN is highly concerned with the level of impact the Project will have on groundwater resources. As such BNDN requires Denison to communicate excursions of groundwater and the consequent management of excursions to our Nation.</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p> <p>a) BNDN requests that Denison revise Section 7.8.2 to include Indigenous engagement and input for groundwater monitoring results and the management of observed groundwater excursions. The manner in which Denison engages BNDN on groundwater monitoring and management will likely occur through an Environmental Committee, which should be defined in a BNDN-Denison Project Agreement.</p> <p>b) BNDN requests that the CNSC impose a condition of approval on the Project that clarifies that Denison is required to engage with impacted Indigenous Nations such as BNDN on groundwater monitoring and management.</p> <p>See Section 4.3 for additional information on this topic (p. 25-28).<br/><br/>[Additional questions on this topic directed to regulators or government entities are included in the CNSC table]</p> | <p>Denison agrees with BNDN’s comment that groundwater monitoring will be an important component of the Project as it advances.</p> <p>As the Indigenous Communities of Interest with reserves and residential communities most proximal to the Project, Denison has committed to collaborating with English River First Nation and Kineepik Métis Local on a monitoring regime, suited to each of their interests and needs. As part of these programs, Denison and the Indigenous community of ERFN and KML will be sharing information in an agreed-upon fashion. It is expected that the data collected through such monitoring regimes as described above would also be relevant to other Indigenous nations who may have interest in the Project. BNDN will be informed throughout the monitoring program design and implementation process. Monitoring program design and implementation will be guided by the following principles: meet regulatory requirements, confirm the effectiveness of mitigation measures and predictions made in the assessment, implementing adaptive management (if/where applicable) to reduce effects during the lifetime of the Project, and will ensure that spatial boundaries are sufficiently extensive to measure EIS predictions.</p> <p>The details of monitoring and follow-up plans are being developed to support the separate process of Project licensing and permitting. The specific means by which provincial and federal authorities, and Indigenous Nations and communities will be engaged in developing the follow-up and monitoring program, including the information-sharing program, are currently under consideration with the Denison project team. It is noted that Section 4.2.1 of the draft EIS provides the variety of ways in which Denison has engaged with Interested Parties to date and it is assumed it would continue to use these means and others that may be identified to fulfil its key corporate principals for developing positive relationships (see draft EIS Section 4.2).</p> | <b>Adequately Addressed.</b>                                | <p><b>a. Not Addressed.</b><br/>BNDN requires Denison to commit to ongoing engagement with our Nation on groundwater monitoring through a process should be formalized in a BNDN-Denison process agreement and eventual Mutual Benefits Agreement.</p> <p><b>b. Not Addressed.</b><br/>BNDN intends to work with the Crown on this condition of approval.</p> <p><b>c. Not Addressed.</b> Comments for regulators are not addressed and will be addressed through future engagement with the appropriate regulator.</p> | <p>a. Please see response to Comment #2 and Comment #13 for Denison’s response to the request for a project or mutual benefits agreement.</p> <p>b. Not an action for Denison</p> <p>c. Not an action for Denison</p> |
| 39       | BNDN<br>(February 28, 2023) | Appendix 8D   | Comment #39: In Appendix 8d, Denison documents their baseline aquatics studies undertaken for the Wheeler River EIS. Denison has included some lakes and rivers upstream of the Project as background sites for understanding project impacts to the aquatic environment. BNDN notes that there are many additional sites throughout our Ancestral Lands which would benefit from ongoing aquatic   | Denison appreciates and acknowledges the recommendation. At this time Denison believes suitable candidate references areas are available upstream of the Project site in areas located in the same drainage system / watershed. While proximity to the Project is only one of many considerations for suitable reference area selection in this case the ability to be able to compare relevant measurement  | <b>Adequately Addressed.</b>                                | <p><b>Not Addressed</b><br/>BNDN has reasonably requested that Denison work with our Nation in identifying background sampling sites. It is expected that such sites could be chosen in such a way that aligns with Denison’s goals of obtaining reference information and implementing a BACI design for ongoing monitoring. The outright refusal of even</p>  | Please see response to Comment #2 and Comment #13 for Denison’s response to the request for a project or mutual benefits agreement.   |



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|          |                             |   | <p>monitoring and would be potentially suitable for the Project as background sampling sites.</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BNDN requests that Denison work with our Nation to identify potential additional background sampling sites within our Ancestral Lands for aquatic monitoring for the life of Project. The details of such should be defined in the BNDN-Denison project agreement.</li> </ul> <p>See Section 4.3 for additional information on this topic (p. 25-28).</p>  | <p>endpoints between “reference” vs “potentially influence” sampling locations where the primary difference between locations is the point source discharge is compelling rationale. Additionally, data that have been collected from upstream areas as part of baseline programs provides the opportunity to implement aquatic monitoring according to a BACI design which is a powerful means by which to assess and isolate potential mine related effects from natural environmental change. Given the above, Denison does not see that there is rationale for investigating lakes over a regional extent to establish reference areas for aquatic monitoring as is suggested.</p>   |   | <p>discussing such a possibility with BNDN is not reflective of the need for meaningful consultation on this Project.</p>   |  |
| 40       | BNDN<br>(February 28, 2023) | Section 2.2.1.4.2                                       | <p>Comment #40: In Section 2.2.1.4.2 of the Draft EIS Denison discusses the operation of the wellfield during the operations phase of the mine. BNDN notes that many of the details in this section are conceptual in nature and thus could require significant refinements in design to achieve the desired recovery consistently throughout the life of mine. Amongst other concerns related to operations of the ISR wellfield, BNDN is concerned that Denison may alter the chemical composition of the lixiviant used in the ISR wellfield which could cause inadequately understood changes in potential effects of the Project to the environment. These effects could include significant changes to the final restorative solution at the end of mine life or significant changes in the treatment requirements for the IWWTP that impact the ability of Denison to achieve effluent quality criteria for significant periods of time.</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p> <p>a) BNDN requests that Denison provide information on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The likelihood of the chemical composition of the lixiviant changing throughout the life of project</li> <li>Potential changes to the lixiviant composition</li> <li>The implications for long term groundwater quality and effluent treatment from changes in lixiviant chemistry</li> </ul> <p>b) BNDN requests that Denison commit to ongoing communications and engagement with BNDN regarding changes to the wellfield operation throughout the life of mine. The terms of engagement should be defined in a BNDN-Denison project Agreement.</p> <p>See Section 4.3 for additional information on this topic (p. 25-28).</p> | <p>a) It is important to note that Denison is completing a sequential EA and licensing process for the Project (see draft EIS Section 1). Detailed ISR mining-related information needed to support licensing and permitting has not been included in the EIS; it will be provided to regulators as part of permitting and licensing. For the EIS, an initial understanding of the mine plan and mining area remediation was needed to initiate the assessment of migration of constituents of potential concern in groundwater out of this area in the post-decommissioning period. The findings and conclusions of the EIS were also used, in turn, to inform and bound the engineering and feasibility work. As part of the metallurgical test program, over 125kg of core from the Phoenix deposit has been leached in a variety of settings, including bottle rolls, column tests, and intact core tests. This has helped to predict concentrations of both the lixiviant as well as the production solutions. The lixiviant (mining solution) concentrations will vary depending on each individual well production profile. To ensure reagent consumption is effective and efficient it will be varied during the life of each well dependent on its characteristics. The initial acidification of the well requires a lower acid content to ensure the formation does not plug due to precipitation, whereas during periods of high production the well can accept a higher acid concentration. Towards the end of the recovery curve, the uranium is more difficult to access and therefore the strength of the acid or the flow rate to the well need to be optimized to ensure efficient use of reagents. It is expected that the lixiviant concentrations will vary between 0-60 g/L H2SO4, and 0-20g/L H2O2 and will be situationally dependent. There is also the capability to add Fe2(SO4)3, however it is not expected that this will be required in significant concentration due to the natural abundance of iron in the deposit.</p> <p>b) Please see response to Comment #19 for Denison’s response on a Project agreement.</p> | <b>Adequately Addressed.</b>                                | <p><b>a. Not Addressed.</b></p> <p>BNDN note that Denison has not provided BNDN with the information that the Nation requested regarding changes in chemical composition of the lixiviant (other than changes in acid concentrations). BNDN reiterates the request for additional information.</p> <p><b>b. Not Addressed.</b></p> <p>Denison has thus far denied BNDN’s reasonable request for a process agreement and eventual project agreement despite the projects impacts to our Nations rights and interests; BNDN reiterates our request.</p> | <p>a. Due to the propriety nature of these reports, Denison is not able to disclose the 2018 third-party peer-review studies or reports as these were prepared for Denison in support of the Prefeasibility Study and Feasibility Study; a requirement for a National Instrument 43-101 report.</p> <p>As stated on page 2-24 of the Wheeler River EIS, the mining solution is an acidic solution prepared on site by adding reagents, such as sulphuric acid, hydrogen peroxide, and ferric sulphate, to water.</p> <p>b. Please see response to Comment #2 and Comment #13 for Denison’s response to the request for a project or mutual benefits agreement.</p> |

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| 41       | BNDN<br>(February 28, 2023) | Appendix 8E Table 4                                     | <p>Comment #41: Table 4 of Appendix 8e of the draft EIS shows the predicted site discharge concentrations of the contaminants of potential concern (COPCs). BNDN notes that the concentrations of a number of COPCs do not achieve water quality objectives that is the best available technology economically achievable (BATEA). Example COPCs include copper, molybdenum, selenium, uranium, vanadium, zinc and ammonia.</p> <p>BNDN requires proponents operating on our Ancestral Lands to, at a minimum, achieve BATEA standards for effluent treatment and discharge. This takes reasonable and appropriate precaution without imposing unreasonable costs on the operation.</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p> <p>a) BNDN requests that Denison commit to achieving BATEA criteria for all COPCs in their effluent.</p> <p>b) Denison must work with BNDN to identify mutually agreeable and appropriate effluent discharge criteria for their effluent. BNDN expects that identifying suitable effluent discharge criteria will be undertaken through an Environmental Committee with a terms of reference defined in a BNDN-Denison project agreement.</p> <p>c) BNDN requests that the CNSC impose a condition of approval on the Project that BNDN is engaged.</p> <p>See Section 4.3 for additional information on this topic (p. 25-28).</p> <p>[Additional questions on this topic directed to regulators or government entities are included in the CNSC table]</p> | <p>a) Denison is undertaking a sequential EA and licensing process under the NSCA. For context, the EA process for a Project under CEAA 2012 and the Saskatchewan Environmental Assessment Act is long and complex. As such, the inputs and outputs (e.g., effluent quality) needed for the EIS were developed by Denison’s Project engineers early in the EA process to allow for the biophysical and human assessments to advance. An example of one of these outputs is the IWWTP effluent quality. The effluent quality predictions in the EIS provide a bounding scenario of the basis of the assessment of Project effects. As stated in the Draft REGDOC 2.9.2 Denison understands that a BATEA assessment be conducted to determine the predicted design release characteristics as part of the licence application for a new facility or activity. Outside of the EIS process, the Project detailed engineering is progressing, including the design of the IWWTP and associated refinement of effluent quality predictions. Denison is following Draft REGDOC 2.9.2 to arrive at a treatment option that remains within the bounds of the EA, which ultimately predicts no significant impacts to the receiving environment. The maximum design release characteristics for the IWWTP will be provided as part of Denison’s licence application to the CNSC.</p> <p>b) As the Indigenous Communities of Interest with reserves and residential communities most proximal to the Project, Denison has committed to engagement with English River First Nation and Kineepik Métis Local as it relates to effluent discharge criteria, suited to each of their interests and needs. Denison does not anticipate working closely with BNDN on this topic.</p> | <b>Adequately Addressed.</b>                                | <p><b>a. Not Addressed.</b></p> <p>BNDN notes that Denison has not made the requested commitment around achieving BATEA for all effluent COPCs.</p> <p><b>b. Not Addressed.</b></p> <p>BNDN requires Denison to commit to ongoing engagement with our Nation on determining suitable effluent discharge criteria for the IWWTP. The engagement process should be formalized in a BNDN-Denison process agreement and eventual Mutual Benefits Agreement.</p> <p><b>Comments for regulators are not addressed</b> and will be addressed through future engagement with the appropriate regulator.</p> | <p>a. As noted in the original response, detailed engineering continues, with a BATEA review, to refine the IWWTP. The final effluent discharge quality characteristics will be submitted with Denison’s operating licence application to the CNSC for their approval.</p> <p>b. Please see response to Comment #2 and Comment #13 for Denison’s response to the request for a project or mutual benefits agreement.</p> <p>c. Not an action for Denison</p> |
| 42       | BNDN<br>(February 28, 2023) | Appendix 8E Table 7                                     | <p>Comment #42: Table 7 of draft EIS Appendix 8e shows the anticipated size of the mixing zone under 3 different flow conditions, including the calculated 7Q10 flow. While BNDN understands that Denison expects to discharge relatively small volumes of effluent to Whitefish Lake compared to a conventional open pit or underground mining operation, BNDN is concerned that the mixing zone assessment underestimates the magnitude of impact that the project will have on Whitefish Lake.</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BNDN requests that Denison undertake a plume delineation study and provide BNDN the opportunity to review the findings of the study through the BNDN-Denison Environmental Committee for the Wheeler River Project.</li> </ul> <p>See Section 4.3 for additional information on this topic (p. 25-28).</p>  | The prediction uncertainty analysis (i.e., “sensitivity analysis”) presented in Appendix 7-C included an evaluation of the change in the model prediction (i.e., plume migration) with respect to changes in the conductivity of materials along the flow path to the receptor, Whitefish Lake (i.e., Scenarios 4, 5, and 6) as well as regarding the hydraulic conductivity of the mined-out ore zone. As such we feel that the work requested by the reviewer has already been completed and reported upon within the draft EIS. In addition, the uncertainty of the Intermediate Sandstone Aquifer was evaluated (see IR55), where higher hydraulic conductivity within the Intermediate Sandstone Aquifer were found to reduce the proportion of water from the ore zone reaching Whitefish Lake, which would have the effect of further reducing (i.e., diluting) concentrations simulated and presented in the EIS documentation. As such, the conditions documented in the draft EIS are already conservative with respect to the uncertainty in these parameters. The near-field  | <b>Adequately Addressed.</b>                                | <b>Addressed.</b>   |  |

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|          |                             |   |  | <p>analysis (Section 8.2.4.2.3) identified that under all flow regime scenarios (i.e., 7Q10, monthly low, and monthly average), constituents are expected to be well mixed within Whitefish Lake (LA-5) and below the most restrictive criteria for the protection of aquatic life (Table 8.2-10; Appendix 8-C and Appendix 8-D). Additionally, the extent of the mixing zone in Whitefish Lake is estimated to be less than 5 m under all flow scenarios assessed (Table 8.2-11). Denison will comply with the Water Security Agency’s Guidelines for Effluent Mixing Zones.</p> <p>The above notwithstanding in-field confirmation of the extent of the effluent mixing zone is anticipated following commissioning of the IWWTP and effluent discharge system during the Operation phase of the Project.</p>  |   |  |   |
| 43       | BNDN<br>(February 28, 2023) | Appendix 10A  | <p>Comment #43: BNDN notes that the environmental risk assessment (draft EIS Appendix 10a) makes no mention of potential impacts the project may have on mercury biogeochemical cycling and the consequent risks to the environment and human health. This is unsurprising given the lack of baseline sampling of mercury in sediments and soils, especially wetland soils.</p> <p>The lack of baseline mercury sampling is a significant oversight given the significant impact that mining operations can have on mercury biogeochemistry, including mercury methylation, and mobility of mercury species within the environment.</p> <p>BNDN is very concerned with the complete lack of assessment of this important consideration for the project and the consequent inability for our members to adequately understand the potential risks to our Treaty and Aboriginal rights from these risks. Note that the absence of baseline information gathered can be reasonably considered an impact on our Treaty and Aboriginal rights as our members will avoid exercising our rights if BNDN lack the information to have confidence that it is safe to do so.</p> | <p>Although baseline concentrations of total mercury in sediment have not been collected during baseline sampling to date, Denison will collect background information pertaining to sediment total and methyl mercury from LSA lakes and rivers prior to site development.</p> <p>As indicated in EIS Section 8.4.6.1, Residual Effects Characterization, mercury is not associated with the local geology and is not expected to be released in the effluent at measurable levels and was therefore not identified as a COPC. Denison notes that there is potential for increased methylmercury production in the receiving environment under a certain combination of factors to which the Project may contribute; however, prediction of methylmercury production is not practical. Denison commits to monitoring mercury and methylmercury in the aquatic environment over the life of the Project to determine the potential changes in mercury concentrations in fish tissue over time.</p> <p>As the Project advances and operational monitoring is underway, Denison will assess health risks from fish consumption by comparing fish tissue data collected during operation from the monitoring program against Health Canada’s mercury guideline of 0.5 ug/g wet weight. This is a human health risk-based maximum permissible concentration. Mercury data presented throughout the draft EIS represents total mercury. Denison agrees to included methylmercury as part of the constituents monitored in fish throughout all project phases.</p> | <b>Adequately Addressed.</b>                                | <p><b>Partially addressed.</b></p> <p>BNDN requires Denison to commit to ongoing involvement of our Nation in mercury monitoring on site. The engagement process should be formalized in a BNDN-Denison process agreement and eventual Mutual Benefits Agreement.</p>  | Please see response to Comment #2 and Comment #13 for Denison’s response to the request for a project or mutual benefits agreement. |
| 44       | BNDN<br>(February 28, 2023) | Table 2.2-4   | <p>Comment #44: In Table 2.2-4 of the Draft EIS, Denison documents their planned chemical used for the project. BNDN notes that Denison intends to use zero-valent iron (ZVI) in the IWWTP, but not as part of the remediation solution for the mine. BNDN notes that ZVI is used to treat contaminants in groundwater around the world. Denison has not discussed whether they have investigated the possibility of utilizing ZVI to remediate the wellfield during decommissioning.</p> <p>Protection of groundwater is of exceptional importance to BNDN. BNDN is concerned that Denison has not made a complete or comprehensive effort to understand how to</p>   | Refinement of the mining area decommissioning objectives and associated modelling will be done through updates to the Decommissioning Plan, and will be bounded by the objectives evaluated in the EIS. The use of zero-valent iron will be evaluated, as applicable.  | <b>Adequately Addressed.</b>                                | <p><b>Not Addressed.</b></p> <p>BNDN requires a commitment from Denison around groundwater remediation. If Denison wishes to defer certain aspects of BNDN’s requests to the Decommissioning Plan, BNDN requires a commitment from Denison negotiate a Project Agreement with our Nation to give confidence that these matters will be addressed in a manner that mitigates impacts to our rights.</p> | Please see response to Comment #2 and Comment #13 for Denison’s response to the request for a project or mutual benefits agreement. |

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|          |                          |   | <p>minimize negative impacts to groundwater from the project using proven technologies that may be suitable for remediating the restoration solution in the wellfield during the decommissioning phase of the mine.</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BNDN requests that Denison investigate the suitability of using zero-valent iron to remediate the groundwater within the wellfield as part of the decommissioning process.</li> </ul> <p>See Section 4.3 for additional information on this topic (p. 25-28).</p>   |  |   |  |   |
| 45       | BNDN (February 28, 2023) | 8.2.4.1.1 Site Water Management                         | <p>Comment #45: BNDN is concerned that the small volume of Effluent Monitoring and Release Ponds may create a lack of operational flexibility. For example, in the EIS, it is stated that:</p> <p>“Treated water from the IWWTP will be pumped to the three Effluent Monitoring and Release Ponds (each 3,300 m3). These ponds will be designed to hold effluent for 72 hours for testing before discharge to the environment.” – EIS, pp 723 If water quality in these ponds exceeds discharge criteria, then there may be a need to store water so that additional treatment and monitoring can occur prior to discharge. However, only having capacity for three days of storage means it is unlikely the Proponent would be able to adequately treat water prior to reaching storage capacity, resulting in a need for emergency release of poor-quality water.</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p> <p>a) BNDN requests that additional storage capacity be included as part of the design for water management system. This must include adequate storage capacity to ensure Denison has the ability to retain water for sufficient time to allow treatment, in the event that exceedances of water quality discharge criteria occur. Alternatively, Denison can commit to halting discharge (and operations if required) should water quality exceed discharge criteria. Discharge into Whitefish Lake would resume once water quality in the Effluent Monitoring and Release Ponds has been returned to below discharge criteria.</p> <p>b) BNDN requests that the CNSC impose a condition of approval for the Project that requires Denison to must meet effluent discharge criteria prior to discharge and must halt operations if treated effluent in the monitoring and release ponds does not meet effluent discharge criteria.</p> <p>See Section 4.4 for additional information on this topic (p. 48-51).</p> <p>[Additional questions on this topic directed to regulators or government entities are included in the CNSC table]</p> | <p>a) During Construction, no effluent is expected to be released to the aquatic environment. Contact water stored in the Clean Waste Rock Pond during Construction will be held onsite until the Industrial Wastewater Treatment Plant (IWWTP) is commissioned. At that time the water from the pond would be conveyed to the IWWTP, treated, and released to Whitefish Lake per permit / license requirements. The sequence for Construction activities will occur in a logical manner based on Project execution plans. For example, construction of the wellfield runoff pond will be prioritized during the early part of Construction and it will able to hold 38,200 m3 of water. This will provide contingency and additional water storage capacity if contact water produced exceeds estimates or the volume available in the Clean Waste Rock Pond. Other secondary contingency measures are also available should the volume of water requiring management exceed site infrastructure storage volume. This could include use a hydrovac for offsite disposal.</p> <p>Section 2 Project Description, Section 2.2.3.9 Treated Effluent Monitoring and Release Ponds of the draft EIS outlines Denison’s commitment to test effluent prior to discharge to Whitefish Lake, to ensure it meets federal and provincial discharge limits. Any pond not meeting the criteria will be recycled back to the Industrial Wastewater Treatment Plant via the process water pond.</p> <p>b) Denison expects the Provincial Approval to Operate a Pollutant Control Facility will contain specific effluent quality limits and monitoring to confirm effluent quality meets the approved limits. Denison will also be required to meet conditions in CNSC licensing documentation, as well as MDMER effluent discharge criteria.</p> | <b>Adequately Addressed.</b>                                | <p><b>a. Not Addressed.</b></p> <p>BNDN notes that the Proponent has not addressed the fact that this is a concern for the operational phase of the mine site and is specific to the efficacy of the effluent treatment plant. BNDN reiterates the request for the Proponent to design the effluent monitoring and release ponds to be increased in capacity to have at least 3 weeks of storage capacity.</p> <p><b>b. Not Addressed.</b></p> <p>BNDN intends to work with the Crown on this condition of approval.</p> <p><b>Comments for regulators are not addressed</b> and will be addressed through future engagement with the appropriate regulator.</p> | <p>a. Denison has ensured that construction of Project components will proceed in a logical order. Denison’s priority will be to construct a wellfield runoff pond capable of holding 38,200 m3 of water. Ponds will be designed to maintain a minimum freeboard of at least 1.0 m to allow for continued functioning during a probable maximum precipitation (PMP) event. The wellfield runoff pond may serve as a contingency and provide additional water storage capacity, if needed. If water volumes surpass onsite storage capacity, additional contingency options are in place – for example, deploying a hydrovac to remove excess water for off-site disposal. Denison considers the planning for pond design to be adequate at this time.</p> <p>b. Not an action for Denison</p> |
| 46       | BNDN (February 28, 2023) | Appendix 8D Aquatic Environment Baseline Study          | <p>Comment #46: Fish community sampling is an important component of baseline studies for many reasons, including identifying species present (including any species at risk) and evaluating relative abundance (e.g., CPUE). A robust program should include multi-season and multi-year</p>   | <p>It is Denison’s and their aquatic SME’s opinion that the baseline fish community sampling efforts, including information provide from Indigenous and local resource users, provide a sufficient basis for conducting an effects assessment (draft EIS Section 8.3 Fish and Fish Habitat). Based on the information collected there is a good understanding</p>  | <b>Adequately Addressed.</b>                                | <p><b>46 a. Not Addressed</b></p> <p>It is BNDN’s opinion that the baseline fish community sampling efforts do not provide a sufficient basis for conducting an effects assessment. It is standard practice for aquatic</p>  | <p>a. As noted previously, the existing information provides a clear picture of species presence, relative abundance, and key habitats. Denison and its aquatic SME believe that their sampling efforts and engagement with Indigenous and local resources users are more than adequate</p>   |

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|          |        |   | <p>approach. This allows improved characterization of seasonal habitat use and accounts for natural variability.</p> <p>In the baseline aquatic assessments, the Proponent has focused fish community sampling in fall 2016, with some limited additional sampling of in spring 2017. This low level of effort will make it difficult to draw meaningful comparisons with monitoring work that will occur during the life of mine.</p> <p>Furthermore, CPUE has only been reported for electrofishing effort. As a result, there is very limited information available for relative abundance of fish in important waterbodies, including Whitefish Lake, McGowan Lake, and Russell Lake.</p> <p><b>**BNDN notes that a raw representation of total effort is provided in table A-13 of Appendix 8D but requests that an assessment of total effort, total catch, and CPUE be presented in the EIS for each capture method/location**</b></p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p> <p>a) BNDN requests that the Proponent build on the existing data for fish community sampling by collecting an additional round of spring and fall sampling.</p> <p>b) BNDN requests that an assessment of total effort, total catch, and CPUE be provided for each capture method/location where fish sampling has occurred.</p> <p>See Section 4.4 for additional information on this topic (p. 48-51).</p> | <p>of fish species presence / absence, relative abundance, fish habitat character tics including areas that contribute to important life history stages (e.g., spawning areas) and fish habitat use. Denison does not believe further extensive baseline collection are needed to support the environmental assessment process but will implement targeted aquatic surveys prior to site development (see below).</p> <p>With respect to inclusion of the additional information requested the following is noted. Both detailed and summary data are presented in the Baseline Aquatic Environment Report that was provided as an appendix to the draft EIS. Effort and catch by sampling gear type by sampling location are shown for example in Table A-13 of the Baseline Aquatic Environment Report and metrics such as CPUE and total catches can be derived from these data if desired. Denison does not see the need to derive these metrics for presentation in the final version of the EIS (and supporting documents). This is in part related to the fact that the aquatic effects assessment did use abundance / relative abundance metrics such as CPUE as measurable parameters (MPs; a parameter or metric associated with a key indicator that can be used to detect and measure Project-related changes) to represent the fish and fish habitat VC, nor would it have been practical to use them for this purpose. There would be no practical or reliable way to derive such a prediction of change relative to Project-aquatic habitat interactions.</p> <p>While abundance / relative abundance metrics may be reported during future monitoring they would not likely be seen as a key measurable parameters for fish monitoring. More subtle measures of fish health would be used for this purpose – it is reasonable to assume that fish health measures will be more sensitive to change than abundance measures and provide an earlier indication of potential Project-related effects. This is what is envisioned and required by the MDMER EEM program, whereby measures of fish health (e.g., growth, reproduction, condition) are used to assess potential effects. As noted above, Denison will implement targeted aquatic surveys prior to site development. At this time it is envisioned that a pre- development EEM program survey following guidance provided in the Metal Mining Technical Guidance Document will be implemented at the site, with sampling at future effluent exposed and reference areas. Best practice is to undertake an analysis of candidate reference areas using the existing baseline information and investigate their utility as controls prior to project development. Execution of the pre-development EEM represents a Before-After-Control-Impact (BACI) design for aquatic monitoring, that will provide the ability to monitor change temporally (among sampling periods) and spatially (among sampling areas), thereby providing a more robust means by which to assess potential mine related effects.</p> |   | <p>baseline surveys to be undertaken in spring and fall for at least two years.</p> <p>Conducting relatively low community sampling effort in Sept 2016 and May 2017 does not provide adequate information on species diversity, abundance, or other measures of fish health for meaningful comparison. Such limited data creates a high likelihood of sampling bias and will make it exceedingly difficult to distinguish whether future changes are a result of impacts from the project or simply natural variations.</p> <p><b>46 b. Addressed</b></p> | <p>as the basis to predict potential project and cumulative effects; thus, no further broad baseline studies are planned, though targeted aquatic surveys will precede site development. For reference, additional water quality and sediment sampling has been conducted, and fish have been collected for chemical and radiological analysis of tissues. Moreover, a commitment to complete a full EEM program prior to operations has been made.</p> |

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| 47       | BNDN<br>(February 28, 2023) | 8.2.5 Mitigation Measures                               | <p>Comment #47: The Proponent has identified one mitigation measure that includes sharing of monitoring results to assess performance of water management system (EIS, pp 8-90, 8.2.5 Mitigation Measures). BNDN is supportive of this type of information sharing and believes that it can be an important component of transparency and trust-building between the Proponent and other parties. However, it is important that information sharing be done in a way that is accessible to community members.</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BNDN requests involvement in discussions with Denison about sharing of information related to water quality monitoring (and environmental monitoring more broadly). Some methods of communication that may support accessibility of data include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Public-facing summary reports on a regular schedule (e.g., quarterly or annually)</li> <li>Real-time access to environmental monitoring data through online database portals.</li> <li>Semi-regular community meetings hosted in Turnor Lake (e.g., every 12-18 months, as decided in conjunction with BNDN leadership within a Project Agreement with BNDN).</li> <li>Presentations to BNDN staff, leadership, and/or community members by BNDN Environmental Monitors. The specific methods used for information sharing and appropriate levels of support from Denison can be determined through consultation with BNDN.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>See Section 4.4 for additional information on this topic (p. 48-51).</p> | <p>Denison agrees with BNDN that water quality monitoring will be interest to Indigenous nations and communities. As the Indigenous Communities of Interest with reserves and residential communities most proximal to the Project, Denison has committed to collaborating with English River First Nation and Kineepik Métis Local on a monitoring regime, suited to each of their interests and needs. As part of these programs, Denison and the Indigenous community of ERFN and KML will be sharing information in an agreed-upon fashion. It is expected that the data collected through such monitoring regimes would also be relevant to other Indigenous nations who may have interest in the Project. BNDN will be informed throughout the monitoring program design and implementation process. Further details on the Public Information Program and Public Disclosure will form part of the documentation submitted in support of the CNSC licensing for the Project. It is also noted for further reference that there are existing, non-Denison monitoring programs such as the CNSC's Independent Environmental Monitoring Program (<a href="https://nuclearsafety.gc.ca/eng/resources/maps-of-nuclear-facilities/iemp/index.cfm">https://nuclearsafety.gc.ca/eng/resources/maps-of-nuclear-facilities/iemp/index.cfm</a>), and the Eastern Athabasca Regional Monitoring Program (<a href="http://www.earmrp.ca/">www.earmrp.ca/</a>). Results from these programs provide relevant information and can complement Denison's Project-specific monitoring program. One forum for discussion of monitoring results is the Northern Saskatchewan Environmental Quality Committee(<a href="https://www.saskatchewan.ca/residents/first-nations-citizens/saskatchewan-first-nationsmetis-and-northern-initiatives/northern-saskatchewan-environmental-quality-committee">https://www.saskatchewan.ca/residents/first-nations-citizens/saskatchewan-first-nationsmetis-and-northern-initiatives/northern-saskatchewan-environmental-quality-committee</a>). Please see response to Comment #19 for Denison's response on a Project agreement.</p>          | <b>Adequately Addressed.</b>                                | <p><b>Partially Addressed</b></p> <p>BNDN agrees that the information shared with English River First Nation and the Kineepik Métis Local is likely to be of interest to BNDN. However, our request for discussions with Denison about information sharing have been ignored. The refusal of even discussing such a possibility with BNDN is not reflective of the need for meaningful consultation on this Project.</p> | Please see response to Comment #2 and Comment #13 for Denison's response to the request for a project or mutual benefits agreement. |
| 48       | BNDN<br>(February 28, 2023) | 8.5 Fish Health   | <p>Comment #48: The Proponent has completed predictive modelling for concentrations of contaminants in fish tissue. For example, results of modeling for selenium indicate that concentrations will fluctuate throughout operations but remain below the recommended criterion of 2.83 mg/kg wet weight (from the US EPA). Should the Project proceed, information on contaminants in fish tissues will be highly relevant for BNDN and land users who eat fish from the area.</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BNDN requests that results of fish tissue monitoring (e.g., EEM studies) be shared in a publicly available and accessible way. This must include comparisons with guidelines and information on other contaminants of importance (e.g., mercury). Discussions regarding how this information can be shared with BNDN should occur alongside the discussions related to water quality monitoring results (see comment above).</li> </ul> <p>See Section 4.4 for additional information on this topic (p. 48-51).</p>  | <p>Denison agrees with BNDN that results of fish tissue monitoring will be interest to Indigenous nations and communities. As the Indigenous Communities of Interest with reserves and residential communities most proximal to the Project, Denison has committed to collaborating with English River First Nation and Kineepik Métis Local on a monitoring regime, suited to each of their interests and needs. As part of these programs, Denison and the Indigenous community of ERFN and KML will be sharing information in an agreed-upon fashion. It is expected that the data collected through such monitoring regimes would also be relevant to other Indigenous nations who may have interest in the Project. BNDN will be informed throughout the monitoring program design and implementation process. Further details on the Public Information Program and Public Disclosure will form part of the documentation submitted in support of the CNSC licensing for the Project. It is also noted for further reference that there are existing, non-Denison monitoring programs such as the CNSC's Independent Environmental Monitoring Program (<a href="https://nuclearsafety.gc.ca/eng/resources/maps-of-nuclear-facilities/iemp/index.cfm">https://nuclearsafety.gc.ca/eng/resources/maps-of-nuclear-facilities/iemp/index.cfm</a>), and the Eastern Athabasca Regional Monitoring Program (<a href="http://www.earmrp.ca/">www.earmrp.ca/</a>). Results from these programs provide relevant information and can complement Denison's Project-specific monitoring program. One forum for discussion of monitoring results is the Northern Saskatchewan Environmental Quality Committee(<a href="https://www.saskatchewan.ca/residents/first-nations-citizens/saskatchewan-first-nationsmetis-and-northern-initiatives/northern-saskatchewan-environmental-quality-committee">https://www.saskatchewan.ca/residents/first-nations-citizens/saskatchewan-first-nationsmetis-and-northern-initiatives/northern-saskatchewan-environmental-quality-committee</a>). Please see response to Comment #19 for Denison's response on a Project agreement.</p> | <b>Adequately Addressed.</b>                                | <p><b>Partially Addressed</b></p> <p>BNDN agrees that the information shared with English River First Nation and the Kineepik Métis Local is likely to be of interest to BNDN. However, our request for discussions with Denison about information sharing have been ignored. The refusal of even discussing such a possibility with BNDN is not reflective of the need for meaningful consultation on this Project.</p> | Please see response to Comment #2 and Comment #13 for Denison's response to the request for a project or mutual benefits agreement. |

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|----------|-----------------------------|---|--|--|---|---|--|
|          |                             |   |  | <p><a href="#">nuclear-facilities/iemp/index.cfm</a>), and the Eastern Athabasca Regional Monitoring Program (<a href="#">www.earmp.ca/</a>). Results from these programs provide relevant information and can complement Denison’s Project-specific monitoring program. One forum for discussion of monitoring results is the Northern Saskatchewan Environmental Quality Committee(<a href="https://www.saskatchewan.ca/residents/first-nations-citizens/saskatchewan-first-nationsmetis-and-northern-initiatives/northern-saskatchewan-environmental-quality-committee">https://www.saskatchewan.ca/residents/first-nations-citizens/saskatchewan-first-nationsmetis-and-northern-initiatives/northern-saskatchewan-environmental-quality-committee</a>).</p> <p>Please see response to Comment #19 for Denison’s response on a Project agreement.</p>  |   |   |  |
| 49       | BNDN<br>(February 28, 2023) | 8.3 Fish and Fish Habitat                               | <p>Comment #49: Increased fishing pressure in Whitefish Lake from employees working at the Project site and increased ability for visitors due to improved access could negatively impact fish populations.</p> <p>Preferred species, large-bodied fish, and older individuals are most likely to be targeted. This may have negative consequences on the population structure of fish in the lake as well as the ability of BNDN members to exercise fishing rights.</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BNDN recommends that the policies Denison sets related to staff and contractors fishing while on site are determined collaboratively with BNDN through the Environmental Committee defined in a BNDN-Denison project agreement.</li> </ul> <p>See Section 4.4 for additional information on this topic (p. 48-51).</p> | <p>Please note that the Project will not change public access to the area. The existing gate on Highway 914 near Cameco’s Key Lake Operation will remain in place and no changes to the gate and the process for controlling access to Highway 914 north of the Key Lake Operation are proposed as part of the Wheeler River Project. As described in the draft EIS, workforce members will be transported to/from site via a fly-in/fly-out rotation and will, therefore, not use ground travel options during shift changes, which will eliminate fishing on local lakes during commutes to/from the site and during time off work. Denison site vehicles will not be available for recreational purposes. While at the Project site and off duty, workers may opt to fish local waterbodies. To protect sustainable use of resources, only catch and release of fish will be encouraged, and fish storage or cooking facilities will not be provided. To prevent entry of land users from entering the Project Area, Denison will control access to the property with both a north and south security gate. Overall, given a lack of resources to access fishing locations and store fish harvests, workforce fishing is expected to cause minimal disturbances to local users. Section 11 of the draft EIS provides the assessment of potential Project effects on Indigenous Land and Resource Use (Section 11.1) and Other Land and Resource Use (Section 11.2). The mitigation measures proposed in the aquatic and terrestrial assessments translated into undetectable changes in resource availability to existing and future users and rightsolders. The assessment does not take a distinctions-based approach (i.e., the potential impact on each Indigenous community is not evaluated separately), but rather on the key indicators and associated measurable parameters. Mitigation to eliminate, reduce, or control potential adverse effects of the Project on Indigenous Land and Resource Use would apply to any uses proximal to the Project. Given proven mitigation is to be applied to traffic disturbances, noise, air quality, and increased competition for resources, the effects are expected to be minimal. As outlined in Denison’s Indigenous Peoples Policy, Denison is committed to respecting Indigenous knowledge and values regarding environmental stewardship and Indigenous peoples’</p> | <b>Adequately Addressed.</b>                                | <b>Addressed.</b>                                     |  |



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|          |                          |   |   | <p>connection to the land, and to minimize potential effects, wherever possible.</p> <p>Detailed Project plans and programs related to staff and contractor fishing will be developed to support Project permitting and licensing efforts.</p>  |   |   |  |
| 50       | BNDN (February 28, 2023) | 8.3.4 Assessment of Project-related Effects             | <p>Comment #50: The EIS provides very few details regarding how spills, leaks, and other accidents and malfunctions will be managed to mitigate the impacts on fish and fish habitat. Over the life of the mine there will inevitably be accidents and malfunctions. One of the most common environmental issues that will be encountered is leaks and spills. These can typically be managed through good monitoring and preparedness, though if they occur near water, the ability to clean them quickly is difficult and can result in harm to aquatic communities.</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BNDN request additional information regarding the development of spill prevention programs, emergency management procedures, and monitoring and remediation programs for accidents and malfunctions. Representatives from BNDN need to be included in the planning and execution of monitoring and remediation activities to provide community perspectives in Project activities. One method through which BNDN can be involved in these discussions is through the development of an Environmental Committee (see comment #51 also).</li> </ul> <p>See Section 4.4 for additional information on this topic (p. 48- 51).</p> | <p>A standalone Accidents and Malfunctions (A&amp;M) assessment was completed and is summarized in Section 14 of the EIS (full report is Appendix 14-A of the EIS). The A&amp;M assessment considered almost 70 accident scenarios including many that would relate to the unplanned release of chemicals and radiation to the environment with potential to effect country foods. Specific scenarios including the release of chemicals and radiation to the aquatic environment and to the terrestrial environment adjacent to the ERFN and KML culture camps located along Hwy 914. The overall risks in consideration of likelihood and consequence were characterized as low. The assessment concluded that with planned engineering / environmental design features, mitigation measures, and emergency response, as well as implementing industry best practices that the risks to the environment from accidents and malfunctions can be reduced to levels that are as low as reasonably practical.</p> <p>Section 2.9.1.3 of the draft EIS provides Denison’s commitment to develop an Environmental Management System, which includes an Emergency Preparedness and Response Program (EPRP) and an Environmental Protection Program (EPP; including an Environmental Monitoring Plan). The EPRP would be established to identify how the Project will prepare for and addresses emergencies that may affect the health and safety of persons, the environment, and the protection of property. The EPRP would be developed in a manner that aligns with guidance provided by CNSC in REGDOC-2.10.1. The EPP would be established to provide an overarching framework for key environmental monitoring and management plans and to ensure a means to demonstrate compliance with applicable environmental regulatory requirements and other performance targets that Denison may set. As noted on the draft EIS, Denison has opted to execute the overall Project approvals process – that is, the environmental assessment and licensing ! permitting processes – in series and not simultaneously. A such, the details of these programs and plans will be developed during the licensing! permitting phase and will be available for review at that time rather than as part of the final EIS. The level of information provided in the draft EIS is appropriate for the current stage of the Project approvals process.</p> <p>As the Indigenous Communities of Interest with reserves and residential communities most proximal to the Project, Denison has committed to collaborating with English River First Nation and Kineepik Métis Local on a monitoring regime, suited to each of their interests and needs. As part of these programs, Denison and the Indigenous community of</p> | <b>Adequately Addressed.</b>                                | <p><b>Partially Addressed.</b></p> <p>BNDN appreciates the additional information provided on accidents and malfunctions and on the Emergency Preparedness and Response Program.</p> <p>However, BNDN notes that the refusal to develop an Environmental Committee or similar mechanism with BNDN is not reflective of the need for meaningful consultation and active involvement on this Project.</p> | <p>Similar to Denison’s response to Comment #2 and Comment #13 with respect to BNDN’s request for a project or mutual benefits agreement, Denison has committed to collaborating in respect of a monitoring and information sharing regime with Indigenous communities of interest, and anticipates that information from this engagement will be potentially relevant to BNDN and other Indigenous communities. Denison has not been provided information to change its assessment.</p> |



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|----------|-----------------------------|---|---|---|---|--|--|
|          |                             |   |   | ERFN and KML will be sharing information in an agreed-upon fashion. It is expected that the data collected through such monitoring regimes as described above would also be relevant to other Indigenous nations who may have interest in the Project. Denison does not anticipate any funding to BNDN at this time. BNDN will be informed throughout the monitoring program design and implementation process. Monitoring program design and implementation will be guided by the following principles: programs will meet regulatory requirements, programs will confirm the effectiveness of mitigation measures and predictions made in the assessment, programs will be implemented in an adaptive management framework (if/where applicable) to reduce effects during the lifetime of the Project, and program spatial boundaries will be sufficiently extensive to measure EIS predictions.  |   |  |  |
| 51       | BNDN<br>(February 28, 2023) | 8.3.8<br>Monitoring and Follow-up                       | <p>Comment #51: There is no discussion on how Indigenous communities, such as BNDN, will be included in environmental management, emergency management, monitoring, and remediation. This includes issues related to ongoing permitting or specific remediation such as in the case of an accident or malfunction.</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To support BNDN’s ongoing participation in monitoring and oversight of the Project, BNDN request the establishment of an Environmental Committee or similar oversight mechanism. The purpose of the committee will be to review monitoring data and monitoring reports produced during the life-of-mine to ensure that the environmental protection is sufficient for all VCs. The committee can also participate in permitting throughout the life-of-mine for all relevant applications (e.g., Fisheries Act Authorizations, water permits, Closure Plan updates etc.) and provide input to management plans (e.g., EPPs, Surface Water Management Plan, Environmental Monitoring Plans, etc.). The specific details of such a committee can be developed through consultation with BNDN and must be formalized through a BNDN-Denison project agreement.</li> </ul> <p>See Section 4.4 for additional information on this topic (p. 48-51).</p> | <p>As the Indigenous Communities of Interest with reserves and residential communities most proximal to the Project, Denison has committed to collaborating with English River First Nation and Kineepik Métis Local on a monitoring regime, suited to each of their interests and needs. As part of these programs, Denison and the Indigenous community of ERFN and KML will be sharing information in an agreed-upon fashion. It is expected that the data collected through such monitoring regimes as described above would also be relevant to other Indigenous nations who may have interest in the Project. Denison does not anticipate any funding to BNDN at this time.</p> <p>BNDN will be informed throughout the monitoring program design and implementation process. Monitoring program design and implementation will be guided by the following principles: meet regulatory requirements, confirm the effectiveness of mitigation measures and predictions made in the assessment, implementing adaptive management (if/where applicable) to reduce effects during the lifetime of the Project, and will ensure that spatial boundaries are sufficiently extensive to measure EIS predictions.</p> | <b>Adequately Addressed.</b>                                | <b>Not Addressed</b><br><br>The refusal to develop an Environmental Committee or similar mechanism with BNDN is not reflective of the need for meaningful consultation and active involvement on this Project. | Please see response to Comment #2 and Comment #13 for Denison’s response to the request for environmental committee. |
| 52       | BNDN<br>(February 28, 2023) | 8.3.5<br>Mitigation Measures                            | <p>Comment #52: Mitigation measures are an important component of Project management which are critical for environmental protection. Upon review of the suggested mitigation measures, BNDN has identified some opportunities for additional mitigation.</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BNDN request that the following standard mitigation measures be included as part of the list described in Section 8.3.5: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintain vegetated buffers of at least 100m with all waterbodies wherever practical;</li> </ul> </li> </ul>   | <p>Denison acknowledges the input and will consider the suggestions as the project moves forward. The draft EIS contains a number of mitigations referenced in different biophysical and human environment assessments; these mitigations together form Denison’s fulsome commitment list of Project mitigation measures moving forward. Many of the proposed additional mitigation measures are already included in the draft EIS. A few examples are provided here:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Section 2.2.7.6: No fuels, oils, or other hazardous substances will be stored within 100 m of any water body. No equipment</li> </ul>  | <b>Adequately Addressed.</b>                                | <b>Addressed.</b>  |  |

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|          |        |   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ All equipment must be inspected prior to use on-site to ensure that they are clean and free of soil or other contaminants;</li> <li>○ Maintain spill kits on all vehicles used on-site;</li> <li>○ All machinery will be kept in good working order and inspected regularly for drips, leaks, and spills;</li> <li>○ In the event of a spill, Denison will take all necessary actions, where it is safe to do so, to immediately stop the spill, contain contaminants, clean up and dispose of contaminated materials;</li> <li>○ Denison will maintain a record of all spills and report upon each spill within 48 hours, including information on spill response, cleanup, and remediation;</li> <li>○ Vehicle refueling will occur at a distance of at least 100m;</li> <li>○ Fuel tanks will be located in areas that are lined and contained;</li> <li>○ Fuel tanks will be located at least 500m from known waterbodies.</li> </ul> <p>See Section 4.4 for additional information on this topic (p. 48-51).</p> | <p>maintenance or re-fuelling will be conducted within 100 m of a water body.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Section 2.8: Fuel storage and distribution infrastructure will be constructed in accordance with applicable legislation requirements; Fuels will be stored in approved, above-ground, double-walled storage tank(s) equipped with secondary containment in accordance with provincial regulations and standards; Stationary and mobile equipment will be fueled with a fuel-dispensing truck.</li> <li>• Section 9.2.5.2.7: Standard operating procedures will be employed, and regular inspections of equipment and machinery will be completed to verify they are in good working order; Vehicles and equipment will be maintained in good working condition (e.g., no leaks) and furnished with industry-standard spill response kits.</li> </ul> <p>Denison also notes that Section 2.9.1.3 of the draft EIS provides Denison's commitment to develop an Environmental Management System, which includes an Emergency Preparedness and Response Program (EPRP) and an Environmental Protection Program (EPP; including an Environmental Monitoring Plan). The EPRP would be established to identify how the Project will prepare for and addresses emergencies that may affect the health and safety of persons, the environment, and the protection of property. The EPRP would be developed in a manner that aligns with guidance provided by CNSC in REGDOC-2.10.1. The EPP would be established to provide an overarching framework for key environmental monitoring and management plans and to ensure a means to demonstrate compliance with applicable environmental regulatory requirements and other performance targets that Denison may set. As noted on the draft EIS, Denison has opted to execute the overall Project approvals process - that is, the environmental assessment and licensing / permitting processes - in series and not simultaneously. A such, the details of these programs and plans will be developed during the licensing / permitting phase and will be available for review at that time rather than as part of the final EIS. The level of information provided in the draft EIS is appropriate for the current stage of the Project approvals process.</p> <p>As the Indigenous Communities of Interest with reserves and residential communities most proximal to the Project, Denison has committed to collaborating with English River First Nation and Kineepik Métis Local on a monitoring regime, suited to each of their interests and needs. As part of these programs, Denison and the Indigenous community of ERFN and KML will be sharing information in an agreed-upon fashion. It is expected that the data collected through such monitoring regimes as described above would also be relevant to other Indigenous nations who may have interest in the Project. Denison does not anticipate any funding to</p> |   |   |  |

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|----------|-----------------------------|---|--|--|---|--|--|
|          |                             |   |  | BNDN at this time. BNDN will be informed throughout the monitoring program design and implementation process. Monitoring program design and implementation will be guided by the following principles: meet regulatory requirements, confirm the effectiveness of mitigation measures and predictions made in the assessment, implementing adaptive management (if/where applicable) to reduce effects during the lifetime of the Project, and will ensure that spatial boundaries are sufficiently extensive to measure EIS predictions.  |   |  |  |
| 53       | BNDN<br>(February 28, 2023) | 8.3 Fish and Fish Habitat                               | <p>Comment #53: Unfortunately, due to the nature of planning and licensing for complex projects such as the Wheeler River mine, there are many documents, plans, licenses and approvals which may not be available for review during the environmental assessment process, or which will take place subsequent to completion of the assessment. For example, Denison will be preparing important documentation governing environmental management of the Project following the Environmental Assessment. While these are not currently available, there is a need to engage with BNDN to obtain input on these documents as planning progresses.</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BNDN requests that Denison consult with our staff members and advisors on important environmental documentation/plans/license s that are not available as part of the EA process. This list includes, but is not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Surface Water Management Program</li> <li>Erosion and Sediment Control Plan</li> <li>Fish Salvage Plan</li> <li>Spill Response Plan</li> <li>MDMER approvals and EEM plans</li> <li>Saskatchewan Water Security Agency permits for Aquatic habitat protection</li> <li>Operating a waterworks</li> <li>Operating a sewage works</li> <li>Effluent Monitoring Plan</li> <li>Environmental Monitoring Plan(s)</li> <li>Decommissioning and Reclamation Plan</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Engagement with BNDN on these plans should occur through an Environmental Committee or similar oversight mechanism (see above). The specific details of such a committee can be developed through consultation with BNDN and must be formalized through a BNDN- Denison project agreement for the Wheeler River Project. See Section 4.4 for additional information on this topic (p. 48-51).</p> | <p>As the Indigenous Communities of Interest with reserves and residential communities most proximal to the Project, Denison has committed to collaborating with English River First Nation and Kineepik Métis Local on a monitoring regime, suited to each of their interests and needs. As part of these programs, Denison and the Indigenous community of ERFN and KML will be sharing information in an agreed-upon fashion. It is expected that the data collected through such monitoring regimes as described above would also be relevant to other Indigenous nations who may have interest in the Project. Denison doesplanning and execution of monitoring and remediation activities to provide community perspectives in Project activities not anticipate any funding to BNDN at this time.</p> <p>BNDN will be informed throughout the monitoring program design and implementation process. Monitoring program design and implementation will be guided by the following principles: meet regulatory requirements, confirm the effectiveness of mitigation measures and predictions made in the assessment, implementing adaptive management (if/where applicable) to reduce effects during the lifetime of the Project, and will ensure that spatial boundaries are sufficiently extensive to measure EIS predictions.</p> | <b>Adequately Addressed.</b>                                | <p><b>Not Addressed</b></p> <p>The refusal to commit to involvement of BNDN in ongoing planning and licencing (including the development of an Environmental Committee or similar mechanism) is not reflective of the need for meaningful consultation and active involvement on this Project.</p> | Please see response to Comment #2 and Comment #13 for Denison’s response to the request for environmental committee. |
| 54       | BNDN<br>(February 28, 2023) | 8.4.3.1<br>Methodology and Metrics                      | <p>Comment #54: The collection of sediment samples was completed using cores and grab petit Ponar in three upstream reference locations (LA-7A, LA-8, and LA-9), Whitefish Lake (LA-5 and LA-6), McGowan Lake (LA-1), and Russell Lake (LAB-1 and LAB-2). Sediment quality testing was conducted to characterize COPC including nutrients, metals, and radionuclides.</p>  | <p>Baseline sediment chemistry was conducted on the 0-2cm horizon as this is the area in contact with surface water and the zone inhabited by benthic invertebrates. It is also the sediment layer in which changes in sediment chemistry would be expected to change in response to Project-related inputs and thus provides the most appropriate data for comparison to follow-up monitoring.</p>  | <b>Adequately Addressed.</b>                                | <b>Addressed.</b>  |  |

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|----------|-----------------------------|---|--|---|---|---|--|
|          |                             |   | <p>Only the top 2 cm of cores of grab samples were analyzed in the lab. It is not clear in the methodology why laboratory analysis was limited to the top 2 cm.</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BNDN requests additional information on the rational for only analyzing COPC within the top 2 cm of sediment samples. This should include information on whether this limited data will negatively affect the ability to evaluate potential impacts of groundwater contamination entering Whitefish Lake from below during operations, decommissioning, and future centuries.</li> </ul> <p>See Section 4.4 for additional information on this topic (p. 48-51).</p>   | <p>As the Indigenous Communities of Interest with reserves and residential communities most proximal to the Project, Denison has committed to collaborating with English River First Nation and Kineepik Métis Local on a monitoring regime, suited to each of their interests and needs. As part of these programs, Denison and the Indigenous community of ERFN and KML will be sharing information in an agreed-upon fashion. It is expected that the data collected through such monitoring regimes as described above would also be relevant to other Indigenous nations who may have interest in the Project. Denison does not anticipate any funding to BNDN at this time.</p> <p>BNDN will be informed throughout the monitoring program design and implementation process. Monitoring program design and implementation will be guided by the following principles: meet regulatory requirements, confirm the effectiveness of mitigation measures and predictions made in the assessment, implementing adaptive management (if/where applicable) to reduce effects during the lifetime of the Project, and will ensure that spatial boundaries are sufficiently extensive to measure EIS predictions.</p> <p>The details of monitoring and follow-up plans are being developed to support the separate process of Project licensing and permitting. The specific means by which provincial and federal authorities, and Indigenous Nations and communities will be engaged in developing the follow-up and monitoring program, including the information-sharing program, are currently under consideration with the Denison project team. It is noted that Section 4.2.1 of the draft EIS provides the variety of ways in which Denison has engaged with Interested Parties to date and it is assumed it would continue to use these means and others that may be identified to fulfil its key corporate principals for developing positive relationships (see draft EIS Section 4.2).</p> |   |   |  |
| 55       | BNDN<br>(February 28, 2023) | 8.4.3.2.3<br>Metals                                     | <p>Comment #55: Despite significant concerns regarding the presence of mercury in water and sediment, the Proponent has elected not to test sediments for it. BNDN acknowledges that the mining process does not use mercury and it is present in low levels in the background environment. However, for the purposes of good stewardship, communications, and trust, having an assessment of the background levels of mercury is important to BNDN.</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BNDN requests that the proponent sample sediments for mercury to establish background levels. This is information that is culturally important given the potential harm and the psychological toll of mercury in aquatic ecosystems. Background levels can then be compared with ongoing monitoring throughout the life of mine.</li> </ul> <p>See Section 4.4 for additional information on this topic (p. 48-51).</p> | Denison will collect background information pertaining to sediment total and methyl mercury from LSA lakes and rivers prior to site development.  | <b>Adequately Addressed.</b>                                | <b>Addressed.</b>                                     |  |

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| 56       | BNDN<br>(February 28, 2023) | Table 8.5-2:<br>Baseline Fish Tissue Chemistry Summary                                  | <p>Comment #56: In Section 8.5 Fish Health, the Proponent has included a summary table with information on contaminants in fish tissue and bone tissue. The information provided does not include total number of samples.</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BNDN requests table 8.5-2 be updated with information on total number of fish (n) samples for each location.</li> </ul> <p>See Section 4.4 for additional information on this topic (p. 48-51).</p>   | The requested information is presented in Appendix 8-D in the draft EIS.  | <b>Adequately Addressed.</b>                                | <b>Addressed</b> – the information is found in Table 3-10 of Appendix 8-D   |  |
| 57       | BNDN<br>(February 28, 2023) | 9.2.5.2<br>Additional Vegetation-specific Mitigation Measures                           | <p>Comment #57: The Proponent has committed to using seed that is certified weed-free, with a valid “Certificate of Seed Analysis” for the revegetation process.</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BNDN recommends that, in addition to using weed-free certified seeds, consultation occur with Indigenous communities, including BNDN, to select an appropriate seed mix that closely mimics the pre-construction plant community and includes plants of medicinal and traditional importance. This could be done by either sourcing seed mix from a local seed distributor, or using wild seed propagated from plants collected from the Project Area. In addition, the seed mix should contain native plant species only.</li> </ul> <p>See Section 4.5 for additional information on this topic (p. 59-60).</p> | <p>Specific details of the seed mixture and overall reclamation plan will be developed through updates to the Decommissioning Plan, on which Interested Parties will be provided opportunity for review and input. The decommission plan in the EIS is a conceptual plan. A preliminary decommissioning plan will be included with licence application and reviewed and updated during operations. Prior to executing Decommissioning activities, Denison shall prepare and submit a detailed decommissioning plan to regulators for acceptance, which builds on the preliminary decommissioning plan.</p> <p>Additionally, Denison has partnered with the University of Saskatchewan and Northwest Communities Environmental Services (an Indigenous-owned environmental company) under the Developing Eco-Restoration Together (DERT) program. This unique project aims to co-create ecological restoration practices that centre Indigenous peoples, worldviews, and values while also braiding knowledge from the land, Indigenous knowledge, and western science. The project is supported by the three partners but is ultimately guided by the Indigenous Project Advisory Board, and the Community Liaison/Education Coordinator. Through restoration trials, community engagement, and various planting techniques, Denison, with their partners are seeking to return ecosystem functions in areas where they have been previously disturbed (e.g., exploration cutlines). Through collaboration with community members, University of Saskatchewan, industry partners, two graduate students, and local youth, this project is expected to ultimately inform the creation of a framework for effective restoration practices in northern Saskatchewan that centre on caribou and Indigenous communities.</p> | <b>Adequately Addressed.</b>                                | <b>Addressed.</b>   |  |
| 58       | BNDN<br>(February 28, 2023) | 9.3.4.2.1<br>Alteration and/or Loss of Habitat Figure 9.3-9 Available Habitat for Moose | <p>Comment #58: The EIS uses a 500 m buffer around the Project Area to define indirect habitat alteration for moose (Figure 9.3-9). This includes habitat alteration from sensory disturbance such as anthropogenic noises, vehicle traffic, aircraft traffic, and increased predator access. However, the EIS references scientific research that states that roads and vehicle traffic can affect moose habitat selection, resulting in habitat avoidance up to 1 km from roads (Shanley and Pyare 2011).</p>  | <p>It is Denison's and their terrestrial SME's opinion that the approach used to characterize moose habitat alteration provided a sufficient basis for conducting the ungulate (VC) moose (KI) effects assessment (draft EIS Section 9.3). The Project Area had a 500 m buffer applied to account for indirect effects/habitat alteration; this area is within the wildlife LSA. Availability of habitat is not a key limiting factor for moose populations.</p>  | <b>Adequately Addressed.</b>                                | <p><b>Not Addressed</b></p> <p>The response does not adequately address BNDN’s concern that the 500 m buffer underestimates the extent of moose habitat alteration. BNDN reiterates the following points.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I) The selection of a 500 m buffer appears arbitrary and is not substantiated by peer-reviewed literature. Research (Shanley and Pyare 2011) indicates that moose may avoid</li> </ul> | <p>While Denison acknowledges the comments, no further information beyond that in the original response, as well as the EIS and its supporting documents, is provided. Denison and its subject matter experts believe the buffer zone used to consider the habitat alteration is appropriate as presented in the final EIS. The assessment was scrutinized by various subject matter</p> |

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|----------|-----------------------------|--|--|---|---|---|---|
|          |                             |  | <p>Furthermore, the EIS acknowledges uncertainty concerning the available background and baseline information used to identify available moose habitat in this assessment.</p> <p>Without considering a larger avoidance buffer (as demonstrated in various research) around proposed anthropogenic disturbances, BNDN believe that the EIS underestimates the potential extent of moose habitat alteration. To be more conservative, a 1000 m buffer should be used surrounding the Project area.</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BNDN recommends using a 1000 m buffer surrounding the Project Area to measure the extent of moose habitat alteration. BNDN believe this analysis will provide a more accurate and conservative outcome with respect to potential project impacts to moose.</li> </ul> <p>See Section 4.5 for additional information on this topic (p. 59-60).</p> |   |   | <p>habitat up to 1 km from roads and vehicle traffic. Furthermore, the proponent cites professional opinion as justification for using a 500 m buffer. However, BNDN requires reassurances that are substantiated by peer-reviewed scientific literature rather than subjective interpretation.</p> <p>II) The EIS acknowledges uncertainty in available moose habitat data, yet the response does not clarify how this uncertainty was factored into the assessment or whether a precautionary approach was taken.</p> <p>III) Habitat selection is not simply based on availability but also on predation avoidance. Moose tend to avoid areas with increased risk of predation. Roads, trails, and clearings created by mining facilitate wolf movement, making predation more efficient and therefore reducing the available moose habitat. The proponent’s response minimizes this risk by focusing only on habitat availability, failing to acknowledge that increased predator access and moose displacement fundamentally alter predation dynamics.</p> <p>BNDN reiterates our 1,000 m buffer be considered to provide a more conservative and ecologically relevant assessment of moose habitat alteration. Without further justification, the 500 m buffer appears insufficient to capture the full extent of indirect impacts.</p> | experts and the CNSC corroborated the conclusion made by Denison with respect to the non-significance of Project and cumulative effects.  |
| 59       | BNDN<br>(February 28, 2023) | 9.3.5.2.7<br>Mitigation Measures                             | <p>Comment #59: One of the mitigation measures implemented to protect ungulates, furbearers, and Woodland Caribou includes de-icing the Project roads for winter traction, which will result in fewer wildlife collisions.</p> <p>Salt used for de-icing is likely to attract ungulates, including moose, to roadways to satisfy their mineral requirements (Rea et al 2021).</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BNDN requests that the Proponent revise this mitigation measure to explicitly state that salt will not be used for de-icing Project roads to avoid attracting ungulates to the Project Area. This mitigation measure can be found in section 9.3.5.2.7 Road and Traffic Management.</li> </ul> <p>See Section 4.5 for additional information on this topic (p. 59-60).</p>   | Denison has committed to using alternative measures on Project roads for de-icing and winter traction (e.g., sand, gravel) or dust suppression (e.g., water) whenever practicable.  | <b>Adequately Addressed.</b>                                | <b>Addressed.</b>   |   |
| 60       | BNDN<br>(February 28, 2023) | 9.3.6.4.1<br>Alteration and/or Loss of Habitat Figure 9.3-14 | <p>Comment #60: The EIS uses a 500 m buffer around the Project Area to define Woodland Caribou habitat alteration from sensory disturbance. However, scientific research expects up to 5 km (or greater) of Caribou avoidance around mining Projects, and that related semi- permeable barriers, such as roads, likely exacerbate this effective habitat loss [(Smith et al. 2000; Dyer et al. 2001; Courtois et al. 2008; Vistnes and Nellemann 2008; Nagy 2011;</p>  | It is Denison's and their terrestrial SME's opinion that the approach used to characterize caribou habitat alteration provided a sufficient basis for conducting the caribou effects assessment (draft EIS Section 9.3).The Project Area had a 500 m buffer applied to account for indirect effects/habitat alteration; this area is within the wildlife LSA (refer to Figure 9.3-9 for a map showing the spatial areas). The 500 m | <b>Adequately Addressed.</b>                                | <b>Not Addressed.</b><br><br>The Environmental Assessment (EA) process is meant to safeguard BNDN’s lands, waters and wildlife, yet it is fundamentally flawed in its ability to prevent significant adverse impacts on caribou. Despite decades of policy and regulatory measures, caribou populations continue to   | As noted previously, Denison and its terrestrial specialists consider the 500 m habitat-alteration buffer drawn around the Project Area for the caribou effects assessment to be adequate. That buffer, set within the wildlife LSA, follows ECCC’s 2020 guidance for evaluating disturbance. |

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|----------|-----------------------------|---|---|---|---|--|--|
|          |                             |   | <p>Polfus et al. 2011; Leblond et al. 2011, 2013; CPAWS Wildlands League 2013; Johnson et al. 2015)].</p> <p>Without considering a larger avoidance buffer (as demonstrated in various research) around proposed anthropogenic disturbances, we believe that the EIS underestimates the potential extent of Caribou habitat alteration.</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BNDN requests that the Proponent present the extent of caribou habitat alteration/loss from the proposed Project within a range of uncertainty informed by scientific research.</li> </ul> <p>Specifically, the percent alteration of habitats must be presented using a 500 m (low end) up to a 5,000 m (high end) buffer. BNDN believe this analysis will provide a more accurate range of outcomes with respect to potential project impacts to caribou.</p> <p>See Section 4.5 for additional information on this topic (p. 59-60).</p> | <p>buffer for habitat alteration was selected in accordance with ECCC’s (2020) assessment of disturbed areas, which buffered (500 m) anthropogenic disturbances to evaluate the habitat. The alteration of available habitat is quantified in this EIS by applying a buffer of 500 m around the Project Area in which Project effects in the form of sensory disturbance are likely to affect available the habitat and make it functionally unavailable for use.</p> <p>Following submission of the draft EIS in October 2022, Denison has met with Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment (SK ENV) staff to develop a framework for future woodland caribou offset. This information has been presented to the provincial and federal review teams as part of the response to federal information requirements in August 2023 as the Conceptual Caribou Mitigation Plan. The Conceptual Caribou Mitigation Plan (the Plan), developed proactively by Denison, has a different objective than the draft EIS. The Plan builds on the assessment of potential Project effects and commitments to consider additional mitigation (offset) to account for non-significant residual effects highlighted in the draft EIS. The Plan is expected to be advanced with ongoing consultation with the SK ENV, as SK ENV finalize the caribou range plan for SK1. The EIS is a conservative planning tool, whereas the Plan is a practical, living document designed to define management works associated with caribou. The Plan is not a requirement for EA determination per se, but is provided as a guidance document to help Denison proactively describe and inform the development and implementation of appropriate mitigation measures related to caribou and their habitat. The Plan is an evergreen document. It will be consistent with the management goals of SK ENV for the SK-1 caribou conservation unit (once available) and will be developed/refined in consultation with local communities including English River First Nation and Kineepik Métis Local in Pinehouse and SK ENV. Denison is continuing to work with SK ENV to estimate habitat offset scenarios based on the current Project design which will be refined as the Project advances. A boreal caribou habitat offset calculator is under development by SK ENV and Denison is collaborating with SK ENV to define key scenario attributes.</p> <p>References:</p> <p>Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC). 2020. Amended Recovery Strategy for the Woodland Caribou (<i>Rangifer tarandus caribou</i>), Boreal Population, in Canada. Species at Risk Act Recovery Strategy Series. Environment and Climate Change Canada, Ottawa. xiii + 143pp.</p> |   | <p>decline, highlighting the failure of existing approaches to provide effective protection. As Dene people, we have long understood that the EA process is insufficient to ensure the survival of caribou. In recent years, emerging western scientific research has confirmed this understanding, reinforcing the need for stronger protections (Collard et al., 2020; Cameron &amp; Kennedy, 2023). The EA process often downplays the risks to caribou populations and underestimates the true extent of impacts (Collard et al., 2020; Cameron &amp; Kennedy, 2023). The reliance on a 500-meter buffer as the basis for assessing habitat alteration is a clear example of this severe underestimation.</p> <p>Denison’s reliance on a 500-meter buffer to assess caribou habitat alteration is insufficient and does not align with the broader scientific consensus on caribou avoidance of industrial disturbances. While ECCC (2020) recommends a 500-meter buffer to assess habitat disturbance, this buffer represents the low end of potential impacts and is insufficient to fully account for caribou avoidance behavior. Research has shown that caribou avoidance behavior extends significantly beyond this distance, with many studies supporting avoidance distances of up to 5 kilometers or greater (Dyer et al. 2001; Courtois et al. 2008; Vistnes and Nellemann 2008; Leblond et al. 2011, 2013; Johnson et al. 2015).</p> <p>Furthermore, Other jurisdictions, such as Ontario, apply much larger buffer distances, with recommendations extending to 10 kilometers to better reflect the true impact of sensory disturbances. This stark contrast highlights the severe underestimation in the EIS, where a 500-meter buffer fails to account for the full extent of caribou avoidance behavior.</p> <p>BNDN requests that the percent alteration of habitats be presented using a 500 m (low end) up to a 5,000 m (high end) buffer. BNDN believes this analysis will provide a more accurate range of outcomes with respect to potential project impacts on caribou.</p> <p>Collard, R., Dempsey, J., &amp; Holmberg, M. (2020). Extirpation despite regulation? Environmental assessment and caribou. <i>Conservation Science and Practice</i>, 2(9).<br/> <a href="https://doi.org/10.1111/csp2.166">https://doi.org/10.1111/csp2.166</a></p> <p>Cameron, E., &amp; Kennedy, S. (2023). Can environmental assessment protect caribou? <i>Analysis of EA in Nunavut, Canada, 1999-2019. Conservation and Society</i>, 21(2), 121-132.<br/> <a href="https://doi.org/10.4103/cs.cs_54_22">https://doi.org/10.4103/cs.cs_54_22</a></p> | Denison committed to working with the Province on caribou management and worked with the province since the draft EIS (October 2022) was submitted, to develop a Caribou Mitigation and Offset Plan that was recently submitted to CNSC. It is expected that the plan will evolve with the SK-1 range plan and with input from COIs. |
| 61       | BNDN<br>(February 28, 2023) | 9.4.3.3<br>Bird Species at Risk<br>Appendix 9-B         | Comment #61: Incidental observations of Barn Swallow ( <i>Hirundo rustica</i> ) occurred during baseline studies (Appendix 9- B). This bird SAR was not included as a Key Indicator for this Valued Component. Instead, the EIS represents the Barn Swallow using two other SAR birds   | The process and rationale for selection of VCs and establishment of KIs and associated MPs is described in Section 5.3 in Section 5. Raptors, Migratory Breeding Birds, and Bird Species at Risk VCs were selected based on their likelihood of interaction with  | <b>Adequately Addressed.</b>                                | <b>Addressed.</b>  |  |

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|----------|-----------------------------|---|--|---|---|--|---|
|          |                             |   | <p>including the Olive-sided Flycatcher (<i>Contopus cooperi</i>), and Common Nighthawk (<i>Chordeiles minor</i>). This does not make ecological sense because Barn Swallows use distinct habitat and exhibit distinct breeding behaviour from these other SAR. Therefore, the barn swallow should be its own key indicator because it will have unique levels of habitat alteration/loss and levels of mortality than the other species.</p> <p>In addition, Barn Swallows have a higher likelihood of being impacted by project activities than the other representative SAR, because they nest directly on artificial structures. The EIS states that species that nest on buildings are more susceptible to entrapment in Project components. This species is listed as Threatened on SARA Schedule 1. In Canada, the Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994 protects Barn Swallow, its nests, and eggs.</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) BNDN requests that the Barn Swallow is included as its own key indicator for the VC Bird SAR within the EIS.</li> <li>b) Additional surveys should be conducted to confirm the presence of any Barn Swallow nests on all buildings in the Project Area prior to commencement of construction.</li> <li>c) If Barn Swallow nests are located, contact the SK MOE for regulatory advice on the appropriate actions given the specific situation.</li> <li>d) The Proponent should monitor all barn swallow nests found within the Project Area to confirm their continued usage throughout the lifecycle of the mine. If avoidance of nests is observed near Project activities, the Proponent should adopt an adaptive management approach and provide additional nesting sites elsewhere. Specifically, the Proponent could consider installing nesting structures in suitable areas to provide alternative nesting options for Barn Swallows.</li> <li>e) Staff should be trained to identify and report barn swallows and their nests.</li> <li>f) Future monitoring programs during the life of the project must include the barn swallow.</li> </ul> <p>See Section 4.5 for additional information on this topic (p. 59-60).</p> | <p>the Project, as well as their contributing roles to biodiversity and ecosystem function. The methodology for the habitat-based assessment appropriately evaluated potential adverse effects on avian species using the accepted VC and KI approach for focus of the assessment. As described in the EIS, the Common Nighthawk (similar to the Barn Swallow) is an aerial insectivore that uses a variety of habitats, including anthropogenically disturbed and cleared areas (Section 9.4.3.3.1). As such, effects on these anthropogenically disturbed areas were appropriately assessed in the habitat-based EA methodology. Since Barn Swallows nest almost exclusively on human-made structures, specific Barn Swallow exclusion methods will be added as mitigation measures to the EIS (Section 9.4.5). If Barn Swallow nests should be encountered, any subsequent activities would be conducted in accordance with the 2022 Migratory Birds Regulations. The habitat-based approach for the assessment supports the use of surrogates that are known to utilize the same habitat types. Habitat loss and alteration were assessed for the Key Indicator species included in this Valued Component. A conservative approach of identifying available habitat for these species was chosen to include habitat for those species not directly assessed (i.e., Barn Swallow through Common Nighthawk habitat).</p> <p>Subsequent to filing the draft EIS, Denison has developed a new Species at Risk appendix to Section 9 which will be included in the final EIS and has been included in the response to YNLR (a new SAR appendix (new Appendix 9-D) will be added to Section 9 of the final EIS. It has been included here as Attachment IR-131. This new EIS appendix lists all SAR species potentially occurring in the Project study areas, with links to applicable and appropriate mitigation measures described in the draft EIS. The new appendix also includes a summary of the life history requirements, the expected Project effects, proposed mitigation measures, and anticipated residual effects on barn swallow.</p> |   |  |   |
| 62       | BNDN<br>(February 28, 2023) | 9.4.3.3<br><br>Bird Species at Risk<br>Appendix 9-B     | <p>Comment #62: Incidental observations of Horned Grebe (<i>Podiceps auratus</i>) occurred during baseline studies (Appendix 9- B). This species is listed as Special Concern on SARA Schedule</p> <p>1. The Horned Grebe was not included as a Key Indicator for this Valued Component. Instead, the EIS represents this species with two other bird SAR, Yellow Rail (<i>Coturnicops noveboracensis</i>), and Rusty Blackbird (<i>Euphagus carolinus</i>). The Horned Grebe uses distinct habitat from these other species. Therefore, the Horned Grebe should be its own key indicator because it will have different levels of habitat alteration/loss and levels of mortality.</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p>   | <p>The process and rationale for selection of VCs and establishment of KIs and associated MPs is described in Section 5.3 in Section 5. Raptors, Migratory Breeding Birds, and Bird Species at Risk VCs were selected based on their likelihood of interaction with the Project, as well as their contributing roles to biodiversity and ecosystem function. While Horned Grebe was not included as a avian SAR in the draft EIS, the EIS identified Yellow Rail and Rusty Blackbird as a surrogate species. To focus the effects assessment on key species, it was decided to use the provincially listed Yellow Rail (and Rusty Blackbird) as surrogates for Horned Grebe. Horned Grebe use similar wetland habitat types for nesting, foraging and protective cover as Yellow Rail. The habitat-</p>   | <b>Adequately Addressed.</b>                                | <p><b>Not Addressed</b></p> <p>The Horned Grebe and Yellow Rail exhibit some similar yet distinct habitat characteristics. While both species rely on wetlands with emergent vegetation, their specific habitat requirements differ significantly.</p> <p>The Horned Grebe is dependent on aquatic habitats year-round, requiring deeper wetlands with open water. It nests along the margins of ponds and marshes, anchoring its floating nest to emergent vegetation (Kuczynski et al., 2012). In contrast, the Yellow Rail prefers shallowly flooded wetlands dominated by dense grasses or sedges. These areas typically have minimal open</p> | <p>Appendix 9-D of the EIS (wildlife Species at Risk) treated all SAR distinctly as it concerns the assessment of project and cumulative effects. As part of the appendix all SAR potentially present are identified, each species’ life-history needs are described, potential Project effects are identified, general and species specific mitigations are proposed and the significance of effects are characterized. The analysis includes Horned Grebe.</p> <p>It is further noted that since final EIS submission SAR specific monitoring has been proposed for each species (including</p> |



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|----------|-----------------------------|---|--|--|---|---|--|
|          |                             |   | <p>a) BNDN requests that the Horned Grebe is included as its own Key Indicator for the VC Bird SAR within the EIS.</p> <p>b) Future monitoring programs during the life of the Project must include the Horned Grebe.</p> <p>See Section 4.5 for additional information on this topic (p. 59-60).</p>  | <p>based approach for the assessment supports the use of surrogates that are known to utilize the same habitat types. Habitat loss and alteration were assessed for the Key Indicator species included in this Valued Component. A conservative approach of identifying available habitat for these species was chosen to include habitat for those species not directly assessed (i.e., Horned Grebe through Yellow Rail and Rusty Blackbird habitat). As such, potential effects on these habitat types were assessed appropriately in the draft EIS.</p> <p>Subsequent to filing the draft EIS, Denison has developed a new Species at Risk appendix to Section 9 which will be included in the final EIS and has been included in the response to YNLR (a new SAR appendix (new Appendix 9-D) will be added to Section 9 of the final EIS. It has been included here as Attachment IR-131. This new EIS appendix lists all SAR species potentially occurring in the Project study areas, with links to applicable and appropriate mitigation measures described in the draft EIS. The new appendix also includes a summary of the life history requirements, the expected Project effects, proposed mitigation measures, and anticipated residual effects on Horned Grebe.</p> <p>As the Indigenous Communities of Interest with reserves and residential communities most proximal to the Project, Denison has committed to collaborating with English River First Nation and Kineepik Métis Local on a monitoring regime, suited to each of their interests and needs. As part of these programs, Denison and the Indigenous community of ERFN and KML will be sharing information in an agreed-upon fashion. It is expected that the data collected through such monitoring regimes as described above would also be relevant to other Indigenous nations who may have interest in the Project.</p> |   | <p>water and provide the thick ground cover necessary for concealment (Austin &amp; Buhl, 2013). Given these ecological differences, the Horned Grebe should be assessed as its own Key Indicator within the EIS to ensure that its specific habitat needs and potential project-related effects are properly accounted for. Additionally, future monitoring programs must include the Horned Grebe to adequately assess its population trends and response to development activities.</p> <p>Kuczynski, E. C., Paszkowski, C. A., &amp; Gingras, B. A. (2012). <i>Horned grebe habitat use of constructed wetlands in Alberta, Canada. The Journal of Wildlife Management</i>, 76(8), 1694–1702. doi:10.1002/jwmg.421</p> <p>Austin, J. E., &amp; Buhl, D. A. (2013). <i>Relating Yellow Rail (Coturnicops noveboracensis) occupancy to habitat and landscape features in the context of fire. Waterbirds</i>, 36(2), 199-213. <a href="https://doi.org/10.1675/063.036.0209">https://doi.org/10.1675/063.036.0209</a></p> | Horned Grebe) for the site preparation and construction phase of Project development.  |
| 63       | BNDN<br>(February 28, 2023) | 9.4.3.3<br>Bird Species at Risk                         | <p>Comment #63: The Bank Swallow (<i>Riparia riparia</i>), a bird SAR may be present within the terrestrial RSA. This species was not included in the EIS as a key indicator for bird SAR. This species is listed as Threatened on SARA Schedule 1.</p> <p>The breeding range of the Bank Swallow (<i>Riparia riparia</i>) overlaps with the terrestrial RSA. Bank swallows breed in varying natural and artificial habitat with sand-silt substrates including vertical banks, riverbanks, bluffs, stockpiles, aggregate pits, and roadcuts (COSEWIC 2013). Suitable habitat may be present because soil surface textures across the RSA are predominantly sand textured (sand, loam sand/sandy loam and silty sand). The creation of soil stockpiles during construction may create suitable breeding habitat for this species.</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p> <p>a) BNDN requests a justification for excluding the Bank Swallow from the EIS.</p> <p>b) If a valid justification does not exist, BNDN requests this species be added as a Key Indicator for bird SAR unless it can be proven not present in the RSA.</p> | <p>The process and rationale for selection of VCs and establishment of KIs and associated MPs is described in Section 5.3 in Section 5. Raptors, Migratory Breeding Birds, and Bird Species at Risk VCs were selected based on their likelihood of interaction with the Project, as well as their contributing roles to biodiversity and ecosystem function. Subsequent to filing the draft EIS, Denison has developed a new Species at Risk appendix to Section 9 which will be included in the final EIS and has been included in the response to YNLR (a new SAR appendix (new Appendix 9-D) will be added to Section 9 of the final EIS. It has been included here as Attachment IR-131. This new EIS appendix lists all SAR species potentially occurring in the Project study areas, with links to applicable and appropriate mitigation measures described in the draft EIS. The new appendix also includes a summary of the life history requirements, the expected Project effects, proposed mitigation measures, and anticipated residual effects on bank swallow.</p>   | <b>Adequately Addressed.</b>                                | <p><b>Provisionally Addressed</b></p> <p>Mitigation measures in Appendix 9-D should include monitoring of potential nesting sites, particularly soil stockpiles, before disturbance. If active nests are found, appropriate avoidance measures should be implemented, and consultation with Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment (SK MOE) should be required to determine regulatory actions.</p>   | <p>The final EIS included Appendix 9-D: Wildlife Species at Risk. This Appendix lists all SAR potentially present, outlines each species’ life-history needs, describes expected Project effects, and links to specific mitigation measures—now including the Bank Swallow. As set out in section 3.3.4.1 of Appendix 9-D, among other things, mitigation measures will include avoiding site clearing and other works that involve disturbance of vegetation and/or soil during bank swallow nesting season and conducting pre-disturbance wildlife clearance surveys.</p> <p>It is further noted that since the final EIS submission, SAR specific monitoring has been proposed for each species for the site preparation and construction phase of Project development.</p> |

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|----------|-----------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|--|
|          |                             |   | <p>c) All soil stockpiles should be monitored for Bank Swallow nesting activity before the stockpiles are disturbed when needed for site reclamation.</p> <p>d) If Bank Swallow nests are located, contact the SK MOE for regulatory advice on the appropriate actions given the specific situation.</p> <p>See Section 4.5 for additional information on this topic (p. 59-60).</p>  |   |   |   |  |
| 64       | BNDN<br>(February 28, 2023) | 9.4.3.3.2<br>Information from Indigenous Knowledge, Local Knowledge, and Engagement | <p>Comment #64: The EIS states that knowledge providers reported that multiple Whooping Cranes (<i>Grus americana</i>) have been observed along the Wheeler River, Moore River, and along the Cree River (outside of the terrestrial RSA) (19-LK-ERFNTrip- 134.169) (19-LK-ERFNTrip-134.170). Whooping Cranes are listed as Endangered on SARA Schedule 1. The EIS does not include this species as a key indicator for SAR birds, nor does it include an explanation why this species was omitted despite being reported by a knowledge provider from English River First Nation.</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p> <p>a) BNDN requests an explanation for excluding this species despite being reported by a Trapper from English River First Nation. If a valid justification does not exist, the species Whooping Crane (<i>Grus americana</i>), should be included as a key indicator for SAR birds.</p> <p>b) Future monitoring programs during the life of the Project must include surveys for the Whooping Crane.</p> <p>See Section 4.5 for additional information on this topic (p. 59-60).</p> | The process and rationale for selection of VCs and establishment of KIs and associated MPs is described in Section 5.3 in Section 5. Raptors, Migratory Breeding Birds, and Bird Species at Risk VCs were selected based on their likelihood of interaction with the Project, as well as their contributing roles to biodiversity and ecosystem function. The local trapper's observation of Whooping Crane was outside of the avian RSA. The rationale for the selection of the SAR Key Indicators was provided in draft EIS Section 9.4.1. For these reasons, Whooping Crane was not included as a SAR Key Indicator in the draft EIS. For further reference as noted above subsequent to filing the draft EIS, Denison has developed a new Species at Risk appendix to Section 9 which will be included in the final EIS and has been included in the response to YNLR (a new SAR appendix (new Appendix 9-D) will be added to Section 9 of the final EIS. It has been included here as Attachment IR-131. This new EIS appendix lists all SAR species potentially occurring in the Project study areas, with links to applicable and appropriate mitigation measures described in the draft EIS. The new appendix also includes a summary of the life history requirements, the expected Project effects, proposed mitigation measures, and anticipated residual effects on bank swallow. | <b>Adequately Addressed.</b>                                | <p><b>Provisionally Addressed</b></p> <p>The proponent should confirm whether the reference to Bank Swallow was a typo and clarify that the response is intended to address Whooping Crane. The response refers to residual effects, mitigation measures, and project effects for Bank Swallow instead of Whooping Crane, which does not address the original comment</p> <p>Whooping Crane was not assessed in the EIS. As noted in the review comment provided by BNDN it is not located within terrestrial RSA and therefore not of interest from a Project interaction perspective.</p> |  |
| 65       | BNDN<br>(February 28, 2023) | 9.4.3.3.3<br>Baseline Studies   | <p>Comment #65: Short-eared Owls (<i>Asio flammeus</i>) were not observed during the baseline surveys (Appendix 9-B). This is likely because targeted surveys for this species were not conducted. The detection probability of Short-eared Owls is very low at sunrise when the breeding songbird point count surveys were conducted. Short-eared Owls are most detectable from one hour before sunset to half an hour after sunset.</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p> <p>a) BNDN requests that short-eared Owls continue to be assumed present within suitable habitat, unless proven otherwise by a qualified biologist using the Short-Eared Owl Survey Protocol (Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment 2015).</p> <p>b) Future monitoring programs should utilize the protocol developed by the Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment to better (2015) understand whether this species is present.</p> <p>See Section 4.5 for additional information on this topic (p. 59-60).</p>  | The process and rationale for selection of VCs and establishment of KIs and associated MPs is described in Section 5.3 in Section 5. Raptors, Migratory Breeding Birds, and Bird Species at Risk VCs were selected based on their likelihood of interaction with the Project, as well as their contributing roles to biodiversity and ecosystem function. Short-eared Owl were included as a KI of the Bird SAR VC in the EIS. A review of life history requirements and discussion on effects assessment are included in the EIS (Section 9.3). In the EIS, Short-eared Owl were assumed to be present and breeding in the Project study areas. As described in the EIS, pre-construction surveys will be conducted prior to the commencement of any vegetation clearing or soil disturbance. Avian species will also be routinely monitored throughout the life of the Project. Results from the surveys and monitoring activities are expected to inform the adaptive management process to update Project design and identify the need for additional mitigation measures, if required.   | <b>Adequately Addressed.</b>                                | <b>Addressed.</b>   |  |
| 66       | BNDN                        | 9.4.3.3.3   | Comment #66: Yellow Rail ( <i>Coturnicops noveboracensis</i> ) were not observed during the baseline surveys (Appendix  | The process and rationale for selection of VCs and establishment of KIs and associated MPs is described   | <b>Adequately Addressed.</b>                                | <b>Addressed.</b>   |  |

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|----------|-----------------------------|---|--|--|---|---|--|
|          | (February 28, 2023)         | Baseline Studies  | <p>9-B). This is likely because targeted surveys for this species were not conducted. The Yellow Rail is nocturnal; therefore, survey effort must take place between 23:00-3:00. Therefore, this species would not have been observed when the breeding songbird point count surveys were conducted.</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p> <p>a) BNDN requests that Yellow Rail should continue to be assumed present within suitable habitat, unless proven otherwise by a qualified biologist using the Yellow Rail Survey Protocol (Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment 2014).</p> <p>b) Future monitoring programs should utilize the protocol developed by the Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment (2014) to better understand whether this species is present.</p> <p>See Section 4.5 for additional information on this topic (p. 59-60).</p>  | <p>in Section 5.3 in Section 5. Raptors, Migratory Breeding Birds, and Bird Species at Risk VCs were selected based on their likelihood of interaction with the Project, as well as their contributing roles to biodiversity and ecosystem function. Yellow Rail were included as a KI of the Bird SAR VC in the EIS. A review of life history requirements and discussion on effects assessment are included in the EIS (Section 9.3). In the EIS, Yellow Rail were assumed to be present and breeding in the Project study areas. As described in the EIS, pre-construction surveys will be conducted prior to the commencement of any vegetation clearing or soil disturbance. Avian species will also be routinely monitored throughout the life of the Project. Results from the surveys and monitoring activities are expected to inform the adaptive management process to update Project design and identify the need for additional mitigation measures, if required.</p> |   |   |  |
| 67       | BNDN<br>(February 28, 2023) | Appendix 9-B  | <p>Comment #67: Two bat species, Little Brown Bat (<i>Myotis lucifugus</i>) and Northern Myotis (<i>Myotis septentrionalis</i>) were detected during passive acoustic surveys in 2019 (Appendix 9- b). These species are listed as Endangered by COSEWIC and SARA schedule. Despite being present, bats were completely excluded from the EIS. Areas that will be cleared for mine development and operations could contain maternity roost trees. Based on Appendix 9-b, this habitat was not adequately evaluated through field surveys.</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p> <p>a) BNDN requests justification for excluding bat species from the EIS despite two Endangered species confirmed present.</p> <p>b) BNDN also request the Proponent put protocols in place to identify and assess bat maternity roost trees prior to clearing and employ mitigation measures such as retaining maternity roost trees, modifying the timing of clearing, and offsetting for the destruction of habitat for endangered species.</p> <p>See Section 4.5 for additional information on this topic (p. 59-60).</p> | <p>Subsequent to filing the draft EIS, Denison has developed a new Species at Risk appendix to Section 9 which will be included in the final EIS and has been included in the response to YNLR (a new SAR appendix (new Appendix 9-D) will be added to Section 9 of the final EIS. It has been included here as Attachment IR-131. This new EIS appendix lists all SAR species potentially occurring in the Project study areas, with links to applicable and appropriate mitigation measures described in the draft EIS. The new appendix also includes a summary of the life history requirements, the expected Project effects, proposed mitigation measures, and anticipated residual effects on bats.</p>   | <b>Adequately Addressed.</b>                                | <b>Addressed.</b>   |  |
| 68       | BNDN<br>(February 28, 2023) | 9 Terrestrial Ecology<br>9.1.8 Monitoring and Follow-up<br>9.2.8 Monitoring and Follow-up<br>9.3.8 Monitoring and Follow-up<br>9.4.8 Monitoring and Follow-up | <p>Comment #68: Denison’s proposed terrestrial ecology mitigations described are generalized and conceptual in the EIS. With the level of detail provided in the EIS, it is not possible for BNDN to comment on the adequacy or effectiveness of the proposed mitigation measures or whether proposed mitigations will meaningfully diminish Project impacts on BNDN rights and interests.</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BNDN holds invaluable indigenous knowledge related to terrestrial ecology topics including traditional and medicinal plants, ungulates, furbearers, game birds etc. within the RSA. BNDN must be meaningfully involved in the development and implementation of the various management and monitoring plans mentioned throughout Chapter 9 of the EIS to ensure that proposed impacts are sufficiently reduced. These</li> </ul>  | <p>As the Indigenous Communities of Interest with reserves and residential communities most proximal to the Project, Denison has committed to collaborating with English River First Nation and Kineepik Métis Local on a monitoring regime, suited to each of their interests and needs. As part of these programs, Denison and the Indigenous community of ERFN and KML will be sharing information in an agreed-upon fashion. It is expected that the data collected through such monitoring regimes as described above would also be relevant to other Indigenous nations who may have interest in the Project. Denison does not anticipate any funding to BNDN at this time.</p> <p>BNDN will be informed throughout the monitoring program design and implementation process. Monitoring program design and implementation will</p>  | <b>Adequately Addressed.</b>                                | <p><b>Not Addressed</b></p> <p>Denison has failed to acknowledge that the Project is located within Birch Narrows Dene Nation’s (BNDN) Treaty 10 territory. BNDN members exercise constitutionally protected rights and actively use the lands surrounding the Project for hunting, trapping, gathering, and other traditional practices that will be directly impacted.</p> <p>BNDN holds rights and knowledge that must be meaningfully considered in the development and implementation of all terrestrial ecology-related monitoring and management plans, including the wildlife monitoring plan, avian monitoring plan, and Woodland Caribou Management Plan. Denison’s current approach excludes BNDN from</p> | <p>Please see response to Comment #2 and Comment #13 for Denison’s response on BNDN Indigenous knowledge and capacity funding.</p> |

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|----------|-----------------------------|---|--|--|---|--|--|
|          |                             |   | <p>plans include but are not limited to the wildlife monitoring plan, avian monitoring, and Woodland Caribou Management Plan. The role that BNDN will have in developing management and monitoring plans should be defined within a project agreement between BNDN and Denison.</p> <p>See Section 4.5 for additional information on this topic (p. 59-60).</p>  | <p>be guided by the following principles: meet regulatory requirements, confirm the effectiveness of mitigation measures and predictions made in the assessment, implementing adaptive management (if/where applicable) to reduce effects during the lifetime of the Project, and will ensure that spatial boundaries are sufficiently extensive to measure EIS predictions.</p> <p>The details of monitoring and follow-up plans are being developed to support the separate process of Project licensing and permitting. The specific means by which provincial and federal authorities, and Indigenous Nations and communities will be engaged in developing the follow-up and monitoring program, including the information-sharing program, are currently under consideration with the Denison project team. It is noted that Section 4.2.1 of the draft EIS provides the variety of ways in which Denison has engaged with Interested Parties to date and it is assumed it would continue to use these means and others that may be identified to fulfil its key corporate principals for developing positive relationships (see draft EIS Section 4.2).</p> |   | <p>participating in planning processes that directly affect our rights and interests.</p>  |  |
| 69       | BNDN<br>(February 28, 2023) | Section 6.0   | <p>Comment #69: Denison’s air dispersion model does not include any receptor locations related to BNDN traditional land and resources use (TLRU) and Indigenous Knowledge (IK) sites. BNDN members use the lands and waters in the Project area for TLRU and ceremonial purposes.</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BNDN TLRU and IK sites should be considered in Denison’s air quality assessment. The geographic locations for TLRU and IK should be inputted into the air dispersion model as special receptors. This will provide site specific data for BNDN land users who use the LSA so they can effectively assess the Project’s impact on land use and rights.</li> </ul> <p>See Section 4.6 for additional information on this topic (p. 67-71).</p> | <p>Scoping of the air quality assessment followed a conservative approach and described where modelled concentrations returned to background levels. The air quality assessment included human receptors in the Project Area and Local Study Area (refer to draft EIS, Figure 6.1-3). These receptor locations are consistent with what was presented in the ERA (Section 10.1 and Appendix 10-A). See response to BNDN comment #1 for further details.</p>  | <b>Adequately Addressed.</b>                                | <p><b>Not Addressed</b></p> <p>The response does not adequately address BNDN’s concern that no BNDN Indigenous Knowledge or land use locations were included in the air dispersion model as special receptors.</p> | <p>The receptor locations that were used for the purpose of the assessment of potential air quality effects in the HHRA are non-specific as to use and represent locations in relative close proximity to Project related air emissions sources where people could be exposed. In this way they provide a conservative basis on which to assess potential effects to receptors in a general fashion that can be applied more broadly to any receptor that is represented by that location.</p> <p>It is further noted that Denison will confirm residual air-quality effects and meet provincial standards through an adaptive air-quality management program, comprising several plans to be finalized during permitting and licensing. These plans will embed monitoring requirements set by provincial and federal regulators and, where requested, by Indigenous nations and other stakeholders.</p> |
| 70       | BNDN (February 28, 2023)    | Section 6.0   | <p>Comment #70: Denison states in the EIS “the Cameco McArthur River Operation and Key Lake sites are currently in Care and Maintenance mode; therefore, there is currently no truck traffic between the sites on Highway 914. When these sites are to become operational again, there is potential for a cumulative effect at sensitive locations near the highway.” On November 28th, 2022, operations resumed at Cameco’s McArthur River Uranium Mine and Key Lake Mill.</p> <p>Denison did not model Cameco related air emissions in their air dispersion model. The EIS model does not account for any of Cameco’s air emissions from the mill, mine, and associated truck traffic between sites. Without this data</p>   | <p>Please refer to Section 6.1.3.2 and 6.1.7. The regional SK MOE data presented in Table 6.1-12 were conservatively used to represent background concentrations of TSP, PM10, PM2.5, CO, SO2, and NO2 for the Wheeler River Project air quality assessment. While traffic associated with Cameco Operations was not modelled, conservative regional background concentrations from the Saskatchewan Air Quality Modelling Guideline (SK MOE 2012a) and the La Loche monitoring station were used for particulate matter, NO2, SO2, and CO (see Section 6.1.3.2.5 and Appendix 6-A). The La Loche monitoring station is located near anthropogenic</p>   | <b>Adequately Addressed.</b>                                | <b>Addressed.</b>  |  |

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|----------|--------------------------|---|--|--|---|--|---|
|          |                          |   | <p>included in the model, the EIS does not adequately account for the cumulative effects of Cameco’s McArthur River Mine and Key Lake Mill on the atmospheric environment.</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Denison must redo air dispersion modeling to account for the Cameco McArthur River Uranium Mine and Key Lake Mill which have resumed operations since the EIS was released. Without this data included in the model the EIS does not accurately capture baseline conditions or cumulative effects on the atmospheric environment.</li> </ul> <p>Fugitive dust and uranium emissions (and potentially other contaminants) have increased potential for exceedances with the resumption of Cameco’s operations, as exceedances are already predicted with the Wheeler River Project alone.</p> <p>See Section 4.6 for additional information on this topic (p. 67 71).</p>  | <p>sources, while the Project is in a remote area removed from anthropogenic sources. Accordingly, emissions to air from traffic associated with Cameco’s operations are captured by the regional background concentrations used in the air dispersion model and are considered in the assessment of Project-related effects discussed in Section 6.1.4. Model predictions of COPC concentrations and depositions were added to background levels and compared to the available standards summarized in Table 6.1-5 at receptors located outside the property boundary. To confirm the residual effects of the Project on Air Quality and demonstrate compliance with provincial ambient air quality standards, an adaptive air quality management program will be implemented. The air quality management program will contain various plans which will be finalized during permitting and licensing. The plans within the air quality management program will incorporate monitoring requirements directed by provincial and federal regulators and by Indigenous groups and other Interested Parties as requested.</p>  |   |  |   |
| 71       | BNDN (February 28, 2023) | Section 6.0   | <p>Comment #71: The Project is predicted to produce exceedances for TSP of 313% over the regulatory limit. 24-hour TSP concentrations exceed the criterion 28% of the time during Construction, 21% of the time during Operations.</p> <p>These exceedance conditions do not include TSP emissions from Cameco’s McArthur River Mine and Key Lake Mill which have now resumed operations. There is also the potential for wildfire smoke to further exacerbate dust emissions.</p> <p>TSP exceedances represent a potential health risk for land users and workers near the Project site. Especially for at-risk groups such as elders, youth, and people with existing respiratory conditions.</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p> <p>a) Denison must employ additional mitigation measures to reduce TSP emissions on site including enhanced dust suppression efforts.</p> <p>b) Denison must remodel TSP to include emissions from Cameco’s McArthur River Mine and Key Lake Mill.</p> <p>c) Please provide information on how TSP will be monitored during the Project and how Denison will know when exceedance conditions are occurring.</p> <p>d) Please provide information on how adaptive management will be used when a TSP exceedance is discovered. Including discussion on how the Project will be managed during poor air quality events caused by wildfire smoke.</p> <p>e) Please provide information on how exceedances conditions near the Project site will be communicated to the public.</p> <p>See Section 4.6 for additional information on this topic (p. 67-71).</p> | <p>a) A change in a measurable parameter is not a significant effect, per the EA methodology outlined in Section 5. This threshold approach is both transparent and reasonable with the context of the assessment, though it is acknowledged that some level of change in the VC (or more precisely its measurable parameter) is deemed acceptable on condition that the change is not of a magnitude from which negative effects could accrue. Denison directs BNDN to Table 6.1-19 to 6.1-21 for the complete residual effect characterization for TSP exceedances. This includes a consideration of the residual effect related to TSP in the full context of direction, magnitude, geographic extent, duration, frequency, reversibility, context, and likelihood. In Section 10.1 of the draft EIS, the SMEs concluded that while there were predicted exceedances of air quality criteria for particulate matter, they were not identified for further assessment in the HHRA—these COPCs are unlikely to be associated with a human health or environmental risk, and any exposures to people at elevated concentrations would be infrequent, short-term, and highly localized.</p> <p>b) Please refer to Section 6.1.3.2. The regional SK MOE data presented in Table 6.1-12 were conservatively used to represent background concentrations of TSP, PM10, PM2.5, CO, SO2, and NO2 for the Wheeler River Project air quality assessment. While traffic associated with Cameco Operations was not modelled, conservative regional background concentrations from the Saskatchewan Air Quality Modelling Guideline (SK MOE 2012a) and the La Loche monitoring station were used for particulate matter, NO2, SO2, and CO (see Section 6.1.3.2.5 and Appendix 6-A). The La Loche monitoring station is located near anthropogenic sources, while the Project is in a remote area removed from anthropogenic sources. Accordingly, emissions to air from traffic associated with</p> | <b>Adequately Addressed.</b>                                | <p><b>Not addressed.</b></p> <p>Denison makes no commitment to reduce potential TSP exceedances related to the Project.</p> <p>Denison does not commit to collaborating with BNDN in the design and implementation of air quality monitoring. Denison only commits to informing BNDN which is totally unacceptable. Denison does not specify how it will notify BNDN of project-related air quality exceedances.</p> <p>Denison mischaracterizes BNDN as not being part of “Indigenous Communities of Interest with reserves and residential communities most proximal to the Project”. BNDN is located closer (232 km) to the Project than Kineepik Métis Local (235 km). Further, the Project is located on BNDN’s Treaty Lands (Treaty 10), whereas Kineepik Métis Local has no Treaty lands or Treaty rights. As such, BNDN must be treated as a Indigenous Community of Interest with reserves and residential communities most proximal to the Project, not as some secondary community. Denison’s position of BNDN requiring consultation and accommodation that is less meaningful than KML is unacceptable and wrong.</p> | <p>Please see response to Comment #2 and Comment #13 for Denison’s response to the request for a project or mutual benefits agreement.</p> <p>Denison has nothing further to add with respect to TSP mitigations – per the original response appropriate mitigations will be applied and the EIS has determined / interpreted that TSP levels are unlikely to be associated with a human health or environmental risk, to which CNSC and the province concur.</p> |

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|----------|--------------------------|---|--|---|---|--|--|
|          |                          |   |  | <p>Cameco’s operations are captured by the regional background concentrations used in the air dispersion model and are considered in the assessment of Project-related effects discussed in Section 6.1.4. Model predictions of COPC concentrations and depositions were added to background levels and compared to the available standards summarized in Table 6.1-5 at receptors located outside the property boundary.</p> <p>c) and d) To confirm the residual effects of the Project on Air Quality and demonstrate compliance with provincial ambient air quality standards, an adaptive air quality management program will be implemented. The air quality management program will contain various plans which will be finalized during permitting and licensing. The plans within the air quality management program will incorporate monitoring requirements directed by provincial and federal regulators and by Indigenous groups and other Interested Parties as requested. In terms of worker health and safety while forest fire smoke is present, Denison will consider this through the Occupational Health and Safety Program. Information on how the Project will prepare for and addresses emergencies that may affect the health and safety of persons, the environment, and the protection of property related to forest fires will be included in the Emergency Preparedness and Response Program.</p> <p>e) As the Indigenous Communities of Interest with reserves and residential communities most proximal to the Project, Denison has committed to collaborating with English River First Nation and Kineepik Métis Local on a monitoring regime, suited to each of their interests and needs. As part of these programs, Denison and the Indigenous community of ERFN and KML will be sharing information in an agreed-upon fashion. It is expected that the data collected through such monitoring regimes as described above would also be relevant to other Indigenous nations who may have interest in the Project. Denison does not anticipate any funding to BNDN at this time. BNDN will be informed throughout the monitoring program design and implementation process. Monitoring program design and implementation will be guided by the following principles: meet regulatory requirements, confirm the effectiveness of mitigation measures and predictions made in the assessment, implementing adaptive management (if/where applicable) to reduce effects during the lifetime of the Project, and will ensure that spatial boundaries are sufficiently extensive to measure EIS predictions.</p> |   |  |  |
| 72       | BNDN (February 28, 2023) | Section 6.0   | <p>Comment #72: The Project is predicted to produce exceedances for PM10 of 232% over the regulatory limit. 24- hour PM10 concentrations exceed the criterion 17% of the time during Construction, 12% of the time during Operations.</p> <p>These exceedance conditions do not include PM10 emissions from Cameco’s McArthur River Mine and Key</p> | a) A change in a measurable parameter is not a significant effect, per the EA methodology outlined in Section 5. This threshold approach is both transparent and reasonable with the context of the assessment, though it is acknowledged that some level of change in the VC (or more precisely its measurable parameter) is deemed acceptable on  | <b>Adequately Addressed.</b>                                | <p><b>Not Addressed.</b></p> <p>BNDN disagrees with Denison’s assessment and that particulate exceedances will not have an impact on human health or the environment. Regulatory standards are in place for a reason (to protect human health and the environment) and</p> | <p>Please see response to Comment #2 and Comment #13 for Denison’s response to the request for a project or mutual benefits agreement.</p> <p>Denison has nothing further to add with respect to the PM10 analysis – per the original response appropriate mitigations</p> |

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|----------|--------|---|--|---|---|---|--|
|          |        |   | <p>Lake Mill which have now resumed operations. There is also the potential for wildfire smoke to further exacerbate dust emissions.</p> <p>PM10 exceedances represent a potential health risk for land users and workers near the Project site. Especially for at-risk groups such as elders, youth, and people with existing respiratory conditions.</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Denison must employ additional mitigation measures to reduce PM10 emissions on site including enhanced dust suppression efforts.</li> <li>b) Denison must remodel PM10 to include emissions from Cameco’s McArthur River Mine and Key Lake Mill.</li> <li>c) Please provide information on how PM10 will be monitored during the Project and how Denison will know when exceedance conditions are occurring.</li> <li>d) Please provide information on how adaptive management will be used when a PM10 exceedance is discovered. Including discussion on how the Project will be managed during poor air quality events caused by wildfire smoke.</li> <li>e) Please provide information on how exceedances conditions near the Project site will be communicated to the public.</li> </ul> <p>See Section 4.6 for additional information on this topic (p. 67-71).</p> | <p>condition that the change is not of a magnitude from which negative effects could accrue. Denison directs BNDN to Table 6.1-22 and 6.1-23 for the complete residual effect characterization for PM10 exceedances. This includes a consideration of the residual effect related to PM10 in the full context of direction, magnitude, geographic extent, duration, frequency, reversibility, context, and likelihood. In Section 10.1 of the draft EIS, the SMEs concluded that while there were predicted exceedances of air quality criteria for particulate matter, they were not identified for further assessment in the HHRA—these COPCs are unlikely to be associated with a human health or environmental risk, and any exposures to people at elevated concentrations would be infrequent, short-term, and highly localized.</p> <p>b) Please refer to Section 6.1.3.2. The regional SK MOE data presented in Table 6.1-12 were conservatively used to represent background concentrations of TSP, PM10, PM2.5, CO, SO2, and NO2 for the Wheeler River Project air quality assessment. While traffic associated with Cameco Operations was not modelled, conservative regional background concentrations from the Saskatchewan Air Quality Modelling Guideline (SK MOE 2012a) and the La Loche monitoring station were used for particulate matter, NO2, SO2, and CO (see Section 6.1.3.2.5 and Appendix 6-A). The La Loche monitoring station is located near anthropogenic sources, while the Project is in a remote area removed from anthropogenic sources. Accordingly, emissions to air from traffic associated with Cameco’s operations are captured by the regional background concentrations used in the air dispersion model and are considered in the assessment of Project-related effects discussed in Section 6.1.4. Model predictions of COPC concentrations and depositions were added to background levels and compared to the available standards summarized in Table 6.1-5 at receptors located outside the property boundary.</p> <p>c) and d) To confirm the residual effects of the Project on Air Quality and demonstrate compliance with provincial ambient air quality standards, an adaptive air quality management program will be implemented. The air quality management program will contain various plans which will be finalized during permitting and licensing. The plans within the air quality management program will incorporate monitoring requirements directed by provincial and federal regulators and by Indigenous groups and other Interested Parties as requested. In terms of worker health and safety while forest fire smoke is present, Denison will consider this through the Occupational Health and Safety Program. Information on how the Project will prepare for and addresses emergencies that may affect the health and safety of persons, the environment, and the protection of property related to forest fires will be included in the Emergency Preparedness and Response Program.</p> |   | <p>if Denison cannot meet these standards they should not be constructing or operating.</p> <p>Denison mischaracterizes BNDN as not being part of “Indigenous Communities of Interest with reserves and residential communities most proximal to the Project”. BNDN is located closer (232 km) to the Project than Kineepik Métis Local (235 km). Further, the Project is located on BNDN’s Treaty Lands (Treaty 10), whereas Kineepik Métis Local has no Treaty lands or Treaty rights. As such, BNDN must be treated as a Indigenous Community of Interest with reserves and residential communities most proximal to the Project, not as some secondary community. Denison’s position of BNDN requiring consultation and accommodation that is less meaningful than KML is unacceptable and wrong.</p> | <p>will be applied and the EIS has determined / interpreted that PM10 levels are unlikely to be associated with a human health or environmental risk, to which CNSC and the Province concur.</p> |

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|----------|--------------------------|---|---|--|---|---|--|
|          |                          |   |   | e) As the Indigenous Communities of Interest with reserves and residential communities most proximal to the Project, Denison has committed to collaborating with English River First Nation and Kineepik Métis Local on a monitoring regime, suited to each of their interests and needs. As part of these programs, Denison and the Indigenous community of ERFN and KML will be sharing information in an agreed-upon fashion. It is expected that the data collected through such monitoring regimes as described above would also be relevant to other Indigenous nations who may have interest in the Project. Denison does not anticipate any funding to BNDN at this time. BNDN will be informed throughout the monitoring program design and implementation process. Monitoring program design and implementation will be guided by the following principles: meet regulatory requirements, confirm the effectiveness of mitigation measures and predictions made in the assessment, implementing adaptive management (if/where applicable) to reduce effects during the lifetime of the Project, and will ensure that spatial boundaries are sufficiently extensive to measure EIS predictions.   |   |   |  |
| 73       | BNDN (February 28, 2023) | Section 6.0   | <p>Comment #73: The Project is predicted to produce exceedances for uranium of 148% over of the regulatory limit.</p> <p>These exceedance conditions do not include uranium emissions from Cameco’s McArthur River Mine and Key Lake Mill which have now resumed operations.</p> <p>Uranium exceedances represent a potential health risk for land users and workers near the Project site. Additionally, uranium deposition in the aquatic and terrestrial environment can cause effect pathways to humans through the food chain through the consumption of edible/medicinal plants, berries, fish, and wildlife.</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p> <p>a) Denison must employ additional mitigation measures to reduce uranium emissions on site including enhanced scrubber systems and containment measures.</p> <p>b) Denison must remodel uranium to include emissions from Cameco’s McArthur River Mine and Key Lake Mill.</p> <p>c) Please provide information on how uranium emissions will be monitored during the Project and how Denison will know when exceedance conditions are occurring.</p> <p>d) Please provide information on how adaptive management will be used when a uranium exceedance is discovered.</p> <p>e) Please provide information on how exceedance conditions near the Project site will be communicated to the public.</p> <p>See Section 4.6 for additional information on this topic (p. 67-71).</p> | <p>a) A change in a measurable parameter is not a significant effect, per the EA methodology outlined in Section 5. This threshold approach is both transparent and reasonable with the context of the assessment, though it is acknowledged that some level of change in the VC (or more precisely its measurable parameter) is deemed acceptable on condition that the change is not of a magnitude from which negative effects could accrue. Denison directs BNDN to Table 6.1-27: Air Quality – Summary of the Characteristics Ratings for Residual Effect 9 (Operation, 24-hour Uranium Exceedances) for the complete residual effect characterization. This includes a consideration of the residual effect (24-hour U exceedance during operation) in the full context of direction, magnitude, geographic extent, duration, frequency, reversibility, context, and likelihood. Further, in Section 10.1 of the draft EIS, all relevant radionuclides were assessed in the HHRA in terms of their contribution to the total radiological dose to human and ecological receptors and COPCs identified for air were radionuclides (U-238, U-234 and radon); refer to Table 10.1-7 for a summary of human health exposure pathways. The HHRA estimated dose and risk during all Project phases to the following receptors: camp worker, seasonal resident, recreational fisher/hunter, fisher/trapper. The incremental radiation dose to all human receptors during all Project phases is predicted to be below the regulatory public dose limit of 1 mSv/yr and the dose constraint of 0.3 mSv/yr during all Project phases. Overall, since the radiation dose estimates would be below the public dose limit, no discernable</p> | <b>Adequately Addressed.</b>                                | <p><b>Not Addressed.</b></p> <p>BNDN disagrees with Denison’s assessment and that uranium exceedances will not have an impact on human health or the environment. Regulatory standards are in place for a reason (to protect human health and the environment) and if Denison cannot meet these standards they should not be constructing or operating.</p> <p>Denison mischaracterizes BNDN as not being part of “Indigenous Communities of Interest with reserves and residential communities most proximal to the Project”. BNDN is located closer (232 km) to the Project than Kineepik Métis Local (235 km). Further, the Project is located on BNDN’s Treaty Lands (Treaty 10), whereas Kineepik Métis Local has no Treaty lands or Treaty rights. As such, BNDN must be treated as a Indigenous Community of Interest with reserves and residential communities most proximal to the Project, not as some secondary community. Denison’s position of BNDN requiring consultation and accommodation that is less meaningful than KML is unacceptable and wrong.</p> | <p>Please see response to Comment #2 and Comment #13 for Denison’s response to the request for a project or mutual benefits agreement.</p> <p>Denison has nothing further to add with respect to the uranium analysis – per the original response appropriate mitigations will be applied and the EIS has determined / interpreted that uranium levels are unlikely to be associated with a human health or environmental risk, to which CNSC and the Province concur.</p> |



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|----------|--------------------------|---|---|--|---|---|--|
|          |                          |   |   | <p>health effects are anticipated due to exposure of these receptors to radioactive releases from the Project.</p> <p>b) Please refer to Section 6.1.3.2. The Key Lake data from camp high volume air samplers from 2009 to 2018 (Table 6.1-13) were selected to represent background concentrations of uranium, arsenic, and nickel for the Wheeler River Project air quality assessment. Model predictions of COPC concentrations and depositions were added to background levels and compared to ambient air quality standards and criteria.</p> <p>c) and d) To confirm the residual effects of the Project on Air Quality and demonstrate compliance with provincial ambient air quality standards, an adaptive air quality management program will be implemented. The air quality management program will contain various plans which will be finalized during permitting and licensing. The plans within the air quality management program will incorporate monitoring requirements directed by provincial and federal regulators and by Indigenous groups and other Interested Parties as requested.</p> <p>e) As the Indigenous Communities of Interest with reserves and residential communities most proximal to the Project, Denison has committed to collaborating with English River First Nation and Kineepik Métis Local on a monitoring regime, suited to each of their interests and needs. As part of these programs, Denison and the Indigenous community of ERFN and KML will be sharing information in an agreed-upon fashion. It is expected that the data collected through such monitoring regimes as described above would also be relevant to other Indigenous nations who may have interest in the Project. Denison does not anticipate any funding to BNDN at this time. BNDN will be informed throughout the monitoring program design and implementation process. Monitoring program design and implementation will be guided by the following principles: meet regulatory requirements, confirm the effectiveness of mitigation measures and predictions made in the assessment, implementing adaptive management (if/where applicable) to reduce effects during the lifetime of the Project, and will ensure that spatial boundaries are sufficiently extensive to measure EIS predictions.</p> |   |   |  |
| 74       | BNDN (February 28, 2023) | Section 6.0   | <p>Comment #74: The Saskatchewan MOE Air Quality Modelling Guidelines specifies that the American Meteorological Society/Environmental Protection Agency Regulatory Model (AERMOD) should be used for assessments in Saskatchewan. Denison opted to use the CLAMET/CALPUFF dispersion model for the EIS.</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p> | As described in Section B.1 of Appendix 6-A, staff at the Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment (Air Quality Branch) were consulted on the selection of CALPUFF and development of the CALMET meteorological data set, beginning in 2019. The CALMET consultation included an initial discussion about the general approach, and once the CALMET runs were completed, two technical memos were  | <b>Adequately Addressed.</b>                                | <b>Addressed.</b>                                     |  |

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|----------|-----------------------------|---|--|--|---|---|--|
|          |                             |   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Please provide additional rationale for the selection of the CALPUFF model over the provincially recommended AERMOD.</li> </ul> <p>See Section 4.6 for additional information on this topic (p. 67-71).</p>   | produced and reviewed by Ministry staff including: 1) a memo completed in March 2020 summarizing the general CALMET approach and results (e.g., wind roses, temperature data, precipitation data); and 2) a follow-up memo completed in May 2021, which answered specific questions posed by Ministry staff. Ministry staff also completed a review and provided feedback on the CALPUFF model setup in August 2021. The specific rationale for the use of CALPUFF in lieu of AEROMOD as documented in the March 2020 memo was as follows: the domain size needed to generate inputs for the human health and ecological risk assessment (HHERA) is estimated to be 60 km by 60 km. The Saskatchewan Air Modelling Guide recommends CALPUFF for long-range transport (i.e., > 50 km); CALPUFF includes wet and dry removal processes and chemical transformation algorithms that are needed to generate inputs for the HHERA and the terrestrial and aquatic assessments; and the approach is consistent with other uranium mines in the area. |   |   |  |
| 75       | BNDN<br>(February 28, 2023) | Appendix 6-C Climate Baseline and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Report | <p>Comment #75: Carbon dioxide emissions related to air travel for Project personnel were not included in the GHG emissions calculations. Project related emissions from air travel would be significant source due to the remote nature of the site. The GHG emission estimate included in EIS Appendix 6-C does not provide a fulsome representation of Project related GHG emissions.</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Denison must include emissions from air travel for project personnel in the GHG emissions calculations. This will provide a more accurate representation of project-related GHG emissions.</li> </ul> <p>See Section 4.6 for additional information on this topic (p. 67-71).</p>   | Assessment of upstream or Scope 3 GHGs under Environment and Climate Change Canada’s Strategic Assessment of Climate Change guide are only required for projects that are likely to exceed the upstream threshold of 500 kt of CO2e per year. The upstream GHG emissions for the Project are expected to be well below this threshold (draft EIS Section 2.5) and in the range of 25 to 31 kt of CO2e.   | <b>Adequately Addressed.</b>                                | <b>Addressed.</b>                                     |  |
| 76       | BNDN<br>(February 28, 2023) | Section 6.0   | <p>Comment #76: Denison acknowledges the Project’s contribution to climate change through GHG emissions but does not outline a plan to offset GHG emissions. Other mines in Canada, including the Canadian Malartic Mine in Quebec have GHG offset plans in which carbon emissions are tracked and offsetting activities are developed in collaboration with local First Nations (Canadian Malartic, 2014).</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Denison must develop a GHG/Carbon offsetting plan to mitigate potential impacts of the Project to climate change. Denison could work with BNDN and other local First Nations on initiatives that help to offset the Project’s GHG emissions (e.g., tree planting, wetland restoration, carbon offsets). This would demonstrate a commitment to corporate social responsibility, climate stewardship and reconciliation on Denison’s behalf.</li> </ul> <p>See Section 4.6 for additional information on this topic (p. 67 71).</p> | Denison anticipates being subject to ECCC’s reporting requirements for emitters over 10,000 tonnes CO2e and the information is collected under section 26 of the Canadian Environmental Protection Act. In order to meet these reporting requirement, Denison will be tracking Scope 1 and 2 GHG emissions. Options to offset the Project’s GHG emissions will be considered as the Project advances. In draft EIS Section 2.5 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Denison has committed to looking for opportunities to optimize energy management and improve the energy intensity of the Project where practical.  | <b>Adequately Addressed.</b>                                | <b>Addressed.</b>                                     |  |

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|----------|-----------------------------|---|---|---|---|--|---|
| 77       | BNDN<br>(February 28, 2023) | Section 6.0   | <p>Comment #77: The Project is reliant on burning diesel for construction, supplementary power generation, mine processing activities, and mine equipment. The GHG intensive nature of the Project’s construction and operation phases are a concern for BNDN and not consistent with federal or provincial directives to reduce GHGs. Cleaner technology and fuel sources are available to reduce the Project’s GHG emissions. For a project based around supplying fuel for the energy transition, a more progressive approach that utilizes</p> <p>Best Available Technology is required in order to reduce GHG emissions.</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Where feasible Denison must implement the use of low carbon technology and fuels in the final Project design to reduce GHG emissions. Specifically, Denison should redesign the Project to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Replace all diesel electricity generation with LNG/CNG generators (and add in renewables where feasible) for construction phase.</li> <li>Replace all diesel powered mine equipment and vehicles with electric or LNG/CNG models.</li> <li>Use renewable energy sources for electricity generation (e.g., wind, solar) as early in the project lifecycle as possible.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>See Section 4.6 for additional information on this topic (p. 67 71).</p> | <p>Thank you for the comment. The EIS is a planning tool and the details of Project design including use of fuels will be evaluated by Denison as the Project advances. However, we note that in Section 2.5 Greenhouse Gas Emissions of the draft EIS that Denison will look for opportunities to optimize energy management and improve the energy intensity of the Project where practical.</p> <p>In terms of EIS scoping for the basis of effects assessments, Denison took a conservative approach to estimating combustion products use by assuming back-up diesel generators were running continually (worst-case scenario). This is expected to bound actual Project fuel use.</p> | <b>Adequately Addressed.</b>                                | <b>Addressed.</b>  |   |
| 78       | BNDN<br>(February 28, 2023) | Section 6.0   | <p>Comment #78: Denison does not specify how it will monitor air contaminant concentrations during all phases of the Project. Continuous on-site ambient air monitoring for all COPCs (including particulates, metals, and radon) is the only way to truly assess the Project’s impact on air quality and compliance with government standards.</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Denison must conduct continuous on-site monitoring for all contaminants of concern (including particulates, metals, and radon) in order to assure regulatory compliance and verify the accuracy of air dispersion models and EIS predictions.</li> </ul> <p>See Section 4.6 for additional information on this topic (p. 67-71).</p>  | To confirm the residual effects of the Project on Air Quality and demonstrate compliance with provincial ambient air quality standards, an adaptive air quality management program will be implemented. The air quality management program will contain various plans which will be finalized during permitting and licensing. The plans within the air quality management program will incorporate monitoring requirements directed by provincial and federal regulators and by Indigenous groups and other Interested Parties as requested.   | <b>Adequately Addressed.</b>                                | <b>Not Addressed.</b>  | Denison has not responded to this comment, as it is unclear what aspect of this comment remains outstanding.                        |
| 79       | BNDN<br>(February 28, 2023) | Section 6.0   | <p>Comment #79: Denison does not specify how BNDN will be involved in air quality monitoring during construction, operations and decommissioning phases of the Project.</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BNDN requests the implementation of robust and long-term environmental monitoring to verify protection of the environment, including community-led monitoring during Construction and Operations of the Project.</li> <li>Denison must develop specific roles and responsibilities to BNDN members in relation to air quality monitoring and site wide environmental monitoring. This should include, at a minimum, one environmental monitor position for BNDN. This would provide increased transparency and confidence to</li> </ol>   | As the Indigenous Communities of Interest with reserves and residential communities most proximal to the Project, Denison has committed to collaborating with English River First Nation and Kineepik Métis Local on a monitoring regime, suited to each of their interests and needs. As part of these programs, Denison and the Indigenous community of ERFN and KML will be sharing information in an agreed-upon fashion. It is expected that the data collected through such monitoring regimes as described above would also be relevant to other Indigenous nations who may have interest in the Project. Denison does not anticipate any funding to BNDN at this time.              | <b>Adequately Addressed.</b>                                | <p><b>Not Addressed.</b></p> <p>The response does not adequately address BNDN’s concern around the lack of BNDN involvement in the design and implementation Denison’s air quality monitoring program. Denison does not specify how BNDN will be involved in air quality monitoring during construction, operations and decommissioning phases of the Project. Nor does Denison make any commitments for BNDN involvement in Denison’s environmental monitoring programs including air quality monitoring.</p> | Please see response to Comment #2 and Comment #13 for Denison’s response to the request for a project or mutual benefits agreement. |

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|----------|--------------------------|---|--|--|---|---|--|
|          |                          |   | Denison’s environmental management practices and performance.<br><br>See Section 4.6 for additional information on this topic (p. 67-71).  | <p>BNDN will be informed throughout the monitoring program design and implementation process. Monitoring program design and implementation will be guided by the following principles: programs will meet regulatory requirements, programs will confirm the effectiveness of mitigation measures and predictions made in the assessment, programs will be implemented in an adaptive management framework (if/where applicable) to reduce effects during the lifetime of the Project, and programs will have spatial boundaries that are sufficiently extensive to measure EIS predictions.</p> <p>The details of monitoring and follow-up plans are being developed to support the separate process of Project licensing and permitting. The specific means by which provincial and federal authorities, and Indigenous Nations and communities will be engaged in developing the follow-up and monitoring program, including the information-sharing program, are currently under consideration with the Denison project team. It is noted that Section 4.2.1 of the draft EIS provides the variety of ways in which Denison has engaged with Interested Parties to date and it is assumed it would continue to use these means and others that may be identified to fulfil its key corporate principals for developing positive relationships (see draft EIS Section 4.2).</p> |   |   |  |
| 80       | BNDN (February 28, 2023) | Section 2.2.2.2.2 Uranium Bearing Solution Holding Area   | <p>Comment #80: The Proponent states that the UBS holding area will have leak detection (Figure 2.2-18). The system is shown as a pipe running under the pond.</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p> <p>a) BNDN requests more details on the leak detection system used for all ponds shown in Figure 2.2-18.</p> <p>b) BNDN requests that Denison respond to all the following questions in writing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Is the pipe connected to an automated sensing system?</li> <li>If not, how frequently is the system monitored?</li> <li>What chemical or physical indicator(s) are used to detect a leak?</li> <li>What are the detection limits/thresholds for each indicator?</li> <li>What is the precision of each indicator?</li> <li>Who is notified, and how quickly would a response be mobilized?</li> <li>See Section 4.7 for additional information on this topic (p. 77).</li> </ul> | It is important to note that Denison is completing a sequential EA and licensing process for the Project (see draft EIS Section 1).Denison considers the EA to be a planning and decision-making tool that assesses the potential effects of the Project in a careful and precautionary manner and integrates results of engagement with Indigenous nations and communities. The details requested by BNDN will be developed to support licensing and will be included in Management System programs / plans including for example the Groundwater Monitoring Plan and the Emergency Response and Preparedness Plan.   | <b>Adequately Addressed.</b>                                | <p><b>Not Addressed.</b></p> <p>If Denison intends to defer the answering of these important questions to the licensing phase of the Project, BNDN requires a commitment to negotiate a Project Agreement to formalize a process for engagement with BNDN and responding to BNDN concerns on these matters. BNDN requires this commitment for this concern to be addressed.</p> | Please see response to Comment #2 and Comment #13 for Denison’s response to the request for a project or mutual benefits agreement.                                  |
| 81       | BNDN (February 28, 2023) | Section 2.2.2.2.2 Uranium Bearing Solution Holding Area<br>Section 2.2.4.5 Process Precipitate Pond | <p>Comment #81: The Proponent states that the UBS holding area will have leak detection (Figure 2.2-18). The system is shown as a pipe running under the pond.</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BNDN requests to know what specific containment/restoration methods will be used in the event that a leak is detected, and how quickly they</li> </ul>  | It is important to note that Denison is completing a sequential EA and licensing process for the Project (see draft EIS Section 1).Denison considers the EA to be a planning and decision-making tool that assesses the potential effects of the Project in a careful and precautionary manner and integrates results of engagement with Indigenous nations and communities. The details requested by BNDN will be developed to support licensing and will be included   | <b>Adequately Addressed.</b>                                | <p><b>Not addressed.</b></p> <p>BNDN sees it as a reasonable and necessary precaution to provide additional information on this matter. If Denison wishes to defer this to the licensing phase our Nation requires a commitment to negotiate a Project Agreement with our Nation now to have certainty that this</p>  | Please see response to Comment #2 and Comment #13 for Denison’s response to the request for a project or mutual benefits agreement.<br><br>See also response to #33. |

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|----------|--------------------------|--|--|---|---|--|--|
|          |                          |  | would be implemented. This applies to both the UBS holding area and process precipitate pond.<br>See Section 4.7 for additional information on this topic (p. 77).   | in the Project’s future Management System documents including for example the Groundwater Monitoring Plan and the Emergency Response and Preparedness Plan.   |   | will be addressed in a manner that mitigates our Nations concerns.   |  |
| 82       | BNDN (February 28, 2023) | Section 2.2.2.2.2 Uranium Bearing Solution Holding Area          | <p>Comment #82: The Proponent states that the UBS holding area will be designed as a pond contained by a double composite liner system (Figure 2.2-18), and that options to use tanks instead of holding area will be evaluated as engineering advances. Request/recommendation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BNDN requests that Denison undertake a risk assessment for the design of the UBS holding area. BNDN recommends the safer, less environmentally risky option be selected and that BNDN can review and provide input into the decision that Denison makes.</li> </ul> <p>See Section 4.7 for additional information on this topic (p. 77).</p>   | Please see Denison’s response to BNDN comment #33.  | <b>Adequately Addressed.</b>                                | <p><b>Not addressed.</b></p> <p>BNDN sees it as a reasonable and necessary precaution to undertake a risk assessment for this particularly important and risky aspect of the overall operation. BNDN reiterates the request and reminds Denison that this concern would be best addressed through a formalized process for engagement defined in a project agreement between BNDN and Denison for the Wheeler River Project.</p> | Please see response to Comment #2 and Comment #13 for Denison’s response to the request for a project or mutual benefits agreement.<br><br>See also response to #33. |
| 83       | BNDN (February 28, 2023) | Section 2.2.1.4.5  | <p>Comment #83: The Proponent states that the wellfield pipelines will be designed to have secondary containment or catchment and have leak detection systems in place at key locations.</p> <p>BNDN requests more details on the leak detection system used for wellfield lines. Specifically, BNDN requests that Denison respond to the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Is an automated sensing system used?</li> <li>Will automated controls shut off pressure in the event of a significant leak?</li> <li>If no automation is used, how frequently is the system monitored?</li> <li>What chemical or physical indicator(s) are used to detect a leak?</li> <li>What are the detection limits/thresholds for each indicator?</li> <li>What is the precision of each indicator?</li> <li>Who is notified, and how quickly would a response be mobilized?</li> </ul> <p>See Section 4.7 for additional information on this topic (p. 77).</p> | <p>Wellfield piping system will transport the mining solution to and from the processing plant. The flow rates and pressures of the individual well lines will be monitored in the pumphouses. This data will be transmitted to the processing plant for remote monitoring through a master control system. Through the master control system, operators will be capable of controlling pumphouse production lines remotely.</p> <p>The specific details requested by BNDN in this comment are not available at this time and will be developed as part of detailed design to support Project licensing and permitting. Denison considers the EA to be a planning and decision-making tool that assesses the potential effects of the Project in a careful and precautionary manner and integrates results of engagement with Indigenous nations and communities. Denison views the EIS as an important planning tool that will be used to support future activities and represents one stage in the rigorous overall approvals process for a uranium mining facility in Canada. Denison completed feasibility designs for the Project in 2023. The engineering design of the wellfield pipelines including control measures to monitor and respond to leaks will be included in the detailed design information provided to the CNSC during Project licensing.</p> | <b>Adequately Addressed.</b>                                | <p><b>Not Addressed.</b></p> <p>If Denison intends to defer the answering of these important questions to the licensing phase of the Project, BNDN requires a commitment to negotiate a Project Agreement to formalize a process for engagement with BNDN and responding to BNDN concerns on these matters. BNDN requires this commitment for this concern to be addressed.</p>  | Please see response to Comment #2 and Comment #13 for Denison’s response to the request for a project or mutual benefits agreement.                                  |
| 84       | BNDN (February 28, 2023) | Section 2.2.1.4.5 Primary Containment of Mining Solution – Wells | <p>Comment #84: The Proponent states that the well designs and operational monitoring of the wellfield will mitigate accidental release of mining solution or UBS in the sandstone above the mining area.</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BNDN requests to know how Denison will monitor the integrity of wells once in production. Will tests be conducted at regular intervals?</li> </ul> <p>See Section 4.7 for additional information on this topic (p. 77).</p>  | The well designs and operational monitoring of the wellfield will mitigate accidental release of mining solution or UBS in the sandstone above the mining area. Each well will have double containment: mining solution will travel inside an inner casing with the outer casing acting as secondary containment for the mining fluids. Wells will be continually monitored for operational parameters such as injection pressures, injection flow rates, and recovery flow rates. This data will be transmitted to the processing plant for remote monitoring through a master control system. Through the master control system, operators will be capable of controlling pumphouse production lines remotely. Wellfield monitoring will facilitate   | <b>Adequately Addressed.</b>                                | <b>Addressed.</b>  |  |

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|----------|--------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|--|
|          |                          |   |   | <p>detection of any issues with the injection and recovery wells.</p> <p>A network of monitoring wells installed within the freeze wall area will be equipped with pressure instrumentation for the determination of the vertical strain/stresses placed on the formation to do mining zone space creation. This monitoring network is designed to detect if these strains may be approaching their acceptable levels prior to failure. The injection and recovery wells will also be equipped with devices for pressure and temperature that can detect a breach in the well casing if one were to occur. As a preventative measure, annual mechanical integrity testing is conducted on the wells to ensure their containment and compliancy.</p> <p>Active monitoring will allow for operational shutdown if a scenario is approaching a failure mode.</p>   |   |   |  |
| 85       | BNDN (February 28, 2023) | Section 2.2.1.4.5 Fuel Storage and Dispensing Facility  | <p>Comment #85: The Proponent states that fuels will be stored in approved, above-ground, 25,000 L double-walled storage tank(s) equipped with secondary containment in accordance with provincial regulations and standards.</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BNDN requests to confirm when the permanent fuel storage facility will be constructed. If temporary fuel storage for construction is required, indicate how much, how it will be stored and dispensed, and show on a sketch where it will be located. Construction fuel requirements for site development may be significant.</li> </ul> <p>See Section 4.7 for additional information on this topic (p. 77).</p> | <p>Details on when Denison will construct the permanent fuel storage facility or precisely where temporary fuel storage tanks will be located are not available at this phase of the Project and these details are not required to support EIS review. However, at the EIS stage it is important to note that Denison is committed to construction and operating all fuel storage and distribution infrastructure in accordance with applicable legislative requirements. Fuels will be stored in approved, above-ground, double-walled storage tank(s) equipped with secondary containment in accordance with provincial regulations and standards. In Saskatchewan, the permitting process for hazardous substances including above ground storage tanks for diesel, propane, gas, and jet fuel are governed by The Hazardous Substances and Waste Dangerous Goods Regulations; Environmental Code Chapter E-10.2 Reg 3 (HSWDG). Denison will need to apply for an Approval to Construct, Install, Alter and Expand a Storage Facility and Store Hazardous Substances and/or Waste Dangerous Goods and secure an approval from the Ministry of Environment pursuant to The Environmental Management and Protection Act, 2010, and The Hazardous Substances and Waste Dangerous Goods Regulations. Denison will have to adhere to the Terms and Conditions of the approval, complete regular inspections of the facilities, and maintain an Emergency Response Contingency Plan. The Ministry of Environment staff also conduct regular inspections to ensure the conditions of the approval are being followed.</p> | <b>Adequately Addressed.</b>                                | <b>Addressed.</b>                                     |  |
| 86       | BNDN (February 28, 2023) | Section 2.2.4.5 Process Precipitate Pond                | <p>Comment #86: The Proponent states that process precipitates may be stored in totes inside the process precipitate pond.</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BNDN requests details on the procedures for placement and handling of precipitate totes within the pond. Care should be taken to ensure that equipment and totes do not compromise the pond lining. Totes should be sealed and transport of totes</li> </ul>   | <p>The precipitate pond is proposed as a lined area with berms (as shown in Section 2, Figure 2.2-18) and may be more clearly described as being a lined pad. As such, process precipitates can be placed into totes, which can be placed on the lined area ('pond') for containment during storage. Details on the plans for precipitate management, placement and handling will be developed to support Project licensing and permitting. Denison agrees the integrity of the liner</p>   | <b>Adequately Addressed.</b>                                | <b>Addressed.</b>                                     |  |

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|----------|--------------------------|---|--|--|---|---|--|
|          |                          |   | <p>from the plant to the pond should be carefully planned to minimize the risk of a spill, and in the event of a spill ensure that runoff is captured on the site.</p> <p>See Section 4.7 for additional information on this topic (p. 77).</p>  | <p>and totes are important considerations which will be factors in the plans. We also refer BNDN to the following draft EIS sections and comments responses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Waste Management: Waste management is described in Section 2.2.4 of the draft EIS and includes discussion of all waste types that will be generated by Project-related activities. The following is noted in Section 2.2.4 for reference, “Conventional waste, radiologically contaminated waste, and hazardous waste will be managed at the Project. Denison is committed to conducting stringent waste characterization throughout the life of the Project. This includes physical, radiological, and chemical characterization to maintain accurate waste inventories and determine how wastes will be dispositioned through either re-use, recycling, temporary storage, or permanent disposal (on or off site). This includes clearance of material that meets unconditional release requirements and can be safely removed from site. A waste management program will be developed for the Project to support licensing and permitting. The waste management program and associated plans developed to support licensing will be based on the 4 R’s: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, and Recover, and will detail how each type of waste generated on site will be managed. Resources used to develop the waste management program will include, but are not limited to, the CNSC’s REGDOC-2.11 series, related Canadian Standards Association (CSA) standards, and the Hazardous Substances and Waste Dangerous Goods Regulations (Government of Saskatchewan 2000).”</li> <li>Water Management: Water management is described in Section 2.2.3 of the draft EIS and includes Denison’s commitment to capturing any contact water. Clean, non-contact runoff will be diverted around Project components where possible. Contact water, including, for example, runoff from the wellfield and around the processing plant, will be collected in various ponds and eventually routed through the IWWTP for treatment prior to release to Whitefish Lake. Refer to Figure 2.2-17 for runoff collection assumptions.</li> <li>Emergency Preparedness and Response Program: Please also see Denison’s response to BNDN comments 87 and 88 below for information on the Emergency Preparedness and Response Program.</li> </ul> |   |   |  |
| 87       | BNDN (February 28, 2023) | Section 2.8 Project Design Features                     | <p>Comments #87 and 88: Denison states that they will maintain an up-to-date record of the various hazardous substances on site and will maintain Safety Data Sheets and appropriate procedures for spill management, handling, and clean up in an accessible location.</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p> | The details requested related to the Emergency Preparedness and Response Program are being developed to support licensing efforts. The EIS is a planning tool to provide an assessment of the potential Project effects on the human and   | <b>Adequately Addressed.</b>                                | <b>Addressed.</b>                                     |  |

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|----------|--------------------------|---|---|--|---|---|--|
|          |                          |   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BNDN requests a description of the safety and spill response training programs that employees will undergo. What is the duration of each training program and how often will retraining be conducted?</li> <li>BNDN requests to know what resources will be kept on site for management and clean-up of spills, for example spill kits, absorbents, neutralization agents, vacuum trucks, PPE, hand tools, etc.</li> </ul> <p>See Section 4.7 for additional information on this topic (p. 77).</p>  | <p>biophysical environment; at the EIS stage a detailed Management System is not required.</p> <p>A brief description of the Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan is provided in the draft EIS, Section 2.9.1.3.5: and included below for reference. Please also refer to draft EIS, Section 14 Accidents and Malfunctions for an assessment of the potential accidents and malfunctions that could occur in association with the Project and a description of the potential effects on human health or the biophysical environment, considering environmental design features and mitigation measures that would be implemented to reduce such effects.</p> <p>2.9.1.3.5 Emergency Preparedness and Response Program</p> <p>The Emergency Preparedness and Response Program would identify how the Project will prepare for and addresses emergencies that may affect the health and safety of persons, the environment, and the protection of property. The objectives of the program would include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>identification of accidents and emergencies and the actions and responsibilities in the event of an emergency;</li> <li>Project requirements for emergency response equipment and personnel;</li> <li>internal incident command structure to effectively manage complex, lengthy, and large-scale emergencies;</li> <li>required communications with external emergency services, statutory bodies, and public, Indigenous groups, and regulatory agencies;</li> <li>development of appropriate emergency procedures; and</li> <li>assurance of availability of vital information during an emergency.</li> </ul> <p>Emergency Preparedness and Response Program would be developed consistent with guidance provided by CNSC in REGDOC-2.10.1, Nuclear Emergency Preparedness and Response.</p> |   |   |  |
| 88       | BNDN (February 28, 2023) | Section 2.2.2.2.4 Yellowcake drying and packaging       | <p>Comment #89: The Proponent describes various measures used to mitigate yellowcake dust emissions: the yellowcake drying and packaging area will be outfitted with hygiene systems to capture dust generated during the material handling of the yellowcake product and sent to either the dryer or calciner venturi scrubbers. All equipment located after the dewatering of the yellowcake will be selected to provide minimal dust generation and outfitted with dust collection systems where required. The ventilation system in this area of the processing plant will also be adequately designed to provide safety of workers and control fugitive dust emissions.</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p> | Should dust collection systems in the yellowcake drying and packaging area fail and generate a hazard for the workers, the plant will be shut down until repairs are completed. A redundant hygiene system is not economical to implement. Hygiene scrubbers are typically very reliable and can be repaired in short time frames.   | <b>Adequately Addressed.</b>                                | <b>Addressed.</b>                                     |  |



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|----------|--------------------------|---|--|--|---|---|--|
|          |                          |   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BNDN recommends redundant hygiene systems be installed (n+1 units) to ensure continuity of air filtration in the event of equipment failure.</li> </ul> <p>See Section 4.7 for additional information on this topic (p. 77).</p>  |  |   |   |  |
| 89       | BNDN (February 28, 2023) | Draft EIS 9.3.5.1 Project Design Measures               | <p>Comment #90: The Proponent states that all contaminated areas will be fenced to avoid contact with workers and wildlife. Fences will be monitored and maintained.</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BNDN requests to know the size and type of fence considered for each project area.</li> <li>Confirm if the wellfields will be fenced. Show all fences on a site layout drawing like Figure 2.2-1.</li> </ul> <p>See Section 4.7 for additional information on this topic (p. 77).</p> | Access to the property will be controlled by both a north and south security gate. In the draft EIS, Denison has committed to fencing the domestic landfill (Section 2.2.4.3.1) and having a fenced storage area near the operations centre. Details on the size and type of fencing are not defined at this stage of the Project, but will meet the criteria outlined in the EIS. The wellfield is not proposed to be fenced. For the wildlife-specific mitigation measures, refer to Section 9.3.5.2.5 Wildlife Deterrence and Prevention of Wildlife Entrapment and Section 9.3.5.2.8 Waste and Hazardous Materials Management. | <b>Adequately Addressed.</b>                                | <b>Addressed.</b>                                     |  |

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**From:** [John Glover](#)  
[McKeown, Justin \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#); [Boser, Sydney \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#); [Chief Jonathon P Sylvestre](#); [Way, Jessica \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#); [Trevor Moberly](#); [Rodney Laprise](#);  
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**Subject:** Re: BNDN TK Summary Presentation to CNSC: Denison  
**Sent:** 2025-11-03 5:56:26 PM

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EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES PREUVE DE PRUDENCE

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Hi Justin,

I appreciate the update and encouragement to Denison.

As I believe you are aware, we have completed an NDA with Denison that is now executed by both parties. We have not had any requests from Denison since the NDA was signed.

Let us know when you'd like to discuss the results of CNSCs review.

All the best,  
John

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John Glover  
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**From:** McKeown, Justin (CNSC/CCSN) <[justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 28, 2025 3:11 PM  
**To:** John Glover <[john@tamarackenvironmental.ca](mailto:john@tamarackenvironmental.ca)>; Boser, Sydney (CNSC/CCSN) <[sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Chief Jonathon P Sylvestre <[chief1@birchnarrows.ca](mailto:chief1@birchnarrows.ca)>; Way, Jessica (CNSC/CCSN) <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Trevor Moberly <[trevor.moberly@birchnarrows.ca](mailto:trevor.moberly@birchnarrows.ca)>; Rodney Laprise <[rodney.laprise@birchnarrows.ca](mailto:rodney.laprise@birchnarrows.ca)>; Terrie Campbell <[terrie.campbell@birchnarrows.ca](mailto:terrie.campbell@birchnarrows.ca)>; robert.sylvester <[robert.sylvester@birchnarrows.ca](mailto:robert.sylvester@birchnarrows.ca)> <[robert.sylvester@birchnarrows.ca](mailto:robert.sylvester@birchnarrows.ca)>; kimsylvestre@birchnarrows.ca <[kimsylvestre@birchnarrows.ca](mailto:kimsylvestre@birchnarrows.ca)>; conradsylvestre@birchnarrows.ca <[conradsylvestre@birchnarrows.ca](mailto:conradsylvestre@birchnarrows.ca)>; Keegan McGrath <[keegan@tamarackenvironmental.ca](mailto:keegan@tamarackenvironmental.ca)>  
**Cc:** Froess, Ryan (CNSC/CCSN) <[ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Noakes, Rain (CNSC/CCSN) <[rain.noakes@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:rain.noakes@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Subject:** RE: BNDN TK Summary Presentation to CNSC: Denison

Hi John,

I wanted to follow up and let you know that we are working on reviewing the presentation and the traditional land use data shared with the CNSC. As a means of follow up, I wanted to inform you that I have reached out to Denison to make them aware that we are in possession of BNDN contemporary traditional land use data. Of course, no specifics were provided but I indicated to them that I encourage Denison to speak to BNDN to open dialogue with the intent of discussing BNDN's traditional use in relation to the Project, should BNDN wish to share their data with them.

In the same vein, I encourage BNDN to consult and engage in good faith and to be open to sharing BNDN's traditional use data in relation to the proposed Denison Wheeler River Project with Denison so they can fully understand and contemplate any pathways of impacts to BNDN's exercise of Aboriginal and Treaty rights. At this point I cannot force either Denison or BNDN to speak and provide information to one another, however I do implore both the Nation and Denison to pursue constructive and respectful dialogue with one another.

If there are any follow up questions or comments please do not hesitate to reach out. And note that I will be in touch within the next week regarding our meeting.

Thanks and take care.

-Justin

---

**From:** John Glover <john@tamarackenvironmental.ca>

**Sent:** October 24, 2025 8:54 AM

**To:** Boser, Sydney (CNSC/CCSN) <sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca>; Chief Jonathon P Sylvestre <chief1@birchnarrows.ca>; Way, Jessica (CNSC/CCSN) <jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca>; McKeown, Justin (CNSC/CCSN) <justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca>; Trevor Moberly <trevor.moberly@birchnarrows.ca>; Rodney Laprise <rodney.laprise@birchnarrows.ca>; Terrie Campbell <terrie.campbell@birchnarrows.ca>; robert.sylvester <robert.sylvester@birchnarrows.ca> <robert.sylvester@birchnarrows.ca>; kimsylvestre@birchnarrows.ca; conradsylvestre@birchnarrows.ca; Keegan McGrath <keegan@tamarackenvironmental.ca>

**Cc:** Froess, Ryan (CNSC/CCSN) <ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca>; Noakes, Rain (CNSC/CCSN) <rain.noakes@cnscccsn.gc.ca>

**Subject:** RE: BNDN TK Summary Presentation to CNSC: Denison

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| EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES<br>PREUVE DE PRUDENCE |
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Good morning all,

Thank you to the CNSC Staff for taking the time to meet with Birch Narrows Dene Nation and the Nuh Nene Department. It was a productive, enlightening, and respectful dialogue. Thank you also to the BNDN members who supported in the presentation, your words were truly powerful. As discussed, BNDN would like to share, in good faith, and under our Confidentiality Agreement the slide deck that was presented.

We are hopeful the message is now clear to CNSC that the Denison Wheeler River will unequivocally impact the rights, culture, land use of Birch Narrows Dene Nation; in addition to posing adverse environmental impacts on the lands and waters in BNDN's homeland/Treaty lands.. We look forward to the results of your assessment and future meetings that will hopefully advance meaningful consultation/accommodation measures for Birch.

Respectfully,

—  
**John Glover**  
Director  
Tamarack Environmental Associates Inc.  
(519) 272-3498  
[john@tamarackenvironmental.ca](mailto:john@tamarackenvironmental.ca)

-----Original Appointment-----

**From:** Boser, Sydney <[sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>

**Sent:** October 7, 2025 4:30 PM

**To:** Boser, Sydney; John Glover; Chief Jonathon P Sylvestre; Way, Jessica; McKeown, Justin; Trevor Moberly; Rodney Laprise; Terrie Campbell; robert.sylvester <[robert.sylvester@birchnarrows.ca](mailto:robert.sylvester@birchnarrows.ca)>; [kimsylvestre@birchnarrows.ca](mailto:kimsylvestre@birchnarrows.ca); [conradsylvestre@birchnarrows.ca](mailto:conradsylvestre@birchnarrows.ca); Keegan McGrath

**Cc:** Gorzkowski, Konrad; Froess, Ryan; Noakes, Rain

**Subject:** BNDN TK Summary Presentation to CNSC: Denison

**When:** October 23, 2025 1:00 PM-2:30 PM (UTC-06:00) Saskatchewan.

**Where:** Microsoft Teams Meeting

BNDN to share TK information with CNSC

**From:** [McKeown, Justin \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#)  
**To:** [Chief Jonathon P Sylvestre](#); [Trevor Moberly](#); [Rodney Laprise](#); [Terrie Campbell](#); [tharren.moberly@birchnarrows.ca](mailto:tharren.moberly@birchnarrows.ca); [John Glover](#);  
[Levine, Adam \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#); [Boser, Sydney \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#); [Way, Jessica \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#); [Gorzkowski, Konrad \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#); [Burton, Patrick \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#); [Wylie, Doug \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#); [Ringer, Ryan \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#);  
**Cc:** [Levine, Adam \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#); [Boser, Sydney \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#); [Way, Jessica \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#); [Gorzkowski, Konrad \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#); [Burton, Patrick \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#); [Wylie, Doug \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#); [Ringer, Ryan \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#);  
**Subject:** Denison Mines Wheeler River Project - Evaluation of Impacts to BNDN Rights  
**Attachments:** [Response\\_to\\_BNDN\\_Impacts\\_To\\_Rights\\_2025\\_11\\_12.pdf](#)  
**Sent:** 2025-11-12 3:58:08 PM

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Good afternoon Chief Sylvestre,

I wanted to thank BNDN Councillors, Land Committee Members, and BNDN's Technical Consultant in meeting with CNCS staff to share BNDN's known historical and contemporary land use information related to the proposed Denison Wheeler River Project. We appreciate the time it took to gather and present the information and the passion members spoke of when sharing their connection to the ancestral lands of the Dene Peoples.

Attached is our analysis of the traditional use information provided as it pertains to potential impacts to BNDN's rights as a result of the proposed Project. We are open to receiving any updated information the Nation wishes to share regarding member land use as more Nation members come forward. In addition, we are happy to discuss our findings in a follow-up call should the Nation wish to meet.

Thank you again for your time.

**Justin McKeown, B.Sc., P.Biol.**

Team Leader, Western & Northern Regions | Chef d'équipe, régions de l'ouest et du nord  
Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division | Division de la consultation et de la mobilisation des Autochtones  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission | Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
[justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca) | Tél. Cell: 403-466-7185

*I have the privilege of living and working in Moh'kinstsis/Wicîspa/Guts'ists'i, on Treaty 7 lands and on the homeland of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government Districts 5 and 6.*



**November 12, 2025**

Chief Jonathan Sylvestre  
Birch Narrows Dene Nation  
Turnor Lake, Saskatchewan  
S0M 3E0

**Subject: Denison Mines Wheeler River Project – Consultation with Birch Narrows Dene Nation**

Dear Chief Sylvestre:

I would like to thank Birch Narrows Dene Nation (BNDN) Councilors Trevor Moberly and Rodney Laprise, Lands Committee members Terrie Campbell and Tharren Moberly, and John Glover from Tamarack Environmental Associates for meeting with Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) staff on October 23, 2025 to share BNDN's confidential traditional use data as it relates to the proposed Denison Wheeler River Project (the Project).

As stated in CNSC's letter to BNDN on September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025 CNSC requested specific information regarding BNDN members' land use and exercise of rights in the proposed Wheeler River Project area. We appreciate the open and transparent sharing of BNDN's traditional land use data as it helps CNSC staff to better understand the potential impacts on BNDN's Aboriginal and treaty rights under Section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*. CNSC staff have evaluated the traditional land use information shared to date related to the Project and details of our assessment of potential impacts on BNDN's rights related to the Project are contained in Annex A attached to this letter.

The summary analysis contained in Annex A will be included in the publicly available Commission Member Document supplemental submission to outline CNSC staff's work in assessing impacts to BNDN's rights. This information is required for the Commission to make an informed decision on the Project. We understand the sensitive nature of the traditional land use information shared and would like to confirm with BNDN that the material contained in Annex A respects the Nation's request for confidentiality.

CNSC staff understand and acknowledge that BNDN's Indigenous Knowledge and traditional land use data are ever-evolving and as more Nation members come forward to share their knowledge, more historical and contemporary use may be understood. CNSC remains open to receiving information with regards to BNDN's traditional use and practices at any time as the information becomes available.

The CNSC appreciates the traditional land use data shared by BNDN and commends BNDN's representatives for providing their perspectives on the Project and detailing their connections to the

areas of traditional use. The CNSC is committed to working with BNDN to collaborate on addressing any outstanding concerns with respect to the Denison Wheeler River Project, including engagement on monitoring initiatives and follow-up activities, where appropriate. The CNSC values our productive working relationship with BNDN and we look forward to continuing our relationship with you and your Nation. Please let us know if you would like to set up a meeting to discuss CNSC staff's analysis of the information shared by BNDN to date as it relates to their traditional use and rights, and working on a path forward together.

Yours sincerely,



Digitally signed by McKeown, Justin  
DN: C=CA, O=GC, OU=CNSC-CCSN, CN="McKeown, Justin"  
Reason: I am the author of this document  
Location:  
Date: 2025.11.12 14:44:26-0700  
Foxit PDF Editor Version: 13.0.1

Justin McKeown

Team Leader – Western & Northern Regions Team

Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division

Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission

c.c./c.c.: CNSC: A. Levine, S. Boser, J. Way, P. Burton, K. Gorzkowski, D. Wylie, R. Ringer  
Birch Narrows Dene Nation: Tr. Moberly, R. Laprise, T. Campbell, Th. Moberly, J. Glover

---

**From:** [John Glover](#)  
**To:** [McKeown, Justin \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#); [Chief Jonathon P Sylvestre](#); [Trevor Moberly](#); [Rodney Laprise](#); [Terrie Campbell](#); [tharren.moberly@birchnarrows.ca](#);  
**Cc:** [Levine, Adam \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#); [Boser, Sydney \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#); [Way, Jessica \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#); [Gorzkowski, Konrad \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#); [Burton, Patrick \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#); [Wylie, Doug \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#); [Ringer, Ryan \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#);  
**Subject:** RE: Denison Mines Wheeler River Project - Evaluation of Impacts to BNDN Rights  
**Attachments:** [BNDN\\_Letter\\_CNSC\\_2025.11.13.pdf](#)  
**Sent:** 2025-11-17 9:08:03 AM

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**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Flagged

EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES PREUVE DE PRUDENCE

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Good morning Justin,

Please find the attached letter from Chief Sylvestre.

We are available to discuss any potential next steps.

John

---

**John Glover**

Director

Tamarack Environmental Associates Inc.

(519) 272-3498

[john@tamarackenvironmental.ca](mailto:john@tamarackenvironmental.ca)

---

**From:** McKeown, Justin (CNSC/CCSN) <justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca>

**Sent:** November 12, 2025 4:58 PM

**To:** Chief Jonathon P Sylvestre <chief1@birchnarrows.ca>; Trevor Moberly <trevor.moberly@birchnarrows.ca>; Rodney Laprise <rodney.laprise@birchnarrows.ca>; Terrie Campbell <terrie.campbell@birchnarrows.ca>; tharren.moberly@birchnarrows.ca; John Glover <john@tamarackenvironmental.ca>

**Cc:** Levine, Adam (CNSC/CCSN) <Adam.Levine@cnscccsn.gc.ca>; Boser, Sydney (CNSC/CCSN) <sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca>; Way, Jessica (CNSC/CCSN) <jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca>; Gorzkowski, Konrad (CNSC/CCSN) <konrad.gorzkowski@cnscccsn.gc.ca>; Burton, Patrick (CNSC/CCSN) <Patrick.Burton@cnscccsn.gc.ca>; Wylie, Doug (CNSC/CCSN) <doug.wylie@cnscccsn.gc.ca>; Ringer, Ryan (CNSC/CCSN) <ryan.ringer@cnscccsn.gc.ca>

**Subject:** Denison Mines Wheeler River Project - Evaluation of Impacts to BNDN Rights

Good afternoon Chief Sylvestre,

I wanted to thank BNDN Councillors, Land Committee Members, and BNDN's Technical Consultant in meeting with CNCS staff to share BNDN's known historical and contemporary land use information related to the proposed Denison Wheeler River Project. We appreciate the time it took to gather and present the information and the passion members spoke of when sharing their connection to the ancestral lands of the Dene Peoples.

Attached is our analysis of the traditional use information provided as it pertains to potential impacts to BNDN's rights as a result of the proposed Project. We are open to receiving any updated information the Nation wishes to share regarding member land use as more Nation members come forward. In addition, we are happy to discuss our findings in a follow-up call should the Nation wish to meet.

Thank you again for your time.

**Justin McKeown, B.Sc., P.Biol.**

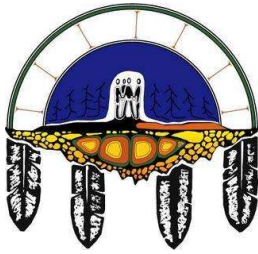
Team Leader, Western & Northern Regions | Chef d'équipe, régions de l'ouest et du nord

Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division | Division de la consultation et de la mobilisation des Autochtones

Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission | Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire

[justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca) | Tél. Cell: 403-466-7185

*I have the privilege of living and working in Moh'kinstsis/Wicîspa/Guts'ists'l, on Treaty 7 lands and on the*



**Birch Narrows Dene Nation**

General Delivery  
Turnor Lake, SK  
S0M 3E0

November 17, 2025

Justin McKeown  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
280 Slater Street, P.O. Box 1046, Station B  
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5S9

**Re: CNSC Assessment of Impacts to Birch Narrows Dene Nation's Rights – Denison Wheeler River Project**

Dear Mr. McKeown,

Birch Narrows Dene Nation (BNDN) has reviewed your correspondence dated November 12, 2025, regarding the Denison Mines Wheeler River Project. BNDN strongly disagrees with CNSC staff's assessment of the Project's potential impacts to our Aboriginal and Treaty rights.

CNSC's conclusions fundamentally misrepresent the information shared by BNDN and fail to reflect the limitations and caveats we clearly communicated during our meeting on October 23, 2025. The assessment contained in Annex A of your letter is based entirely on a summary PowerPoint presentation, which was never intended to serve as a complete or stand-alone account of BNDN's land use, occupancy, and rights-based interests.

At no point did BNDN provide consent for CNSC to treat the contents of that presentation as comprehensive or conclusive. The materials shared represented only a small portion of BNDN's extensive and ongoing documentation of traditional land use and were provided in confidence for the limited purpose of informing discussion, not as the full extent of the Nation's knowledge or rights assertions.

Furthermore, CNSC staff's analysis makes no reference to the study limitations, data gaps, or methodological constraints that BNDN explicitly identified during the presentation. These include minimal funding far below typical levels restricting data collection to group rather than preferred individual interviews; a small, non-representative sample size amounting to only 3 percent of BNDN membership; and the acknowledgment that the dataset is partial, evolving, and not the full extent of BNDN knowledge. This omission has led to inaccurate and incomplete conclusions regarding the location, scope, and sensitivity of areas used by our members.

BNDN rejects CNSC's claim that there will be no direct impacts to our rights or that potential effects can be dismissed based on arbitrary boundaries [REDACTED]. Our traditional territory is a living, interconnected ecological system that defies such narrow definitions. The Project's impacts through contamination, access restrictions, and cumulative uranium development pose direct, ongoing threats to our ability to exercise our constitutionally protected rights and maintain our way of life.

BNDN's members use the lands, waters, and ecosystems of the Athabasca Basin in a connected and cumulative manner. Water quality and habitat conditions are interlinked across catchments. Any disturbance to water systems, wildlife, or vegetation in one area can reverberate across broader ecological networks.

During the meeting, BNDN presented pathways to rights impacts outlining the many interconnected ways the Wheeler River Project will affect its Aboriginal and Treaty rights. These pathways include loss and fragmentation of land and habitat from mine infrastructure and roads; contamination and perceived contamination of waters that sustain fish, wildlife, and drinking supplies; restricted access and avoidance caused by mine infrastructure, traffic, and sensory effects of uranium development; cumulative degradation of traditional hunting, trapping, and gathering areas across the Athabasca Basin; and cultural impacts such as erosion of Dene stewardship and youth connection to the land. None of these critical pathways were recognized or analyzed by CNSC in Annex A.

Instead, CNSC applied a narrow proximity test, concluding there were no impacts simply because certain sites of use fall outside an arbitrary boundary [REDACTED]. This approach ignores how Dene people truly experience and exercise their rights through interconnected land, water, and cultural relationships and therefore fails to capture the real ways in which the Project undermines BNDN's ability to meaningfully exercise those rights.

Importantly, the consultation and engagement process undertaken by CNSC and the proponent has been inadequate and far short of the Crown's legal duty to consult and, where appropriate, accommodate. BNDN was constrained by insufficient funding, limited opportunities to meaningfully share knowledge, and exclusion from decision-making processes essential to protecting our rights. The duty to consult is a solemn constitutional obligation that CNSC must uphold not only procedurally but substantively.

BNDN is a Treaty No. 10 Nation, and the Treaty affirms our inherent right to hunt, fish, trap, and gather throughout our traditional territories. These rights are central to our identity, culture, and survival as Dene people. However, these rights cannot be meaningfully exercised when the Crown authorizes large-scale industrial developments like the Wheeler River Project that occupy, fragment, and contaminate the very lands and waters that sustain us. Each new project

further reduces the availability of safe, accessible, and undisturbed areas where our members can practice these rights, eroding the balance and reciprocity that Treaty No.10 was meant to preserve.

The Denison Wheeler River Project will take up lands within our Treaty territory for exclusive industrial use, restrict access through the mine site and associated roads, and degrade the ecosystems that support the wildlife and fish relied upon by our members. It will also create fear and avoidance that deter our people from using lands near uranium operations, even in areas not physically disturbed. These effects are direct infringements of our Treaty rights and strike at the foundation of Treaty No. 10, which promised that we could continue our way of life as long as the sun shines and the rivers flow. To claim there will be no direct impacts is not only incorrect it is dismissive of our lived experience and the Crown's constitutional obligations under Section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982.

We also wish to make clear that BNDN does not grant permission for CNSC to share, reproduce, or include any portion of confidential information we provided within the public hearing record or other public-facing documents. The PowerPoint materials and accompanying discussion remain the intellectual property and confidential cultural information of Birch Narrows Dene Nation and may not be disclosed or cited without our prior written authorization.

BNDN expects that CNSC will immediately revise its assessment and withdraw the current summary from any public documentation or submission to the Commission until such time that a mutually agreed process for validation, correction, and consent-based disclosure can occur.

We remain open to a direct discussion regarding these matters, but we cannot accept an assessment that diminishes our knowledge, disregards our study parameters, and mischaracterizes the extent of impacts to our constitutionally protected rights. Should these concerns not be properly addressed, BNDN will consider all appropriate options to ensure that our rights and interests are fully respected and protected.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Jonathan Sylvestre', written in a cursive style.

Chief Jonathan Sylvestre  
Birch Narrows Dene Nation

cc: BNDN Council and Lands Committee

**From:** [McKeown, Justin \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#)  
**To:** [John Glover](#); [Chief Jonathon P Sylvestre](#); [Trevor Moberly](#); [Rodney Laprise](#); [Terrie Campbell](#); [tharren.moberly@birchnarrows.ca](mailto:tharren.moberly@birchnarrows.ca);  
[Levine, Adam \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#); [Boser, Sydney \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#); [Way, Jessica \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#); [Gorzkowski, Konrad \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#); [Burton, Patrick \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#); [Wylie, Doug \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#); [Ringer, Ryan \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#);  
**Cc:** [Levine, Adam \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#); [Boser, Sydney \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#); [Way, Jessica \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#); [Gorzkowski, Konrad \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#); [Burton, Patrick \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#); [Wylie, Doug \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#); [Ringer, Ryan \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#);  
**Subject:** RE: Denison Mines Wheeler River Project - Evaluation of Impacts to BNDN Rights  
**Sent:** 2025-11-17 11:39:18 AM

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Hi John,

Thank you for providing the response on behalf of Chief Sylvestre. Is there a time that Birch representatives would be willing to meet? We are happy to discuss and go over the contents in both letters.

Please advise.

Thanks.

-Justin

---

**From:** John Glover <[john@tamarackenvironmental.ca](mailto:john@tamarackenvironmental.ca)>  
**Sent:** November 17, 2025 8:07 AM  
**To:** McKeown, Justin (CNSC/CCSN) <[justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Chief Jonathon P Sylvestre <[chief1@birchnarrows.ca](mailto:chief1@birchnarrows.ca)>; Trevor Moberly <[trevor.moberly@birchnarrows.ca](mailto:trevor.moberly@birchnarrows.ca)>; Rodney Laprise <[rodney.laprise@birchnarrows.ca](mailto:rodney.laprise@birchnarrows.ca)>; Terrie Campbell <[terrie.campbell@birchnarrows.ca](mailto:terrie.campbell@birchnarrows.ca)>; [tharren.moberly@birchnarrows.ca](mailto:tharren.moberly@birchnarrows.ca)  
**Cc:** Levine, Adam (CNSC/CCSN) <[Adam.Levine@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:Adam.Levine@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Boser, Sydney (CNSC/CCSN) <[sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Way, Jessica (CNSC/CCSN) <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Gorzkowski, Konrad (CNSC/CCSN) <[konrad.gorzkowski@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:konrad.gorzkowski@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Burton, Patrick (CNSC/CCSN) <[Patrick.Burton@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:Patrick.Burton@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Wylie, Doug (CNSC/CCSN) <[doug.wylie@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:doug.wylie@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Ringer, Ryan (CNSC/CCSN) <[ryan.ringer@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:ryan.ringer@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Subject:** RE: Denison Mines Wheeler River Project - Evaluation of Impacts to BNDN Rights

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| EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES<br>PREUVE DE PRUDENCE |
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Good morning Justin,

Please find the attached letter from Chief Sylvestre.

We are available to discuss any potential next steps.

John

—  
**John Glover**  
Director  
Tamarack Environmental Associates Inc.  
(519) 272-3498  
[john@tamarackenvironmental.ca](mailto:john@tamarackenvironmental.ca)

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**From:** McKeown, Justin (CNSC/CCSN) <[justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Sent:** November 12, 2025 4:58 PM  
**To:** Chief Jonathon P Sylvestre <[chief1@birchnarrows.ca](mailto:chief1@birchnarrows.ca)>; Trevor Moberly <[trevor.moberly@birchnarrows.ca](mailto:trevor.moberly@birchnarrows.ca)>; Rodney Laprise <[rodney.laprise@birchnarrows.ca](mailto:rodney.laprise@birchnarrows.ca)>; Terrie Campbell <[terrie.campbell@birchnarrows.ca](mailto:terrie.campbell@birchnarrows.ca)>; [tharren.moberly@birchnarrows.ca](mailto:tharren.moberly@birchnarrows.ca); John Glover <[john@tamarackenvironmental.ca](mailto:john@tamarackenvironmental.ca)>  
**Cc:** Levine, Adam (CNSC/CCSN) <[Adam.Levine@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:Adam.Levine@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Boser, Sydney (CNSC/CCSN) <[sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Way, Jessica (CNSC/CCSN) <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Gorzkowski, Konrad (CNSC/CCSN) <[konrad.gorzkowski@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:konrad.gorzkowski@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Burton, Patrick (CNSC/CCSN) <[Patrick.Burton@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:Patrick.Burton@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Wylie, Doug (CNSC/CCSN) <[doug.wylie@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:doug.wylie@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Ringer, Ryan (CNSC/CCSN) <[ryan.ringer@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:ryan.ringer@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Subject:** Denison Mines Wheeler River Project - Evaluation of Impacts to BNDN Rights

Good afternoon Chief Sylvestre,

I wanted to thank BNDN Councillors, Land Committee Members, and BNDN's Technical Consultant in meeting with CNCS staff to share BNDN's known historical and contemporary land use information related to the proposed Denison Wheeler River Project. We appreciate the time it took to gather and present the information and the passion members spoke of when sharing their connection to the ancestral lands of the Dene Peoples.

Attached is our analysis of the traditional use information provided as it pertains to potential impacts to BNDN's rights as a result of the proposed Project. We are open to receiving any updated information the Nation wishes to share regarding member land use as more Nation members come forward. In addition, we are happy to discuss our findings in a follow-up call should the Nation wish to meet.

Thank you again for your time.

**Justin McKeown, B.Sc., P.Biol.**

Team Leader, Western & Northern Regions | Chef d'équipe, régions de l'ouest et du nord  
Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division | Division de la consultation et de la mobilisation des Autochtones  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission | Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
[justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca) | Tél. Cell: 403-466-7185

*I have the privilege of living and working in Moh'kinstsis/Wicîspa/Guts'ists'I, on Treaty 7 lands and on the homeland of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government Districts 5 and 6.*

**From:** [Boser, Sydney \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#)  
**To:** [John Glover](#); [Terrie Campbell](#);  
**Cc:** [McKeown, Justin \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#); [Way, Jessica \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#); [Gorzowski, Konrad \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#); [Keegan McGrath](#);  
**Subject:** RE: REMINDER: Denison Part 2 Commission Hearing - PowerPoint Presentation deadline  
**Sent:** 2025-11-19 1:40:00 PM

---

Okay thank you John and Terrie. Please see the link to the agenda - [CMD 25-H14 - Agenda for the December 8-11, 2025 Public Hearing](#)

BNDN will be presenting after lunch on Tuesday Dec 9<sup>th</sup>.

Cheers,

Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)  
Phone Number: 343-596-9556

Agente principale en politiques, Division de la consultation et de la mobilisation des Autochtones  
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Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)

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---

**From:** John Glover <[john@tamarackenvironmental.ca](mailto:john@tamarackenvironmental.ca)>  
**Sent:** November 19, 2025 1:33 PM  
**To:** Terrie Campbell <[terrie.campbell@birchnarrows.ca](mailto:terrie.campbell@birchnarrows.ca)>; Boser, Sydney (CNSC/CCSN) <[sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Cc:** McKeown, Justin (CNSC/CCSN) <[justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Way, Jessica (CNSC/CCSN) <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Gorzowski, Konrad (CNSC/CCSN) <[konrad.gorzowski@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:konrad.gorzowski@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Keegan McGrath <[keegan@tamarackenvironmental.ca](mailto:keegan@tamarackenvironmental.ca)>  
**Subject:** RE: REMINDER: Denison Part 2 Commission Hearing - PowerPoint Presentation deadline

|  |
|--|
| EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES<br>PREUVE DE PRUDENCE |
|--|

Hi all,

The Registrar has granted us an extension to submit presentation materials until Nov 28<sup>th</sup>.

Thanks,

—

**John Glover**

Director

Tamarack Environmental Associates Inc.

(519) 272-3498

[john@tamarackenvironmental.ca](mailto:john@tamarackenvironmental.ca)

---

**From:** Terrie Campbell <[terrie.campbell@birchnarrows.ca](mailto:terrie.campbell@birchnarrows.ca)>

**Sent:** November 19, 2025 2:18 PM

**To:** Boser, Sydney (CNSC/CCSN) <[sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>

**Cc:** McKeown, Justin (CNSC/CCSN) <[justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Way, Jessica (CNSC/CCSN) <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Gorzkowski, Konrad (CNSC/CCSN) <[konrad.gorzowski@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:konrad.gorzowski@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; John Glover <[john@tamarackenvironmental.ca](mailto:john@tamarackenvironmental.ca)>; Keegan McGrath <[keegan@tamarackenvironmental.ca](mailto:keegan@tamarackenvironmental.ca)>

**Subject:** Re: REMINDER: Denison Part 2 Commission Hearing - PowerPoint Presentation deadline

Good afternoon,

Thank you for the reminder. I confirm that I will be submitting my PowerPoint presentation for the Denison Part 2 hearing. I will ensure it is sent to the Registry at [interventions@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:interventions@cnscccsn.gc.ca) by Monday, November 24th. On another note, I'd like to open with a speech on BNDN behalf, is there a formal agenda to follow?

Kind regards,  
Terrie Campbell



Community Development Planner/Land Manager

(c) 306-940-6801

(w) 306-894-2030

---

**From:** Boser, Sydney (CNSC/CCSN) <[sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>

**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2025 2:44 PM



**Cc:** McKeown, Justin (CNSC/CCSN) <[justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Way, Jessica (CNSC/CCSN) <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Gorzkowski, Konrad (CNSC/CCSN) <[konrad.gorzowski@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:konrad.gorzowski@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>

**Subject:** REMINDER: Denison Part 2 Commission Hearing - PowerPoint Presentation deadline

Good afternoon,

This is a reminder that if you wish to use a PowerPoint presentation during your oral presentation to the Commission for the Denison Part 2 hearing the week of December 8<sup>th</sup>, it is **due to the Registry on Monday November 24<sup>th</sup>**. The Registry can be contacted at [interventions@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:interventions@cnscccsn.gc.ca)

Thank you,

Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)  
Phone Number: 343-596-9556

Agente principale en politiques, Division de la consultation et de la mobilisation des Autochtones  
Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)

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**C.9            Key Correspondence with Prince Albert Grand Council since  
June 2025**

---

**From:** [mamun](#)  
**To:** [Boser, Sydney](#)  
**Cc:** [McKeown, Justin](#); [Way, Jessica](#); [Froess, Ryan](#); [jtsanniejr@pagc.net](mailto:jtsanniejr@pagc.net);  
**Subject:** Re: CNSC & PAGC - Issues Tracking Table - For Review: Wheeler River  
**Sent:** 2025-07-29 4:07:02 PM

---

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed  
EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES PREUVE  
DE PRUDENCE

---

Hello Sydney,

Please find attached additional comments on the response table you shared regarding the Wheeler Mine review. I have also copied two colleagues who are familiar with the file—should they have any further input, I will be sure to forward their comments for inclusion in the development of the public document you are preparing for posting.

In addition, we would appreciate any information on potential funding opportunities related to this and other review work, particularly regarding similar initiatives that PAGC may have received support for in the past.

We remain committed to contributing our efforts toward the review of CNSC-related mining documents and supporting public hearings and other important processes associated with these activities.

Best regards,

Regards,

On Thursday, July 17, 2025 at 03:35:43 p.m. CST, Boser, Sydney <[sydney.boser@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnsccsn.gc.ca)> wrote:

Good afternoon Mamun,

I just wanted to send a reminder that the deadline to provide feedback on the issues tracking table is Wednesday July 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Thank you,

Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division

Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission

Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)

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---

**From:** Boser, Sydney

**Sent:** June 27, 2025 2:46 PM

**To:** mamun <mamun\_fish@yahoo.com>

**Cc:** McKeown, Justin <justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca>; Way, Jessica <jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca>; Froess, Ryan <ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca>; jtsanniejr@pagc.net

**Subject:** CNSC & PAGC - Issues Tracking Table - For Review: Wheeler River

Good afternoon Mamun,

Please see attached the PAGC's issues tracking table for the Denison Wheeler River Project for your review. This tracking table includes concerns that PAGC has raised throughout the EA process for the Project and includes CNSC's response. This table will be appended to the Consultation Report for the Project in advance of the Part 1 hearing.

Please review the document for **accuracy** and return to us no later than **July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025**. Please note that if we do not receive comments by the deadline then this information will be included without PAGC's feedback. If you have any questions, please reach out to myself or Ryan Froess.

Thanks,

Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division

Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission

Email: [sydney.boser@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnsccsn.gc.ca)

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et la patrie des Métis

**From:** [Boser, Sydney](#)  
**To:** [mamun](#)  
**Cc:** [McKeown, Justin](#); [Way, Jessica](#); [Froess, Ryan](#); [jtsanniejr@pagc.net](#);  
**Subject:** RE: CNSC & PAGC - Issues Tracking Table - For Review: Wheeler River  
**Attachments:** [Notice-of-Public-Hearing-and-Participant-Funding-2025-H-09.pdf](#)  
**Sent:** 2025-07-30 2:47:00 PM

---

Good afternoon Mamun,

Thank you for the update. I do not see an attachment included in this email but unfortunately since it is a week passed the deadline, CNSC won't be able to incorporate PAGC's comments into the table however, we may be able to incorporate them into our supplemental submission which will be submitted for the Part 2 Wheeler River Commission Hearing.

Unfortunately, the participant funding deadline for this project has passed but PAGC is still welcome to participate in the public hearing process. I have attached the public hearing notice that has more information.

Thank you,

Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)  
Phone Number: 343-596-9556

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---

**From:** mamun <mamun\_fish@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** July 29, 2025 4:07 PM  
**To:** Boser, Sydney <sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca>  
**Cc:** McKeown, Justin <justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca>; Way, Jessica <jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca>; Froess, Ryan <ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca>; jtsanniejr@pagc.net  
**Subject:** Re: CNSC & PAGC - Issues Tracking Table - For Review: Wheeler River

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Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission

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**Subject:** CNSC & PAGC - Issues Tracking Table - For Review: Wheeler River

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Thanks,

Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division

Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission

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# Environmental Assessment Report



# Environmental Assessment Report: Wheeler River Project

**Originally Posted in August 2025**

**Updated November 2025**

e-Doc: 6992445 (Word English)

e-Doc: 7204777 (Word French)


e-Doc: 7204773 (PDF English)

e-Doc: 7204774 (PDF French)



Signed/Signé le  
November 24, 2025/ 24 novembre, 2025

Beaton,  
Dana



Digitally signed by Beaton, Dana  
DN: C=CA, O=GC, OU=CNSC-CCSN,  
CN="Beaton, Dana"  
Reason: I am approving this document  
Location:  
Date: 2025.11.24 08:07:52-05'00'  
Foxit PDF Editor Version: 13.0.1

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Dana Beaton  
**Director General**  
Directorate of Environmental and Radiation Protection and Assessment

**Directrice générale**  
Direction de l'évaluation et de la protection environnementales et radiologiques

## Executive summary

### *Background*

Denison Mines Corp. (Denison) is proposing to develop an *in-situ* recovery (ISR) uranium mining and processing operation. The proposed Wheeler River mine (the Project) is located in the Athabasca Basin in Saskatchewan, approximately 600 kilometres north of the City of Saskatoon, 35 km northeast of Cameco's Key Lake mill and 35 km southwest of Cameco's McArthur River mine. The Project is located within Treaty 10 territory, the homeland of the Métis, and within the traditional territories of the Dene, Cree, and Métis peoples.

Denison anticipates the Project would produce an annual average of 9 million pounds of tri-uranium octoxide, with a potential peak production of 12 million pounds per year, for 15 years. Under the [\*Nuclear Safety and Control Act \(NSCA\)\*](#), a licence from the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) is required in order to prepare a site for and construct a new uranium mine and mill (Wheeler River Project).

### *Environmental assessment requirements*

CNSC staff conducted an environmental assessment (EA) of the Project in accordance with the [\*Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012\*](#) (CEAA 2012). The Wheeler River Project is subject to CEAA 2012 because it qualifies as a designated project as per section 31 of the [\*Regulations Designating Physical Activities\*](#). The Commission must ensure an EA is complete in accordance with CEAA 2012 and make an EA decision to determine whether the proposed project is likely to cause significant adverse environmental effects before a licensing decision under the NSCA is rendered.

This EA report summarizes the assessment conducted by CNSC staff, including the information and analysis on the potential environmental effects of the Project, and CNSC staff's findings on whether the Project is likely to cause significant adverse environmental effects, after taking into account the implementation of mitigation measures.

CNSC staff prepared this EA report with expert advice from the following federal authorities:

- Environment and Climate Change Canada
- Natural Resources Canada
- Health Canada
- Transport Canada
- Fisheries and Oceans Canada

CNSC staff also consulted with the Province of Saskatchewan to ensure regulatory collaboration and to harmonize environmental assessment processes, to the extent possible. CNSC staff also collaborated with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission to leverage operational and technical expertise on in-situ recovery technologies. Many interested Indigenous Nations and communities provided input to CNSC staff in the development of sections of this EA report related to information or concerns in respect to potential project impacts on rights, interests, culture, or traditional uses, as well as Indigenous Knowledge. Furthermore, this EA report was informed by comments submitted throughout the EA process by Indigenous Nations and communities.

### *Scope of the Assessment*

CNSC staff analyzed potential environmental effects of the Project, throughout its entire lifecycle, according to the scope of factors determined by the Commission in its 2019 EA [Scoping Decision](#), including paragraphs 19(1)(a) to (h) of CEAA 2012. The Commission also determined that the EA was to consider Indigenous Knowledge and community knowledge, in accordance with subsection 19(3) of CEAA 2012.

### *Indigenous consultation and engagement*

As an agent of the Crown, the CNSC recognizes and understands the importance of meaningful consultation and engagement and building relationships with Indigenous peoples in Canada. CNSC staff conducted extensive consultation activities with the identified Indigenous Nations and communities to ensure their full participation in the regulatory review process, including the CEAA 2012 EA process. CNSC staff ensured that the concerns of Indigenous Nations and communities were heard and addressed by Denison and the CNSC in a meaningful way. CNSC staff consider that the consultation and engagement process for the Project has been meaningful, reasonable, responsive, and followed best practices, and note that this process is ongoing and will continue through to and including the Commission hearing. CNSC's final assessment, conclusions and recommendations with regards to the adequacy of consultation will be summarized in the supplemental submission to the Commission prior to the Part 2 hearing.

In addition, Denison has worked bilaterally with a number of the identified Indigenous Nations and communities to negotiate commitments and long-term agreements that address their specific concerns to mitigate potential impacts to their Indigenous and/or Treaty rights. CNSC staff are of the view that the Project's potential impacts on Indigenous and/or Treaty rights have been adequately identified and mitigated to the extent possible. The supplemental submission that the CNSC will be providing to the Commission prior to Part 2 of the hearing will include CNSC's conclusions and recommendations on potential impacts to Indigenous rights.

CNSC staff's [Consultation Report](#) for the Project provides all details, records and information regarding the consultation and engagement process conducted with Indigenous Nations and communities for the Project to date.

### *Follow-up monitoring program*

Should the Commission determine that the Project is not likely to cause significant adverse environmental effects, or that such effects are justified, CNSC staff recommend that Denison be required, pursuant to paragraph 53(4)(b) of CEAA 2012, by a licence condition to further design and implement an EA Follow-Up Monitoring Program to verify the accuracy of the EA predictions for the Project, determine the effectiveness of measures taken to mitigate the potential adverse environmental effects and support the implementation of adaptive management measures to address unanticipated adverse environmental effects. Further to this determination by the Commission, other environmental monitoring will be required under permits, licences and authorizations that may be issued upon completion of the EA, and what is outstanding as part of regulatory oversight for the Project.

### *Summary of Potential Effects of the Project*

The Project has the potential to interact with environmental and human components in various ways. CNSC staff reviewed Denison's assessment, including identified mitigation and follow-up monitoring program measures, and have considered expert advice from federal and provincial

authorities, as well as comments from Indigenous Nations and communities. Taking all of this into account, CNSC staff have found that the Project is unlikely to result in significant adverse environmental effects.

### *Recommendations*

Taking into account the implementation of the proposed mitigation measures, follow-up monitoring program measures and commitments made by Denison to Indigenous Nations and communities, CNSC staff recommend that the Commission conclude that the Project is not likely to cause significant adverse environmental effects.

These findings are contingent on the recommended EA Conditions in [table 12.1](#) of this EA Report and the conditions listed in the Licence Condition Handbook.

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## 1.0 Introduction

Denison Mines Corp. (Denison) is proposing the construction of an *in-situ* recovery (ISR) uranium mine and processing plant (the Wheeler River Project or the Project) in the Athabasca Basin in Saskatchewan, approximately 600 kilometres north of the City of Saskatoon, 35 km northeast of Cameco's Key Lake mill and 35 km southwest of Cameco's McArthur River mine. The proposed project is located within Treaty 10 territory, the homeland of the Métis, and within the traditional territories of the Dene, Cree, and Métis peoples. It is also located within the Northern Administration District of Saskatchewan. The proposed Wheeler River Project is a designated project under the former [Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012](#) (CEAA 2012) and as such, requires the conduct of a comprehensive assessment and evaluation of the effects of the proposed project on the environment.

The Wheeler River Project would mine the Phoenix deposit, producing an annual average of 9 million pounds of tri-uranium octoxide (U<sub>3</sub>O<sub>8</sub>) for 15 years, with a potential peak production of 12 million pounds of U<sub>3</sub>O<sub>8</sub>. As mentioned above, this EA Report references a processing plant, in alignment with documents submitted by Denison. However, in accordance with definitions under the *Nuclear Safety and Control Act* and the *Uranium Mines and Mills Regulations*, the proposed processing plant is considered a uranium mill facility. For an overview of the proposed Project, project components and activities, please refer to [section 2](#) of this report and section 1.1.2 of staff's [Commission Member Document](#) (CMD).

This Environmental Assessment (EA) report summarizes the assessment conducted by Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) staff to inform the Commission's decision on whether the Project is likely to cause significant adverse environmental effects, including any adverse effect with respect to Indigenous peoples. Indigenous interests, as described within this EA report, refer to any change to the environment or the health and socio-economic conditions, physical and cultural heritage, the current use of lands and resources for traditional purposes and any structure, site or thing that is of historical, archaeological, paleontological or architectural significance.

### 1.1 Environmental assessment requirements

On May 15, 2019, following Denison's submission of the [Project Description](#) (PD), the CNSC issued the [Notice of Commencement of a federal EA](#) for the Project pursuant to CEAA 2012. The Project is subject to an EA under CEAA 2012, as it constitutes a designated activity under item 31 of the [Regulations Designating Physical Activities](#):

**31** The construction, operation and decommissioning of a new uranium mine or uranium mill on a site that is not within the licensed boundaries of an existing uranium mine or uranium mill.

The CNSC determined that it is the responsible authority for this Project pursuant to paragraph 15(a) of CEAA 2012:

**15** For the purposes of this Act, the responsible authority with respect to a designated project that is subject to an environmental assessment is

**(a)** the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission, in the case of a designated project that includes activities that are regulated under the Nuclear Safety and Control Act and that are linked to the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission as specified in the regulations made under paragraph 84(a) or the order made under subsection 14(2);



On August 28, 2019, the [\*Impact Assessment Act\*](#) (IAA) came into force, repealing the CEAA 2012. Subsection 182 of the IAA outlines transitional provisions for the EAs of designated projects commenced under CEAA 2012 for which the CNSC or National Energy Board (now the Canada Energy Regulator) are Responsible Authorities and for which a decision statement has not been issued:

**182** any environmental assessment of a designated project by the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission or the National Energy Board commenced under the 2012 Act, in respect of which a decision statement has not been issued under section 54 of the 2012 Act before the day on which this Act comes into force, is continued under the 2012 Act as if that Act had not been repealed.

The CNSC informed Denison on [May 31, 2019](#) that the EA process for the Project would continue under CEAA 2012, as a decision statement had not been reached before the implementation of the new Act.

As a federal authority under CEAA 2012, the CNSC is subject to section 7 of CEAA 2012:

**7** A federal authority must not exercise any power or perform any duty or function conferred on it under any Act of Parliament other than this Act that could permit a designated project to be carried out in whole or in part unless

**(b)** the decision statement with respect to the designated project that is issued under subsection 31(3) or section 54 to the proponent of the designated project indicates that the designated project is not likely to cause significant adverse environmental effects or that the significant adverse environmental effects that it is likely to cause are justified in the circumstances.

As the responsible authority under CEAA 2012, the CNSC is required by s. 22 of CEAA 2012 to ensure that:

**(a)** an environmental assessment of the designated project is conducted; and

**(b)** a report is prepared with respect to that environmental assessment.

Pursuant to subsections 27(1) and 52(1) of CEAA 2012, after taking into account the EA report, the CNSC must decide whether the designated project is likely to cause significant adverse environmental effects as set out in section 5 of CEAA 2012.

If the CNSC decides that the Project is likely to cause significant adverse environmental effects, it must refer the Project, pursuant to subsections 52(2) and (3), to the Governor in Council for determination as to whether the significant adverse environmental effects are justified in the circumstances.

If the CNSC decides that the Project is not likely to cause significant adverse environmental effects, pursuant to section 53 it must establish the conditions in relation to environmental effects with which Denison must comply, including mitigation measures and a follow-up program.

The CNSC conducted the EA in consultation with Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC), Fisheries and Oceans (DFO), Health Canada (HC), Transport Canada (TC) and Natural Resources Canada (NRCan), as federal authorities (FAs) having specialist and expert information or knowledge needed to support the conduct of the EA in the following areas:

- ECCC: species at risk, migratory birds, effluent discharge, surface water
- DFO: fish and fish habitat
- HC: noise, human health
- TC: navigable waters, transportation activities
- NRCan: geology, seismicity

These FAs, along with CNSC subject matter experts and a representative from English River First Nation (ERFN) formed the Federal-Indigenous Review Team (FIRT) for the Project.

Given the proposed location of the Project, it is also subject to the EA requirements of the [\*Government of Saskatchewan under the Environmental Assessment Act\*](#). The provincial ministries provided support upon request on areas within their expertise and within the scope of their regulatory responsibilities, particularly Saskatchewan Environmental Assessment Branch (SKEAB). CNSC staff also consulted with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission for their expertise related to ISR technologies.

Denison has also submitted an application requesting a licence to Prepare Site and Construct. As detailed in the [CMD](#), to which this report is appended, this application is subject to a regulatory decision under the [\*Nuclear Safety and Control Act\*](#) (NSCA). The Commission must decide whether the applicant is qualified to carry out the project and whether the environment will be protected from project activities. Although the licensing decision is specific to the first licensing phase (Prepare Site and Construct), the EA considers all phases of the facility's lifecycle. A decision that the Project will not likely result in significant adverse environmental effects, or that those effects are justified in the circumstances does not grant permission for any activities beyond activities described in a licence. An EA decision under CEAA 2012 does not authorize project activities; it enables the Commission to consider licensing under the NSCA, which is required for site preparation and construction.

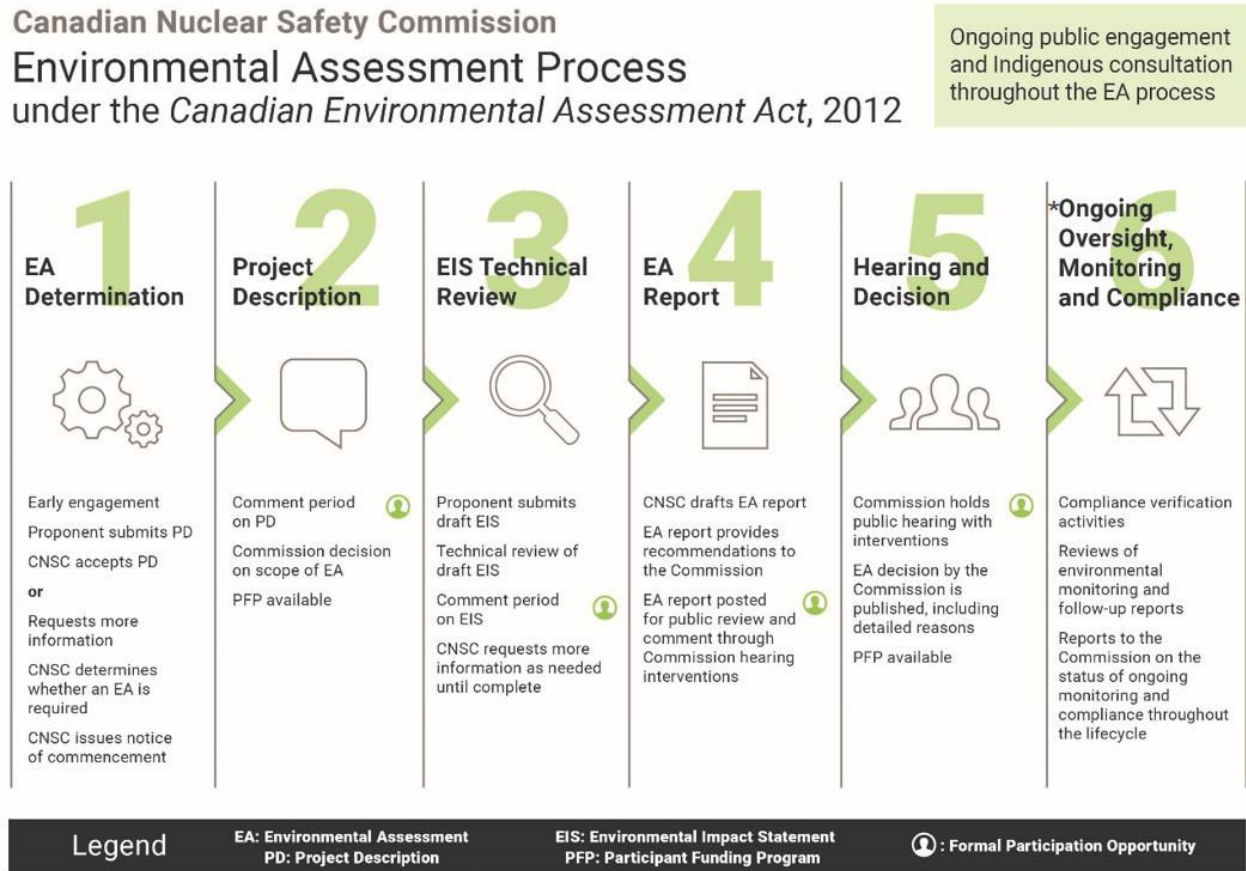
The Commission's decisions for the Project under CEAA 2012 and the NSCA also trigger the Crown's duty to consult, and where appropriate, accommodate Indigenous Nations and communities whose potential or established rights and interests protected under section 35 of the [\*Constitution Act, 1982\*](#), may be impacted by the proposed Project. These decisions will all be made following a two-part hearing planned for October and December of 2025.

The full details and records related to consultation and engagement activities with Indigenous Nations and communities are contained in a separate report, titled "*CNSC Staff's Indigenous Consultation Report for the Denison Wheeler River Environmental Assessment (EA) and Licence to Prepare a Site and Construct Application*" (herein referred to as "the Consultation Report"). This can be found in appendix C of the [CMD](#) and provides key information and recommendations to date, as well as next steps regarding the Indigenous consultation and engagement activities conducted by CNSC staff in relation to the EA and Licence to Prepare a Site and Construct application for the Project. The [Consultation Report](#) also provides information about Denison's engagement activities to date as per the requirements and guidance of [REGDOC 3.2.2: Indigenous Engagement](#) (Herein referred to as REGDOC 3.2.2) and will form part of CNSC staff's submissions and recommendations to the Commission. Key consultation activities related to the EA process under CEAA 2012 are summarized in [section 9](#) of this report. An update on consultation efforts with all identified Indigenous Nations and communities, as well as updated issues tracking tables and Rights Impact Assessments (RIAs), will be submitted to the

Commission as part of the CNSC staff's supplemental submission prior to the Denison Wheeler River Part-2 hearing.

## **1.2 Environmental assessment process and timeline**

The CNSC, as responsible authority, carried out the various stages of the EA process under CEAA 2012 for the Project. These stages are presented in [figure 1.1](#). The timeline associated with the Project EA process with link to related documentation can be found in [table 1.1](#).

**Figure 1.1: Environmental assessment process conducted by the CNSC under CEAA 2012**

\*This process only moves to step 6 if a positive EA decision is made, and a licence granted

### Stage 1: EA Determination

During stage 1, the CNSC determined whether an EA was required for the Project. Denison submitted a PD for the proposed Wheeler River Project. CNSC staff assessed the PD against the [CNSC's Generic Guidelines for the Preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement – Pursuant to the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012](#) (herein referred to as the CNSC Generic Guidelines, as identified in CNSC's [REGDOC-2.9.1 Environmental Protection: Environmental Principles, Assessments and Protection Measures](#), herein referred to as REGDOC-2.9.1). On May 15, 2019, the CNSC deemed the PD complete, and issued the Notice of Commencement of a federal EA process for the Wheeler River Project pursuant to CEAA 2012.

### Stage 2: Project Description

Stage 2 consisted of two main steps: a public comment period on the PD, and a Commission decision on the scope of the EA. A public comment period was held from May to June 2019, to allow Indigenous Nations and communities and the public to review the PD submitted by Denison. In December 2019, the Commission issued a decision on the scope of the EA, taking into account the comments received from Indigenous Nations and communities and the public related to the PD.

In March 2020, Denison announced the suspension of activities related to the EA as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. In November 2020, Denison announced the restart of the EA activities, and in December 2020 submitted a revised PD. The revised PD included some changes to the freeze wall design, but the CNSC determined, in consultation with the Impact Assessment Agency, that any changes would not constitute a new project.

### Stage 3: EIS Technical Review

Stage 3 started in October 2022, with the submission of a draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) by Denison. CNSC staff conducted a 30-day conformity review to ensure that the information submitted was in accordance with CNSC's Generic Guidelines and then the draft EIS was posted for a 90-day public comment period from November 2022 to February 2023. Concurrently, CNSC staff and the FIRT also undertook a 120-day technical review of the draft EIS and its technical supporting documents, which included ensuring that the requirements of CNSC's REGDOC-3.2.2 and REGDOC-2.9.1 were met.

In March 2023, CNSC staff completed the initial technical review and produced consolidated tables of FIRT comments, including information requests (IRs) and Advice to the Proponent comments. These were provided to Denison for response. Multiple rounds of iterative review occurred between March 2023 and November 2024, whereby Denison provided responses to IRs, which the FIRT assessed and provided follow-up requests for outstanding information for Denison, as demonstrated in [table 1.1](#).

Once Denison provided complete and sufficient responses to all comments and IRs, Denison was invited to submit a revised final EIS, which was received on November 22, 2024. CNSC staff reviewed Denison's final EIS and all supporting documents, including Denison's responses to IRs to ensure that all changes had been incorporated into the final EIS. CNSC staff deemed Denison's final EIS complete on December 24, 2024.

For more information on the technical review process methodology, see [section 3.4](#) of this report.

### Stage 4: EA Report Drafting

In stage 4 of the EA process, the information contained in the final EIS and supplemental resources and documents (such as technical supporting documents, responses to information requests) were used to prepare this EA report.

### Stage 5: Hearing and Decision

During stage 5, the CNSC will hold a two-part public hearing to consider Denison's application for a licence to prepare a site for and construct its Wheeler River project. As a prerequisite to the licensing decision, the Commission must first make an EA decision to determine whether the proposed project is likely to cause significant adverse environmental effects, as outlined in [CMD 25-H9](#).

During Part 1 of the hearing, the Commission will consider oral and written submissions, related to Denison's application, from Denison and CNSC staff. During Part 2 of the hearing, the Commission will consider oral and written interventions from Indigenous Nations and communities, members of the public and other interested parties.

In advance of the public hearing, the CNSC granted \$548,350 in funding through its Participant Funding Program. The purpose of this funding is to assist Indigenous Nations and communities, members of the public and interested parties in reviewing submissions to the Commission from

CNSC staff and Denison, as well as in participating in the hearing process by providing topic-specific interventions to the Commission.

**Table 1.1: Timelines associated with the Wheeler River EA process**

| Activity or step in EA process   | Date                                 |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| <a href="#">Denison submits Wheeler River Project description and Notice of Commencement issued for Project</a>  | May 15, 2019                         |
| <a href="#">Public comment period on Project description (30 days)</a>   | May 31- June 30, 2019                |
| <a href="#">Commission hearing and decision on the scope of the Wheeler River EA</a>   | December 2019                        |
| <a href="#">Temporary suspension of the EA</a>   | March - November 2020                |
| <a href="#">Denison submitted the Revised Project description</a>  | December 31, 2020                    |
| <a href="#">Resumption of the EA and Notice of participant funding offering for draft EIS review</a>   | January 2021                         |
| <a href="#">CNSC webinar – CNSC regulatory review process</a>  | September 2022                       |
| <a href="#">Denison submits the draft EIS</a>  | October 2022                         |
| <a href="#">CNSC conducts conformity review of draft EIS (30 days) and conclusions</a>   | October 21 - Nov 21, 2022            |
| <a href="#">Public comment period on the draft EIS (90 days)</a>   | November 21, 2022 - February 18 2023 |
| <a href="#">The FIRT completes initial technical review and deems draft EIS incomplete (120 days), transmission of federal IRs to Denison</a>  | November 21, 2022 - March 21, 2023   |
| CNSC completes review of public comments and transmission of public information requests/comments to Denison: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Comments for Regulator Response</a></li> <li><a href="#">Comments for Denison Response</a></li> </ul> | June 27, 2023                        |
| <a href="#">Denison submits responses to IRs from the FIRT and CNSC completeness review passes</a>   | August 29, 2023                      |
| <a href="#">The FIRT completes a technical review of Denison’s responses to IRs and deems incomplete</a>   | August 30 - December 5 2023          |
| <a href="#">Denison re-submits a draft EIS package and responses to IRs to the FIRT and CNSC completeness review passes</a>  | February 10, 2024                    |
| <a href="#">The FIRT completes extended technical review of the Denison’s responses to IRs and deems incomplete</a>  | February 21 - October 11, 2024       |



| Activity or step in EA process   | Date                           |
|--|--------------------------------|
| <a href="#">Denison re-submits responses to IRs to the FIRT and CNSC completeness review passes</a>  | October 18, 2024               |
| <a href="#">The FIRT completes the technical review of the Denison's responses to IRs and all comments are addressed to the satisfaction of CNSC staff</a> | October 25 - November 20, 2024 |
| <a href="#">Denison submits final EIS</a>  | November 22, 2024              |
| <a href="#">CNSC deem final EIS complete, along with comment tables</a>  | December 24, 2024              |
| <a href="#">Notice of participant funding offering (2)</a>   | February 3, 2025               |
| <a href="#">Notice of Public hearing</a>   | February 27, 2025              |

These steps are documented on the [Canadian Impact Assessment Registry](#) (herein referred to as the Registry - formally the Canadian Environmental Assessment Registry) for the project (Reference Number 80178).

### 1.3 Purpose of the environmental assessment report

The purpose of the EA report is to summarize the assessment conducted by CNSC staff, including the information and analysis considered by CNSC staff in reaching its findings on whether the Project is likely to cause significant adverse environment effects, after taking into account the implementation of proposed mitigation measures. The report also includes recommended conditions, based on key mitigation measures and follow-up measures for the Commission to consider in their decision.

This EA report is designed to reflect the scope of the EA decision by the Commission and address requirements of CEAA 2012 (see [section 2.1](#)). The Commission will consider this report and comments received by Indigenous Nations and communities and the public when issuing an EA decision for the Project under CEAA 2012.

In short, the report content is structured as follows:

- introductory chapters, providing an overview of the project, regulatory requirements and existing site conditions ([section 1](#), [section 2](#), [section 3](#), [section 4](#) and [section 5](#))
- predicted changes to the environment that could be caused by the Project ([section 6](#))
- predicted effects on valued components (VCs) from changes to the environment ([section 7](#) and [section 8](#))
- views expressed by Indigenous Nations and communities, including their key issues and concerns, co-developed by interested Indigenous Nations and communities ([section 6](#), [section 7](#) and [section-8](#))
- Indigenous consultation and engagement and key issues and description of Indigenous and/or Treaty rights that could be potentially affected by the Project ([section 9](#))
- public engagement and key issues raised during EA-specific engagement activities ([section 10](#))
- follow-up monitoring program ([section 11](#))
- CNSC staff findings and recommendations ([section 12](#))

## 2.0 Project overview

Denison is proposing to develop an ISR uranium mining and processing operation located in the Athabasca Basin in Northern Saskatchewan. The Project would produce up to an average of 9 million pounds of  $U_3O_8$  annually over 15 years and would include wellfields, waste management and industrial landfill operations, airstrip, supporting facilities and site infrastructure. The operations phase is anticipated to last approximately 15 years, followed by decommissioning (5 years) and a post-closure phase of approximately 15 years. [Section 4](#) of this EA report summarizes the alternative means considered by Denison for the Project. Additional Project details can be found in section 1.1.3 of the [CMD](#) and the following sections provide a brief overview of the Project.

### 2.1 Project location

The Project is proposed to be located in Saskatchewan's Athabasca Basin approximately 4 km west of Highway 914, in between Key Lake Operation and McArthur River Operation. The Project falls within the boundaries of Treaty 10, the Nuhtsiye-kwi Benéne (Ancestral Lands) of ERFN (Treaty 10), the traditional lands of Kineepik Métis Local of Pinehouse (KML), the Homeland of the Métis, and is within Nuhenéné, the traditional territory of the Athabasca Denesūliné First Nations. The Wheeler River exploration property is host to the Phoenix and Gryphon uranium deposits, but the proposed Project assessed as part of this EA includes only the mining of the Phoenix deposit.



**Figure 2.1: Project location**

Source: Denison Mines Corp., 2022

## 2.2 Project components

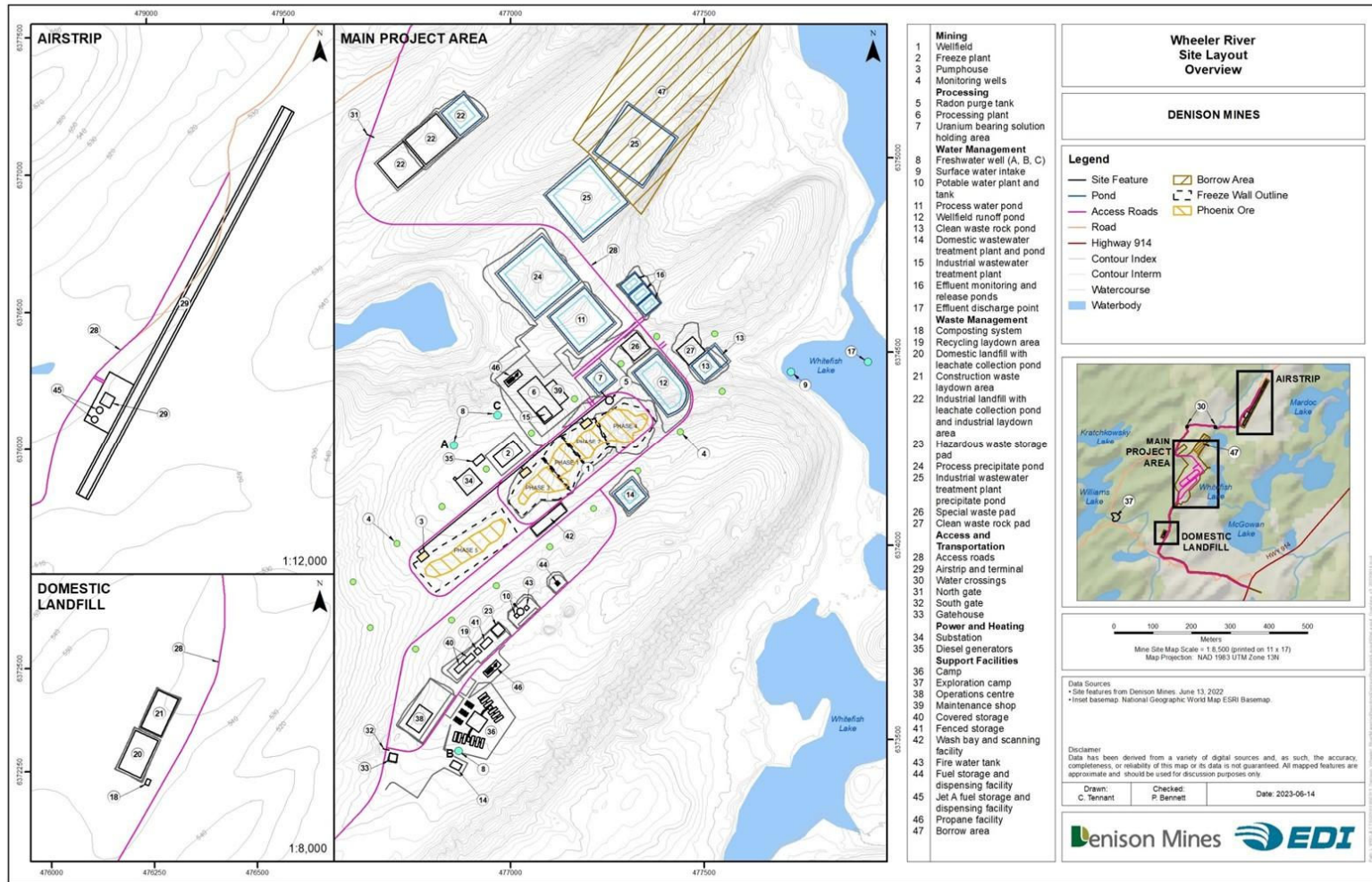
The main Project components and descriptions are listed in [table 2.1](#). Below, [figure 2.2](#) illustrates the proposed geographic locations of Project components.

**Table 2.1: Descriptions of the main Wheeler River Project components**

| Project component     | Description   |
|-----------------------|---|
| Mining Wellfield      | The mining wellfield will comprise ISR wells that are installed in the ore zone. The Project wellfield will include injection and recovery wells in a five-spot pattern, with 1 injection well surrounded by 4 recovery wells. It is anticipated that approximately 300 wells will be installed over an area measuring 90 m x 750 m.  |
| Freeze Wall and Plant | The freeze wall will act as an additional containment measure to isolate the mining solution and enhance environmental protection. A series of wells will be installed around the mining wellfield. The wells will be injected with a chilled brine solution from the freeze plant to remove heat from the ground and form a continuous frozen wall that will contain the mining wellfield from the surrounding regional groundwater.   |
| Processing Plant      | The processing plant will house the tanks and equipment to process the uranium bearing solution (UBS) recovered from the mining wellfield into yellowcake. There will be a control room, laboratory, storage tank facilities, laundry facilities, changerooms and maintenance shop.   |
| Roads and Airstrip    | Mainland access to the site will be via Highway 914. A 7-km road will connect the highway to the Project site, and a 5-km road will link the site to a proposed airstrip. The Project, as a fly-in fly-out operation, will require a 1,600-m airstrip in a flat valley northeast of the site. Additional roads will include a service loop to the camp.   |
| Support facilities    | Supporting facilities for the Project would include both modular and permanent structures designed for year-round operation. The main support facilities would include the operations centre, a camp for operations staff, covered and fenced storage, wash bays and radiological clearance scanning areas, fire water system, hazardous substances management for support facilities, fuel storage and dispensing facility, propane storage areas and other hazardous substances storage areas.            |
| Site infrastructure   | The site infrastructure systems would be designed to accommodate year-round operations during construction and operations phases and long-term monitoring and maintenance during the closure and post-closure phases. The site infrastructure would include access roads, site security (perimeter fencing and boundary setbacks), sanitary sewage disposal system, surface water management, and utilities such as natural gas, power, telecommunications, data, and domestic water pump and distribution. |

| Project component             | Description  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Management of generated waste | All wastes that arise from the construction, operations, and closure phases of the Project will be managed according to Denison's Waste Management Program. Facilities and activities within the Project site will be planned, developed, and operated in a manner that reduces both the volume and the level of hazard of all wastes generated during the life cycle of the facilities. |

Figure 2.2: Project components and site layout



Source: Denison Mines Corp., 2022

## 2.3 Project activities

[Table 2.2](#) lists the key project activities that would occur during each phase of the Project. The table also shows the approximate expected duration of each project phase.

**Table 2.2: Wheeler River Project activities and duration by phase**

| Project phase<br>(planned<br>duration)              | Project activities   |
|---|--|
| Site Preparation<br>and Construction<br>(1-3 years) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of access roads and air strip</li> <li>• Site preparation and earthworks; clearing, levelling, and grading of the Project Area</li> <li>• Power generation – generators</li> <li>• Installation of main substation and distribution of power around site</li> <li>• Wellfield and freeze hole drilling; ground freezing</li> <li>• Storage and disposal of drill waste rock</li> <li>• Batch plant operation (concrete); crusher at borrow area</li> <li>• Development of surface infrastructure (camp, operations centre, plants, ponds, pads, and support facilities)</li> <li>• Waste management (composting, domestic and industrial landfill operation, recycling)</li> <li>• Water management (including treatment and site runoff)</li> <li>• Groundwater supply</li> <li>• Surface water withdrawal</li> <li>• Fuel management (e.g., propane for comfort heating; vehicle and aircraft fuel)</li> <li>• On-site and off-site operation of vehicles and transport of materials</li> <li>• Air transportation for workers</li> </ul> |
| Operations<br>(3-18 years)                          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Operation of the ISR wellfield</li> <li>• Wellfield and freeze wall drilling</li> <li>• Operation and expansion of freeze wall</li> <li>• Batch plant operation (grout and cement); crusher at borrow area</li> <li>• Expansion of pond and pads</li> <li>• Operation of the processing plant and production of uranium concentrate</li> <li>• Water withdrawal from groundwater or surface water body</li> <li>• Management of surface water (including seepage and site runoff)</li> </ul>  |

| Project phase<br>(planned<br>duration) | Project activities   |
|--|--|
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water treatment, both domestic and industrial</li> <li>• Water release to surface water body</li> <li>• Waste management (composting, domestic and industrial landfill operation, recycling)</li> <li>• Hazardous waste management (temporary storage, handling, and off-site transportation)</li> <li>• Storage and disposal of drill waste rock, process precipitates and industrial wastewater treatment plant precipitates</li> <li>• On-site and off-site operation of vehicles and transport of materials</li> <li>• Power supply – primarily power from the grid, also generators and back-up generators</li> <li>• Package and transport of nuclear substances</li> <li>• Fuel management (e.g., propane for comfort heating; vehicle and aircraft fuel)</li> <li>• Air transportation for workers</li> <li>• Progressive decommissioning and reclamation</li> </ul>  |
| Decommissioning<br>(18-23 years)       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Site water management, treatment, and release</li> <li>• Mining area remediation and thawing of freeze wall</li> <li>• Process water treatment and release</li> <li>• Closure of ISR and freeze wells and related infrastructure</li> <li>• Decontamination of surface facilities and injection, recovery, and monitoring wells</li> <li>• Asset removal (including site power transmission lines and electrical infrastructure)</li> <li>• Demolition and disposal of non-salvageable surface infrastructure and materials</li> <li>• Remediation of contaminated areas (wellfield, pads, ponds, domestic wastewater treatment location, and process plant area)</li> <li>• Waste management (composting and landfill operation)</li> <li>• Decommissioning of landfills; hazardous materials management (temporary storage and off-site disposal)</li> <li>• On-site and off-site operation of vehicles and transport of materials</li> <li>• Reclamation of disturbed areas</li> </ul> |



| Project phase<br>(planned<br>duration)        | Project activities  |
|---|---|
| Post-<br>Decommissioning<br><br>(23-38 years) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ongoing long-term monitoring to verify facility performance during institutional control period</li> <li>• Surveillance and inspection activities to verify integrity of the site</li> </ul> |

### 3.0 Assessment methods and EA report approach

In order to assess the effects to the environment from a project and for CNSC staff to perform their analysis of the submission by Denison, three basic elements needed to be in place:

- the scope of the environmental assessment ([section 3.1](#) of this report)
- the identification of valued components that were deemed important and for which effects would be assessed ([section 3.2](#))
- the spatial and temporal boundaries of the project ([section 3.3](#))
- the consideration of Indigenous Knowledge ([section 3.4](#)), and
- the analysis methodology followed for the EA process ([section 3.5](#))

#### 3.1 Scope of the environmental assessment

Scoping is a procedural step in the EA process under CEAA 2012 that establishes the extent of what is to be reviewed for the federal EA. The scope identifies which elements of the proposal to consider and include in the EA, and which environmental components are likely to be affected.

Subsection 19(2) of CEAA 2012 requires Responsible Authorities to determine the scope of the factors to be taken into consideration in the EA of a proposed project. On December 2019, the Commission [issued a decision on the extent of information to be included in the EA](#). The decision took into account the comments received from Indigenous Nations and communities and the public related to the project description, as well as CNSC staff recommendations. The Commission determined that the proposed project must include a review of the factors mandated in [paragraphs 19\(1\)\(a\) to \(h\) of CEAA 2012](#):

- the environmental effects of the designated project as per section 5 of CEAA 2012, including the environmental effects of malfunctions or accidents that may occur in connection with the designated project and any cumulative environmental effects that are likely to result from the designated project in combination with other physical activities that have been or will be carried out
- the significance of the effects referred to above
- comments from the public and Indigenous Nations and communities that are received in accordance with CEAA 2012
- mitigation measures that are technically and economically feasible and that would mitigate any significant adverse environmental effects of the designated project
- the requirements of the follow-up monitoring program in respect of the designated project
- the purpose of the designated project

- alternative means of carrying out the designated project that are technically and economically feasible and the environmental effects of any such alternative means
- any change to the designated project that may be caused by the environment

In addition, CNSC staff recommended that the EA for the Project should consider Indigenous Knowledge (IK) and community knowledge. The Commission decision made these a requirement as part of the factors to be considered in the scoping decision.

For the Wheeler River Project, the EA considered potential environmental effects on areas of federal jurisdiction in relation to subsection 5(1) of CEEA 2012, including:

- fish and fish habitat, migratory birds (5(1)(a))
- a change that may be caused to the environment that would occur on federal lands (5(1)(b))
- with respect to Indigenous peoples, an effect of any change that may be caused to the environment on:
  - health and socio-economic conditions
  - physical and cultural heritage
  - current use of lands and resources for traditional purposes
  - any structure, site or thing that is of historical, archaeological, paleontological or architectural significance for Indigenous peoples (5(1)(c))

In accordance with subsection 5(2) of CEEA 2012, the EA also considered:

- changes other than those referred to in paragraphs 5(1)(a) and (b), that may be caused to the environment that are directly linked or necessarily incidental to any federal decisions pursuant to other legislation (5(2)(a))
- effects other than those referred to in paragraph 5(1)(c), of any changes that may be caused to the environment, referred above, on health and socio-economic conditions, physical and cultural heritage, or any structure, site, or thing that is of historical, archaeological, paleontological, or architectural significance (5(2)(b))

Federal EAs consider the potential adverse effects of a proposed project on species at risk, pursuant to subsection 79(1), and (2) of the [\*Species at Risk Act\*](#) (SARA) and their critical habitat:

**79 (1)** Every person who is required by or under an Act of Parliament to ensure that an assessment of the environmental effects of a project is conducted, and every authority who makes a determination under paragraph 82(a) or (b) of the Impact Assessment Act in relation to a project, must, without delay, notify the competent minister or ministers in writing of the project if it is likely to affect a listed wildlife species or its critical habitat.

**79(2)** the person must identify the adverse effects of the project on the listed wildlife species and its critical habitat and, if the project is carried out, must ensure that measures are taken to avoid or lessen those effects at to monitor them

These subsections require any authority who is required by or under an Act of Parliament to ensure that an assessment of the environmental effects of a project is conducted to ensure that the environmental assessment considers whether the project is likely to affect a listed wildlife species or its critical habitat, and if the project is carried out, to ensure that measures are taken to avoid or lessen any adverse effects on those species. This must identify the adverse effects of the project on the wildlife species listed in Schedule 1 of the SARA and associated critical habitat. Species listed under SARA are protected from being disturbed, collected, harvested, captured,



killed, or exported. Under SARA, over 400 species have been identified by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) as being at risk in Canada and require special management considerations, including appropriate surveys and setbacks on lands where species have been recorded.

Effects on species designated by the COSEWIC and provincially designated species of concern are also considered in the Wheeler River assessment process, as well as species of interest identified by Indigenous Nations and communities and the public.

Transport Canada highlighted that Denison must adhere to the requirements of the [Canadian Navigable Waters Act](#) (CNWA) and conditions outlined in any CNWA approval(s) that may be granted by the Minister of Transport for the Project, to ensure that no significant residual adverse effects to navigation occur.

If the watercourse crossings, water intake, and effluent discharge/intake pipeline and diffuser are constructed as minor works, Denison must follow the mitigations outlined in the CNWA Minor Works Order. Should a CNWA approval(s) be required for any of the in-water works, mitigation measures will be developed during the regulatory phase and included as terms and conditions in the CNWA approval(s).

Given that the Project is located in the Athabasca Basin region of Northern Saskatchewan and is also regulated by the province of Saskatchewan, the following provincial permits may be required:

- approval to construct a pollutant control facility
- permit to construct a facility to handle hazardous substances or waste dangerous goods

Notwithstanding this, it is Denison's responsibility to identify and comply with all applicable regulatory requirements, both federal and provincial.

Other Views Expressed sub-sections will be included in [section 6](#), [section 7](#), and [section 8](#) to provide summaries of the views expressed by federal authorities, where applicable, with respect to each potential effect on the environmental component or VC under review.

These sections will capture key issues and concerns heard in writing or verbally through technical meetings or engagement and consultation activities, as well as how Denison will be mitigating or managing such concerns, as a result of commitments, or as requested by CNSC staff and other federal and/or provincial authorities.

### 3.2 Selection of valued components

A valued component (VC) is a component that is considered to be ecologically, culturally, socially, or economically significant. These are the components for which effects from the project will be assessed. Characterization of the existing environment includes the identification of VCs by Denison, government agencies, Indigenous Nations and communities, and the public.

The VCs selected by the CNSC are presented in [table 3.2](#) and were selected based upon CEAA 2012 and SARA legislative requirements. A review by CNSC staff and the FIRT of existing information, baseline data analyses, consultations with Indigenous Nations and communities and consideration of Indigenous Knowledge yielded the list of equivalent species and ecosystems of interest presented in the second column. The equivalent Denison-identified VCs are also presented in this table.

**Table 3.2: Rationale for CNSC-identified VCs and their equivalent Denison-identified VCs**

| CNSC-identified VCs  | Species and ecosystems of interest identified by Indigenous Nations and communities  | Equivalent Denison-identified VCs   | Rationale   |
|--|--|---|---|
| Effects identified pursuant to subsection 5(1) of the CEAA 2012                        |  |   |   |
| Fish and fish habitat (5(1)(a))  | Lake Whitefish<br>Lake Trout<br>Northern Pike<br>Walleye<br>White Sucker<br>Yellow Perch                                     | Arctic Grayling<br>Burbot<br>Lake Chub<br>Lake Trout<br>Lake Whitefish<br>Longnose Sucker<br>Ninespine Stickleback<br>Northern Pike<br>Slimy Sculpin<br>Spottail Shiner<br>Walleye<br>White Sucker<br>Yellow Perch<br>Benthic Invertebrates | Project-related predicted changes to water quality and quantity, and discharge of treated effluent to Whitefish Lake could adversely affect fish and fish habitat.                          |
| Migratory birds (5(1)(a))  | Canada Goose<br>Lesser Scaup<br>Loons<br>Mallard<br>Surf Scoters   | Raptors (Bald Eagle, Osprey)<br>Migratory breeding birds (Waterbirds and waterfowl, Upland game birds, Migratory songbirds)   | Project-related predicted changes to surrounding terrestrial environment could adversely affect migratory birds and their habitat.  |
| Indigenous uses: Current use of lands and resources for traditional purposes (5(1)(c)) | Noise<br>Moose<br>Woodland caribou<br>Fish (see fish and fish habitat)<br>Upland game birds<br>Berries<br>Traditional plants | Traditional land and resource use by Indigenous peoples   | Project-related predicted changes to surrounding terrestrial and aquatic environments could adversely affect the use of lands and resources for traditional purposes by Indigenous peoples. |

| CNSC-identified VCs  | Species and ecosystems of interest identified by Indigenous Nations and communities  | Equivalent Denison-identified VCs   | Rationale   |
|--|--|---|---|
| Transboundary environmental effects: GHG emissions (5(1)(2))   | Air Quality  | Greenhouse Gases (GHG)  | Project-related predicted changes to GHG emissions could contribute to global climate change.   |
| Effects identified pursuant to subsection 5(2) of the CEAA 2012  |  |   |   |
| Human Health (5(2)(b)) (Includes Indigenous peoples Health*) (5(1)(c))<br>*applies to both 5(1) and 5(2) | Surface Water Quality<br>Traditional Food and Diet   | Public Health and Worker Health   | Project-related predicted changes in water quality and air quality could adversely affect the health of Indigenous peoples, the public and workers.   |
| Wetlands (5(2)(b))   | Wild Rice  | Wetlands  | Project-related predicted changes to water quantity and quality, and disturbance of terrestrial environment, could adversely affect wetlands, which are difficult to restore and play an important role in ecosystem function. Also related to other federal decisions.               |
| Terrestrial biota (5(2)(b))  | Blueberries<br>Fisher<br>Labrador Tea<br>Pine Marten<br>Moose<br>Mink<br>Muskrat<br>Moss<br>Mushrooms<br>Snowshoe Hare<br>Specialty Wood | Ungulates (Moose)<br>Furbearers (Pine Marten, Mink, Muskrat)<br>Vegetation and ecosystems<br>Listed plant species | Project-related predicted changes to the terrestrial wildlife and vegetation, and disturbances to the terrestrial environment, could adversely affect the Terrestrial environment beyond the boundaries of the project site. Also related to other federal decisions, including SARA. |
| Effects identified pursuant to subsection 79(2) of the SARA  |  |   |   |
| Species at risk  | Woodland Caribou<br>Wolverine  | Woodland Caribou<br>Wolverine   | Project-related predicted disturbances of terrestrial and aquatic environments could adversely affect species at risk   |

| CNSC-identified VCs | Species and ecosystems of interest identified by Indigenous Nations and communities | Equivalent Denison-identified VCs  | Rationale  |
|---------------------|---|--|--|
|                     |   | Nine-spotted Lady Beetle<br>Transverse Lady Beetle<br>Yellow-banded Bumble Bee<br>Northern Leopard Frog<br>Little Brown Myotis<br>Northern Myotis<br>Bank Swallow<br>Barn Swallow<br>Common Nighthawk<br>Horned Grebe<br>Short-eared Owl<br>Yellow Rail<br>Rusty Blackbird<br>Olive-sided Flycatcher | and their critical habitat. There are no fully aquatic SAR (i.e., fish) identified within the vicinity of the Project. |

### 3.3 Spatial and temporal boundaries

Spatial boundaries define the areas within which a designated project may cause direct or indirect environmental effects. Temporal boundaries define the timeframe during which an environmental effect may occur in relation to a designated project's activities. Defining spatial and temporal boundaries allows a frame of reference to be established for identifying and assessing the environmental effects associated with a designated project.

#### *Spatial Boundaries*

The spatial boundaries for the Project were determined by CNSC staff to be appropriate for each selected environmental component (atmospheric and acoustic environment, geology and groundwater environment, aquatic environment and terrestrial environment), and associated VCs. Effects on the VCs are caused by changes to the environmental components, which may originate from project activities. Consistent with the CNSC Generic Guidelines, the following spatial boundaries identified by Denison were considered for each environmental component:

- **Site study area (SSA):** The SSA (referred to as Project Area in the EIS) is the Wheeler River Project footprint (the area where all project activities are proposed to be undertaken, including facilities, buildings, and infrastructure).
- **Local study area (LSA):** The LSA is the area existing outside the SSA, where measurable changes to the environment may be anticipated due to project activities. These changes may occur during any phase of the project, either through normal activities or from possible accidents or malfunctions.
- **Regional study area (RSA):** The RSA is the maximum area within which the potential effects of the project may interact with the effects of other projects and activities (or anticipated projects and activities), resulting in a potential for cumulative effects.

The Project Area's direct physical disturbance covers an area approximately 1.75 km<sup>2</sup> (not including the airstrip), while the LSA is approximately 84 km in length by 42 km in width, covering approximately 2,620 km<sup>2</sup>, and the RSA has a maximum length of 338 km and maximum width of 163 km, covering approximately 29,754 km<sup>2</sup>.

[Table 3.3](#) summarizes the spatial boundaries for the Project for each environmental component. Maps of the spatial boundaries for each environmental component are provided in [figures 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, 3.6 and 3.7](#), as illustrated in Denison's final EIS.

#### *Temporal boundaries*

Project phases define the time periods for which likely project-specific and cumulative effects would be considered. In the Commission's scoping decision, the Commission directed Denison to consider the longest period of potential effects when defining temporal boundaries, as outlined in section 5.2.2 of the CNSC Generic Guidelines. The temporal boundaries for the Project were determined by CNSC staff to be appropriate. Consistent with the CNSC Generic Guidelines, the following temporal boundaries identified by Denison were considered for the EA:

- **Site Preparation and Construction phase (1-3 years):** When physical activities relating to site preparation and construction occur, including activities such as installing necessary supporting infrastructure, inactive commissioning, systems testing, and transportation of construction materials.

- **Operations phase (3-18 years):** When all activities relating to waste placement occur, including operation of the ISR wellfield, freeze wall operation and expansion and processing plant operations, vehicle movements, and maintenance activities.
- **Decommissioning phase (18-23 years):** After mining and processing has permanently ceased, when activities necessary for the decommissioning of wells and implementation of long-term monitoring occur.
- **Post-Decommissioning phase (23-38 years):** After closure phase activities have been completed, when long-term environmental monitoring will occur to ensure that the final cover is functioning as intended.

The temporal scope of the assessment for Geology and Groundwater (section 6.2) includes a unique 'future centuries' modelling assessment period (up to 10,000 years) following post decommissioning. The 'future centuries' scenario considers the period for which the highest COPC concentrations in groundwater migrating from the decommissioned mining area are predicted to interact with surface water and aquatic VCs based on groundwater modeling.

**Table 3.3: Spatial boundaries for each environmental component considered in the EA**

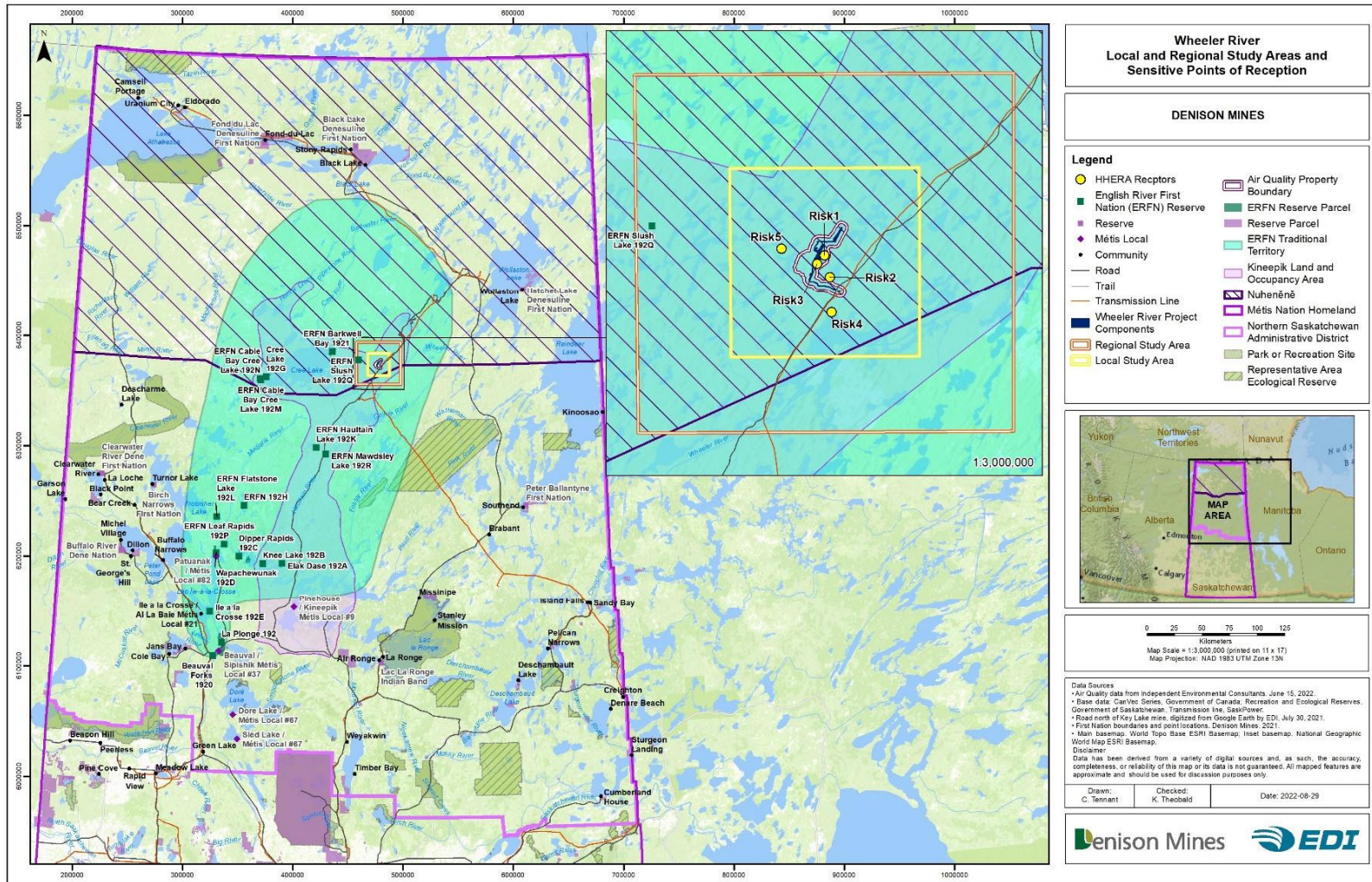
| Environmental component   | Spatial boundaries                    |   |  |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|--|
|   | SSA                                   | LSA   | RSA  |
| Atmospheric environment<br>(see <a href="#">figure 3.1</a> )                    | Synonymous with the Project footprint | Includes the SSA and lands within 10km of the Project Area.   | 10 km from the LSA based on proximity to other nearby projects.  |
| Geological and hydrogeological environment<br>(see <a href="#">figure 3.2</a> ) | Synonymous with the Project footprint | Includes the SSA and is centered on the Phoenix Deposit and extends 2 km south for groundwater.   | Approximately 100 km radius surrounding the SSA.   |
| Surface water environment<br>(see <a href="#">figure 3.4</a> )                  | Synonymous with the Project footprint | Includes the SSA and is bounded by Whitefish Lake and adjacent surface waterbodies. Centered on the Phoenix Deposit and extends 1.5 to 2.5 km in all directions to surface waterbodies. | Approximately 100 km radius surrounding the SSA.   |
| Aquatic environment<br>(see <a href="#">figure 3.4</a> )                        | Synonymous with the Project footprint | Includes the SSA and is bounded by watershed boundaries and areas directly downstream of the SSA.   | The RSA is bounded by the regional watershed area in which the Project Area is located and extends downstream to include Russell Lake. |

| Environmental component   | Spatial boundaries                    |   |  |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|--|
|   | SSA                                   | LSA   | RSA  |
| Terrestrial environment<br>(see <a href="#">figure 3.3</a> )                              | Synonymous with the Project footprint | Includes the SSA and a 500 m buffer around the Plate Site and Ancillary facilities as well as a 250m buffer for access roads and other linear features.   | Encompasses the SSA, LSA and a minimum buffer of 8 km around the LSA.  |
| Human environment<br>(see <a href="#">figure 3.5</a> )                                    | Synonymous with the Project footprint | Includes the SSA, parts of the Icelder River drainage to its confluence with Russell Lake in the Wheeler River.   | The area that surrounds and includes the LSA including parts of Russell Lake and the Wheeler River.              |
| Land and resource use<br>(see <a href="#">figure 3.6</a> and <a href="#">figure 3.7</a> ) | Synonymous with the Project footprint | A polygon including the SSA with a maximum length of 84 km and a maximum width of 42 km.  | The approximate physical parameters of the RSA include a maximum length of 338 km and a maximum width of 163 km. |
| Economics<br>(see <a href="#">figure 3.6</a> and <a href="#">figure 3.7</a> )             | Synonymous with the Project footprint | ERFN (including Indian Reserve Wapachewunak 192D and Indian Reserve La Plonge 192); Patuanak, Northern Hamlet (Patuanak), and Métis Local #82 of Patuanak; Pinehouse Lake, Northern Village, and Kineepik Métis Local (KML) #9; Beauval, Northern Village, and Métis Local #37. | The RSA encompasses Census Division 18 which is the Northern Saskatchewan Administrative District.               |

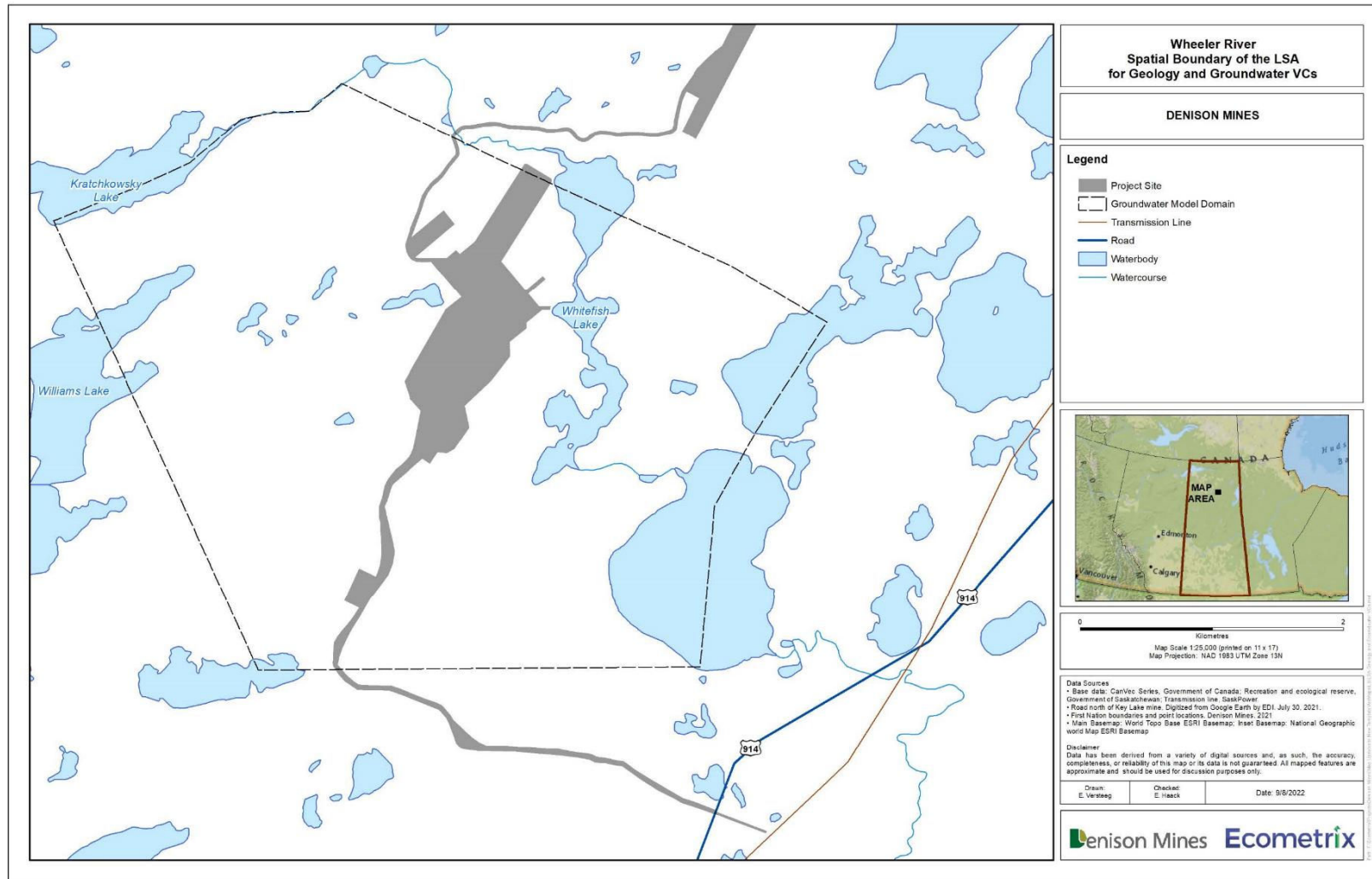
The figures throughout this section were provided by Denison in the 2024 Final EIS.



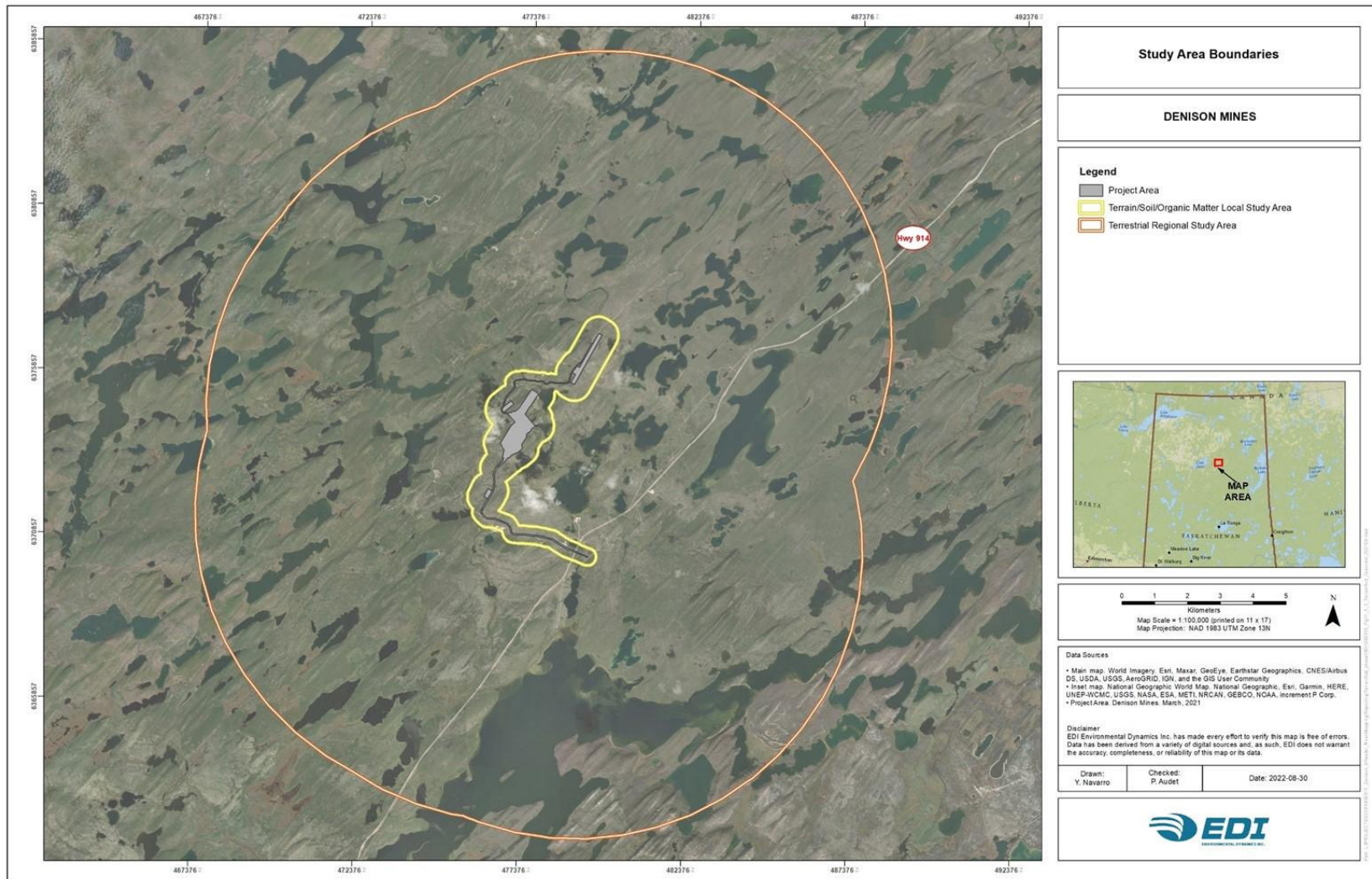
Figure 3.1: Local and regional study areas and sensitive points of reception for the air quality valued component



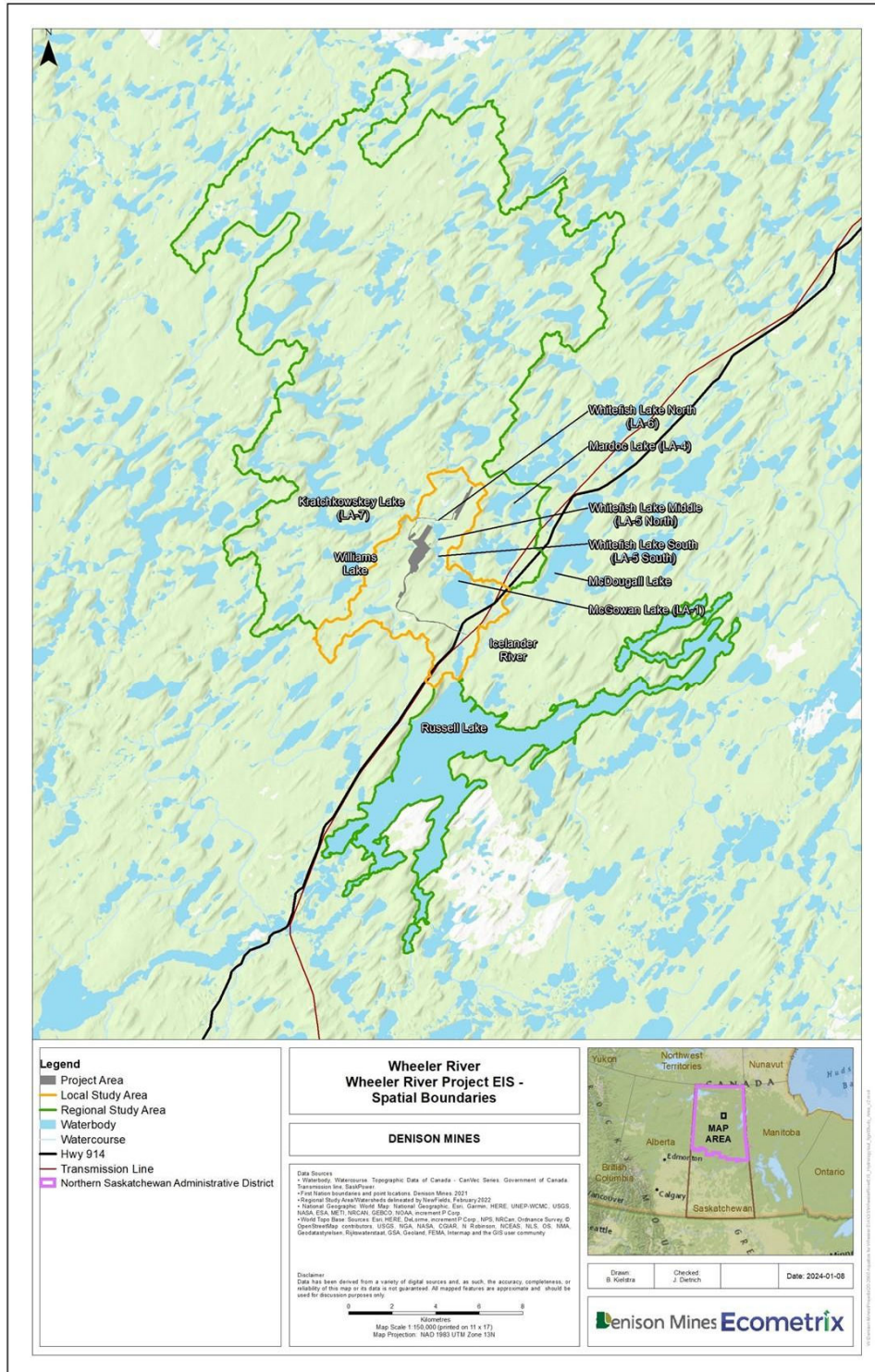


**Figure 3.2: Spatial boundary of the local study area for the geology and groundwater valued components**

**Figure 3.3: Terrain, soil, and organic matter/peat – Study area boundaries**





**Figure 3.4: Study area boundaries – Aquatic environments**

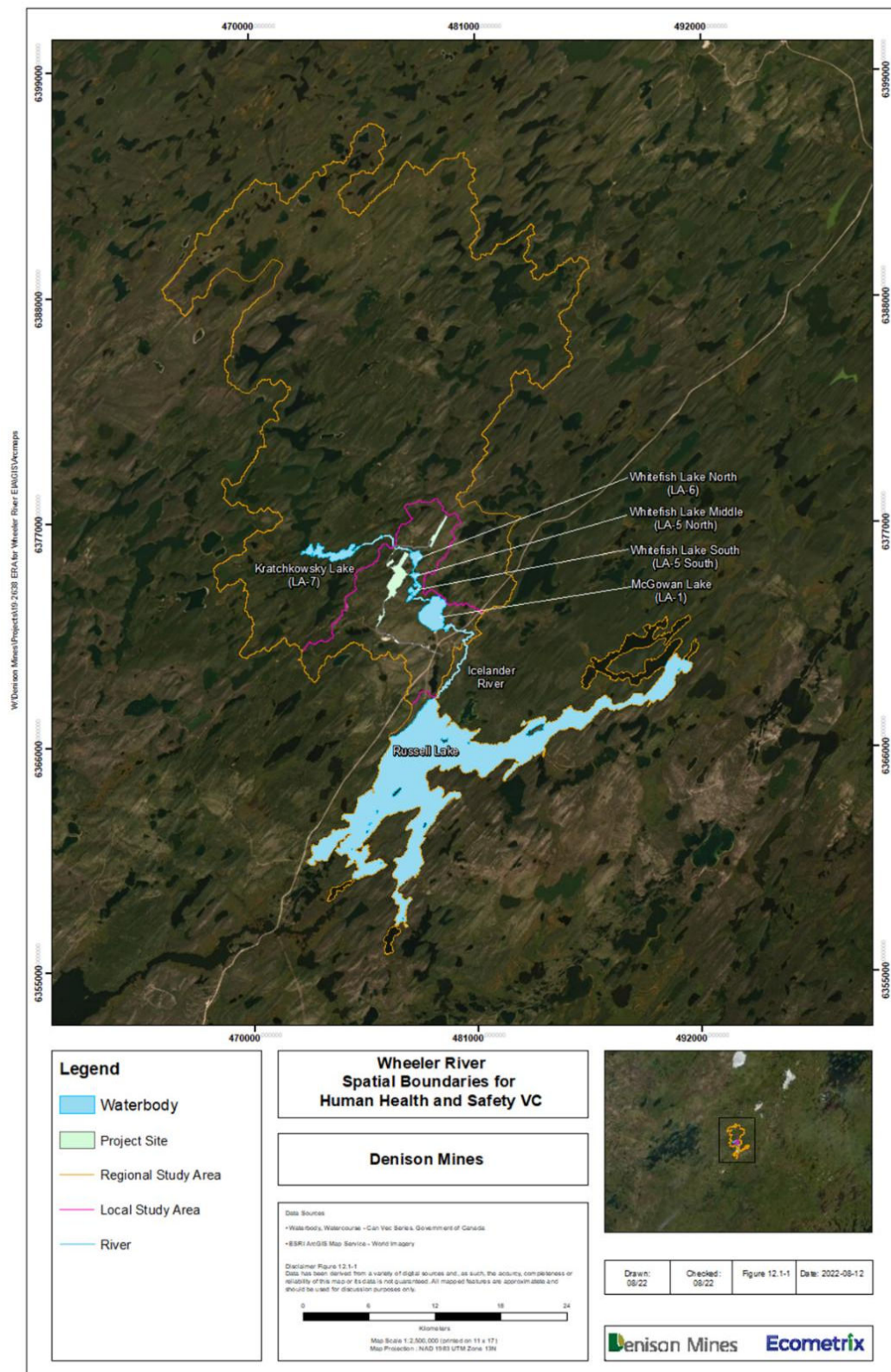
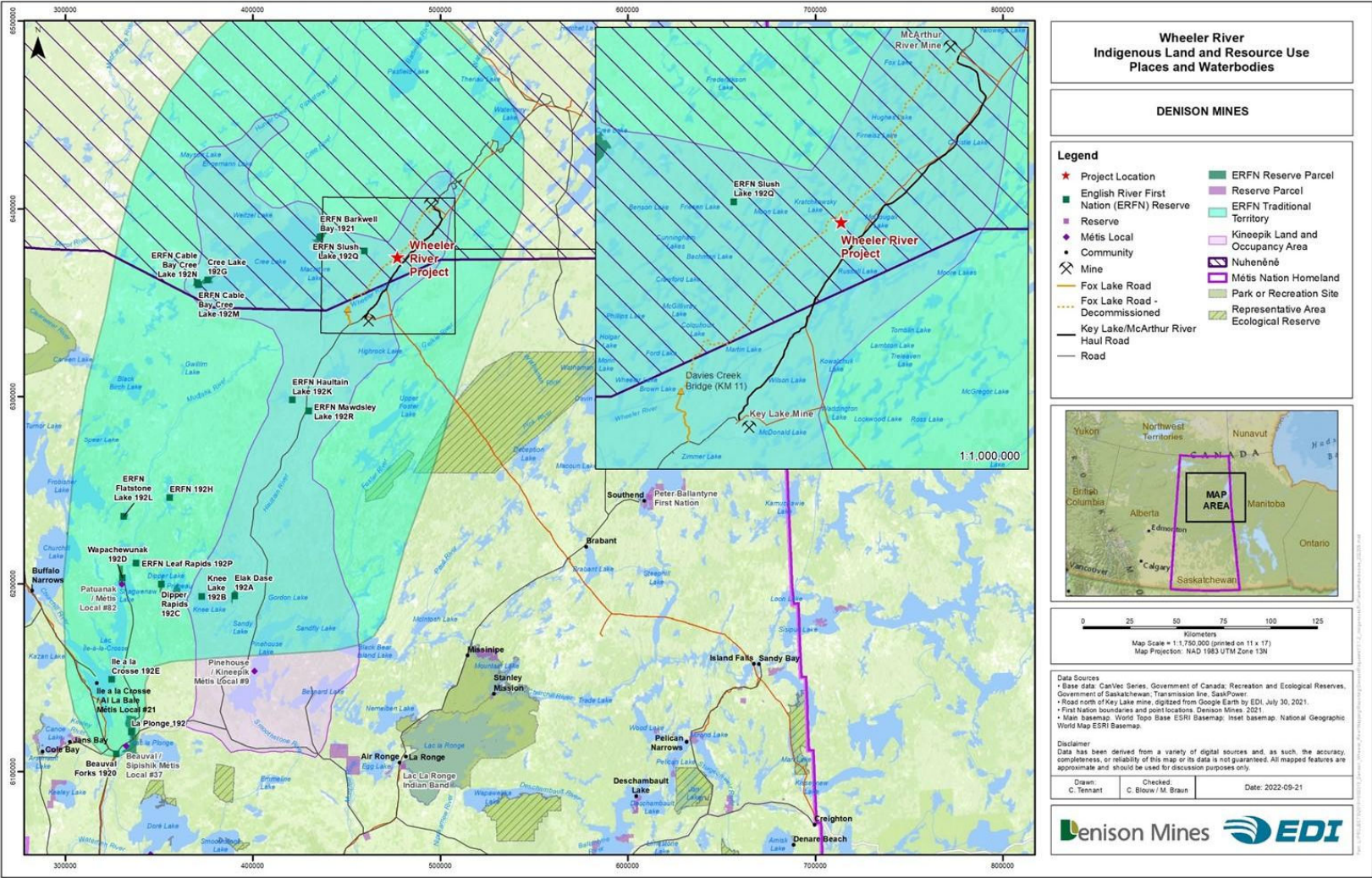
**Figure 3.5: Spatial boundaries – Human health**

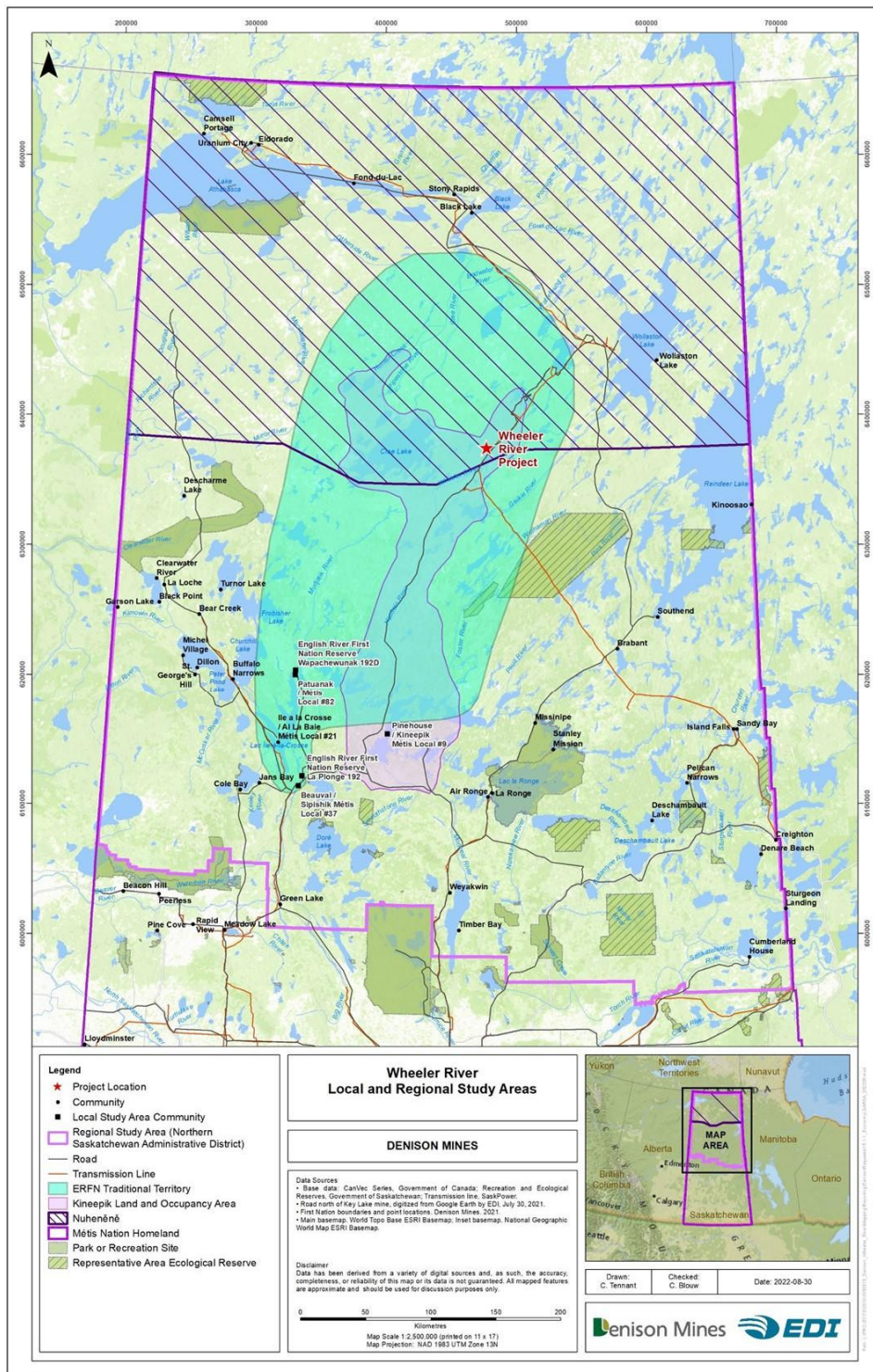


Figure 3.6: Indigenous land and resource use places and waterbodies





**Figure 3.7: Location of the Project in relation to the communities in the local and regional study areas**



### **3.4 Consideration of Indigenous Knowledge**

Denison completed their environment and effects assessment and selection of the VCs considering feedback provided during engagement with Indigenous Nations and communities.

Indigenous Knowledge and Métis Knowledge (MK) was used to determine which traditional land use activities occur in the area, such as hunting, fishing, trapping and navigation (boating), camps of particular importance to local Indigenous Nations and communities and confirmation that the Project Area contained cultural and or heritage resources.

IK and MK also helped improve Denison's understanding of species' habitat and diet preferences, calving areas, population trends, and local harvesting practices, and traditional food consumption in the Project area, especially in terms of frequency and diet composition (collected from information provided by ERFN, KML, Ya'thi Néné Land and Resource Office (YNLR), and MN-S). With regards to evaluating the terrestrial environment, IK from ERFN and YNLR's studies and MK from KML and MN-S' studies helped Denison better understand species distribution and regional population trends.

Denison considered concerns shared by Indigenous Nations and communities in the evaluation of all environmental components, and potential effects of the project. Concerns included: changes in the abundance of animals; air quality; workforce fishing levels; noise; potential for accidental release of pollution; the safety of drinking water downstream of the treated effluent discharge pipe; and the ISR mining method and its safety for animals and human health, to name a few.

CNSC's evaluation of Denison's consideration of IK/MK in their environmental and effects assessment are described in more detail in [section 6](#), [section 7](#) and [section 8](#).

Other Views Expressed sub-sections will be included in section 6 and section 7 to provide summaries of the views expressed by Indigenous Nations and communities, where applicable, with respect to each potential effect on the environmental component or VC under review.

These sections will capture key issues and concerns heard in writing or verbally through technical meetings or engagement and consultation activities, as well as how Denison will be mitigating or managing such concerns, as a result of commitments, or as requested by CNSC staff and other federal and/or provincial authorities.

### **3.5 CNSC analysis methodology**

#### **3.5.1 EIS Technical Review Process**

Stage 3 of the EA process, as described in [section 1.2](#), is the EIS technical review. The purpose of the EIS technical review is to assess whether the proponent has adequately assessed the potential impacts of the project, for the purposes of subsequently assessing the significance of adverse effects on environmental components and related VCs. The information provided by the proponent should be sufficient to allow for the evaluation of both the accuracy of the predicted EA findings and the effectiveness of the identified mitigation measures.

Led by CNSC staff as responsible authority, the EIS technical review is completed by the FIRT. Upon determination that a draft EIS has met the CNSC's Generic Guidelines (i.e., it is deemed to "conform"), a full technical review of the EIS commences. Where gaps are found, or additional information is required during this review, FIRT members (Subject matter experts) create IRs, and any questions or comments that are directly related to the EIS or EA process (i.e., not

necessary to make a determination of effects of the projects on the environment) were provided to Denison as *Advice to the Proponent*. The CNSC EA lead collates and edited all IR and advice inputs prior to sending the conclusions to the project proponent.

The scope of CNSC staff's technical review of Denison's submission was to assess whether there were any significant adverse effects expected from the project, based on consideration of the requirements and guidance in REGDOC 2.9.1, REGDOC 3.2.2 and relevant CEEA guidance, including:

- [Addressing “Purpose of” and “Alternative Means” under the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012 - Canada.ca.](#)
- [Technical guidance for assessing cumulative environmental effects under the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012.](#)
- [Technical Guidance for Determining Whether a Designated Project is Likely to Cause Significant Adverse Environmental Effects under the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012 - Canada.ca.](#)
- [Technical guidance for assessing physical and cultural heritage or any structure, site or thing that is of historical, archeological, paleontological or architectural significance under CEEA 2012.](#)
- [Technical guidance for assessing the current use of lands and resources for traditional purposes under CEEA 2012.](#)

CNSC staff reviewed various sources of information to complete the EIS technical review and conduct its analysis of the potential for adverse effects from the Project. These included:

- the draft EIS submitted by Denison in November 2022, revised draft EIS submitted in February 2024 and Final EIS submitted in November 2024
- Denison's responses to IRs from the CNSC and the FIRT during the EIS technical review and related supplemental information
- Denison responses to comments received from the public and Indigenous Nations and communities
- advice from expert federal departments and provincial ministries
- IK and MK knowledge and land use studies from ERFN, KML, Métis Nation of Saskatchewan (MN-S) and YNLR

CNSC staff also reviewed the [Denison Mines Corp. Commitments Register \(Version 5\)](#), a document that captures all mitigation measures, follow-up monitoring program measures and other commitments made by Denison to the public and Indigenous Nations and communities throughout the EA process. CNSC staff examined this information to ensure that all key issues and concerns that have been brought forward to date by Indigenous Nations and communities and the public have been addressed.

Throughout the technical review of the EIS, IRs from the FIRT and their responses from Denison resulted in Denison incorporating additional mitigation and follow-up monitoring program measures into the revised and final EIS document. Where appropriate, these have also been added to Denison's Commitments Register, which is an evergreen document that will continue to be updated to capture any additional commitments made by Denison during public hearings, and any actions directed by the Commission to Denison.

Following resolution of all IRs, CNSC staff accepted the Final EIS and drafted this report. Any outstanding issues from the review have been addressed as commitments or will be resolved



through the use of EA Conditions, proposed later on in this report and summarized in [table 12.1](#). Should the Commission issue a licence, the Commitments Register will be included in the Licence Control Handbook as part of the licensing basis for the project, as a proposed EA Condition (EA11).

The conclusions from CNSC’s review are captured in [section 6](#), [section 7](#) and [section 8](#), for all of the environmental components evaluated.

### 3.5.2 Comments received during EIS Technical Review

The comments received from the public and Indigenous Nations and communities as part of the 90-day public comment period from November 21, 2022, to February 18, 2023, on Denison’s draft EIS were addressed as part of the EA process. Comments directed to Denison were addressed and resulted in changes to Denison’s Final EIS. Comments directed to CNSC staff were taken into consideration in their analysis. Tables presenting the disposition of comments addressed to the CNSC and to Denison, respectively, are posted on [the Registry](#).

Of the 9 submissions received during the public comment period for the draft EIS, the primary commenters were Indigenous Nations and communities, with the exception of one submission (Canadian Nuclear Association). In addition to submissions from ERFN, KML, MN-S and YNLR, CNSC staff also received comments from Birch Narrows Dene Nation (BNDN), Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation (PBCN) and Prince Albert Grand Council (PAGC). Issues and concerns raised by all Indigenous Nations and communities can be found in [sections 6](#), [section 7](#) and [section 8](#), as *Views Expressed*.

### 3.5.3 Determination of Likelihood for Significant Adverse Environmental Effects

CNSC staff assessed the likelihood of the Project to cause significant adverse environmental effects, following the application of mitigation measures, in accordance with the CNSC Generic Guidelines, CNSC’s REGDOC-2.9.1, *appendix A*, and the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency’s (now the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada) [Operational Policy Statement: Determining Whether a Designated Project is Likely to Cause Significant Adverse Environmental Effects under CEAA 2012](#).

The approach used by CNSC staff was to assess each predicted, residual adverse effect in three steps:

- step 1: determining whether the residual environmental effects are adverse
- step 2: determining whether the residual adverse environmental effects are significant
- step 3: determining whether the significant adverse environmental effects are likely

The related [Technical Guidance for Determining Whether a Designated Project is Likely to Cause Significant Adverse Environmental Effects under the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012](#) defines residual effect as: “...an environmental effect of a project that remains, or is predicted to remain, after mitigation measures have been implemented. The determination of whether a project is likely to cause significant adverse environmental effects relates to the residual environmental effects.”

In step 2, the residual adverse effects were characterized using the following assessment criteria:

- magnitude: severity of the adverse effects

- geographic extent: spatial reach of the adverse effect
- duration: length of time of the adverse effect
- frequency: rate of recurrence of the adverse effect
- reversibility: degree to which the environmental conditions can recover after the adverse effect occurs
- timing: consideration for the time of year that a project activity is undertaken

CNSC staff also considered context for all residual adverse effects across all the criteria listed above. Context refers generally to the current state of the environment or of the VC and the sensitivity and resilience to the change caused by the Project.

The definitions and limits used to assign the level of effect for each rating criterion are presented in [appendix A](#). CNSC staff used the tables in [appendix A](#) to help determine the significance of the effects which combines the degree (low, moderate or high) of the residual effect of each criterion.

CNSC staff considers effects to be **not significant** where the residual effects after mitigation measures have been implemented are low, moderate or high in magnitude; localized in geographic extent; short-term in duration; and are fully or partly reversible.

CNSC staff considered effects to be **significant** where the residual effect after mitigation measures have been implemented would be high or moderate in magnitude; regional in geographic extent; long- or medium-term in duration; and irreversible.

Where CNSC's determination of not significant was contingent on outstanding request made to Denison through the EIS technical review, CNSC staff have recommended EA Conditions to the Commission. These EA Conditions are included in the sub-sections of Predicted Changes to the Environment ([section 6](#)) and Predicted Effects on Valued Components ([section 7](#)). Tables detailing the CNSC's predicted degree of residual effects can all be found in [appendix B](#).

CNSC staff analysis and findings are based on the final EIS which is a culmination of all the revisions and additions that have been made as a result of the analysis, IRs and comments submitted during the EA process.

## 4.0 Purpose of the project and alternative means

### 4.1 Purpose of the project

The purpose of the Project is to construct, operate and decommission an ISR uranium mine and processing plant. Denison has indicated that the proposed Project would provide uranium supplies for the increasing demands in nuclear power generation.

As part of the initial project planning (outside of the CEAA 2012 process), Denison undertook an analysis of alternatives to the project as a first step to determine the appropriate facility type (open pit vs. in-situ recovery) required for this project. The analysis served to validate that the preferred alternative is a reasonable approach to meeting the need and purpose of the project.

After consultation with Indigenous Nations and communities, and members of the public, and following completion of a pre-feasibility study, Denison selected the ISR method. For the purposes of the CEAA 2012, the ISR mining method was the proposed mining method described in the PD and was carried through to the EIS.

## **4.2 Alternative means to carry out the project**

Once a mining method is chosen, “alternative means” are the various technically and economically feasible ways under consideration by the proponent that would allow a designated project to be carried out. The alternative means should be considered by the proponent as early as possible in the planning of a designated project. EA documentation must clearly explain and justify the methodologies used to identify, assess and select alternative means. The CNSC’s Generic Guidelines and REGDOC-2.9.1 outline requirements and approach to conducting an alternative means assessment for a CNSC-led designated project under CEAA 2012.

### **4.2.1 Proponent’s Assessment of Alternative Means**

This section presents Denison’s assessment of alternative means to carry out the Project. In addition, this section includes a summary of public and Indigenous comments received regarding the Project alternative means assessment and CNSC staff analysis and findings.

#### **4.2.1.1 Mining method**

Denison assessed five different options/facility types, including open pit, jet boring, surface boring, micro tunnel boring and ISR mining, and selected the ISR mining method based on technical, socio-economic, and environmental considerations for each alternative.

#### **4.2.1.2 Containment methods for mining solution**

Denison considered two alternative designs for a third level of containment of the mining solution: a freeze dome and a freeze wall. Both methods rely on established ground freezing technology, and involve circulating a low-temperature brine through cased drill holes to freeze the surrounding groundwater and create an impermeable barrier:

1. Freeze wall: involves drilling vertical freeze holes from the surface to the impermeable basement rock and creating a vertical frozen barrier around the perimeter of the mining area.
2. Freeze dome: involves encapsulating the uranium deposit by creating a frozen shell above and around the ore body, requiring directional drilling from both ends of the deposit to install horizontal freeze holes along its length.

Alternative 2 (freeze dome) was eliminated as the freeze wall could be installed with the same ground freezing technology but would be anchored into the impermeable basement rock. The freeze wall method would still contain the Uranium Bearing Solution (UBS) without additional risk or costs.

#### **4.2.1.3 Permeability enhancement**

Three alternatives were considered for the permeability enhancement of fluids:

1. Hydraulic stimulation: involves injecting pressurized water into the ore zone to flush and open existing fractures, improving fluid connectivity. This method is used to clean the well and formation in preparation for mining.
2. Propellant stimulation: uses controlled, low-hazard propellants to rapidly generate gas pressure, clearing pathways and connecting natural fractures. This method is near-instantaneous and does not involve explosive shock waves.

3. Mechanical stimulation: employs a downhole tool to drill small radial tunnels from the borehole into the ore zone, creating clean flow paths for mining solution movement.

Denison's proposal includes all three methods of improving permeability enhancement of fluids within the ore body. Denison proposes to evaluate the performance as the Project advances through the engineering process into operations.

#### **4.2.1.4 Mining solution**

Two mining solutions were considered by Denison:

1. Alkaline solution: composed of sodium bicarbonate and hydrogen peroxide. This solution is commonly used in ISR operations where the host rock contains high carbonate concentrations. Laboratory testing conducted in 2017 using core samples from the Phoenix deposit found it recovered less than 1% of uranium after 30 pore volumes. This option was determined to be technically and economically unfeasible, due to the geochemical characteristics of the deposit.
2. Acidic solution: composed of sulfuric acid and hydrogen peroxide. This solution was found to be much more effective. The same laboratory testing showed that the acidic solution recovered approximately 30% of uranium after 30 pore volumes. The Phoenix deposit's low carbonate and organic content makes it well-suited for acid leaching, which is more efficient and cost-effective under these geochemical conditions.

In 2017 the acidic solution was selected (lixiviant), given that it more effectively facilitates the acid leach of uranium.

#### **4.2.1.5 Processing location**

Denison considered on-site and off-site reprocessing and final disposal, as follows:

1. Off-site processing at an existing mill would involve temporarily storing UBS, ore, or slurry on site before transporting it to a licensed third-party facility for processing. This would require surface infrastructure for safe storage and load-out, including containment systems and water management facilities. While technically feasible, this option would depend on securing a toll-milling agreement and would result in lower project value due to the sale of UBS prior to processing.
2. On-site processing in a purpose-built plant would allow Denison to process UBS directly at the Wheeler River site. The plant would include circuits for uranium precipitation and drying, with associated infrastructure for waste management and effluent treatment. This option avoids reliance on third-party agreements and provides greater control over processing operations.

Denison selected to use on-site processing with a processing plant designed to precipitate the uranium out of the recovered lixiviant, which was more technically and economically feasible.

#### **4.2.1.6 Water management**

Water supplies for the Project included groundwater and surface water, transporting water to site and establishing a water treatment plant. Denison considered two alternative sources for freshwater supply to support drilling, processing, potable water, and other operational needs.

1. Sourcing of groundwater from shallow wells located outside the freeze wall: This option benefits from the availability of abundant groundwater in the Athabasca Basin and typically requires less treatment to meet potable water standards. Denison has historically used groundwater for its exploration camp.
2. Drawing of surface water from a nearby lake using an intake pipe and pump system: Baseline hydrology data supported the feasibility of this option, and Denison evaluated potential effects on aquatic ecosystems, including fish habitat and water levels.

Denison elected to use both groundwater and surface water as the freshwater supply for the project and will establish a water treatment plant to supply potable water. This approach provides operational flexibility and ensures a reliable water source under varying seasonal and operational conditions.

Denison considered two options for effluent discharge from the project:

1. Discharge to groundwater: injection of treated effluent into purpose-built discharge wells located in aquifers capable of accepting the volume. This method requires double-walled, heat-traced pipelines and real-time monitoring to prevent operational issues. While technically feasible, this option could pose challenges related to monitoring complexity and potential interactions with groundwater used for other purposes.
2. Discharge to surface water: release of treated effluent into Whitefish Lake South via a pipeline and multi-port diffuser system. This method is consistent with standard practice in the uranium mining sector and aligns with existing regulatory frameworks (e.g., *Metal and Diamond Mining Effluent Regulations* (MDMER)). It was preferred due to clearer permitting pathways, more predictable environmental performance, and alignment with community preferences for discharging into flowing water systems.

Denison elected to discharge into Whitefish Lake South, as fishing has not been documented and the effect of discharge would be of low magnitude on the natural environmental flows, with no significant effects on sediment movement or benthic invertebrate habitats.

#### **4.2.1.7 Waste management**

Denison considered several alternatives for managing three types of waste generated by the Project: organic waste, process precipitates, and domestic waste.

##### *Organic Waste Disposal Alternatives:*

1. On-site incineration: burning organic waste in a dedicated incinerator. While technically feasible, this option would generate air emissions and require ongoing monitoring and maintenance.
2. On-site disposal in a domestic landfill: co-disposing organic waste with other non-hazardous materials. This would increase landfill volume and require a larger footprint.
3. On-site composting: use of a contained, automated composting system (e.g., Brome composter) to process organic waste into usable compost. This method reduces emissions and aligns with sustainability goals.

For organic waste disposal, Denison selected on-site composting based on its environmental benefits, alignment with recommendations from the YNLR, and its ability to reduce landfill volume and emissions.

*Process Precipitate Management Alternatives:*

1. On-site permanent disposal: construction of a dedicated disposal cell for long-term containment of precipitates. This option would require robust design and long-term monitoring.
2. Off-site reprocessing and final disposal: temporary on-site storage followed by transport to a licensed third-party facility for reprocessing and disposal.

For process precipitate management, Denison selected off-site reprocessing and final disposal to reduce potential interactions with groundwater and surface water at the project site and to align with best practices for managing uranium-bearing waste.

*Domestic Waste Disposal Alternatives:*

1. Off-site disposal by a third-party contractor: transporting non-recyclable, non-hazardous waste to a regional landfill. This would increase traffic and emissions.
2. On-site disposal in a domestic landfill: construction and operation of a lined landfill with leachate collection and monitoring systems.

For domestic waste disposal, Denison selected on-site disposal to reduce traffic on Highway 914, lower greenhouse gas emissions, and avoid burdening regional waste facilities. Recyclable materials (e.g., paper, cardboard, plastic, metals, electronics) will be collected and stored temporarily on-site until transported to a licensed facility.

**4.2.1.8 Access and transportation**

Denison plans to build clear span bridges and build on the existing exploration access roads rather than building direct routes and culverts to the site to minimize new disturbances to the terrestrial and aquatic environments. Denison considered alternatives for both road access to the site and air transportation for workers and supplies.

*Road access alternatives:*

1. Direct route: This option intersected a drumlin and followed the height of land to the proposed site facilities. It required significant cut and fill volumes and was located over 500 m from nearby recreational leases.
2. Modified direct route: This option skirted the drumlin to reduce cut volumes but came closer to nearby waterbodies and recreational leases.
3. Route following the existing exploration access road: This option had the lowest cut volumes and followed previously disturbed areas, minimizing new environmental disturbance and staying over 1,000 m from recreational leases.

*Air access alternatives:*

1. Ground transport only: All personnel and supplies would be transported by road.
2. Air transport to an existing Cameco-operated airstrip: This option would require a commercial agreement with Cameco and ground transport from the airstrip to the site.
3. Construction of a new on-site airstrip: Denison would build and operate its own airstrip, including a 5 km access road and two stream crossings.

For road access, Denison elected to use the existing exploration road to minimize new terrestrial and aquatic disturbance, and to address concerns raised by local land users. For air access, Denison submitted the on-site airstrip option for EA to ensure flexibility but has committed to using an existing Cameco airstrip if a contract is secured before construction. This approach allows Denison to maintain operational flexibility, while minimizing environmental and land use impacts.

#### **4.2.1.9 Power**

Denison considered four alternative means for supplying power to the proposed Project:

1. Liquefied natural gas (LNG) power plant: transportation of LNG to site and storage in large tanks to fuel on-site generators. While technically feasible, this option would require regular fuel deliveries, increase traffic and emissions, and higher operating costs.
2. Solar photovoltaic power plant: use of solar panels to generate electricity. With the land area required to meet the Project's 7.6 MW peak demand, combined with storage and reliability limitations in Northern Saskatchewan, this option was technically and economically unfeasible.
3. Diesel generators: on-site power using diesel fuel stored in large tanks is an option commonly used in remote operations but would result in higher greenhouse gas emissions and increased fuel transport requirements.
4. Connection to the provincial power grid: extension of an existing 138 kV transmission line to the site. Most of the electricity on this line is generated by hydroelectric power, making this option the lowest in emissions.

Denison selected the provincial power grid as the primary power source, with diesel generators as a backup. This approach minimizes greenhouse gas emissions, reduces traffic and habitat disturbance from fuel transport, and aligns with Denison's sustainability objectives.

#### **4.2.2 Views expressed**

Denison held technical meetings with concerned Indigenous Nations and communities in advance of developing the alternative means assessment for this project. Denison considered information provided by Indigenous Nations and communities in selecting the preferred alternatives for the Project components and responded to questions and concerns raised in these meetings, as referenced in [appendix 2-A of the Wheeler River EIS](#).

#### **4.2.3 CNSC Staff Findings**

In collaboration with the FIRT, CNSC staff reviewed Denison's Alternative Means Assessment against the [Operational Policy Statement: Addressing "Purpose of" and "Alternative Means" under the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012](#), [CNSC's Generic Guidelines](#) and [REGDOC-2.9.1](#). During the EIS technical review process, several IRs were raised by the FIRT, including a request for more information on the justification of selecting an acidic ISR solution, as well as additional details on how comments and concerns from Indigenous Nations and communities were considered, as described in [section 4.2.2](#) above.

Based on its review of Denison's analysis and the information provided by Denison in response to IRs, CNSC staff are satisfied that Denison has adequately assessed alternative means of

carrying out the Project in accordance with applicable guidance documentation, and for the purposes of assessing the environmental effects of the proposed Project under CEAA 2012.

## 5.0 Geographic setting

This section contains a brief description of the biophysical and human environments. Detailed information related to baseline information can be found in the respective environmental component sections, in [section 6](#), [section 7](#) and [section 8](#).

### 5.1 Biophysical environment

The Project site is located in the Boreal Shield Ecozone and contains the Phoenix and Gryphon uranium deposits. This area is typical of the continental sub-arctic region, characterized by short, cool and moist summers with cold, dry winters. The Wheeler River site has been shaped by glacial and fluvial processes, with drumlins and eskers separated by lowland areas of well drained glaciofluvial outwash sands and gravels and associated wetlands. The ground surface elevation in the area varies from 494-600 metres above sea level (masl) for the Project Area and 520-550 masl for the Phoenix deposit range.

The geographic area of the Project site is characterized by a diverse mix of upland and waterbodies, with lowland, lakes and waterbodies representing 27.2% of the surface area within the RSA. The landscape is characterized by gently sloping terrain with long winding ridges and hills, and supports mostly undeveloped forested upland, with lowland and waterbodies. The region has undergone previous disturbance associated with land use activities such as road development, seismic lines, and mineral exploration. Additionally, the region is dominated by post-fire regeneration vegetation, as well as a wide variety of plant species. Characteristic tree species for this ecoregion are dominated by the jack pine (*Pinus banksiana*) and black spruce (*Picea mariana*). Native plants including lichen, feathermoss, blueberries and Labrador tea are also available within the area.

The area of the proposed Project has been subject to exploration activities, including airborne and ground geophysical surveys, geochemical surveys, prospecting and diamond drilling. These exploration activities encompass ground geophysical survey grid lines, approximately 750 cleared exploration pads and disturbed ground cover such as vegetation removal. Denison currently has an exploration field operation with on-site camp facilities approximately 3 km southwest of the Phoenix deposit, including a warehouse, tank, trailer units and tent facilities. A site road, temporary bridges, gravel and sand roads and drill trails are maintained by Denison for site access.

Denison discovered the Phoenix deposit using diamond drilling in 2008 with delineation completed from 2008 to 2014. The Phoenix deposit is geologically situated at or above a major unconformity that separates sandstone from underlying basement rock, approximately 400m below the surface. The deposit is estimated to contain a total of 70.2 million pounds of U<sub>3</sub>O<sub>8</sub>. Denison has determined that the Phoenix deposit is amenable to ISR mining as it is overlain and underlain by a natural barrier which will limit the release or movement of uranium and proposed lixiviants.

Groundwater flow is estimated to occur in two flow regimes within the LSA. The uppermost flow system will be unconfined and would include groundwater flow through the overburden and upper sandstone aquifer while a lower, semi-regional flow system within the Lower Sandstone



Aquifer would be confined by an intermediate sandstone aquitard. Horizontal groundwater flow in the lower semi-regional system would flow from west to east and southeast and vertical gradients are observed to be downward in areas west of the Phoenix deposit and upward beneath surface waterbodies.

## 5.2 Human environment

The Project is proposed to be located in the Athabasca Basin of Saskatchewan, 4 km west of Highway 914. The proposed Project is located within the Northern Saskatchewan Administration District, which includes approximately 250,000 km<sup>2</sup> (44% of Saskatchewan's land area) and approximately 36,000 residents. No communities are located within the immediate proximity (<100 km) of the Wheeler River property. Ground access to the project is through Highway 914, with control managed by the Cameco Key Lake Operation gatehouse.

As is detailed further in [section 7.3](#), Current Use of Lands and Resources, ERFN and KML are the communities with the closest population centres to the proposed Project location. The proposed Project site is located within trapping blocks N-16 and N-18 as part of the partitioning of fur conservation areas in 1946. The area has been used by outfitters and cabin lease holders, fishing, hunting and harvesting by resource users as well as for navigation and travel along waterbodies and roads by Indigenous peoples. The primary land uses within the region include fishing, hunting, harvesting, mining and exploration. Additional information on how this land is used by Indigenous Nations and communities can be found in [section 7.3](#).

## 6.0 Predicted changes to the environment

Predicted changes to the environment caused by Project activities are presented in terms of effects to the atmospheric environment, geological and hydrogeological environment, aquatic environment, and terrestrial environment. These sub-divisions of the environment are referred to as environmental components. While changes to the environment can be considered as effects under section 5(1)(b) of CEAA 2012, they are also more generally understood as changes or effects to non-living components that can then lead to effects on identified VCs, as described in [section 7](#). VCs refer to environmental components and receptors that may be affected by a project and that have been identified to be of concern by Denison, government agencies, Indigenous Nations and communities or the public.

Denison has categorized VCs as either an intermediate VC or a receptor VC. Intermediate VCs generally represent an environmental component that acts as a pathway of influence to a receptor VC, which are generally biological or integrated assessment endpoints. Therefore, intermediate VCs are considered Key Indicators (KIs) of potential effects to a receptor VC and are considered in the assessment of effects and significance determination to receptor VCs. Denison has completed a residual effects evaluation on all VCs, however Denison did not conclude a significance determination for intermediate VCs; instead the residual effects evaluation and characterization for intermediate VCs as KIs are integrated into the significance determination for the related receptor VCs. Examples of receptor VCs include fish and fish habitat, benthic invertebrates, soil, vegetation and ecosystems, migratory birds, terrestrial wildlife, species at risk, and human health. Intermediate VCs include air quality, noise, geology, groundwater quantity and quality, surface water quantity and quality, and sediment quality.

This section provides a description of the existing environment for each environmental component. The baseline information included in the EIS was used to identify and determine potential changes due to the Project. Note: The term “baseline” should not be confused with “background” or “reference” conditions but understood as the state of the environment as it is now.

The purpose of these reviews is to provide an analysis of the relevant information for each component, comparing CNSC staff’s technical assessment with the proponent’s assessment and drawing conclusions on key mitigation measures, follow-up programs and the likelihood of significant adverse effects. CNSC staff’s analysis of Denison’s assessment on the changes to the environment considered the views expressed by federal departments and Indigenous Nations and communities.

## **6.1 Atmospheric environment**

The proposed Project could potentially cause changes to the atmospheric environment through:

- changes to air quality due to an increase in emissions, including dust, NO<sub>2</sub>, SO<sub>2</sub>, radon, and external gamma and from unpaved road surfaces, site clearing and construction activities, fuel combustion (e.g., power generators, diesel-powered mobile equipment), wellfield and freeze hole drilling, operation of the ISR wellfield, operation of the ISR processing plant, and storage and disposal of drill waste rock and process precipitates
- increase in noise above applicable guidelines (e.g., Health Canada 2003)

CNSC staff concurred with Denison’s assessment of Project activities that may interact with air quality and the acoustic environment and cause residual effects, during construction, operation and decommissioning activities, as detailed below.

### **6.1.1 Description of the atmospheric and acoustic environment**

The study area includes the potentially affected airshed in the vicinity of the project, which is located within the Athabasca Plain ecoregion of the Boreal Shield ecozone, specifically in the cold and snowy forest zone of Northern Saskatchewan.

Air quality was established through field studies, a literature review and dispersion modelling.

Ambient background air quality measurement data from Denison, the Saskatchewan Ministry of the Environment (SK MOE), and neighbouring uranium mines in Northern Saskatchewan were used to characterize baseline air quality for the project. The baseline monitoring program included particulate matter (i.e., total suspended particles (TSP), PM<sub>10</sub>, PM<sub>2.5</sub>, dustfall), NO<sub>2</sub>, CO, SO<sub>2</sub>, metals (e.g., As, Cd, Co), radon, and external gamma. Potential effects related to air quality were identified using thresholds set by federal and provincial authorities pertaining to predicted concentrations in air of the identified constituents of potential concern (COPC).

A baseline noise measurement program was completed using a Class 1 sound level meter system, outfitted with a wind shield, and with all components calibrated to a traceable national standard (e.g., National Institute of Standards and Technology, ISO 2007). The baseline sound measurements were completed over approximately one week in May 2021, in accordance with industry best practices and instrument manufacturer recommendations. Baseline sound level monitoring was completed at one location: off Highway 914 in the south-easterly direction. It was reported that this highway was no longer being used to haul ore from Cameco McArthur

River to Key Lake operations; therefore, baseline sound levels did not include traffic along Highway 914.

Ambient noise levels averaged 30.7 dBA during daytime (15-hour dBA), 31.3 dBA during nighttime (9-hour dBA), and 37.6 dBA day and night (24-hours dBA), for the measurement period. Using the Health Canada 2023 metric of % HA (percent highly annoyed), a 24-hours day and night noise level of 37.6 dBA corresponds to a %HA of 0.43%. If the baseline day and night noise level is increased 10 dBA to account for the heightened expectation of quiet in a remote area, then resulting value of 47.6 dBA corresponds to a %HA value of 1.6 % (Health Canada, 2017). The change in %HA value due to project-related noise is discussed in section 6.1.3.2.

## **6.1.2 Proponent's Assessment**

Denison's assessment considered air quality and the acoustic environment as intermediate VCs, and changes to the intermediate VCs were evaluated to facilitate the assessment of potential effects of the Project on receptor VCs. Both air quality and the acoustic environment are assessed as a KIs in the potential residual adverse effects significance determinations for the receptor VCs in the Terrestrial Environment (section 6.5), Terrestrial Biota (section 7.2), the Human Environment ([section 7.3](#)), and Indigenous Land and Resource Use ([section 7.4](#)).

Denison concluded that the residual effects to air quality and the acoustic environment are unlikely to have significant adverse effects on receptor VCs. More information on each project related effect and the residual effects evaluation can be found below and in the EIS section 6.1.6.

### **6.1.2.1 Air Quality**

Existing air quality conditions in the Project Area have been established by Denison through field studies and a literature review, and predictions have been completed as part of this assessment using dispersion modelling to evaluate how the anticipated project activities may change existing air quality conditions, and what the effect of these changes may be on people and the biophysical environment, such as soil and vegetation quality. Residual effects were predicted at receptors located beyond the Property Boundary (i.e., SSA) for 24-hour concentrations of TSP, PM10, and uranium, and 1-hour concentrations of NO. The effects during construction were short-term (less than three years), while the effects during Operation and decommissioning were medium-term (duration of operation and decommissioning phase). The 24-hour TSP and PM10 exceedances during construction and operation were sporadic; however, the residual effects during operation were considered unlikely. During decommissioning, 24-hour TSP exceedances were infrequent. Exceedances of the 24-hour uranium criterion during operation and the 1-hour NO<sub>2</sub> criterion during construction, operation, and decommissioning were also infrequent. In general, in all Project phases, the residual effects were predicted to be limited in geographic extent and mostly infrequent.

Through implementation of appropriate mitigation measures and follow-up monitoring, Denison anticipates that air quality will be managed throughout all Project phases. Therefore, Denison determined that the Project is not expected to have residual effects on air quality.

**Table 6.1: Summary of site air quality residual effects (adapted from EIS)**

| Constituents of Potential Concern      | Averaging Period | Criteria                             | Construction            |               | Operation               |               | Decommissioning         |               |
|--|------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------|-------------------------|---------------|-------------------------|---------------|
|  |                  |                                      | Max. Off-Property Conc. | % Of Criteria | Max. Off-Property Conc  | % Of Criteria | Max. Off-Property Conc. | % Of Criteria |
| Total suspended particulates (TSP)     | 24-hour          | 100 µg/m <sup>3</sup> (SAAQS /AAAQO) | 313.3 µg/m <sup>3</sup> | 313%          | 281.2 µg/m <sup>3</sup> | 281%          | 114.8 µg/m <sup>3</sup> | 115%          |
| Particulate matter (PM <sub>10</sub> ) | 24-hour          | 50 µg/m <sup>3</sup> (SAAQS /AAAQO)  | 116.2 µg/m <sup>3</sup> | 232%          | 103.8 µg/m <sup>3</sup> | 208%          | n/a                     | n/a           |
| Nitrogen dioxide (NO <sub>2</sub> )    | 1-hour           | 79 µg/m <sup>3</sup> (CAAQS 2025)    | 176.5 µg/m <sup>3</sup> | 223%          | 177.7 µg/m <sup>3</sup> | 225%          | 177.7 µg/m <sup>3</sup> | 225%          |
| Uranium (U)                            | 24-hour          | 0.15 µg/m <sup>3</sup> (OAAQC)       | n/a                     | n/a           | 0.22 µg/m <sup>3</sup>  | 148%          | n/a                     | n/a           |

**Notes:** d/y – days per year; h/y – hours per year; n/a – not applicable; Max. = maximum; Conc. = concentration

**Criteria:** Ontario Ambient Air Quality Criteria (OAAQC); Saskatchewan Ambient Air Quality Standards (SAAQS); Alberta Ambient Air Quality Objectives (AAAQO); Canadian Ambient Air Quality Standards (CAAQS 2025)

***Total Suspended Particulates (TSP): 24-hour Total Suspended Particulate Exceedances***

Concentrations of 24-hour TSP were predicted to exceed the criterion of 100 µg/m<sup>3</sup> during construction, operation, and decommissioning, up to a maximum of 313% of the criterion during construction (table 6.1). An analysis of exceedances showed that 24-hour TSP concentrations exceed the criterion 28% of the time during construction, 21% of the time during operation, and 0.5% of the time during decommissioning at the maximum off-property receptor. The analysis also showed that exceedances do not extend beyond 200 m from the Property Boundary in any of the modelled Project phases. Exceedances are attributable to fugitive dust from general construction activities (e.g., earthworks) and unpaved road dust during construction and operation. The 24-hour TSP exceedance plots are presented in EIS figure 50, 52 and 54 of appendix 6-A.

***Particulate Matter (PM<sub>10</sub>): 24-hour Particulate Matter (PM<sub>10</sub>) Exceedances***

Concentrations of 24-hour PM<sub>10</sub> were predicted to exceed the criterion of 50 µg/m<sup>3</sup> at off-property receptors during construction and operation, up to a maximum of 232% of the criterion during construction. An analysis of exceedances showed that 24-hour PM<sub>10</sub> concentrations exceed the criterion 17% of the time during construction and 12% of the time during operation at the maximum off-property receptor, which occurs on the Property Boundary. The analysis also showed that exceedances do not extend beyond 300 m from the Property Boundary in any of the modelled Project phases. Exceedances are attributable to fugitive dust from general construction

activities (e.g., earthworks) and unpaved road dust during construction and operation. The 24-hour PM<sub>10</sub> exceedance plots are presented in EIS figure 51 and 53 of appendix 6-A.

***Nitrogen Dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>): 1-hour Nitrogen Dioxide Exceedances***

Concentrations of 1-hour NO<sub>2</sub> were predicted to exceed the criterion of 79 µg/m<sup>3</sup> at off-property receptors during construction, operation, and decommissioning, up to a maximum of 225% of the criterion during operation and decommissioning. An analysis of exceedances showed that 1-hour NO<sub>2</sub> concentrations exceed the criterion less than 1% of the time during any of the modelled Project phases at the maximum off-property receptor, which occurs on the Property Boundary. The analysis also showed that exceedances do not extend beyond 1 km from the Property Boundary in any of the modelled Project phases. Exceedances are attributable to the use of diesel generators. The standby diesel generators were included in the operation and decommissioning modelling as a worst-case scenario; however, the standard operating condition of the site will be to operate using power from the provincial grid during these Project phases. The 1-hour NO<sub>2</sub> exceedance plots are presented in EIS figure 55 and 56 of appendix 6-A.

***Uranium (U): 24-hour Uranium Exceedances***

Concentrations of 24-hour uranium were predicted to exceed the criterion of 0.15 µg/m<sup>3</sup> at off-property receptors during operation only, up to a maximum of 148% of the criterion. Analysis of exceedances showed that 24-hour uranium concentrations exceed the criterion less than 0.5% of the time at the maximum off-property receptor, which occurs on the Property Boundary. The analysis also showed that exceedances do not extend beyond 400 m from the Property Boundary. Exceedances are attributable to uranium emissions from the ISR plant stacks during operation. The 24-hour uranium concentration and exceedance plots are presented in EIS figure 32 and 57 of appendix 6-A.

Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions associated with the project were also estimated as part of the atmospheric assessment. Unlike the emissions constituents presented above, GHG emissions are not assessed for site-specific effects. They are presented as inputs with consideration of their potential to hinder or contribute to the Government of Canada's ability to meet its environmental obligations and its commitments in respect of climate change (i.e., Transboundary effect). Denison concluded that the Project GHG emissions would represent only a small fraction of total provincial or national emissions and support the production of low GHG emission nuclear power production, potentially replacing much higher GHG emitting energy sources such as coal and natural gas.

***Estimated GHG Emissions: transboundary effect (table 6.2)***

Denison estimated the direct and indirect Project GHG emissions utilizing the methodologies outlined in ECCC's 2021 Draft Technical Guide Related to the Strategic Assessment of Climate Change (SACC Report) where applicable. Direct emissions included stationary (e.g., diesel generators, propane heaters) and mobile (e.g., on-road trucks and vans; off-road heavy equipment like graders and dozers) combustion sources. The operational phase would benefit from obtaining low carbon energy from Saskatchewan's northern hydroelectric grid. The GHG emissions associated with this indirect, or acquired energy, are additive to the direct emissions discussed above. The estimated annual GHG emissions (tonnes/year) for each of the main Project phases are provided in [table 6.2](#).

**Table 6.2 Estimated\* Greenhouse Gas Emissions**

| Project phase        | Annual GHG emissions in CO <sub>2</sub> equivalent tonnes per year |                    |                 |
|----------------------|--|--------------------|-----------------|
|                      | Direct emissions   | Acquired emissions | Total emissions |
| Construction         | 31,039   | ---                | 31,039          |
| Operation            | 12,002   | 18,700             | 30,702          |
| Decommissioning      | 25,019   | ---                | 25,019          |
| Post-Decommissioning | 0  | ---                | ---             |

\*Assessment of upstream GHG emissions are not necessary as estimated emissions are well below the 500 kt of CO<sub>2</sub>e per year threshold triggering for such calculations (ECCC SACC 2021).

Based on these estimates the project is expected to be required to report annually to the federal Greenhouse Gas Reporting Program, as it is likely to exceed the annual reporting threshold (i.e., > 10,000 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e per year). However, such emissions would only account for a small fraction of total national (0.0043%) and provincial (0.041%) emissions.

### 6.1.2.2 Acoustic Environment

Noise was selected as a VC in general based on the potential of Project-related activities to interact with and change the existing acoustic (sound) environment. Any change to the existing acoustic environment near the Project has the potential to affect Indigenous groups and the public by creating nuisance noise that could affect human health, and to change animal behaviours with respect to hunting activity in the vicinity of the Project. The potential effects of noise levels on ungulates, furbearers, and woodland caribou are discussed in [section 7.2](#). The assessment is focussed on potential effects on human receptors. Indicators of effects on human health due to noise exposure include sleep disturbance and prolonged periods of high annoyance, which may result in health effects associated with cardiovascular health, mental health, and other effects.

The first potential noise-related effect relates to the parameters associated with the Health Canada guidelines. There were no predicted exceedances of the Health Canada limits (75dBA) or a change in %HA of 6.5 or more for either of the modelled scenarios (construction or operation), as the location of human receptors.

As there currently is no Saskatchewan environmental noise guidance, Alberta provincial guidance (AER Directive 2013) was used as a surrogate for assessing daytime and nighttime sound/noise levels. The daytime sound levels were not predicted to exceed the 40 dBA guideline level (modelled to be a maximum of 35.8 dBA for construction and 34.1 dBA for operation), whereas the nighttime sound levels were not predicted to exceed 36 dBA guideline level (modelled to be a maximum of 35.9 dBA for construction and 34.0 dBA for operation). These noise levels were attributable to drilling activity in the wellfield, concrete batching during construction, and movement of trucks on the access road.

The third potential effect is associated with the incremental increases in sound/noise level over the baseline conditions. It was estimated that the maximum increase in noise levels would be during construction in the daytime hours, in the order of +5.1 dBA, characterized to be a moderate effect. Similarly, a modelled nighttime increase of +4.6 dBA during construction would be characterized as low. During operation, it was estimated that the maximum increase in noise level would be in the order of +3.4 dBA during the daytime and +2.7 dBA during



nighttime. These noise levels would be characterized as low and marginal, respectively, however the increases in noise level would result in a moderate effect at one receptor location during construction in the daytime hours which may be perceptible and potentially objectionable. Therefore, as a conservative measure, this was carried forward as a residual effect and evaluated using criteria provided in table 6.2-6 of EIS section 6.2.6.1. It was determined that the residual effect was limited to daytime hours during the construction phase. This effect (exceedance of +5.1 dBA) was predicted to be short-term (less than 3 years), and mitigation measures are expected to assist in reducing the likelihood of this effect occurring.

Through implementation of appropriate mitigation measures and follow-up monitoring, Denison anticipates that changes in noise levels that can affect human health will be managed throughout all Project phases. Therefore, Denison determined that the Project is not expected to have residual effects on the acoustic environment.

### 6.1.2.3 Mitigation Measures for air quality and acoustic (noise)

Denison has proposed the following measures to mitigate the potential adverse effects from identified project activities on air quality and noise. CNSC staff have assessed the mitigation measures proposed by Denison and have concluded that they are adequate to manage potential adverse effects to air quality and noise. See summary [tables 6.3](#) and [6.4](#) below.

**Table 6.3: Proposed mitigation measures to address effects on air quality**

| Construction, operation and decommissioning phases  |
|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To control road dust during summer (May to October), water and/or chemical dust suppressant will be applied to all site roads. In the winter months (November to April), natural mitigation from snow/ice can help control unpaved road.</li> </ul>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Limiting equipment and vehicle speeds along the access road and site roads to &lt;40 km/h. The roads are also maintained during the summer months using a grader.</li> </ul>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Creating and implementing an Environmental Management System (EMS) and a dust management plan to address air quality monitoring, including the application of water or chemical dust suppressants to control fugitive dust, in addition to other operational strategies to assist in dust control</li> </ul> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Planning vehicle and equipment routes to minimize travel distances, where possible</li> </ul>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Employing standard operating procedures and completing regular inspections of equipment machinery to make sure it is in good working order</li> </ul>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collect dust measurements and determine whether the actual effect of Project activities is different than what was modelled.</li> </ul>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Avoid dust-generating activities (e.g., earthworks, material handling) during dry or high wind conditions.</li> </ul>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Avoid dropping material from height.</li> </ul>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Make sure all exhausts (e.g., mobile equipment, generators) are in good working condition.</li> </ul>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Turn off vehicles and equipment when not being used.</li> </ul>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintain unpaved road surfaces via grading or other maintenance practices to reduce the amount of silt (i.e., fines) present in the roadbed material</li> </ul>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Air emissions will be reduced by:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>directing processing plant exhaust from drying and packaging areas through a stack prior to release outside of the building.</li> </ol> </li> </ul>   |

|   |
|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. designing the stack height based on results of air dispersion modelling to be an appropriate height for optimal dispersion.</li> <li>3. employing battery-powered light vehicles where practical to reduce air emissions and noise levels and improve energy efficiency.</li> </ol>   |
| <b>Operation phase only</b>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Equipping the dryer, calciner, and hygiene exhausts with scrubber systems</li> <li>• Making sure the dryer, calciner, and hygiene exhaust stacks are at least two times the building height to eliminate building downwash effects</li> <li>• Collecting and venting radon gas from wellfield operations (including test phases) through a radon surge tank equipped with a vertical stack at least 15 feet (4.5 m) above grade</li> </ul> |

**Table 6.4: Mitigation measures for noise during the construction phase**

|  |
|--|
| <b>Construction phase</b>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avoiding the use of concrete batching plant and crusher during nighttime hours</li> <li>• Locating the concrete batching operation as far away as possible from sensitive location</li> <li>• Directing the generator discharge openings away from sensitive locations</li> <li>• Making use of available on-site obstructions to control sound exposure at sensitive areas (e.g., locate sources behind buildings)</li> <li>• Monitoring sound levels from the identified sources</li> <li>• Use high-quality, low sound emission equipment and regular maintenance will reduce noise</li> </ul> |

#### 6.1.2.4 Monitoring and Follow-up Measures

In order to verify the accuracy of the assessment and determine the effectiveness of the mitigation measures, Denison will implement the following EA follow-up measures.

**Table 6.5: Follow-up program measures for effects on air quality**

|   |
|---|
| <b>Changes in air quality due to increased air emissions</b>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitoring to confirm the residual effects of the Project on air quality and demonstrate compliance with provincial ambient air quality standards, an adaptive air quality management program will be implemented. The plans within the air quality management program will incorporate mitigation measures and monitoring requirements directed by provincial and federal regulators and by Indigenous groups and other Interested Parties as requested.</li> <li>• The air quality management plan will outline operational procedures and controls used to control fugitive emissions of particulate matter from unpaved roads, open areas, and material stockpiles and will also address community complaints and response procedures. An air quality monitoring plan will be designed to evaluate the effectiveness of these measures, and will detail the monitoring objectives, sampling design, methods and quality assurance and control requirements. The air quality monitoring plan will be an extension of the ongoing baseline monitoring program for the Project and will include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ TSP;</li> <li>○ PM2.5 (construction only)</li> <li>○ dustfall</li> <li>○ uranium, select metals, and radionuclides in TSP and/or dustfall</li> <li>○ passive NO<sub>2</sub></li> <li>○ radon</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |



**Table 6.6: Follow-up program measures for effects on the acoustic environment**

| Changes in noise levels  |
|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monitoring to confirm that the Project is compliant with the federal guidelines during both Construction and Operation.</li> </ul>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The monitoring program will incorporate mitigation measures and monitoring requirements directed by provincial and federal regulators and by Indigenous groups and other Interested Parties as requested.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prior to the commencement of the first routine noise monitoring campaign during Construction, Indigenous Groups and other Interested Parties will be notified of the monitoring schedule and planned locations.</li> <li>Initially, the proposed locations will be the same locations as were used in the baseline program for direct comparison of the data to the baseline conditions. These locations may be revised or expanded upon to include other locations based on feedback received.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Indigenous Groups and other Interested Parties will also be notified of how noise complaints may be registered, and if a noise complaint is received, the associated monitoring would then take place at the location of the complainant.</li> </ul>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Routine and complaints-based noise monitoring will utilize the same methods as the baseline monitoring program.</li> <li>Sound levels will be monitored on a continuous basis using a calibrated Class 1 sound level meter and data logger.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Calibrated to a National Institute of Standards and Technology traceable standard within one year of its use in the program, and field calibrated using a Class 1 acoustic calibrator.</li> <li>The sound level meters log sound levels on a minimum one-hour basis (and logged on the hour for direct comparison to site meteorological data).</li> </ul> </li> <li>The parameters to be logged include:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The energy equivalent sound level (Leq) and statistical parameters (Lmin, Lmax, L10, L50 and L90) logged on a continuous basis.</li> <li>The daily summed sound level (Ldn) logged on a 24-hour basis (midnight to midnight).</li> </ul> </li> <li>The collected data will be compared with hourly meteorological data collected on-site for purposes of validation, and any data collected under unrepresentative conditions will be discarded prior to analysis.</li> <li>For routine monitoring, the programs will be of a minimum one-week duration. For complaints-based monitoring, the duration will be set based on the nature of the complaint.</li> </ul> |

### 6.1.3 Other Views Expressed

#### 6.1.3.1 Air Quality

##### *Indigenous Nations and communities*

During consultation and engagement activities with Indigenous Nations and communities, concerns regarding changes in air quality were raised by ERFN, YNLR, MN-S and BNDN.

ERFN<sup>1</sup> raised general concerns regarding the project's impact on air quality in the area as increased traffic, and site preparation and construction activities can increase dust and emissions due to the increased levels of activity. In addition to the general concerns raised, ERFN were concerned where there were exceedances of NO<sub>x</sub>, PM<sub>10</sub> and uranium that these constituents were not identified as part of the Human Health Risk Assessment.

YNLRO was concerned about the potential impacts of radon gas released and if there were predicted or possible impacts to fish and wildlife as a result of the presence of radon gas.

MN-S indicated an interest in monitoring programs and raised concerns on how Denison would use and incorporate Métis knowledge to inform the air emissions monitoring program. MN-S also indicated that dust emissions would have an impact to Indigenous land and resource users.

BNDN raised concerns that BNDN traditional land and resource use points were not included as special receptors in Denison's air dispersion model and that the model did not account for air emissions from Cameco's McArthur River Mine and Key Lake Mill sites. In addition, BNDN was interested in how Nation members could be involved in air quality monitoring activities that Denison will complete. BNDN also raised issues with the Project's reliance on using diesel generation for operations and the impacts that will have on increasing greenhouse gas emissions.

#### *Federal Authorities*

ECCC requested clarity on the potential effects to air quality from backup diesel generators and suggested that Denison use low-cost sensors to continuously monitor particulate matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) concentrations, in addition to other mitigation measures.

ECCC recommended that Denison provide a plan that estimates GHG during post-decommissioning, a GHG follow-up program, and mitigation measures following the BAT/BEP determination process, and a net-zero by 2050 plan. ECCC also noted that Denison should re-evaluate the LUC calculation and estimate the Project impact on carbon sinks. HC recommended that mitigation measures to reduce diesel exhaust emissions be implemented during all stages of the project and that exhaust emissions are limited to the greatest extent possible. Additionally, HC recommended that the air quality monitoring (of TSP), nitrogen dioxide, particulate matter, uranium in TSP, PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub> for comparison to CAAQS and applicable standards) be fully integrated into the Project's air quality management program and that an adaptive management plan for NO<sub>2</sub> be developed as part of the licensing phase.

#### **6.1.3.2 Noise Emissions**

*Indigenous Nations and communities* Concerns regarding an increase in noise emissions were raised by ERFN, MN-S, and BNDN. Each Nation's concern regarding noise were due to the sensory disturbance an increase in noise creates for wildlife and traditional users and their experience on the land.

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<sup>1</sup> At the outset of the regulatory process ERFN had raised issues and concerns that are reflected in the Other Views Expressed sections throughout the EA Report. These project-specific concerns have been responded to and addressed to the satisfaction of ERFN by both Denison and CSNC staff through the consultation and engagement process.

ERFN indicated that baseline data was not sufficient to assess the potential impacts of noise. MN-S raised concerns that Indigenous land and resource users would be negatively impacted by the increased level of traffic and the associated increased noise emissions, which may lead to the avoidance of using certain areas near the proposed project site. Lastly, BNDN raised issues of sensory disturbance associated with increased anthropogenic noise which in turn would impact wildlife. BNDN is concerned that the impacts to wildlife from noise emissions may alter wildlife behaviour and thus alter hunting activities of traditional land users.

#### *Federal Authorities*

HC raised concerns around noise levels and impacts on nearby human receptors, including night-time noise and noise complaint resolution and response procedures.

### **6.1.3.3 Summary of Mitigations and Commitments related to Views Expressed**

#### *Air Quality*

Denison has made commitments (Commitments 6-1 to 6-3) to mitigate any potential adverse effects on air quality. Mitigation measures and follow-up monitoring will be employed to ensure that potential impacts related to air quality are effectively managed. This includes verifying the Project's residual effects on air quality through future measurement programs and air quality modelling and the implementation of an adaptive air quality management program. The program will be finalized during permitting and licensing.

With respect to project-related activities that may increase dust generation, elevated emissions (including nitrogen oxide, PM10, and uranium), and releases of radon gas, mitigation and monitoring approaches include:

- applying water or chemical dust suppressants at least twice per day to unpaved roads and surfaces (in winter, when water-based suppression is not effective due to freezing, Denison will rely on snow cover and, reduced traffic levels)
- limiting equipment and vehicle speeds along access and site roads to reduce dust generation
- equipping key exhaust systems—such as those for dryers, calciners, and hygiene units—with scrubber systems
- designing exhaust stack heights based on air dispersion modelling to optimize contaminant dispersion
- implementing radon gas collection and venting systems through surge tanks with elevated vertical stacks

Denison has further committed to engaging Indigenous Nations and communities by incorporating IK/MK into the air emissions monitoring program and recognizing traditional land and resource use areas as special receptors within air dispersion models. An Environmental Management System (EMS) is also being developed to include an Environmental Protection Plan (EPP), which will provide a framework for ongoing environmental monitoring and compliance with regulatory standards. Details of these initiatives will be finalized during subsequent phases of the Project.

With regards to ECCC concerns on GHGs, Denison has committed to reassessing the GHG and climate change components of the EIS and the Strategic Assessment of Climate Change once more site-specific information is available (Commitment 6-6). The reassessment should include more detailed study around GHG emissions, carbon sinks and mitigation options, best available

technology/best env practices, net zero carbon planning and offsetting. With respect to carbon offsetting, Denison noted that options to offset GHG emissions will be considered as the Project advances.

#### *Noise Emissions*

Denison has made commitments (Commitments 6-4 & 6-5) to mitigate any potential adverse effects resulting from increased noise emissions and the sensory disturbance these emissions may cause for wildlife and traditional land users. Mitigation measures and follow-up monitoring will be implemented to ensure that the potentially negative impacts on the land and its users are adequately managed. These measures include source elimination and operational planning—such as scheduling high-noise activities (e.g., concrete batching and crushing) outside nighttime hours, locating such operations as far away from sensitive receptors as practicable, and using on-site obstructions to control sound exposure—ensuring that noise levels remain within acceptable limits.

With respect to noise management, mitigation and monitoring approaches include, redirecting generator discharge openings away from sensitive locations, collecting sound level measurements from key noise sources once they are operating, using battery-powered light vehicles and mobile equipment (and an AC-powered dual rotary drill for ISR wellfield development) in place of traditional diesel-powered units, and reducing the overall Project Area to lower noise propagation. Denison has further committed to developing an Environmental Management System (EMS) that will incorporate a comprehensive noise management and monitoring plan in collaboration with ERFN and KML.

### **6.1.4 CNSC Staff Analysis**

#### *Air Quality*

CNSC staff reviewed Denison's effect assessment on air quality related to the change in total suspended particulates, particulate matter concentration, nitrogen dioxide concentration and uranium concentrations, and confirmed that Denison conducted a comprehensive analysis of these effects and that identified mitigation and follow-up monitoring program measures are adequate.

#### *Greenhouse Gas Emissions*

CNSC staff assessed Denison's GHG assessment and found the assessment and methods of assessment to be adequate. CNSC staff verified that GHG emissions have been calculated for the most GHG intensive phases of the proposed project with results indicating that emissions are low relative to both national (0.0043%) and provincial (0.04%) total emissions. CNSC staff and the FIRT reviewed this current assessment and in response to comments raised, Denison has committed to re-evaluating the GHG and climate change components once more detailed site-specific data is available including more a more detailed assessment of mitigative options, best available technology and best environmental practices (Commitment 6.6). GHGs will also be further evaluated under licensing through a Best Available Technology Economically Achievable (BATEA) for air emissions and treatment technologies and techniques assessment.

Considering the currently available information and Denison's commitments, with respect to transboundary implications of GHG emissions and their potential to hinder or contribute to the Government of Canada's ability to meet its environmental obligations and its commitments in

respect of climate change, CNSC staff conclude that the project is not likely to cause a significant adverse effect.

### *Acoustic Environment*

With respect to the acoustic (noise) environment, CNSC staff reviewed Denison's assessment and determined that the expected increase in daytime noise levels during the construction phase would be limited to a period of about 3 years, and there are mitigation measures proposed which will help attenuate the noise to some extent. Follow-up/ongoing monitoring using appropriately calibrated equipment will also be used to refine the model predictions and ensure that the environment remains protected.

#### **6.1.4.1 Summary of CNSC's assessment on predicted residual effects on air quality and noise**

In summary, the assessment predicted residual effects on air quality due to change in total suspended particulates, particulate matter, nitrous oxides and uranium. However, with the implementation of appropriate mitigation measures any effects are expected to be low in magnitude and localized. CNSC staff reviewed Denison's models and predictions for effects to air quality and confirmed that Denison conducted a comprehensive analysis of these effects. Furthermore, CNSC staff reviewed Denison's identified mitigation and follow-up monitoring program measures for the identified effects and have found that they are adequate.

Air quality feeds into other assessment endpoints (e.g., terrestrial, aquatic), so the residual effects for air quality do not require significance determinations of their own.

#### **6.1.5 CNSC Staff Findings and Recommendations**

Taking into account the implementation of mitigation measures and recommended follow-up program measures, CNSC staff found that the project is not likely to cause adverse effects on air quality, the acoustic (noise) environment, or Greenhouse Gas emissions. The effects significance determination table for Greenhouse Gas emissions can be found in [appendix B](#).

## **6.2 Geology and Groundwater**

The proposed Project could potentially cause changes to the hydrogeological environment through:

- changes to soil terrain and subsidence at ground surface from ISR mining
- changes to groundwater quantity from alteration in precipitation infiltration, groundwater extraction and effluent release
- changes to groundwater quality from construction activities, operation of site infrastructure, ISR mining, and groundwater remediation

CNSC concurred with Denison's assessment of the project activities that may interact with geology and groundwater and cause residual effects during all project phases, as detailed below.

## **6.2.1 Description of the environment: geology and groundwater**

### **6.2.1.1 Studies conducted by the proponent to characterize baseline geology and hydrogeology**

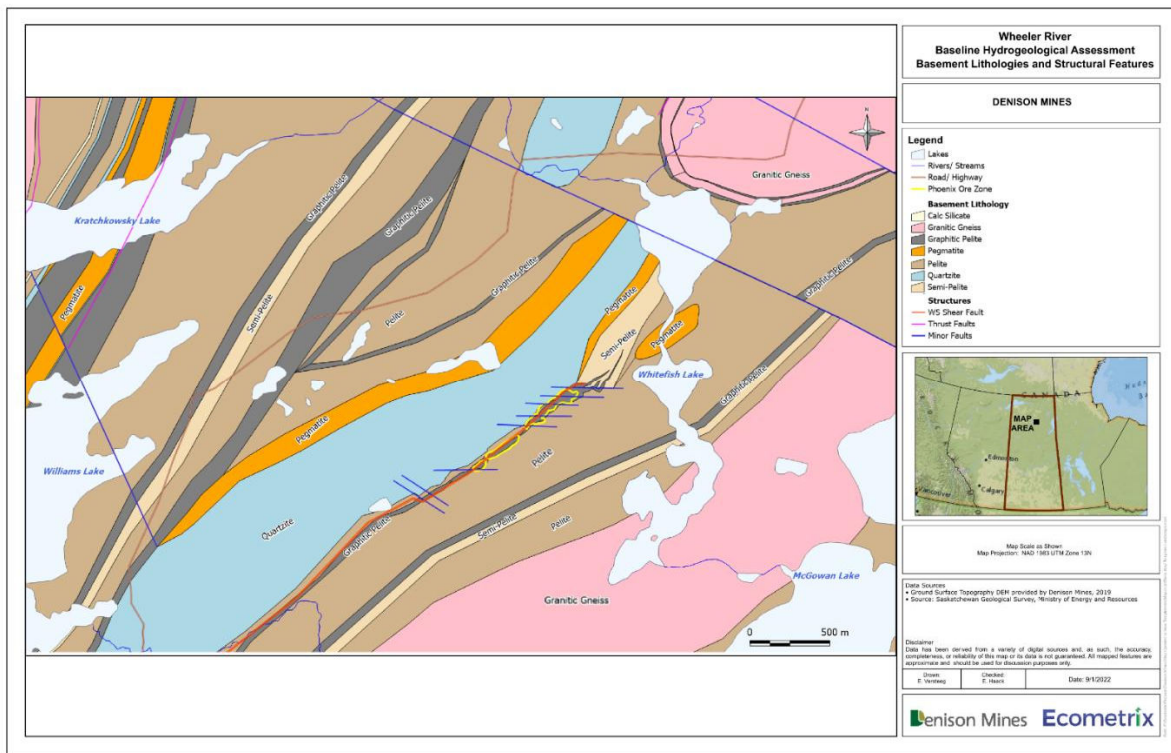
Characterization of existing conditions was based on regional studies of the Athabasca Basin (as referenced by Denison in section 7.3 of the EIS) and extensive project-specific data collection. Project-specific data collection included:

- a geological, geochemical, and geotechnical database covering 16 years of exploration and 300+ drill holes, with lithology, rock quality, fracture intensity, core recovery, and alteration details - composite and discrete core samples were collected and analyzed for bulk geochemical composition and mineralogy
- matrix permeability, hydraulic conductivity, porosity, and dry density determined from permeameter data
- hydrogeological assessments, including packer tests, pumping tests, and injection tests
- groundwater quality analysis from 26 monitoring wells (2019–2021), which were tested for general chemistry, dissolved metals, trace elements, radionuclides, and tritium, and
- water level monitoring from 390 records in 150+ core holes, with manual and continuous pressure transducer data

This information can all be found in the references included in the EIS.

### **6.2.1.2 Characterization of baseline geology**

The Phoenix uranium deposit is located at the base of the Athabasca Supergroup sedimentary rocks that unconformably overly the Wollaston Group basement rocks ([figure 6.1](#)), forming an unconformity-related uranium deposit. The figures throughout this section were provided by Denison in the 2024 Final EIS.

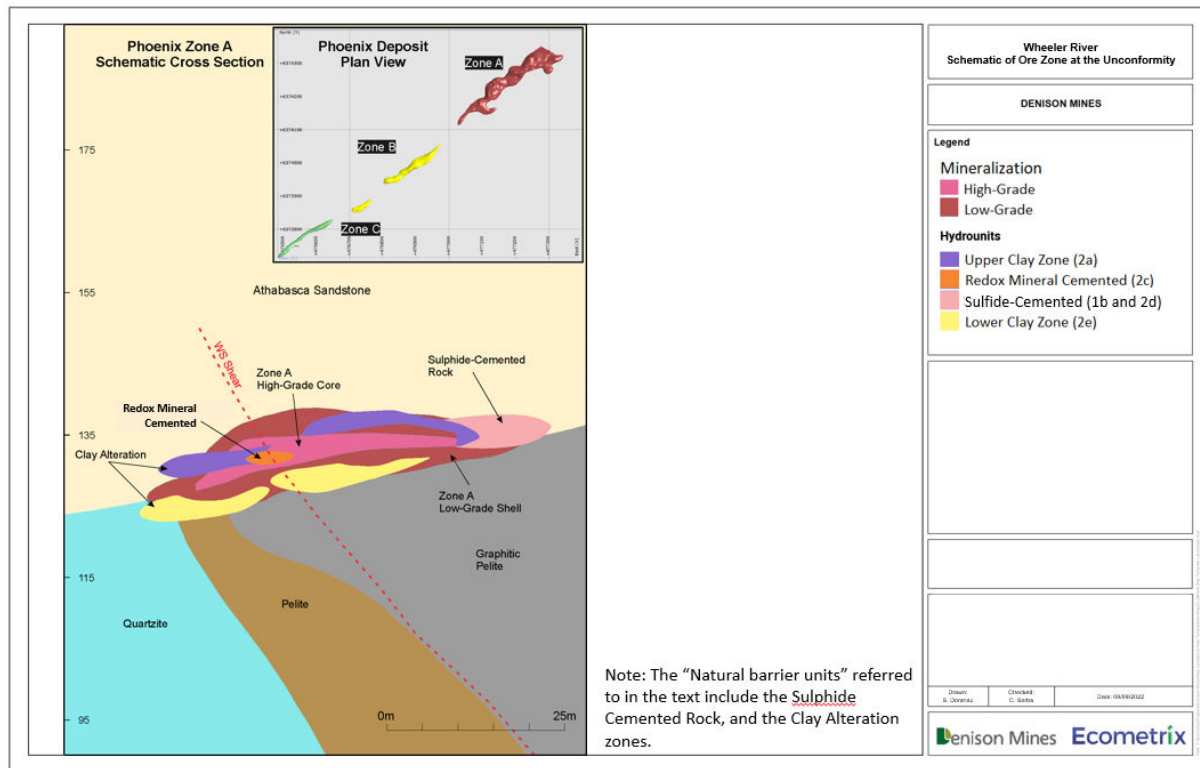
**Figure 6.1 Basement lithologies and structural features**

The lithologic units within the LSA are described as follows:

- **Basement rock:** consists of extensively altered Paleoproterozoic metamorphic and igneous (figure 6.1) beneath the Phoenix deposits. Major faults within this unit are generally oriented northeast-southwest, including the WS Shear zone, a major northeast-southwest-oriented and southeast-dipping reverse fault (055°/55°) (figure 6.1). West-east-striking minor faults intersect the WS Shear zone at a high angle and cut through both the ore zone and basement rocks. Quartzite ridges, alteration facies resulting from pre-Athabasca Supergroup basement silicification that manifest as topographic features of the sub-Athabasca unconformity surface, were documented proximal to the Phoenix deposit. One northeast-southwest-oriented quartz ridge occurs parallel to the Phoenix deposit and is interpreted as a low permeability zone that acts as a barrier to fluid flow and played a role in controlling alteration patterns and mineralization.
- **Ore deposit:** consists of long and narrow (~ 25 to 50 m wide) uranium orebodies with a complex mineral assemblage proximal to the unconformity between the basement rocks and the overlying Athabasca Supergroup sedimentary rocks. A ~3-m-thick hydrothermal alteration zone associated with the ore, form a natural barrier unit or halo that isolates the ore zone from the overlying sandstone and the underlying basement (Upper and Lower Clay Zones, and Sulphide Cemented zones shown in figure 6.2). This natural barrier zone has limited the release or subsurface migration of uranium, and other chemical constituents associated with the ore zone, in groundwater for more than 1 billion years.

**Figure 6.2 Schematic of the ore zone at the unconformity**





- Athabasca Supergroup sedimentary rocks: consists of horizontally bedded, consolidated Proterozoic (1.5 to 1.74 billion years old) sandstones (iron rich, quartz-dominated) and conglomerates of the Athabasca Supergroup overlying the basement rock. The Athabasca Supergroup sandstones include the Manitou Falls Group (MF), which from top to bottom is subdivided into the MFd (Dunlop Formation), MFc (Collins Formation), MFb (Bird Formation), and the MFa (Read Formation) ([figure 6.3](#)). The MFa hosts most of the uranium mineralization associated with the Phoenix deposit, but some mineralization lies within the underlying paleoweathered basement ([figure 6.2](#)). The Athabasca Supergroup sandstone exhibits a Desilicified Zone overlying and east of the Phoenix deposit that was delineated by cores logged as having very low rock quality designation values, high fracture intensity, and high friability ([figure 6.4](#)). These sandstones are also faulted and fractured, which affects the movement of groundwater through these units.
- Overburden: consist predominantly of outwash sand and glacial till with organic and alluvial sediments ([figure 6.5](#)), with thickness ranging from less than a few metres on low-lying areas to over 100 m in the northwestern reaches of Whitefish Lake where weathering and glacial erosion of the sandstone bedrock formed a bedrock valley or 'trough' (as shown in the far northeast extent of the cross section in ([figure 6.3](#))). The overburden exhibits glacial landforms such as the NE-SW-oriented drumlins and eskers, form topographic highs on the landscape ([figure 6.5](#)).



**Figure 6.3 An example cross-section illustrating borehole lithology and interpreted lithologic surfaces**

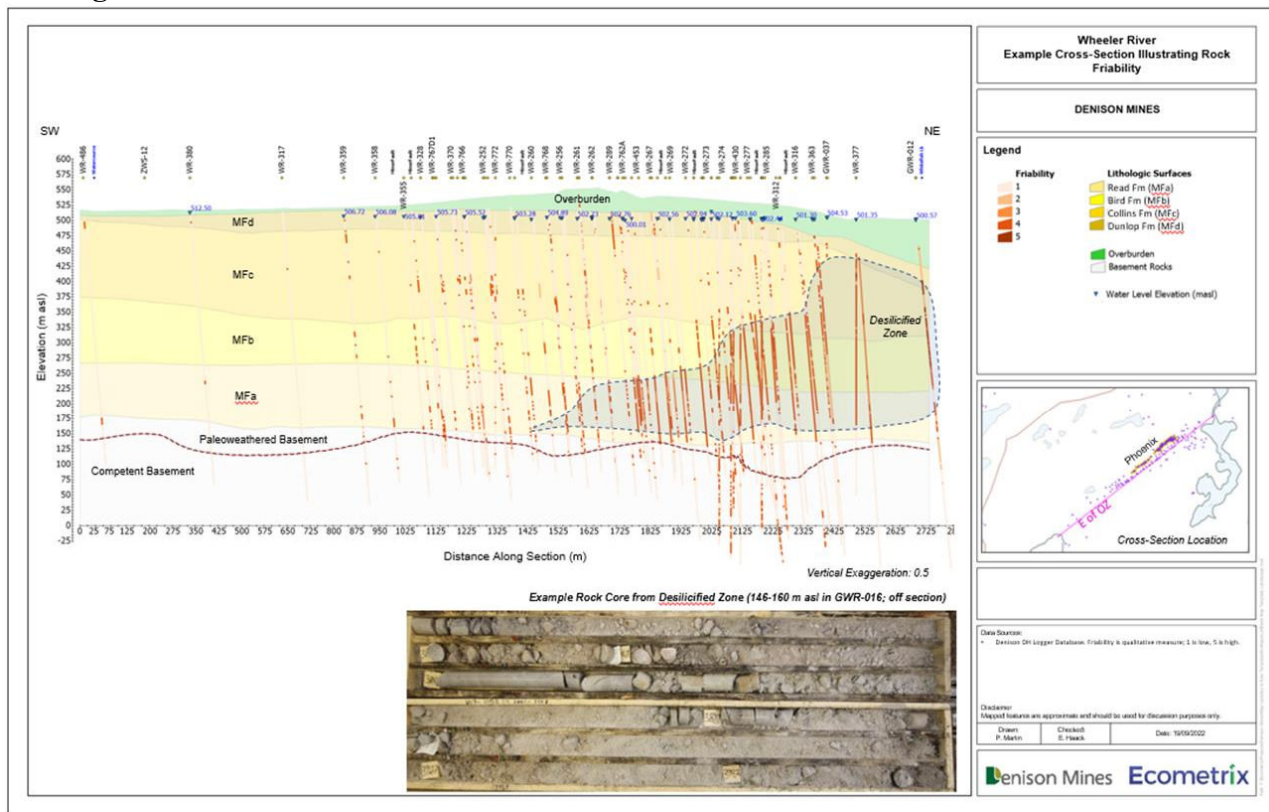


Figure 6.4 Example cross-section illustrating rock friability

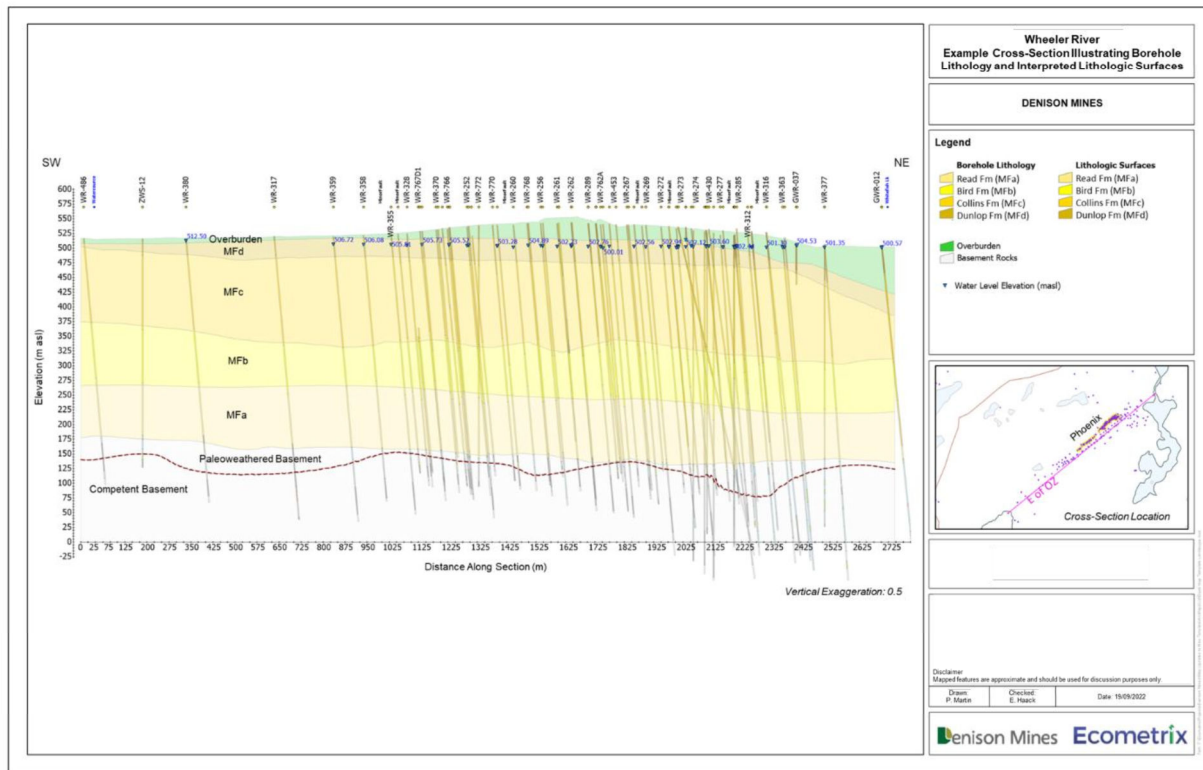
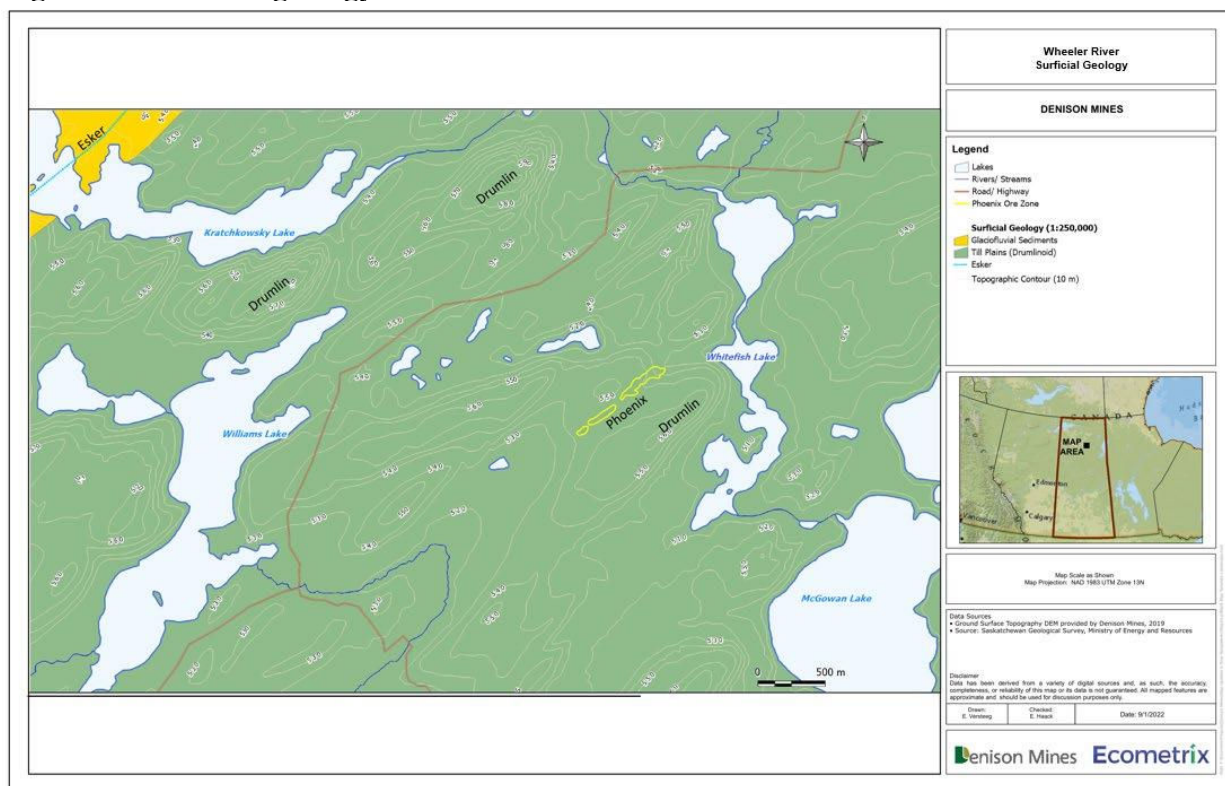


Figure 6.5 Surficial geology



### 6.2.1.3 Characterization of baseline hydrogeology

#### *Baseline groundwater flow conditions*

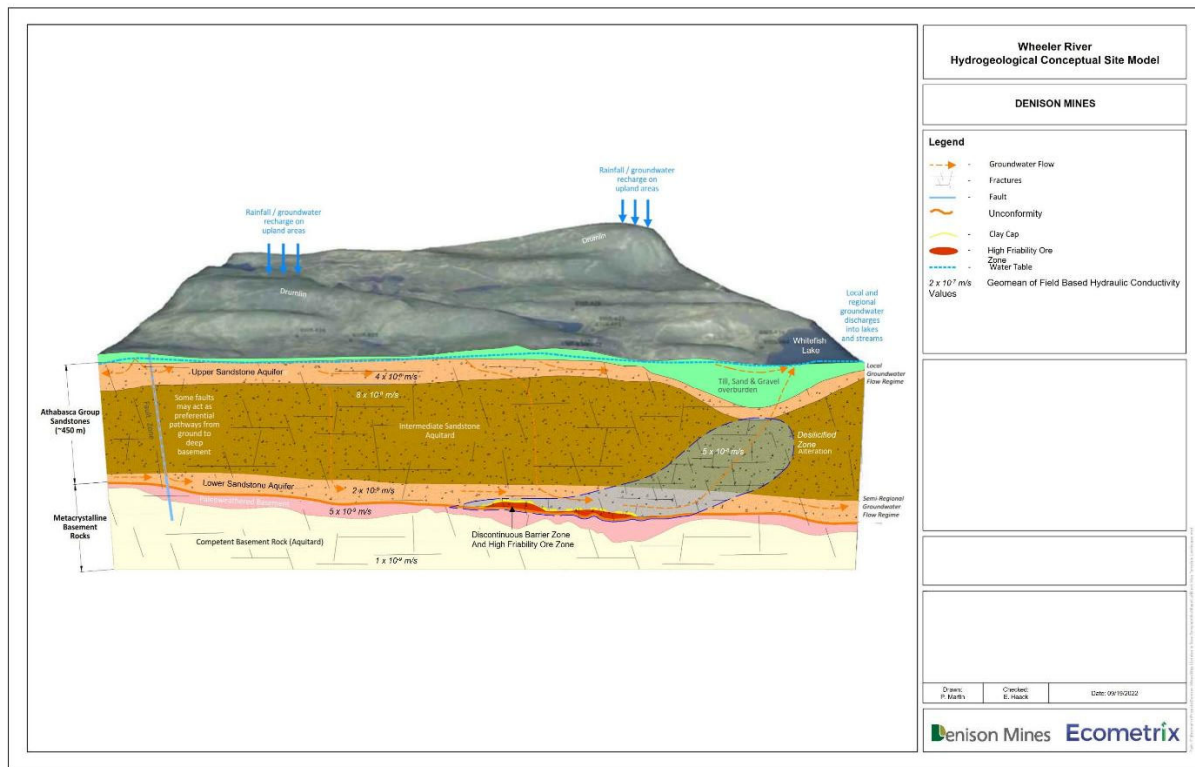
A hydrogeological Conceptual Site Model (CSM), as shown in [figure 6.6](#), was developed based on the Phoenix deposit geological model and the hydrogeological studies of the project site. Hydrostratigraphic units often combine geologic units with similar hydrogeologic properties. Within the LSA, nine hydrostratigraphic units have been defined, as illustrated in the hydrogeological CSM in [figure 6.6](#). The hydrogeological CSM provided the basis for development of a numerical groundwater flow and transport model for the baseline and post-decommissioning phase.

As shown in [figure 6.6](#), groundwater flow in the LSA is conceptualized to occur in two groundwater regimes: an unconfined upper system flowing through the Overburden and Upper Sandstone Aquifer, and a confined semi-regional system within the Lower Sandstone Aquifer and, locally, the Ore Zone Aquifer. Horizontal groundwater flow in the deeper, semi-regional system generally moves west to east and southeast, as interpreted from water level and groundwater quality observations ([figure 6.7](#)). In the Overburden and Upper Sandstone Aquifer, groundwater flow is influenced by surface topography and nearby surface water features ([figure 6.8](#)).

Vertical gradients are inferred to flow downward west of the Phoenix deposit and upward beneath surface water bodies like Whitefish Lake and Williams Lake. Flow from the Overburden and Upper Sandstone System to the Lower Sandstone system is inferred to occur along fault zones and in areas with downward gradients.

In the LSA, shallow groundwater from the Overburden and Upper Sandstone Aquifer is inferred to discharge into Whitefish Lake, about 500 m east of the deposit at ~500 masl ([figure 6.8](#)). Water level elevations between the Phoenix deposit and Whitefish Lake consistently show an upward hydraulic gradient from the Lower Sandstone Aquifer (including the ore zone) toward Whitefish Lake, flowing through the Desilicified Zone in the Intermediate Sandstone Aquitard ([figure 6.7](#)). It is interpreted that the high-conductivity Desilicified Zone represents a preferential pathway for water to discharge into Whitefish Lake.

Exploration holes in the Phoenix area were grouted 10–20 m above and below the ore zone, leaving open sections in the overlying materials. These portions of the open holes may serve as conduits for groundwater flow through 400 m of Athabasca Supergroup Sandstone and will be considered in groundwater monitoring plan design.

**Figure 6.6 Hydrogeological conceptual site model**



**Wheeler River  
Observed Water Level Elevations in  
Lower Sandstone Aquifer**

**DENISON MINES**

**Legend**

- Lakes
- Rivers/Streams
- Road/Highway
- Phoenix Ore Zone
- Monitoring Well
- Lake Stage Station
- 2001 Lake Stage (m a.s.l.)
- 500 Water Levels in Basement Aquifer + Lower Sandstone Aquifer
- 500 Water Levels in Intermediate Sandstone Aquifer

**Map Scale as River**  
Map Projection: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 13N

**Data Sources:**

- Road Data: Roads, Rivers, Lakes, Government of Saskatchewan
- Invest Basement: National Geographic World Map ESRG Basement

**Disclaimer:**  
Data has been derived from a variety of digital sources and, as such, the accuracy, completeness, or reliability of this map or its data is not guaranteed. All map features are approximate and should be used for discussion purposes only.

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**Denison Mines Ecometrix**

**Wheeler River  
Observed Water Level Elevations in  
Overburden and Upper Sandstone Aquifer**

**DENISON MINES**

**Legend**

- Lakes
- Rivers/Streams
- Roads/Highway
- Phoenix Ore Zone
- Monitoring Well
- Lake Name
- Lake Stage Station
- 520.7 Lake Stage (m a.s.l.)
- 502.7 WL in Overburden (m a.s.l.)
- 502.7 WL in Upper Sat Aq (m a.s.l.)
- 2+ Interpreted Groundwater Flow Directions

**Ground Surface Topography (DEM; m a.s.l.)**

|     |     |     |
|-----|-----|-----|
| 582 | 595 | 519 |
| 584 | 545 | 511 |
| 577 | 541 | 504 |
| 570 | 533 | 497 |
| 562 | 526 | 490 |

**Map Scale as Shown**  
Map Projection: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 13N

**Data Sources**

- Ground Surface Topography DEM provided by Denison Mines, 2019
- Base Data: Roads, Rivers, Lakes, Government of Saskatchewan
- Street Basemap: National Geographic World Map ESRI Basemap

Disclaimer:  
Data has been derived from a variety of digital sources and as such, the accuracy, completeness, or reliability of the map or its data is not guaranteed. All mapped features are approximate and should be used for discussion purposes only.

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**Denison Mines Ecometrix**

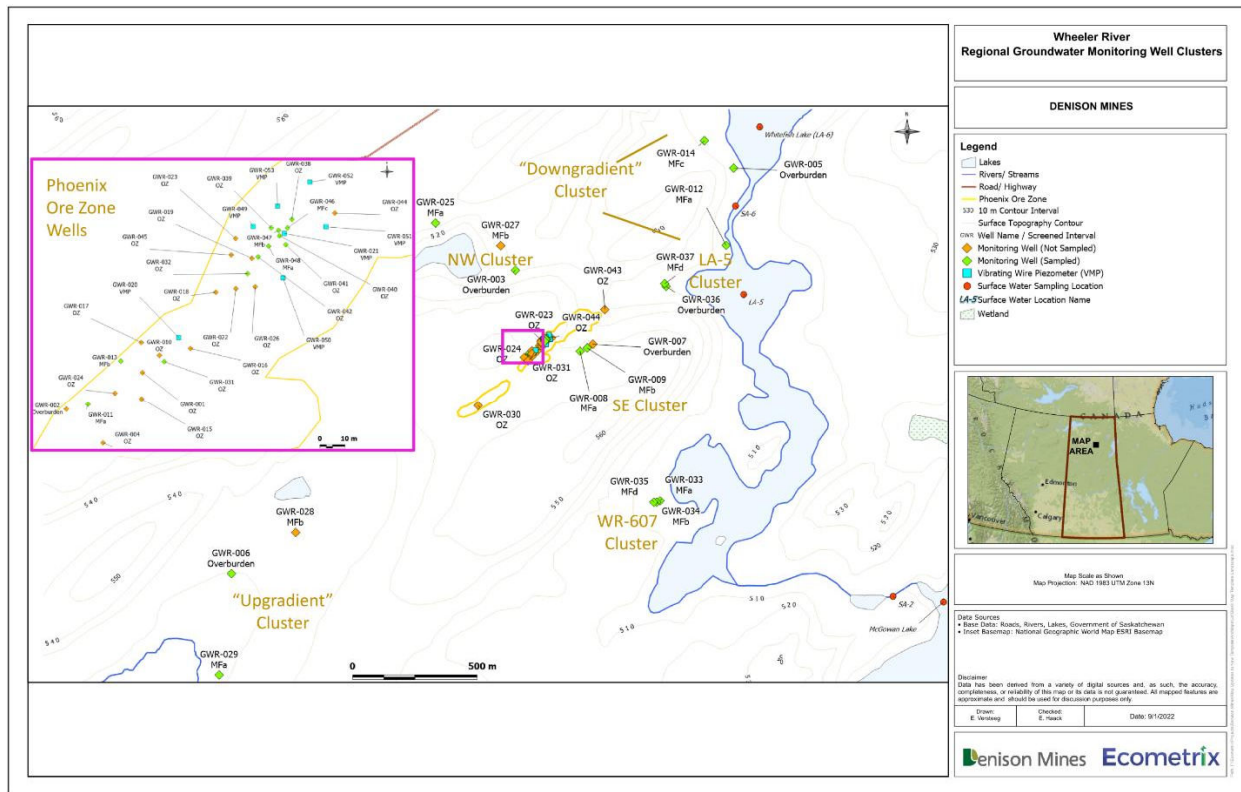
### Baseline Groundwater Chemistry

The LSA's groundwater monitoring network ([figure 6.9](#)) includes Groundwater Regional (GWR) series wells installed in groups of three around the ore zone, each well having a single screening interval and targeting one of the key groundwater zones: a) Overburden and Upper Sandstone Aquifers, b) Intermediate Sandstone Aquitard, and c) Lower Sandstone Aquifer.

Groundwater quality data for the LSA demonstrate that groundwater across hydrostratigraphic units generally has low mineralization (total dissolved solids (TDS) < 1,000 mg/L). Radiological constituents and a small number of heavy metals and trace elements measured in groundwater near the Phoenix uranium deposit are significantly lower in overlying units and surface water than in ore zone samples.

Groundwater chemistry supports the presence of an unconfined Overburden and Upper Sandstone Aquifer, Intermediate Sandstone Aquitard, and Lower Sandstone Aquifer.

**Figure 6.9 Regional groundwater monitoring well clusters**



### Improved understanding of baseline groundwater flow conditions through numerical modeling

A calibrated 3D groundwater flow model for the LSA was developed using FEFLOW based on the dataset of available hydrology and hydrogeology information for the Project. This model forms the basis for enhancing understanding of the baseline groundwater flow and evaluating impact of the Project on groundwater.

The modeling results suggest Whitefish Lake is the primary potential receiving surface water body for discharging groundwater along with COPCs originating from the mining area, while the potential for groundwater to discharge to other surface water bodies is significantly lower.

## 6.2.2 Proponent's Assessment

Denison's assessment considered geology and groundwater as intermediate VCs, and changes to the intermediate VCs were evaluated to facilitate the assessment of potential effects of the Project on receptor VCs. Both geology and groundwater are assessed as KIs in the potential residual adverse effects significance determinations for the receptor VCs in Sediment and Invertebrates ([section 6.4](#)), Terrestrial Environment ([section 6.5](#)), Fish and Fish Habitat ([section 7.1](#)), the Human Environment ([section 7.3](#)), and Indigenous Land and Resource Use ([section 7.4](#)).

Denison concluded that the residual effects to geology and groundwater are unlikely to have significant adverse effects on receptor VCs. More information on each project related effect and the residual effects evaluation can be found below and in the EIS section 7.4.

### 6.2.2.1 Effect of the Project on Geology

#### *Terrain Morphology (Subsidence) and Stability During Operation*

A potential impact on the geology is subsidence at ground surface associated with extraction of rock mass (ore) at significant depth (approximately 400 m) below ground, from within the active mining area. Stability of the rock matrix while leaching rock (ore) mass is critical for protecting the overlying aquifers, preventing substantial surface disturbance, safeguarding casing integrity, and mitigating plug-off of the remaining ore as well as mining extraction efficiently.

A study was conducted by Denison to evaluate the geomechanical stability of the rock mass within the Phoenix deposit, overlying sandstones, and underlying basement rock, following ore extraction with ISR. The assessment was based on a conservative "worst-case" scenario, in which the model assumed a single mass loss event post extraction across the entire active mining area. In practice, however, mining will occur in phases, which is expected to reduce potential impacts on geological stability. Modelling results indicated that ground surface subsidence resulting from host rock displacement is predicted to be negligible, with an average vertical displacement estimated at approximately 2.5 mm.

Another impact Denison considered is the potential for subsidence related to lowered groundwater level (due to changes in fluid balance) within the freeze wall during operation. A fluid balance study was conducted to inform Feasibility Study production rates within the freeze wall-confined mining zone. The study indicates that, to mitigate subsidence risk, operating parameters would not support a significant drawdown of the groundwater table. If monitoring during operations indicates water levels are falling quicker than anticipated, water from groundwater wells outside of the freeze wall will be injected inside of the freeze wall during wellfield development and accounted for in the fluid balance. This precludes significant drawdown and associated potential for subsidence.

Overall, Denison proposes to mitigate subsidence at the project site through incorporation of specific project design components and practices. Particularly, injection and recovery wells will be collared at surface and surveyed regularly to monitor for any changes in collar height over time.

Through implementation of appropriate mitigation measures and follow up monitoring, Denison anticipates that the impacts of subsidence and stability from extraction on the geology will be negligible throughout all Project phases. Therefore, Denison determined the impact of ISR mining operations are not expected to have residual effects on terrain morphology and stability.

### 6.2.2.2 Effect of the Project on Groundwater

The primary potential effects from the Project on the groundwater are changes to groundwater quantity and quality during construction, operation, decommissioning, and post decommissioning associated with mining activities and following remediation of the mining area.

#### *Groundwater Quantity*

##### *(1) Effect of ISR mining operations (freeze wall) on groundwater flow conditions*

In conventional ISR operations, vertical containment is usually achieved through naturally impermeable geological layers above and below the ore body, while horizontal containment primarily relies on hydraulic control of injected and recovered fluids, supplemented by well design. At the Project site, the low-permeability basement rock beneath the uranium deposit acts as a natural aquitard; however, the overlying sandstone is permeable. Hydrogeological studies and models indicate that mining solution containment can be effectively managed by maintaining an inward hydraulic gradient, achieved by recovering more solution than is injected. Denison proposed a freeze wall to provide an added layer of containment to prevent migration of the mining solution into the surrounding groundwater. Mining solution will be confined within the freeze wall during operation.

The footprint of the freeze walled area represents < 0.04% of the area of the regional groundwater flow model. The effect of the freeze wall on groundwater flow conditions within the LSA was simulated using the regional groundwater flow model. The simulation results show that the effect of the freeze walls on groundwater flow is confined to the immediate vicinity around the freeze walls. Water levels outside the freeze wall are simulated to be relatively unchanged during freeze wall operations. Overall, the impact of the freeze wall on the local and semi-regional groundwater flow regimes is minor. Once decommissioning is completed, groundwater flow path patterns are expected to return to conditions similar to those before mining.

Denison anticipates that the impact of ISR mining operations on the groundwater flow system will be negligible throughout all Project phases. Therefore, Denison determined the impact of ISR mining operations are not expected to have residual effects on groundwater quantity.

##### *(2) Impact of surface facilities and activities on groundwater flow system*

Transient groundwater simulation was conducted based on the calibrated groundwater flow model, incorporating changes to groundwater flow conditions (such as change to groundwater recharge, pumping of groundwater, etc.) during construction, operation, and decommissioning, to evaluate the impact of mining activities on groundwater flow. The model simulation time began 10 years before mining and continued for over 50 years to cover the entire period of ISR mining and flushing of the mined-out zone.

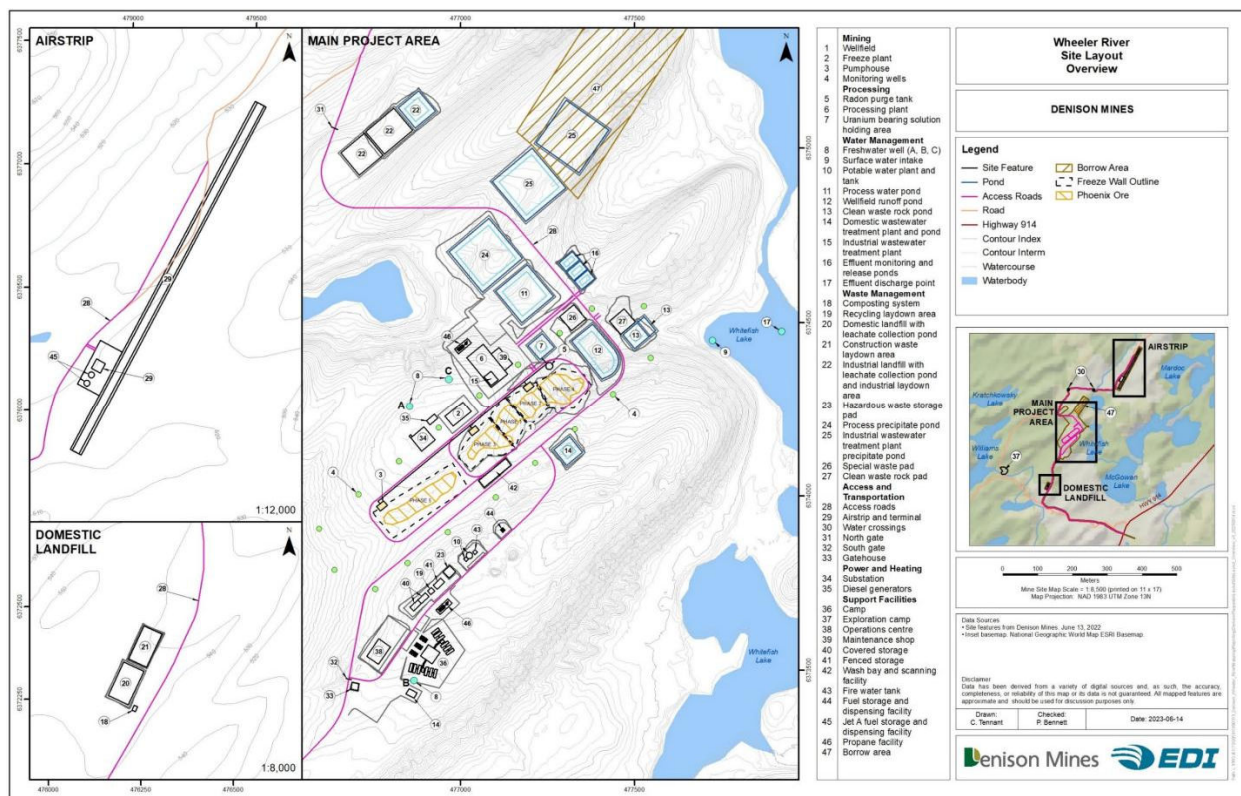
Mining operations will involve groundwater pumping from three freshwater wells near the ISR wellfield (Wells A, B, and C, see [figure 6.13](#)) in the Upper Sandstone Aquifer. Simulation results indicate that drawdowns due to pumping could range from 2.4 m at Well C to 9 m at Well B during decommissioning, when pumping rates are highest. Following the cessation of pumping in post-decommissioning, groundwater levels are predicted to return to baseline within nine years.



Groundwater discharge to Whitefish Lake is expected to decrease by up to 25% during decommissioning, with smaller reductions during construction (10%) and operation (17%). Recovery to 90% of baseline levels is projected within four years into post-decommissioning, with full recovery expected in nine years. Since groundwater discharge is a minor part of total flow through Whitefish Lake (which has been measured over the years of streamflow monitoring from 2011 to 2019), these changes in water quantity are predicted to be negligible and unmeasurable.

Denison anticipates that the impact of surface facilities and activities on the groundwater flow system will be negligible throughout all Project phases. Therefore, Denison determined the impact of surface facilities and activities are not expected to have residual effects on groundwater quantity.

**Figure 6.13: Wheeler River Project Proposed Site Layout**



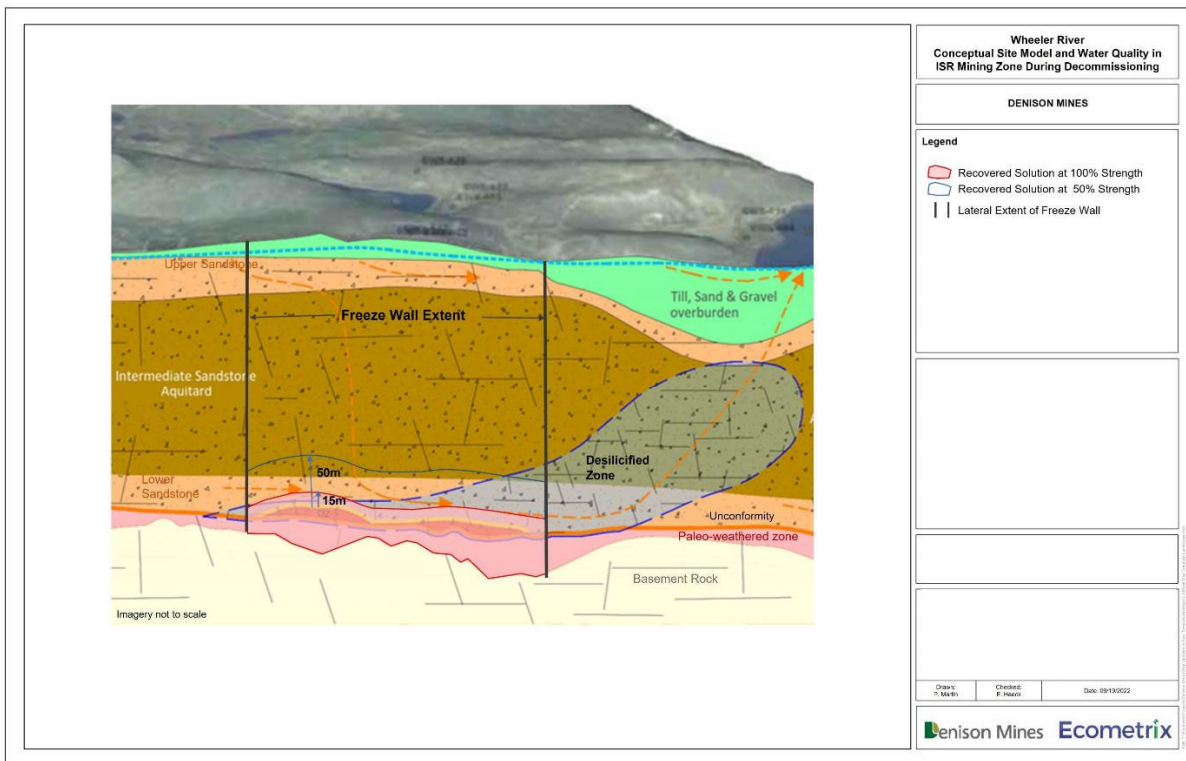
### Groundwater Quality

Geochemical reactive transport modelling was conducted to assess the migration and attenuation of COPCs from the mining area toward Whitefish Lake, the primary surface water receptor. A 1D reactive transport model using PHREEQC was employed (due to its practicality and lower computational demands compared to 3D modeling) to identify key geochemical reactions affecting dissolved groundwater constituents along the flow path. Key processes identified in the 1D reactive transport model are then carried forward for further evaluation in the 3D model.

### (1) Effect of ISR mining operations on groundwater quality

The mining area comprises three zones (figure 6.14): the active mining area, the anticipated maximum upward migration zone (11–13 m above the active area), and a potential upset zone (50 m above the active area). Mining solution in these zones will be contained within the freeze wall during operations and decommissioning until groundwater remediation targets are achieved, and consequently the freeze wall will be thawed. The proposed design features and mitigation measures (as summarized in table 6.5) are considered effective and protective, and no effects to the surrounding geology and groundwater VCs were predicted during the life of the Project (i.e., 0 to 38 years).

**Figure 6.14 Conceptual site model and water quality in the in-situ recovery mining area during decommissioning**



For the post-remediation groundwater quality assessment using the 3D reactive transport model, the area was simplified into two zones limited by the freeze wall.

- Zone 1 extends from the base of the paleo weathered zone to 15 m above the active mining area and is assumed to have water quality equivalent to Restored Solution #1 (pH 4.3) or #2 (pH 6.1) (Note: Restored Solution represents the remediated groundwater in laboratory tests. Details on the development of the chemistry of the restored solutions from the metallurgical testing is provided in appendix F of appendix 7-C, EIS, Denison Mines 2024).
- Zone 2 extends from 15 to 50 m above the active area and is assumed to contain a 50% mix of Restored Solutions #1 or #2 with baseline groundwater.

Groundwater constituents identified as COPCs associated with mining of the ore zone include:

- pH
- sulfate and chloride
- uranium, iron, aluminum, and heavy metals/trace elements (i.e., As, Cd, Co, Cu, Cr, Pb, Mo, Ni, Se, V, and Zn)
- radionuclides (i.e., Ra-226, Th-230, Pb-210, and Po-210)

Groundwater quality in the mining area will be remediated during decommissioning to meet acceptable levels, known as decommissioning objectives or remediation targets. Numerical modelling was used as a tool to establish decommissioning objectives in terms of concentrations of COPCs in groundwater, such that surface water quality is protected. Results from 3D reactive transport modeling and the appendix 10A assessment concluded that water quality matching Restored Solution #1 does not pose an environmental risk. Thus, decommissioning objectives are proposed as water quality achieving that of Restored Solution #1.

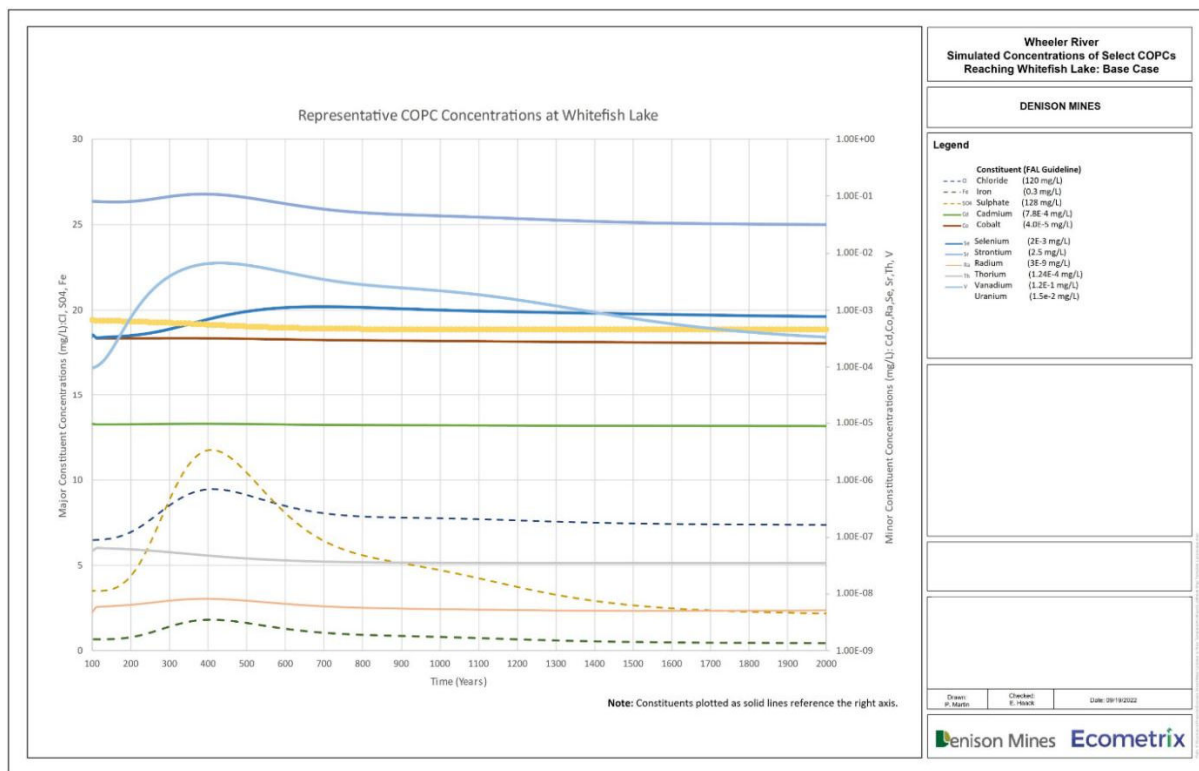
The process of groundwater remediation involves injection and circulation of water (with or without addition of chemical reagents to accelerate groundwater quality recovery) through the mining area until it can be demonstrated that recovered groundwater has stabilized and meets groundwater quality decommissioning objectives.

The freeze wall will remain until groundwater quality meets these targets, after which thawing will occur. This will allow the eventual re-establishment of the pre-operational groundwater flow regime in the LSA.

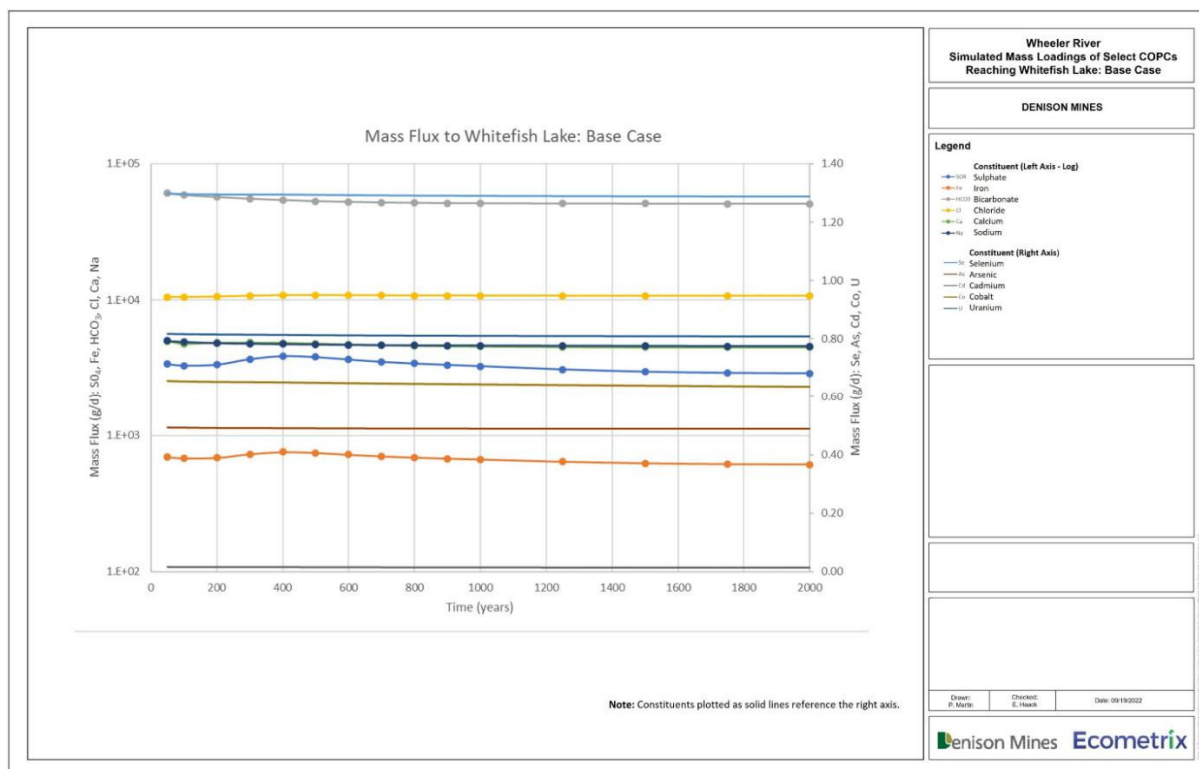
Following remediation of the mining area and thawing of the freeze wall during decommissioning, dissolved COPCs from the mined-out zone may migrate downstream with natural groundwater flow and potentially discharge into nearby surface water bodies, such as Whitefish Lake. A ‘future centuries’ scenario, with an assessment time frame of hundreds to thousands of years, was modeled to assess the spatial and temporal behavior of residual COPCs and their potential impact on Whitefish Lake.

Simulations indicate that COPC concentrations and mass loadings from mining activities at Whitefish Lake are expected to show modest variations from background levels (as shown in [figure 6.17](#) and [figure 6.18](#)). Sulphate is predicted to see the largest change in concentration at Whitefish Lake, rising from 3 to 12 mg/L, but this change is limited to a small portion of the lake, resulting in a mass flux increase by 14%. Most other constituents are expected to experience mass flux increases by less than 5%. Under the base case scenario (i.e., the best estimate of what will occur), exceedances of groundwater quality screening criteria were only predicted for iron, manganese, and pH, but these values remain within naturally occurring ranges (i.e., baseline concentrations observed) in the LSA. Iron and manganese concentrations in groundwater are naturally elevated and pH values in groundwater range naturally down to approximately pH 6.

**Figure 6.17: Simulated concentrations of select constituents of potential concern reaching Whitefish Lake – Base case**



**Figure 6.18: Simulated mass loading of select constituents of potential concern reaching Whitefish Lake – Base case**





Sensitivity analyses were conducted to evaluate the sensitivity of the results to uncertainties in the model inputs and assumptions. Fifteen (15) scenarios were developed, covering variations in COPC source concentrations (scenario 1), consideration of longer-term plume conditions from the ore zone with respect to acidic pH values (scenario 2), transport simulation time (scenario 3), hydraulic conductivity (scenarios 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9), reduction in the number of available sorption sites (scenario 10, 11), longitudinal and transverse dispersivity (scenario 13), and redox conditions (scenarios 14, 15). Results indicated that COPC concentrations in groundwater discharging to Whitefish Lake showed gradual changes, with no significant deviation from baseline water quality in Whitefish Lake.

The numerical model results indicate that with appropriate mitigation during decommissioning, dissolved COPC concentrations are expected to remain below levels posing an environmental risk. No residual effects on Whitefish Lake's surface water quality were identified (as summarized in table 6.4).

Potential project-related effects from ISR mining will be mitigated via operation of the freeze wall and other measures as outlined in [table 6.4](#). As such, these potential project-related effects are not expected to be a primary contributor to potential residual effects following application of the proposed mitigation measures.

Through implementation of appropriate mitigation measures and follow up monitoring, Denison anticipates that the impact of ISR mining operations on the groundwater quality will be negligible throughout all Project phases. Therefore, Denison determined the impact of ISR mining operations are not expected to have residual effects on groundwater quality.

#### *(2) Impact of surface facilities and activities on groundwater quality*

During construction, spills or leaks from routine refuelling and fuel handling activities may impact shallow groundwater quality in localized areas. Fuel storage and handling sites are confined to a defined area. Project designs, best practices, and mitigation measures (as outlined in [table 12.1](#)) will be implemented to minimize risks, making residual effects unlikely.

[Figure 6.13](#) shows the Project layout with the location of the ponds, pads, and landfills. Specific Project designs, best practices, and mitigation measures, such as liners and pumping to control fluid movement (as outlined in [table 6.8](#)), will be employed to eliminate, reduce, or control potential Project-related effects on shallow groundwater.

Most surface facilities will be decommissioned and removed during decommissioning. While the facilities remain, shallow groundwater quality may be changed by accidents and malfunctions related to leachate leaks from waste pads and ponds, spills of hazardous substances (e.g., reagents and fuels), leaks from water treatment plant ponds, and leaching from the landfill.

The potential Project-related effects during decommissioning are not expected to be a primary contributor to potential residual effects following application of the mitigation measures.

Through implementation of appropriate mitigation measures and follow up monitoring, Denison anticipates that the impact of surface facilities and activities on the groundwater quality will be negligible throughout all Project phases. Therefore, Denison determined the impact of surface facilities and activities are not expected to have residual effects on groundwater quality.

### 6.2.2.3 Mitigation Measures for Geology and Groundwater (Quantity and Quality)

Denison has proposed the following measures to mitigate the potential adverse effects from identified project activities on geology and groundwater quantity and quality. CNSC staff have assessed the mitigation measures proposed by Denison and have concluded that they are adequate to manage potential adverse effects to geology and groundwater quantity and quality. See a summary in tables [6.7](#), [6.8](#) and [6.9](#) below.

**Table 6.7: Proposed mitigation measures to address effects on geology**

| Subsidence at ground surface  |
|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Incorporation of specific Project design components and practices to minimize disturbance to the natural geological environment beyond the mining area.</li> <li>• Injection and recovery wells will be collared at surface and surveyed regularly to monitor for any changes in collar height over time.</li> </ul> |

**Table 6.8: Proposed mitigation measures to address effects on groundwater quantity**

| Changes in groundwater elevation, flow patterns, and discharge rates to local surface water   |
|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Incorporation of specific Project design components and practices, including:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ limiting the construction footprint (i.e., Project Area) to the extent possible to reduce the potential for reductions in groundwater recharge and limit the number of watersheds overprinted by the Project Area</li> <li>○ designing the Project to limit water use and enhance water recycling</li> <li>○ implementing water management best practices to reduce site runoff and recharge to aquifers</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In addition, commitment to follow-up on ongoing hydrogeological evaluations, as well as monitoring and adaptive management, including:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ groundwater elevations in the groundwater well network; and</li> <li>○ water elevations of surface waters within the LSA</li> </ul> </li> </ul>  |

**Table 6.9: Proposed mitigation measures to address effects on Groundwater Quality**

| Changes in groundwater discharge to local surface waterbodies (i.e., Whitefish Lake)  |
|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Incorporate best management practices to avoid effects on groundwater from hazardous substances, including those outlined in section 2. No fuels, oils, or other hazardous substances will be stored within 100 m of any waterbody and no equipment maintenance or re-fuelling will be conducted within 100 m of a waterbody.</li> </ul>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop environment management plans, programs, and procedures to provide consistent and responsible practices.</li> </ul>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• During the operation phase, incorporation of specific Project design components for ISR operations affecting groundwater, including:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ establishment of the freeze wall before mining operations to hydraulically isolate the mining area from the surrounding groundwater environment</li> <li>○ creation of hydraulic controls that will limit vertical migration to the zone 50 m above the ore zone within the freeze wall</li> <li>○ design injection and recovery wells to have secondary containment</li> <li>○ recognize option to drill additional wells to recover mining solution excursions</li> <li>○ design pipelines to have secondary containment or catchment</li> <li>○ establishment of a leak detection system for wells and pipelines</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |

|   |
|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ implementation of a groundwater monitoring well network within and surrounding the outer perimeter of the freeze wall, and a groundwater monitoring (quantity and quality) plan</li> <li>○ development of contingency plans, including drilling additional wells into any potentially contaminated areas for recovery of the mining solution back to surface</li> <li>○ development of contingency plans to respond to excursions</li> </ul>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● During the operation phase, incorporation of Project design components for site infrastructure (e.g., landfills and pads) affecting groundwater, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ design landfill and pads with geomembrane liner protective systems and double liner systems with leak detection and leachate collection systems appropriate for the materials stored</li> <li>○ store hazardous substances in approved storage areas with secondary containment, as required</li> <li>○ implement appropriate monitoring and management plans, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ a groundwater monitoring well network and GWMP for surface facilities</li> <li>▪ environment, health, and safety management plans, programs, and procedures</li> <li>▪ waste management plans, programs, and procedures</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● During the decommissioning phase, incorporation of Project design components, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ mining area remediation during Decommissioning – water will be injected into the mining area via injection wells and then recovered through the recovery wells to flush residual COPC mass in groundwater</li> <li>○ continued groundwater remediation until appropriate levels (i.e., Decommissioning objectives), protective of the environment over the long term (i.e., ‘future centuries’ period), are achieved</li> <li>○ implement groundwater monitoring (quantity and quality) within and exterior to the former freeze wall and along the groundwater flow path to demonstrate that groundwater conditions are aligned with those bounded by the modelling predictions, and, as such, are protective of the receiving environment</li> <li>○ develop contingency plans, including drilling additional wells into potentially contaminated areas for recovery of the mining solution back to surface</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |

#### 6.2.2.4 Monitoring and Follow-up

To address uncertainties identified during the effect assessment, Denison has developed follow-up monitoring programs to verify the accuracy of predictions made in the EIS and confirm the effectiveness of proposed mitigation measures. A Groundwater Monitoring Program (GWMP) will be implemented throughout the Project’s lifecycle. The groundwater well monitoring network (i.e., well locations and density) and sampling plan will be informed by the baseline groundwater conditions, the anticipated operational conditions and associated fate and behaviour of COPCs as identified by reactive transport modelling.

The GWMP objectives are:

- detecting potential excursions and provide timely signal for further evaluation and actions
- verifying EA commitments are met
- ensuring protection of groundwater end use and receiving environment

The chemical and physical constituents to be monitored in groundwater include the COPCs identified to be associated with mining of the ore zone as follows:

- pH
- sulfate and chloride

- uranium, iron, aluminum, and heavy metals/trace elements (i.e., As, Cd, Co, Cu, Cr, Pb, Mo, Ni, Se, V, and Zn)
- radionuclides (i.e.,  $^{226}\text{Ra}$ ,  $^{230}\text{Th}$ ,  $^{210}\text{Pb}$ , and  $^{210}\text{Po}$ )

Other major ion constituents of groundwater are also recommended (e.g., total alkalinity, bicarbonate, carbonate, sodium, magnesium, potassium, and calcium). Additional COPCs identified in association with surface facilities are nitrogen species (i.e., ammonium, nitrate, and nitrite) and volatile organic compounds.

Not all COPCs will be measured at every sampling location or during each sampling event. Priority will be given to key indicator (KI) parameters that signal site activity-related changes in water quality. These include:

- Hydraulic response
- Temperature
- EC (electrical conductivity)
- pH
- ORP (oxidation-Reduction Potential)
- Sulphate
- Dissolved uranium

Change in the above KI parameters may indicate an excursion has occurred. The first three may be considered for continuous measurement. Temperature, electrical conductivity, and oxidation-reduction potential (ORP) are included as measurable groundwater parameters for the Project. Temperature is monitored due to expected increases of 10°C or more above ambient groundwater temperatures during operation. Electrical conductivity serves as a bulk water quality indicator, while ORP is a qualitative measure of groundwater conditions.

Chloride is included as a key parameter since changes in its concentration, along with electrical conductivity (EC), may indicate a loss of freezing capacity in the freeze wall, signaling an excursion and identifying brine migration. However, such incidents are expected to be detected earlier through operational monitoring (e.g., pressure changes in the cooling circuit).

Tritium concentrations will also be measured to assess groundwater age in the subsurface.

The groundwater well monitoring network, sampling plan, and the specific parameters to be analyzed will be tailored to each Project phase and each Project Area (e.g., surface facilities versus mining area versus freeze wall perimeter).

### *Monitoring for Surface Facilities*

A groundwater monitoring network will be established to monitor groundwater conditions upgradient, on the perimeter, and downgradient of the surface facilities as shown in [figure 6.13](#) (including 11, 12, 13, 14, 16, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 42). Since these facilities extend no more than approximately 4 metres below ground surface, the network will primarily consist of shallow wells installed in overburden. The monitoring well network will be built up over time in alignment with construction and operation of the facilities.

Baseline samples will be collected at each location before operation to confirm alignment with established groundwater conditions. These samples should be taken on two occasions, preferably in different seasons.



During operation, groundwater monitoring will occur at least semi-annually, with increased frequency near certain facilities if needed. Samples will be analyzed for the full suite of COPCs or KI parameters.

During decommissioning, shallow monitoring wells for decommissioned surface facilities will be decommissioned per provincial regulations. Retained facilities include:

- The industrial landfill with low-level radiological waste, which will have an engineered cover to reduce water infiltration.
- The Industrial Wastewater Treatment Plant (IWTP) precipitate (primarily gypsum) pond, which will be covered and decommissioned in place.

Monitoring wells for these facilities will remain to monitor the potential impact on groundwater post-cover placement. Monitoring may continue into post-decommissioning.

#### *Monitoring for In-situ recovery mining area - pre-construction and construction phase*

The groundwater monitoring network for the operation phase will be installed during pre-construction and construction. Existing wells will be used where possible, with additional wells added as needed. Data collected during this period will supplement established baseline conditions, providing:

- Expanded spatial coverage of baseline conditions in the mining area.
- Additional water quality data for the Desilicified Zone Aquifer.

#### *Monitoring for In-situ recovery mining area – operation phase*

Denison proposes a five-phase mining approach, with each phase targeting a specific deposit area ([figure 6.19](#)). The freeze wall will be developed in stages to align with the phased mining plan. During operation, the groundwater monitoring network will monitor conditions within and around the freeze wall, focusing on groundwater quality changes and potential excursions due to freezing capacity loss. The conceptual design of the monitoring well network within and surrounding the freeze wall is shown in [figure 6.19](#) and includes four types of installations:

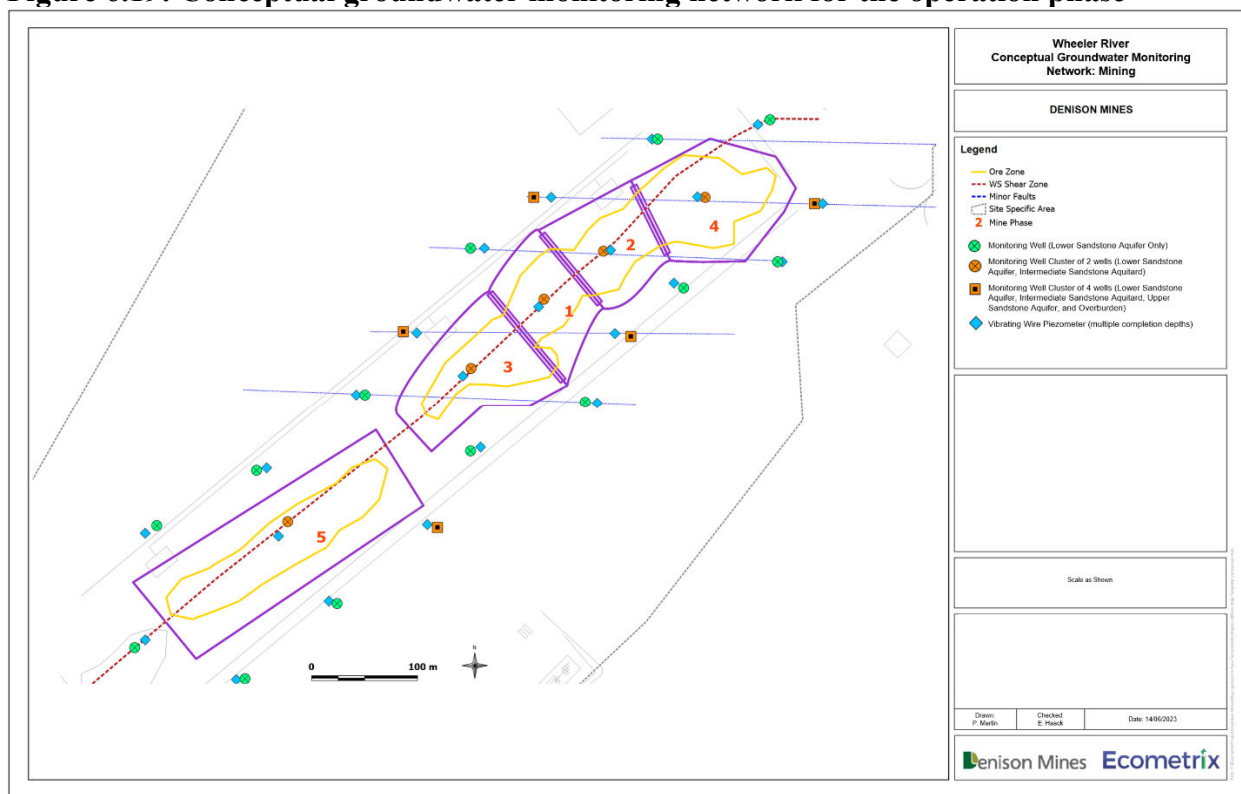
- **Single-Interval Wells:** Positioned around the freeze wall perimeter (20 m from the outside perimeter), these wells target the Lower Sandstone Aquifer, the most likely pathway for mobilized COPCs to migrate laterally.
- **Multi-Level Well Clusters (Four Wells):** Located near each mining phase, these clusters monitor multiple elevations at discrete intervals to detect vertical changes above or below the active mining area.
- **Multi-Level Well Clusters (Two Wells):** Installed within each mining phase footprint, these clusters monitor vertical pressure changes and potential upward COPC migration. Vibrating Wire Piezometers (VWPs) in these clusters will have multiple completions with depth to monitor pressure variability between the active mining area and overlying strata.
- **VWPs:** Installed adjacent to all monitoring wells, VWPs provide early warning of potential excursions by detecting pressure changes outside the freeze wall.

The monitoring wells and VWP in the mining area and along the freeze wall perimeter are primarily positioned along the WS Shear zone or minor faults to monitor changes in groundwater flow and quality along potential preferential pathways.

Groundwater monitoring will focus on KI parameters, with continuous measurement of hydraulic response, temperature, and electrical conductivity (EC). VWPs will measure hydraulic response and temperature, while EC probes will be deployed in some wells within and around the freeze wall. Groundwater samples will be collected at least monthly within the freeze wall and semi-annually on the free wall perimeter.

In addition to the groundwater monitoring wells in the above proposed network, vibrating wire piezometers will be installed within the ore zone and basement aquitard, including the upper paleo weathered zone to delineate the pressure front. If an excursion is detected through pressure monitoring, the prescribed response process (i.e., excursion emergency plan) will be followed.

**Figure 6.19: Conceptual groundwater monitoring network for the operation phase**



#### *Monitoring for In-situ recovery mining area - decommissioning phase*

The groundwater monitoring network for the decommissioning phase will utilize existing wells from the operation phase where possible, supplemented by new wells as needed. At least five to seven multi-well clusters are proposed across the mined area. Sampling will include KI parameters or the full suite of COPCs at different times in the remediation process. The focus of the groundwater monitoring network inside the freeze wall during decommissioning is to demonstrate groundwater remediation meet the decommissioning objectives.

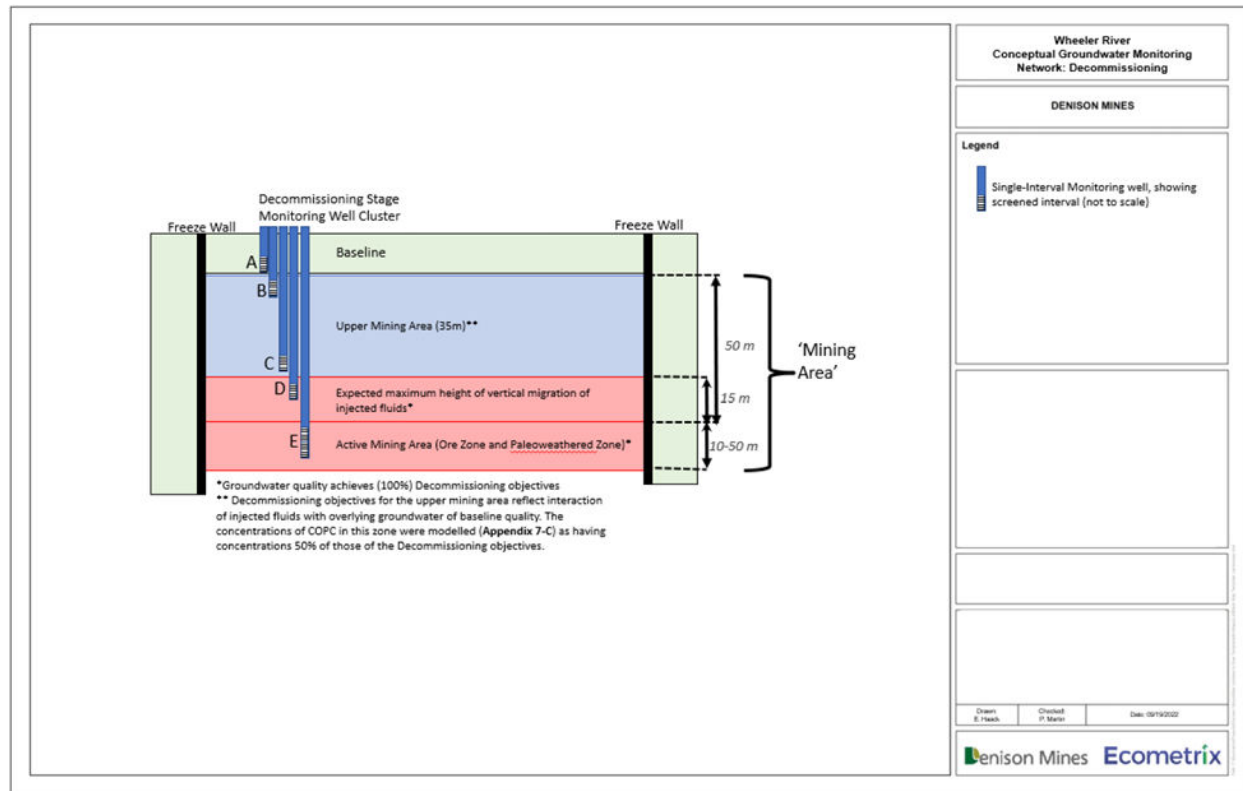
Frequent sampling (at least weekly) will occur in the active mining area to allow the remedial approach to be adapted, while sampling in the upper mining area and Athabasca Sandstones will

be seasonal for the first three years and potentially more frequent later to demonstrate chemical stability.

Groundwater quality is expected to vary across wells, so meeting the decommissioning objectives will be demonstrated statistically that water quality in each zone meets remediation target values with acceptable statistical confidence.

Monitoring outside the freeze wall will follow a schedule similar to the operation phase.

**Figure 6.20: Conceptual groundwater monitoring well cluster during decommissioning (taken from Denison Mines 2024)**



#### *Monitoring for In-situ recovery mining area - post-decommissioning phase*

Following groundwater remediation, the freeze wall will be allowed to thaw to restore pre-operational groundwater flow conditions. The post-decommissioning phase will continue until the site is transferred to Saskatchewan's Institutional Control Program or released back to the Crown.

The primary objectives of the post-decommissioning monitoring are to demonstrate that:

- the pre-operational flow conditions have been re-established; and
- chemical stability has been achieved.

The post-decommissioning groundwater monitoring will require an augmented monitoring network beyond the outer perimeter of the freeze wall.

The groundwater constituents to be measured and the sampling frequency for wells in the post-decommissioning groundwater network will be defined in future updates of the GWMP.

Throughout the Project's duration, predictions of the subsurface's assimilative capacity and the migration potential of COPCs will be refined using updated reactive transport modeling. These insights will inform the detailed design of the Post-Decommissioning GWMP.

### *Excursion Contingency Plan*

The Excursion Contingency Plan aims to facilitate the timely identification of, and response to, potentially emerging conditions (excursions). During each mining stage, excursions signal that performance expectations are not being met.

- Mining and decommissioning phases: Excursions are indicated by changes in water quality compared to baseline conditions.
- Post-decommissioning phase: Excursions are identified by water quality changes that fall outside of that bounded by model predictions.

An excursion triggers a response. The response plan is tiered and involves confirmation of an excursion with successive levels of response.:

The GWMP will provide details regarding the aforementioned investigative and mitigative actions.

## **6.2.3 Other Views Expressed**

### **6.2.3.1 In-Situ Recovery Mining Method & Mining Fluids**

#### *Indigenous Nations and communities*

ERFN expressed concerns about the In-Situ Recovery (ISR) mining method and the potential for mining recovery fluids to contaminate groundwater in the event the freeze wall containment system fails. ERFN were concerned that any groundwater contamination could lead to impacts to waterbodies such as the Wheeler River and Cree Lake given the complex flow pathways of groundwater.

KML<sup>2</sup> community members expressed concerns about perceived risks resulting from past legacy project activities, lack of confidence in the protection of groundwater quality, and the need for robust community engagement to build confidence in groundwater protection. KML also raised concerns about the new mining method's impact on the area, including fears of environmental contamination and limited capacity to fully understand the technology and its potential effects.

Concerns regarding possible leaks in the freeze wall containment and basement bedrock were also raised by MN-S as they identified that ISR is a new mining technique to be used in Canada and Northern Saskatchewan. MN-S elders are concerned about the permeability of the basement rock.

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<sup>2</sup> At the outset of the regulatory process KML had raised issues and concerns that are reflected in the Other Views Expressed sections throughout the EA Report. These project-specific concerns have been responded to and addressed to the satisfaction of KML by both Denison and CSNC staff through the consultation and engagement process.

BNDN shared concerns around the freeze wall decommissioning. BNDN worries that a thawing of the freeze wall could expand existing fractures in the bedrock, which may allow for contaminant transport away from the ore body. ERFN had similar concerns of the possible transport of contaminants during freeze wall thawing activities.

These concerns are further compounded by perceived inherent risks associated with the nuclear industry, potentially leading to modified behaviors such as avoidance and reduced enjoyment or connectedness to Nuhtsiye-kwi Benéne (Ancestral Lands).

#### **6.2.3.2 Seismic Activity**

##### *Indigenous Nations and communities*

ERFN had concerns that human induced seismic activity may increase as a result of the ISR mining process. Given ISR is a new mining process for Canada, a process that is used outside Canada internationally, ERFN requested information from Denison on the potential risks to the underlying geology as a result of ISR mining. In response to this concern Denison has provided additional information to ERFN and have indicated that human-induced seismic activity is not predicted to occur as a result of the ISR mining process.

#### **6.2.3.3 Contamination of Receiving Environment**

##### *Indigenous Nations and communities*

ERFN expressed concerns about the risk of hazardous materials from the Project contaminating the surrounding environment, particularly through underground spills that may remain invisible or undetectable. Additionally, the lack of detailed modeling for the dispersion of radioactive materials in the event of entry into Wheeler River raised concerns.

BNDN indicated they are concerned about uranium contamination of groundwater and raised issues that Denison's groundwater contamination model was assigned an inappropriate level of confidence given the complexity of uranium transport in groundwater. BNDN's concerns regarding groundwater were also indicated for the post-decommissioning period as long-term groundwater contamination was raised by BNDN.

YNLR and PBCN highlighted concerns about personal exposure to contamination of surface and groundwater, soils, waste sources, and fish species.

##### *Federal Authorities*

ECCC made recommendations in their final conclusions regarding modeling around the Decilicified zone, with respect to potential COPC transport to Whitefish Lake. ECCC recommended testing the model outside a constrained K range to better understand worse case scenarios, and to develop and implement a groundwater monitoring program during all project phases, including installing monitoring wells downgradient from mining operations.

#### **6.2.3.4 Water Resource Management**

##### *Indigenous Nations and communities*

YNLR has highlighted critical issues related to water resource management. The proposed utilization of natural lake and groundwater volumes to support the project raises concerns about

potential impacts on stream flows and contamination of water both below and above ground. YNLR expresses worry about the future water quality for Whitefish Lake, Russell Lake, Wheeler River, Geikie River, and Wollaston Lake. Ensuring robust monitoring and mitigation strategies are essential to safeguard these vital water bodies and their ecosystems.

PBCN informed CNSC staff that its members actively fish, hunt, trap and harvest for medicinal and sacred purposes in and around the Proposed Project, with three reserves downstream of the proposed Project within the geographic boundary of Treaty 10. PBCN has requested that water quality monitoring stations be set up at Kinoosao, Southend, and Sandy Bay to ensure accurate data is collected, as part of Denison's groundwater monitoring well network and groundwater protection and monitoring plan.

All Nations and communities expressing concerns of the potential impacts from groundwater contamination indicated that any contamination regarding groundwater would lead to changes in traditional land use. In particular, the Indigenous Nations and communities indicated that potential contamination may lead to avoidance behaviour in areas near the proposed Project site.

### **6.2.3.5 Overall Hydrogeological Assessment**

#### *Federal Authorities*

NRCan reviewed this topic area along with CNSC staff and submitted nine IRs, primarily focussed on key hydrogeological and geochemical aspects of the Project. These included requests for clarification on groundwater remediation targets and the composition of lixiviant remaining post-mining, and a more robust technical justification for the selection of an acidic ISR lixiviant over an alkaline alternative. Several IRs focused on the adequacy of the groundwater flow model, including the need for an alternative conceptualization of the Intermediate Sandstone as a leaky aquitard, demonstration that the model reproduces observed vertical hydraulic gradients, and justification for the spatial variability in hydraulic conductivity values. Additional requests addressed the need to consider extended contaminant release scenarios in reactive transport modeling, the expected geochemical and mineralogical changes due to acidic lixiviant injection, and correction of calibration plot scaling and discussion of observation well clustering. These IRs were resolved to the satisfaction of NRCan and CNSC staff through the EIS technical review.

### **6.2.3.6 Mitigations and Commitments related to Views Expressed**

#### *In-Situ Recovery Mining Method & Mining Fluids*

Denison has provided more information on the ISR mining method and freeze wall in the EIS (section 2.2.1) and through continued engagement and discussion with nations and communities. Denison has also committed to on-going discussions on this topic as part of their continued Indigenous engagement. Denison addressed concerns regarding freeze wall decommissioning and bedrock permeability by providing more information about the modelling approach and assumptions and made commitments to monitor groundwater around the freeze wall. This monitoring includes wells installed within the freeze wall which can determine if there is vertical strain or stresses on the wall. Injection and recovery wells will also be continuously monitored for pressure and temperature, and annual mechanical integrity testing will be conducted on wells.

#### *Contamination of Receiving Environment*

Denison has committed to avoiding residual effects to groundwater beyond the mining area during operations and during decommissioning activities. Denison has also committed to no effects from changes in groundwater to surface water in the vicinity of the project during the same period. Additional commitments to ensure the mitigation and management of potential adverse effects, such as contamination, include, but are not limited to, surface water and groundwater monitoring programs, developing a groundwater monitoring network with a focus on conditions within and on the outside of the perimeter freeze wall, and continued remediation until groundwater quality in the mining area meets acceptable levels.

Denison will also design and implement an Environmental Code of Practice which will define action levels and steps to take to mitigate the concentration of chemical and radiological constituents in treated effluent discharge to acceptable levels. Denison has committed to monitoring treated effluent and surface water and applying adaptive management if necessary.

### *Water Resource Management*

Denison has made several commitments to ensuring the mitigation and management of potential adverse effects to both groundwater and surface water (Commitment Register 7-2 to 7-22 and 8-1 to 8-15). These include, but are not limited to, surface water and groundwater monitoring programs, maximizing the recycling and reuse of process water to reduce freshwater intake and release into Whitefish Lake, developing a groundwater monitoring network with a focus on conditions within and on the outside of the perimeter freeze wall, and continued remediation until groundwater quality in the mining area meets acceptable levels. As noted elsewhere, Denison has committed to no residual effects to groundwater beyond the mining area during operations and during decommissioning activities. Denison has also committed to no effects from changes in groundwater to surface water in the vicinity of the project during the same period.

Denison has committed to working with Indigenous Nations and communities to develop and implement the monitoring approach and the framework for sharing monitoring results with Indigenous communities of interest. This commitment includes collaborating with ERFN and KML on developing a monitoring regime suited to each of their interests and needs. Denison's commitment also includes engagement and input on the Environmental Management Plan (EMP), Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan (EPRP), and the Environmental Effects Monitoring Programs (EEMP). Note, details of these plans will be developed during the licensing/permitting phase of the process. Denison has committed to considering local and IK/MK in all areas of the project through continued engagement.

Denison responded to concerns related to the lack of detailed modeling for radioactive materials into waterways by providing more detailed information in discussion with ERFN and noted that both parties agreed this concern was resolved. Additionally, Denison has committed to numerous groundwater and surface water monitoring and mitigation measures, including comparing monitoring with predictions for surface water quality (Commitments 7-2 to 7-22 and 8-1 to 8-15). With respect to the groundwater contamination model, Denison acknowledged BNDN's concerns but emphasized that their modelling was not limited in scope and was informed by the relevant literature.

## **6.2.4 CNSC Staff Analysis**

### **6.2.4.1 Effect of the Project on Geology**

CNSC staff reviewed Denison's effect assessment on geology, related to changes in terrain morphology (subsidence) and stability during operations. CNSC staff confirmed that Denison conducted a comprehensive analysis of effects to geology and identified mitigation and follow-up monitoring program measures that are adequate. The review considered IRs raised by the FIRT related to geology covered topics such as potential induced seismicity, ground subsidence, and rock stability. CNSC staff requested clarification on the potential induced seismicity at the Project site. Denison explained the different possible sources of induced seismicity at the site (e.g., collapse of cavity voids, hydraulic fracturing, and permeability enhancement techniques) and presented their basis for justifying the absence of any potential for mining-induced seismicity under normal operating conditions. The CNSC inquired into Denison's strategy for dealing with subsidence related to the extraction of rock mass within the active mining area. Denison discussed the expected magnitude of ground subsidence based on modelling (<10 mm) and has proposed a monitoring program (commitment 7-1). This program will include a contingency plan with the aim of facilitating the timely identification and response to subsidence that exceeds the expected range of subsidence from modelling. CNSC requested more details on how Denison plans to reduce the uncertainties and risks associated with the stability and deformation analyses of the ore zone rock matrix and its overlying rock mass formation. Denison indicated that an appropriate level of conservatism has been applied and has carried out sensitivity analyses to fulfill the requirements of the CEAA 2012. Denison has committed to providing additional detailed geomechanical studies during licensing to reduce the aforementioned uncertainties and risks and assess any potential impacts on the mine operation and closure (Commitment 7-23).

#### **6.2.4.2 Effect of the Project on Groundwater**

CNSC staff reviewed Denison's effect assessment on groundwater quantity and quality, related to changes from ISR mining operations and the impact of surface facilities and activities. CNSC staff confirmed that Denison conducted a sufficient analysis of effects to groundwater quantity and quality and identified mitigation and follow-up monitoring program measures that are mostly adequate. CNSC staff have proposed an EA Condition for Denison to address during licensing for additional characterization and assessment to address IRs (see [table 12.1](#), EA1).

CNSC staff and other FIRT members reviewed the calibration of the 3D groundwater flow model and raised concerns about the conservativeness of the hydraulic conductivity value used for the Desilicified Zone. This zone represents a key potential pathway for contaminant transport to Whitefish Lake. In response, Denison has committed to conducting a follow-up study to supplement existing data on hydraulic conductivity within the Desilicified Zone, quantifying horizontal and vertical flow gradients, and mapping geological structures such as fractures and fault zones (Commitment 7-20). Additionally, Denison has committed to revisiting and updating the groundwater models as necessary based on this study and other data collected through the EA follow-up monitoring program (Commitment 7-24). This follow-up study is necessary to improve the understanding of groundwater flow, COPC transport, and potential environmental impacts.

CNSC staff and other FIRT members also raised concerns on the monitoring plan for freeze wall integrity, the adequacy of available tritium concentration data for refining the hydrogeological conceptual model, and uncertainty in reactive transport predictions related to long-term COPC



source concentrations and sorptive capacity of the bedrock matrix. Denison has committed to addressing these issues through different programs (Commitments 7-11, 7-21, 7-22).

Further concerns were raised regarding the representativeness of the calibrated hydraulic conductivity values compared to the field measured data, uncertainty in effective porosity values and longitudinal and transverse dispersivity values. CNSC staff have proposed an EA Condition for Denison to address these issues during licensing (see [table 12.1](#) EA1).

#### **6.2.4.3 Summary of CNSC’s assessment of predicted residual effects on geology and groundwater (quantity and quality)**

The Project is designed to minimize disturbance to the natural geological environment beyond the mining area. Subsidence at the ground surface, resulting from rock mass consolidation about 400 m below ground from within the mining chamber, is predicted to be minimal (2-3 mm) and unlikely to be measurable.

The Project Area and operations are designed to minimize disturbance to the natural groundwater environment beyond the immediate mining area. Mitigation measures will be implemented to eliminate, reduce, or control potential residual effects of the Project on groundwater quality and quantity, and protect discharges to local surface water bodies. A numerical model was used to predict how residual COPCs in groundwater may interact with the environment following remediation. The model results indicate that, with appropriate mitigation, the Project's impact on groundwater is not expected to cause adverse residual effects, with COPC concentrations in receiving environment predicted to remain below levels that pose environmental risks.

CNSC staff have concluded that Denison’s effect assessment related to geology and groundwater (Denison Mines 2024) provides sufficient information to characterize baseline geological and hydrogeological conditions; the geological model and groundwater flow/transport model are adequately developed; the potential impact of the Project on geology and groundwater for each phase of the Project has been appropriately assessed; the mitigation measures proposed for each phase of the Project are suitable. Given the uncertainties inherent in geological model development and hydrogeological analysis, the EA follow-up monitoring is necessary, and considered to be adequate by CNSC staff.

#### **6.2.5 CNSC Staff Findings and Recommendations**

Taking into account the implementation of mitigation measures and follow-up monitoring program proposed for each phase of the project, CNSC staff conclude that changes to geology and groundwater quantity and quality are not likely to cause adverse effects to the receiving environment.

In order to ensure the aforementioned assessment conclusions remain valid, CNSC staff recommend that the Commission include EA1, as outlined in [table 12.1](#), should it issue a licence. If accepted, Denison will be required to address this condition, which relates to IRs carried over from the EA Review. CNSC staff’s assessment conclusions are contingent on the establishment of this condition.

### **6.3 Aquatic Environment**

The proposed Project could potentially cause changes to the aquatic environment through changes to surface water quantity and quality.

The proposed Project could potentially cause changes to surface water quantity through:

- project overprinting (loss) of drainage areas from project infrastructure
- intake of surface water for use in project activities
- surface water discharge to Whitefish Lake and downstream receiving environments

The proposed Project could potentially cause changes to surface water quality through:

- site water management
- mobilization of suspended materials due to erosion and sedimentation
- controlled discharge of treated effluent to Whitefish Lake and receiving environments
- long-term transport of groundwater solutes from the remediated ore zone area to Whitefish Lake (in ‘future centuries’)

CNSC staff concurred with Denison’s assessment of Project activities that may interact with surface water quantity and quality and cause residual effects during all project phases, as detailed below.

### 6.3.1 Description of the aquatic environment

The LSA is the area where both direct and indirect effects resulting from Project activities can be reasonably measured and includes the waterbodies of Whitefish Lake North (LA-6), Whitefish Lake Middle (LA-5 North), Whitefish Lake South (LA-5 South), McGowan Lake (LA-1), and the Iclander River that flows into Russell Lake. The RSA, which surrounds and includes the LSA, may experience indirect effects of the Project, as well as other activities in a regional context. It is bounded by the regional watershed including Kratchkowsky Lake (LA-7), Williams Lake and Mardoc Lake (LA-4,) and extends downstream to Russel Lake. Hydrological monitoring for the project has been ongoing since 2011 and has included streamflow monitoring and lake level monitoring to capture stream discharge and water level data, including seasonal and interannual variability. Additional long term historical discharge data extending from 1977 to 2019 was obtained from Water Survey of Canada operating hydrometric station (Station ID: 06DA005) and used to establish long term stream flow trends at the Project site. A summary of assessment nodes, which are coincident with baseline hydrological monitoring stations, can be found in [table 6.11](#) below and in figure 8.1-4 of section 8 of the EIS, and hydrological data for the RSA can be found in table 8.1-3 of section 8 of the EIS.

**Table 6.11 Adapted from EIS section 8: Table 8.1-2: Drainage areas for assessment nodes**

| Location  | Description   | Gross Drainage area (km <sup>2</sup> ) |
|-----------|---|--|
| SA-1      | Iclander River flowing from McGowan Lake                | 280.6                                  |
| SA-2      | Inflow to McGowan Lake from Whitefish Lake              | 257.4                                  |
| SA-3      | Inflow to McGowan Lake                                  | 15.5                                   |
| SA-4      | Inflow to LA-6 (Unnamed Lake) from Kratchkowsky Lake    | 80.5                                   |
| SA-5      | Inflow to LA-6  | 167.3                                  |
| SA-6/LA-6 | Flow from LA-6 to Whitefish Lake                        | 251.7                                  |
| SB-3      | Southern Project drainage basin flowing to Russell Lake | 24.9                                   |
| LA-1      | McGowan Lake  | 277.5                                  |

| Location | Description    | Gross Drainage area (km <sup>2</sup> ) |
|----------|----------------|--|
| LA-5     | Whitefish Lake | 257.2                                  |

The estimated seven-day average of the one in 10-year return period low flow (i.e., the 7Q10 flow rate, defined as the lowest 7-day average flow that occurs on average once every 10 years) were estimated for:

- McGowan Lake (LA-1): 0.874 m<sup>3</sup>/s
- Whitefish Lake (LA-5) upstream: 0.626 m<sup>3</sup>/s
- Whitefish Lake (LA-5) downstream: 0.810 m<sup>3</sup>/s

Climate model projections for the Representative Concentration Pathway (RCP) 4.5 and RCP 8.5 emissions scenarios for the region predict mean temperature and total precipitation increases throughout the century. The amount of snow depth and surface wind speed are projected to decrease by up to 2.6 % and 39% respectively by the end of the century.

**Table 6.12 Climate model projections for future time horizons up to 2100 for mean temperature and total precipitation (baseline period 1986 to 2005)**

| Climate Parameter   | Emission Scenario | Time Period |           |           |           |
|---------------------|-------------------|-------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
|                     |                   | 2021-2040   | 2041-2060 | 2061-2080 | 2081-2100 |
| Mean Temperature    | RCP 4.5           | +1.4°C      | +2.3°C    | +2.8°C    | +3.1°C    |
|                     | RCP 8.5           | +1.6°C      | +3.2°C    | +4.8°C    | +6.2°C    |
| Total Precipitation | RCP 4.5           | +2.7%       | +7.3%     | +8.0%     | +7.9%     |
|                     | RCP 8.5           | +5.0%       | +8.1%     | +9.4%     | +10.7%    |

The Project water infrastructure capacity and design are based on the one in 100-year, 24-hour return period precipitation event and the Probable Maximum Precipitation (PMP) extreme rainfall event. The one in 100-year, 24-hour return period rainfall event for baseline is 79.9 mm and considering climate change is 88.6 mm, while the PMP event is estimated to be 489.3 mm.

Surface water quality data was sampled in the LSA and RSA between 2014 to 2019, and included data collection of physical, nutrient, metal, and radiological parameters. Baseline surface water quality was collected for several lakes and rivers, however the primary receiving waterbody for the Project is Whitefish Lake North (LA-5 North) and is the focus of near-field water quality modelling. Regional surface water quality modelling was conducted for Whitefish Lake Middle (LA-5 North), Whitefish Lake South (LA-5 South), McGowan Lake (LA-1), and Russell Lake (LAB-1 and LAB-2) as exposure areas, and Kratchkowsky Lake (LA-7) and Whitefish Lake North (LA-6) as reference sites. Detailed summaries of baseline concentrations of surface water quality parameters at all sampled locations can be found in table 8.2-2 and 8.2-3 of section 8 of the EIS and appendix 8-D Aquatic Environment Baseline Study. Measured concentrations were compared to water quality guidelines to determine if there were existing baseline exceedances of certain parameters. Water quality guidelines were selected based on the most conservative provincial, federal, or other jurisdiction environmental quality guidelines available, and were calculated with site-specific data where available. For lakes that will be considered as exposure areas within the LSA, there were baseline exceedances of aluminum in

Whitefish Lake South, McGowan Lake, and the Icелander River, and iron and pH in the Icелander River. Additional information on baseline concentration exceedances of water quality guidelines in additional waterbodies and watercourses of the LSA can be found in table 8.2-4 of section 8 of the EIS.

### 6.3.2 Proponent's Assessment

Denison's assessment considered surface water quantity and quality as intermediate VCs, and changes to the intermediate VCs were evaluated to facilitate the assessment of potential effects of the Project on receptor VCs. Both surface water quantity and quality are assessed as KIs in the potential residual adverse effects significance determinations for the receptor VCs in Sediment and Invertebrates ([section 6.4](#)), Fish and Fish Habitat ([section 7.1](#)), Terrestrial Biota ([section 7.2](#)), the Human Environment ([section 7.3](#)), and Indigenous Land and Resource Use ([section 7.4](#)).

Denison concluded that the residual effects to surface water quantity and quality are unlikely to have significant adverse effects on receptor VCs. More information on each project related effect and the residual effects evaluation can be found below and in the EIS section 8.2 and appendix 10-A.

#### 6.3.2.1 Surface Water Quantity

##### *Surface Water Quantity Project Effect Scenarios*

Continuous water intake and discharge is not expected through the operation or decommissioning phases; however, the project was assessed assuming a continuous average water intake rate of 40.5 m<sup>3</sup>/hr and a continuous average water discharge rate of 36.5 m<sup>3</sup>/hr for a conservative assessment. Withdrawal and discharge were assessed independently to exaggerate project effects and cumulatively with the Project Area and estimated changes to groundwater contributions through different temporal phases of the Project. Expected changes from baseline flows and water levels within watershed areas of the project were estimated for Project phases as three different scenarios (see below, [table 6.13](#)). Changes in monthly and annual streamflow rates were projected based on effects predicted for assessment nodes SA-1, SA-2, SA-6/LA-6, LA-1, LA-5, and SB-3 whilst changes in flow rates were assessed for the mean and 5th percentile low flow statistics as they are appropriate hydrologic indicators for effects assessment. The Project is expected to have the greatest effect on baseline flow rates during very low flow conditions.

**Table 6.13 Adapted from EIS section 8: table 8.1-9: Project effect scenarios**

| Temporal stages                                       | Scenario number | Project influence   |
|---|-----------------|---|
| Construction  | 1               | Fully developed (site footprint) Project Area                                   |
| Operation and Decommissioning with water withdrawal   | 2               | Fully developed (site footprint) Project Area<br>Freshwater withdrawal from LA5 |
| Operation and Decommissioning with effluent discharge | 3               | Fully developed (site footprint) Project Area<br>Effluent discharge to LA5      |

| Temporal stages | Scenario number | Project influence |
|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|
|                 |                 |                   |

### *Project Overprinting of Drainage Areas – Scenario 1*

During construction, the primary effect pathways for project overprinting of drainage areas is due to site clearing, grading and infrastructure construction and commissioning causing alteration to 175 ha in functional drainage areas that would have reported to surface water features in the LSA. Drainage patterns will be altered to redirect surface runoff or flows to water management features such as ponds for collection of water for mine processing and site water balance. During construction it is expected that waterbodies LA-1, LA-5, and LA-6 will experience a less than 1% reduction in surface water flows compared to baseline due to overprinting of surface drainage areas by the Project land use and infrastructure. During construction, the loss of functional drainage areas is limited to less than 1% of baseline and affects only drainage areas that report flows to assessment node SA-5, SA-6 and SB-3. During the operations phase, the same loss of functional drainage areas reporting to local waterbodies (<1% of baseline) is expected as from the construction phase. The reduction in surface water flow at receiving waterbodies is expected to be less than 1% of baseline however this does not consider water intake and discharge. During decommissioning and post-decommissioning, the project site will be remediated which will include re-establishment of drainage patterns to local surface waterbodies, therefore the reduction in surface water flows is anticipated to be <1% and move towards pre-development levels. All expected water level effects on other lakes within the vicinity of the Project are expected to be negligible.

Through implementation of appropriate mitigation measures and follow-up monitoring, Denison anticipates that overprinting of drainage areas altering functional drainage will be controlled throughout all Project phases. Therefore, Denison determined that overprinting of drainage areas is not expected to have residual effects on surface water quantity.

### *Surface Water Taking – Scenario 2*

During construction, the primary effect pathways for surface water taking is due to activities requiring water withdrawal at an anticipated rate of 35 m<sup>3</sup>/hr from groundwater and surface water sources causing decreases in flows and lake levels in the LSA and downstream. During operations, this withdrawal rate is anticipated to increase to 40.5 m<sup>3</sup>/hr, therefore the operations phase is used as the bounding scenario for the effects assessment considering primarily surface water taking at a rate of 40.5 m<sup>3</sup>/hr from Whitefish Lake (LA-5) to provide a conservative assessment. Potential hydrogeological effects are assessed in section 7 of the EIS, however, decreases from flow inputs to Whitefish Lake from groundwater sources have been accounted for in the flow modelling and assessment. For all waterbodies and assessment nodes, the reduction in surface water flow was less than 3% of baseline based on the reduced surface water drainage areas and water taking activities. During decommissioning the expected water withdrawal rate is expected to be 35.5 m<sup>3</sup>/hr and gradually decrease as the site is remediated, therefore this phase is bounded by the operations phase effects assessment. All expected water level effects on other lakes within the vicinity of the Project are expected to be negligible.

Through implementation of appropriate mitigation measures and follow up monitoring, Denison anticipates that the impact of surface water taking on surface water quantity will be negligible throughout all Project phases. Therefore, Denison determined the impact of surface water taking on flows and lake levels are not expected to have residual effects on surface water quantity.

### *Surface Water Discharge – Scenario 3*

Discharge to the surface water receiving environment is not expected during the construction phase as water will be collected and held in the Clean Waste Rock Pond until the IWWTP is commissioned, therefore potential effects to surface water quantity VC are not expected during this phase of the project. However, during operations and decommissioning, the primary effects pathways to surface water quantity in Whitefish Lake and the downstream surface water environment is from the continuous discharge of effluent from the IWWTP at a rate of 36.5 m<sup>3</sup>/hr causing potential increases in flows and lake levels in the LSA and downstream. Discharge during decommissioning is anticipated to continue, however effluent discharge rates are expected to be less than during operations, therefore the assessment for the operations phase is considered bounding. During operations there is anticipated to be a potential minor increase in surface water flow and water levels to LA 5 (Whitefish Lake), and the maximum predicted change in water level was 0.32 cm against the 5th percentile flow in March. All expected water level effects on other lakes within the vicinity of the Project are expected to be negligible.

Through implementation of appropriate mitigation measures and follow up monitoring, Denison anticipates that the impact of surface water discharge on surface water quantity will be negligible throughout all Project phases. Therefore, Denison determined the impact of surface water discharge on flows and lake levels are not expected to have residual effects on surface water quantity.

### *Future Centuries*

During the ‘future centuries’ phase, remediation works will be completed, and the site will be naturalized with drainage patterns flowing to surface waterbodies restored and no water taking or discharge. Therefore, potential effects to the surface water quantity VC are not expected during this part of the project phase.

Finally, the key mitigation measures, proposed by Denison, to avoid or reduces project related effects on surface water quantity during all phases of the project are presented in [table 6.14](#). No follow-up program activities are required related to the assessment of Projects effects on surface water quantity as no residual effects were identified and uncertainty was low. However, continued monitoring of hydrologic conditions of the site is suggested by Denison ([table 6.21](#)) for monitoring and update of predictions of assessment of project effects on surface water quantity and support effluent discharge permitting and approvals.

### *Climate Change*

The primary potential climate change effect to the aquatic environment is through the surface water quantity exposure pathway during the operation and decommissioning phases. To assess the climate change effects to the aquatic environment, the analysis qualitatively considered changes to precipitation, surface runoff and evaporation and the resulting water balance within the vicinity of the project based on four project effects scenarios. The four climate change projection scenarios assessed included:

1. Mean precipitation static and increased evaporation – resulting in a marginal decrease in flow rates from the Project.
2. Increased precipitation and evaporation – resulting in either increased or decreased flow rates from the Project.



3. Mean precipitation static and decreased evaporation – resulting in increased flow rates from the Project.
4. Increased precipitation and decreased evaporation – resulting in increased flow rates from the Project.

The Project is expected to have the greatest effect on baseline flow rates during low flow conditions, and projection scenarios 1 and 2 have the potential to result in a condition where flow rates decrease as a result of climate change. Decreases in flow rates due to climate change (scenario 1 and 2) are expected to be marginal and not statistically detectable, therefore climate change effects to water quantity are not anticipated to be significant.

The potential effects of climate change on the frequency and magnitude of extreme weather events were also quantitatively assessed. The PMP at the project site is not anticipated to increase however the magnitude of the one in 100-year, 24-hour return period rainfall event is anticipated to increase from a baseline of 77.9 mm to 88.6 mm, which will require consideration for design of Project water management infrastructure.

#### *Mitigation Measures for Surface Water Quantity*

Denison has proposed the following measures to mitigate the potential adverse effects from identified project activities on surface water quantity. CNSC staff have assessed the mitigation measures proposed by Denison and have concluded that they are adequate to manage potential adverse effects to water quantity. See a summary in [table 6.14](#) below.

**Table 6.14 Proposed mitigation measures to address effects on surface water quantity**

| <b>Change in flows or water levels in lakes and river</b>  |
|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limit and stage the construction footprint (i.e., Project Area).</li> </ul>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain existing drainage patterns with the use of culverts, where applicable.</li> </ul>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain access roads by periodically regrading and ditching to improve water flow, reduce erosion, and manage vegetation growth.</li> </ul>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inspect culverts periodically. Remove accumulated material and debris upstream and downstream of the culverts to prevent erosion, flooding, habitat damage, property damage, and mobilization of sediment.</li> </ul> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attenuate peak discharges and augment baseflows to the environment using Project water storage features (i.e., runoff, process water, contact water, monitoring/effluent ponds).</li> </ul>                           |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recycle contact water for use as process water.</li> </ul>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recycle process water for re-use.</li> </ul>  |

#### *Monitoring and Follow-Up Measures*

In order to verify the accuracy of the assessment and determine the effectiveness of the mitigation measures, Denison will implement the following EA follow-up measures.

**Table 6.15: Follow-up program measures for effects on surface water quantity**

| Change in flows or water levels in lakes and river   |
|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continued hydrologic monitoring to provide Project phase information to monitor predictions and support effluent discharge permitting and approvals (i.e., meet approvals for continued surface water quality levels).</li> </ul>   |
| <p>The monitoring program should remain consistent with the long-term (2011) hydrological monitoring study at the Project site to allow for the continued establishment of long-term stream flow trends at the site through relationships to long-term operating hydrometric gauging stations in the same watershed.</p>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monitoring stations should continue to survey at locations throughout key catchment areas. Hydrometric monitoring at streamflow stations should include measurement of stream discharge and water level survey and maintenance of in-stream data loggers.</li> <li>Monitoring should continue to include the following:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>streamflow monitoring</li> <li>lake level monitoring</li> <li>installation and maintenance of stage dataloggers</li> </ol> </li> </ul> |

### 6.3.2.2 Surface Water Quality

#### *Site Water Management*

Denison has identified site water management as a primary project interaction with the environment that required further evaluation throughout the project-related effects assessment. Site water management is described in detail in section 2 of the EIS and is required throughout all phases of the Project. Water is categorized as contact or non-contact water, where contact water is water that has been potentially altered by project activities and interactions and needs to be managed prior to release. Non-contact water has not been altered by project activities and interactions by diversion around the site and does not require management for release to the environment. Throughout the various phases of the Project, site contact water is generated from various sources and activities such as but not limited to drilling, ISR processing, domestic wastewater, industrial wastewater, wellfield runoff, waste rock pad runoff, etc., and will require containment, storage and treatment prior to release from a final discharge point located in the vicinity of the Whitefish Lake Middle (LA-5 North) sample station within Whitefish Lake South. Water management infrastructure (e.g., collection ditches, ponds, pumping, stations) must be put into place by Denison before the initiation of construction activities. During construction contact water will be captured and held in the Clean Waste Rock Pond which contains a volume of 3600 m<sup>3</sup> and is designed to contain water generated throughout the construction Phase without discharging to the environment until the IWWTP is built. Therefore, potential effects to surface water quality are not expected during this project phase. During operations contact water will be collected in the Process Water Pond and Wellfield Runoff ponds before being directed to and treated in the IWWTP. Treated water from the IWWTP will be held in the three Effluent Monitoring and Release Ponds, each with a volume of 3,300 m<sup>3</sup>, where effluent will be tested to ensure quality meets regulatory release limits prior to discharge. Effluent will be discharged through a diffuser located approximately 115m offshore in 3m of water, however the final design and location of the diffuser will be confirmed during licensing. During decommissioning water will continue to be pumped through and extracted from the mined-out zone and processed through the processing plant until non-economic uranium concentrations are observed. Water



treatment and effluent discharge to the surface water receiving environment will continue during the decommissioning phase. Non-economic process water will then be treated and injected back to the mined-out zone to remediate the groundwater. This remediation process will continue until groundwater quality meets the decommissioning objectives. Once groundwater remediation is finished, the remaining site water management infrastructure will be decommissioned.

#### *Mobilization of Suspended Materials*

During construction, the primary effect pathways for mobilization of suspended materials is due to land disturbance and clearing potentially causing erosion and sedimentation to surface water bodies. Surface water drainage collected as contact water during the construction Phase will be stored in the Clean Waste Rock Pond, and a water and sediment control management system following standardized practices will be in place to mitigate the potential effects of erosion and sedimentation. Therefore, potential effects to surface water quality are not expected during the construction phase. Throughout operation and decommissioning, surface water drainage collected as contact water will be treated within the IWWTP prior to release, ensuring management of total suspended solids (TSS) to levels protective of the environment and aquatic receptors.

Through implementation of appropriate mitigation measures and follow up monitoring, Denison anticipates that the impact from mobilization of suspended materials on surface water quality will be negligible throughout all Project phases. Therefore, Denison determined the impact of mobilization of suspended materials from erosion and sedimentation are not expected to have residual effects on surface water quality.

#### *Controlled Discharge to Receiving Environment*

Discharge to the surface water receiving environment is not expected for during the construction phase as water will be collected and held in the Clean Waste Rock Pond until the IWWTP is commissioned, therefore potential effects to surface water quality VC are not expected during this project phase. However, during operations and decommissioning, the primary effects pathways to surface water quality in Whitefish Lake and the downstream environment is from the controlled discharge of effluent from the IWWTP. The project was assessed assuming a conservative continuous average water intake rate of 40.5 m<sup>3</sup>/hr and a continuous average water discharge rate of 36.5 m<sup>3</sup>/hr. The IWWTP is designed to treat effluent from the ISR process and other sources through a three-stage process including a low pH treatment to precipitate remaining radioactive materials from water, a high pH treatment to adjust acidity and remove remaining precipitates, and a final neutralization step to neutralize and improve water quality for release. The IWWTP technology and treatment process continues to be assessed and optimized through a BATEA study and will be finalized throughout the licensing process.

Denison's assessment for water quality utilized both near-field and far-field modelling to predict concentrations of both radiological and non-radiological COPCs) during operations. For model calibration the near-field model used the ninety-fifth percentile concentrations of measured baseline parameters in the receiving environment, whereas the far-field model used the geometric mean of baseline concentrations. Additional model inputs of baseline data included local inflow rates, site discharge rates and predicted effluent discharge water quality. The predicted upper bound treated effluent concentrations were derived from effluent lab tests and were multiplied by a safety factor of three for most parameters, with the exceptions of cadmium, chromium and selenium where derived concentrations were used. Modelled concentrations of

COPCs in the receiving environment and predicted maximum concentrations of COPCs in effluent were compared to the most conservative long-term federal, provincial, or other jurisdictional water quality guidelines for the protection of aquatic life. These water quality guidelines were selected as screening benchmarks for the Project, to determine where potential exceedances of guidelines exist in effluent quality and the receiving surface water environment. These COPCs were then assessed in Appendix 10A of the EIS to determine risk to human and non-human biota.

For the near-field water quality modelling the analysis was completed for the monthly average, monthly low, and 7Q10 flow scenarios in the near-field receiving environment. This modelling is conducted to determine how COPC concentrations may vary within the mixing zone within Whitefish Lake Middle (LA-5 North) under different flow scenarios (see [table 6.16](#) below). The size of the mixing zone was also estimated using modelling under these various flow scenarios (EIS section 8 table 8.2-11). Based on the predicted maximum concentrations of COPCs in effluent, sulphate, TDS, chloride, arsenic, cadmium, chromium, cobalt, copper, molybdenum, selenium, uranium, zinc, lead-210, polonium-210, radium-226, and thorium-230 concentrations in effluent all exceeded their respective long-term surface water quality guidelines for protection of aquatic life in the receiving environment. However, of these parameters only cadmium and copper were predicted through modelling to exceed long-term surface water quality guidelines in the near-field mixing zone of the receiving environment, while all other guidelines decreased to concentrations below guidelines under all flow conditions. Denison has committed that effluent concentrations will be further refined through the BATEA process under licensing and will meet all federal and provincial regulatory requirements.

**Table 6.16 Adapted from EIS section 8: table 8.2-10: Near-field receiving water quality Results**

| Parameter                                      | Units    | Short-term Screening Criteria (background hardness) | Short-term Screening Criteria (Hardness induced [ $>250$ mg/L]) | Source    | Note | Long-term Screening Criteria (background hardness) | Long-term Screening Criteria with Toxicity Modifier Applied (induced hardness) | Source    | Note | Discharge Concentration (max predicted) | LA-5 Well Mixed (7Q10) | LA-5 Well Mixed (Monthly Low) | LA-5 Well Mixed (Average) |
|--|----------|---|---|-----------|------|--|--|-----------|------|---|------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>General Chemistry, Nutrients and Anions</b> |          |   |   |           |      |  |  |           |      |   |                        |                               |                           |
| Alkalinity                                     | mg/L     | --  | --  | --        | --   | --   | --   | --        | --   | 12.4                                    | 12.4                   | 12.4                          | 12.4                      |
| Ammonia (as N)                                 | mg/L     | --  | --  | --        | --   | 5.74   | 5.74   | SEQG/CCME | (2)  | 3.9                                     | 0.13                   | 0.11                          | 0.1                       |
| Un-Ionized Ammonia                             | mg/L     | --  | --  | --        | --   | 0.019  | 0.019  | SEQG/CCME | --   | 0.0129                                  | 0.0004                 | 0.0003                        | 0.0003                    |
| Hardness                                       | mg/L     | --  | --  | --        | --   | --   | --   | --        | (15) | 250                                     | 9                      | 8                             | 7                         |
| Conductivity                                   | µS/cm    | --  | --  | --        | --   | --   | --   | --        | --   | 21.7                                    | 21.7                   | 21.7                          | 21.7                      |
| Nitrate  | mg/L     | 550   | 550   | CCME      |      | 13   | 13   | SEQG      | --   | 0.249                                   | 0.249                  | 0.249                         | 0.249                     |
| pH   | pH units | --  | --  | --        | --   | 6.5-9.0  | 6.5-9.0  | SEQG/CCME | --   | 7                                       | 7                      | 7                             | 7                         |
| Phosphorus                                     | mg/L     | --  | --  | --        | --   | 0.004-0.01   | 0.004-0.01   | CCME      | (9)  | <b>0.01</b>                             | 0.005                  | 0.005                         | 0.005                     |
| Sulphate                                       | mg/L     | --  | --  | --        | --   | 128  | 429  | BC MOE    | --   | <b>2600</b>                             | 43                     | 26                            | 19                        |
| TDS  | mg/L     | --  | --  | --        | --   | 500  | 500  | SEQG      | --   | <b>6420</b>                             | 131                    | 90                            | 74                        |
| Temperature                                    | °C       | --  | --  | --        | --   | narrative  | narrative  | --        | --   | 16.5                                    | 15                     | 15                            | 15                        |
| TSS  | mg/L     | --  | --  | --        | --   | background + 5 mg/L                                | background + 5 mg/L  | CCME      | --   | 6                                       | 4                      | 4                             | 4                         |
| Chloride                                       | mg/L     | 640   | 640   | SEQG/CCME |      | 120  | 120  | SEQG/CCME | --   | <b>600</b>                              | 10                     | 6                             | 5                         |
| <b>Metals</b>                                  |          |   |   |           |      |  |  |           |      |   |                        |                               |                           |

| Parameter  | Units | Short-term Screening Criteria (background hardness) | Short-term Screening Criteria (Hardness induced [ $>250$ mg/L]) | Source    | Note | Long-term Screening Criteria (background hardness) | Long-term Screening Criteria with Toxicity Modifier Applied (induced hardness) | Source    | Note         | Discharge Concentration (max predicted) | LA-5 Well Mixed (7Q10) | LA-5 Well Mixed (Monthly Low) | LA-5 Well Mixed (Average) |
|------------|-------|---|---|-----------|------|--|--|-----------|--------------|---|------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Aluminum   | mg/L  | --  | --  | --        | --   | 0.1  | 0.1  | SEQG/CCME | (1)          | 0.051                                   | 0.01                   | 0.01                          | 0.01                      |
| Arsenic    | mg/L  | --  | --  | --        | --   | 0.005  | 0.005  | SEQG/CCME | --           | <b>0.006</b>                            | 0.0002                 | 0.0002                        | 0.0001                    |
| Cadmium    | mg/L  | 0.00011   | 0.0053  | SEQG/CCME | (3)  | 0.00004  | 0.00034  | SEQG/CCME | --           | <b>0.0018</b>                           | <b>0.00005</b>         | 0.00004                       | 0.00003                   |
| Chromium   | mg/L  | --  | --  | --        | --   | 0.001  | 0.001  | SEQG/CCME | (4)          | <b>0.025</b>                            | 0.001                  | 0.001                         | 0.001                     |
| Cobalt     | mg/L  | --  | --  | --        | --   | 0.00078  | 0.00149  | FEQG      | (13)<br>(14) | <b>0.0027</b>                           | 0.000142               | 0.000125                      | 0.000119                  |
| Copper     | mg/L  |   |   |           | (5)  | 0.0002   | 0.0005   | FEQG      | (6)          | <b>0.02</b>                             | <b>0.00046</b>         | <b>0.00031</b>                | <b>0.00026</b>            |
| Cyanide    | mg/L  | --  | --  | --        | --   | --   | --   | --        | --           | N/A                                     | --                     | --                            | --                        |
| Iron       | mg/L  | --  | --  | --        | --   | 0.3  | 0.3  | SEQG/CCME | --           | 0.0039                                  | 0.178                  | 0.179                         | 0.180                     |
| Lead       | mg/L  | --  | --  | --        | --   | 0.001  | 0.007  | SEQG/CCME |              | 0.0003                                  | 0.00005                | 0.00005                       | 0.00005                   |
| Manganese  | mg/L  | 0.501   | 15  | CCME      | (7)  | 0.21   | 0.64   | SEQG/CCME | (8)          | 0.03                                    | 0.020                  | 0.020                         | 0.020                     |
| Mercury    | mg/L  | --  | --  | --        | --   | 0.000026   | 0.000026   | CCME      | --           | 0.00001                                 | 0.000010               | 0.000010                      | 0.000010                  |
| Molybdenum | mg/L  | --  | --  | --        | --   | 0.073  | 0.073  | CCME      |              | <b>2.5</b>                              | 0.04                   | 0.02                          | 0.02                      |
| Nickel     | mg/L  | --  | --  | --        | --   | 0.025  | 0.025  | CCME      |              | 0.0138                                  | 0.0003                 | 0.0002                        | 0.0002                    |
| Selenium   | mg/L  | --  | --  | --        | --   | 0.001  | 0.001  | CCME      | --           | <b>0.042</b>                            | 0.001                  | 0.001                         | 0.000                     |
| Strontium  | mg/L  | --  | --  | --        | --   | 2.5  | 2.5  | FEQG      |              | 1.68                                    | 0.04                   | 0.03                          | 0.03                      |

| Parameter           | Units | Short-term Screening Criteria (background hardness) | Short-term Screening Criteria (Hardness induced [ $>250$ mg/L]) | Source | Note         | Long-term Screening Criteria (background hardness) | Long-term Screening Criteria with Toxicity Modifier Applied (induced hardness) | Source    | Note | Discharge Concentration (max predicted) | LA-5 Well Mixed (7Q10) | LA-5 Well Mixed (Monthly Low) | LA-5 Well Mixed (Average) |
|---------------------|-------|---|---|--------|--------------|--|--|-----------|------|---|------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Thallium            | mg/L  | --  | --  | --     | --           | 0.0008   | 0.0008   | SEQG/CCME | --   | 0.0006                                  | 0.0002                 | 0.0002                        | 0.0002                    |
| Uranium             | mg/L  | 0.033   | 0.033   | CCME   |              | 0.015  | 0.015  | SEQG/CCME | --   | <b>0.057</b>                            | 0.001                  | 0.001                         | 0.001                     |
| Vanadium            | mg/L  | --  | --  | --     | --           | 0.12   | 0.12   | FEQG      |      | 0.059                                   | 0.0011                 | 0.0007                        | 0.00                      |
| Zinc                | mg/L  | 0.008   | 0.204   | CCME   | (10)<br>(11) | 0.013  | 0.058  | CCME      | (12) | <b>0.042</b>                            | 0.002                  | 0.001                         | 0.001                     |
| <b>Radiological</b> |       |   |   |        |              |  |  |           |      |   |                        |                               |                           |
| Lead-210            | Bq/L  | --  | --  | --     | --           | 0.2  | 0.2  | HC        | --   | <b>0.42</b>                             | 0.026                  | 0.024                         | 0.023                     |
| Polonium-210        | Bq/L  | --  | --  | --     | --           | 0.1  | 0.1  | HC        | --   | <b>0.15</b>                             | 0.007                  | 0.006                         | 0.006                     |
| Radium-226          | Bq/L  | --  | --  | --     | --           | 0.11   | 0.11   | SEQG      | --   | <b>0.15</b>                             | 0.008                  | 0.007                         | 0.007                     |
| Thorium-230         | Bq/L  | --  | --  | --     | --           | 0.6  | 0.6  | HC        | --   | <b>0.9</b>                              | 0.024                  | 0.019                         | 0.016                     |
| Uranium-238         | Bq/L  | --  | --  | --     | --           | 3  | 3  | HC        | --   | 0.7                                     | 0.013                  | 0.008                         | 0.006                     |
| Uranium-234         | Bq/L  | --  | --  | --     | --           | 3  | 3  | HC        | --   | 0.7                                     | 0.013                  | 0.008                         | 0.006                     |

**Notes:**

Induced hardness was considered to be  $>250$  mg/L unless otherwise specified.

All parameters listed as total concentrations unless otherwise specified.

Saskatchewan Water Quality Objectives, SEQG on-line (<https://envrbrportal.crmf.saskatchewan.ca/seqg-search/>), SEQG for the protection of aquatic life were selected, based on total concentrations.

Bold numbers indicate exceedance of long-term criteria based on background hardness.

Underlined numbers indicate exceedance of long-term criteria based on induced hardness.

Italicized numbers indicate exceedance of short-term criteria.

SEQG – Saskatchewan Environmental Quality Guidelines – Water Quality Guidelines for Freshwater Aquatic Life.

CCME – Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment.

HC – Health Canada.

BC MOE

– British Columbia Ministry of the Environment.

FEQG – Federal Environmental Quality Guidelines.

MDMER – Metal and Diamond Mining Effluent Regulations

DOC – Dissolved organic carbon.

TDS – Total dissolved solids.

TSS – Total suspended solids.

Narrative – Temperature - Maximum Weekly Average Temperature: Thermal additions to receiving waters should be such that the maximum weekly average temperature is not exceeded.

Short-term Exposure to Extreme Temperature: Thermal additions to receiving waters should be such that the short-term exposures to maximum temperatures are not exceeded.

Exposures should not be so lengthy or frequent as to adversely affect the important species.

A pH of 7 and a temperature of 15°C were assumed to convert total ammonia to un-ionized ammonia in accordance with CCME (2002).

- [1] Long-term criterion for aluminum based on CCME/SEQG of 0.1 mg/L for dissolved aluminum when pH is greater than 6.5.
- [2] Total ammonia-N calculated from the total ammonia guideline for an average annual temperature of 15°C and a pH of 7.0, Un-ionized Ammonia from table 1 of temperature and pH, Canadian Water Quality Guidelines for the Protection of Aquatic Life - Ammonia (<https://ccme.ca/en/res/ammonia-en-canadian-water-quality-guidelines-for-the-protection-of-aquatic-life.pdf>).
- [3] Cadmium criteria based on water hardness of >0 to <5.3 mg/L (Site-specific background hardness is 5.26 mg/L (95th percentile of LA-5 and LA-6)).
- [4] Guideline specific to Chromium VI for conservative comparison to baseline water quality.
- [5] Based on hardness of 5.26 mg/L (Short-term equation is  $(e^{(0.979123[\ln(\text{hardness})]-8.64497)}) * 1000$  (SEQG via AEP 1996b)).
- [6] Federal Water Quality Guideline for Copper using the Biotic Ligand Model (BLM) Tool and User Manual is 0.0002 mg/L using site-specific background hardness of 5.26 mg/L, DOC of 2.24 mg/L, and pH of 6.61 (95th percentile of LA-5 and LA-6) and 0.0005 mg/L using conditions expected during operations including hardness of 9 mg/L, DOC of 2.24, and pH of 7.
- [7] Short Term Guideline is based on dissolved manganese. Benchmark =  $\exp(0.878[\ln(\text{hardness})] + 4.76)$  where the benchmark is expressed in dissolved manganese concentration (µg/L), and hardness is measured as CaCO<sub>3</sub> equivalents in mg/L. (Site-specific hardness is 5.26 mg/L (95th percentile of LA-5 and LA-6)).
- [8] Long-term guideline for manganese based on Scientific Criteria Document for the Development of the Canadian Water Quality Guidelines for the Protection of Aquatic Life - Manganese, appendix B - Canadian Water Quality Guidelines Calculator (pH = 6.61, hardness = 5.26 mg/L).
- [9] Framework provides Trigger Ranges for Total Phosphorus (µg/L) - guideline for oligotrophic waterbody 4 - 10 µg/L.
- [10] Guideline is based on dissolved zinc.
- [11] Short term guideline is based on Benchmark =  $\exp(0.833[\ln(\text{hardness mg} \cdot \text{L}^{-1})] + 0.240[\ln(\text{DOC mg} \cdot \text{L}^{-1})] + 0.526)$ . (Site-specific background hardness is 5.26 mg/L, DOC is 2.24 mg/L, pH is 6.61 (95th percentile of LA-5 and LA-6)). Note – extrapolated for value outside the hardness range.

- [12] Long term guideline is based on  $CWQG = \exp(0.947[\ln(\text{hardness mg}\cdot\text{L}^{-1})] - 0.815[\text{pH}] + 0.398[\ln(\text{DOC mg}\cdot\text{L}^{-1})] + 4.625)$ . (Site-specific background hardness is 5.26 mg/L, DOC is 2.24 mg/L, pH is 6.61 (95th percentile of LA-5 and LA-6). Note – extrapolated for value outside the hardness range.
- [13] Environment Canada 2017. Federal Environmental Quality Guidelines, Cobalt, May. Based on equation and lowest hardness for equation of 52 mg/L.
- [14] Environment Canada 2017. Federal Environmental Quality Guidelines (FEQG), Cobalt. Based on equation and hardness of 250 mg/L for equation of  $FWQG = \exp\{(0.414[\ln(\text{hardness})] - 1.887)\}$ .
- [15] Hardness value provided here is not the expected hardness in effluent, but was selected as a concentration at which to evaluate a high hardness condition at the edge of the mixing zone for interpretation of modelled results against water quality guidelines.

A regional surface water quality model was also used to predict effects to surface water quality from the discharge of effluent in the far-field downstream environment of the LSA and RSA. This modelling was completed to predict surface water and sediment concentrations in Whitefish Lake Middle (LA-5 North) and downstream, as well as two upstream reference locations Kratchkowsky Lake and Whitefish Lake North (LA-6). Surface water and sediment quality were modeled using IMPACT software. Predicted maximum concentrations of COPCs in the receiving environment and downstream were compared to water quality guidelines for the protection of aquatic life, and copper was the only COPC predicted to potentially exceed water quality guidelines in all waterbodies throughout operations and decommissioning.

Copper was assessed further to determine potential risk to human and non-human biota, and Hazard Quotients (HQs) were calculated for each receptor in each assessed location in the LSA and RSA. HQs equal to or less than one indicate low risk to receptors, whereas HQs greater than one indicate that there is some potential for adverse effects. Denison concluded that there were minor exceedances of screening values protective of aquatic life and some potential risk of adverse effects (HQs > 1) to aquatic receptors from copper concentrations in surface water. This includes benthic invertebrates in all waterbodies including reference locations, and predatory fish in Whitefish Lake Middle and South (LA-5 North and LA-5 South) during operations (see below [table 6.17](#)). However, these exceedances are minor and unlikely to cause population level effects. Denison anticipates that it is likely that site conditions will change over the course of operations and decommissioning, which will further decrease the risk from copper to aquatic receptors. Increasing hardness and pH concentrations in the receiving environment during operations and decommissioning from effluent deposition are predicted to alter site conditions, and predictive modelling of these altered site conditions indicates no exceedances in the receiving environment at exposure locations for any aquatic receptors due to copper (see below, [table 6.18](#)).

**Table 6.17 Adapted from EIS appendix 10A: table 6-9A: re-evaluated hazard quotients for copper in aquatic organisms – Baseline conditions**

| Location                      | Maximum copper concentration in water (mg/L) | Hazard quotients (unitless) – Baseline conditions |               |             |                      |                |                |
|-------------------------------|--|---|---------------|-------------|----------------------|----------------|----------------|
|                               |  | Forage fish                                       | Predator fish | Zooplankton | Benthic invertebrate | Phyto-plankton | Aquatic plants |
| Kratchkowsky Lake (reference) | 6.22E-04                                     | 0.12  | 0.80          | 0.70        | <b>1.49</b>          | 0.07           | 0.03           |
| Whitefish Lake North          | 6.20E-04                                     | 0.12  | 0.80          | 0.70        | <b>1.49</b>          | 0.07           | 0.03           |
| Whitefish Lake Middle         | 8.22E-04                                     | 0.16  | <b>1.06</b>   | 0.93        | <b>1.97</b>          | 0.09           | 0.04           |
| Whitefish Lake South          | 8.17E-04                                     | 0.16  | <b>1.05</b>   | 0.92        | <b>1.96</b>          | 0.09           | 0.04           |
| McGowan Lake                  | 7.50E-04                                     | 0.14  | 0.97          | 0.85        | <b>1.80</b>          | 0.08           | 0.04           |
| Icelander River               | 7.49E-04                                     | 0.14  | 0.97          | 0.84        | <b>1.80</b>          | 0.08           | 0.04           |
| Russell Lake Inlet            | 7.17E-04                                     | 0.14  | 0.92          | 0.81        | <b>1.72</b>          | 0.08           | 0.03           |



**Table 6.18 Adapted from EIS appendix 10A: table 6-9B: re-evaluated hazard quotients for copper in aquatic organisms – Site operation conditions**

| Location                                   | Maximum copper concentration in water (mg/L) | Hazard Quotients (unitless) – Site Operation Conditions |               |             |                      |               |                |
|--|--|---|---------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------|----------------|
|  |  | Forage fish   | Predator fish | Zooplankton | Benthic invertebrate | Phytoplankton | Aquatic plants |
| Kratchkowsky Lake (reference) <sup>1</sup> | 6.22E-04                                     | 0.12  | 0.80          | 0.70        | <b>1.49</b>          | 0.07          | 0.03           |
| Whitefish Lake North                       | 6.20E-04                                     | 0.06  | 0.34          | 0.30        | 0.63                 | 0.04          | 0.04           |
| Whitefish Lake Middle                      | 8.22E-04                                     | 0.08  | 0.46          | 0.40        | 0.84                 | 0.05          | 0.05           |
| Whitefish Lake South                       | 8.17E-04                                     | 0.08  | 0.45          | 0.40        | 0.83                 | 0.05          | 0.05           |
| McGowan Lake                               | 7.50E-04                                     | 0.07  | 0.42          | 0.37        | 0.76                 | 0.04          | 0.05           |
| Icelander River                            | 7.49E-04                                     | 0.07  | 0.42          | 0.37        | 0.76                 | 0.04          | 0.05           |
| Russell Lake Inlet                         | 7.17E-04                                     | 0.07  | 0.40          | 0.35        | 0.73                 | 0.04          | 0.05           |

Note:

Bold and shaded value indicates hazard quotient greater than 1.

<sup>1</sup> Kratchkowsky Lake is a reference lake located upstream of the effluent discharge point, and as such, the site operation conditions were the same as baseline conditions.

Denison conservatively determined that surface water quality in the receiving environment is likely to be moderately adversely impacted by the controlled discharge of effluent from the Project throughout the operation and decommissioning phases. While a change from background conditions is predicted to occur, the anticipated residual effects are likely to be local to Whitefish Lake Middle and South (LA-5 North and LA-5 South) and fully reversible upon cessation of effluent deposition, with a return to baseline conditions anticipated following post-decommissioning. Through the application of mitigative measures, follow-up monitoring, and under average flow conditions, Denison anticipates the aquatic environment will likely be resilient to potential changes. However, surface water quality is an intermediate VC and is assessed further as a KI of potential residual adverse effects significance determinations for the receptor VCs Fish and Fish Habitat, Sediment Quality and benthic invertebrates, and Fish Health.

#### *Long-Term Transport of Groundwater Solutes to Whitefish Lake (in Future Centuries)*

A ‘future centuries’ scenario was used to assess the long-term future potential effects to surface water quality post-decommissioning from peak concentrations of COPCs in groundwater plumes migrating from the decommissioned project site Phoenix Ore Zone area to surface water. The predicted mass flux of COPCs in groundwater were input into the IMPACT model to predict the maximum surface water and sediment concentrations over time at exposure and reference locations due to additional groundwater inputs. Surface water quality in the receiving environment during the Future Centuries scenario is not expected to exceed surface water quality guidelines due to groundwater plume migration. The results of the numerical modelling support

the conclusion that with the implementation of appropriate mitigation measures during the decommissioning and restoration phase of the Project, the residual effects of the Project on groundwater quality will not result in an adverse effect to surface water quality.

#### *Mitigation Measures for Surface Water Quality*

Denison has proposed the following measures in [table 6.19](#) to mitigate the potential adverse effects from identified project activities on surface water quality. CNSC staff have assessed the mitigation measures proposed by Denison and have concluded that they are adequate to manage potential adverse effects to water quality. See a summary in [table 6.19](#) below.

**Table 6.19: Proposed mitigation measures to address effects on surface water quality**

| <b>Change in the concentration of a water quality parameter (or parameters) that exceeds relevant water quality assessment benchmarks</b>  |
|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop and implement a Surface Water Management Program that provides an integrated framework to manage water quality, including provision for water management practices for each of the primary site aspects, as well as areas of the Project site where contact water is expected.</li> </ul>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maximize the recycle and reuse of process water to reduce freshwater intake and release to Whitefish Lake.</li> </ul>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Design the discharge diffuser/outfall to provide effective mixing and dilution and discharge flows that do not detrimentally affect sediments.</li> </ul>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop site-specific effluent treatment to treat COPC to appropriate release limits in accordance with provincial standards and licence/permit conditions.</li> </ul>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discharge effluent under a scenario that will meet provincial and federal discharge criteria as identified through permitting. Scenarios may include:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discharging at a fixed rate while maintaining an appropriate minimum dilution ratio (i.e., discharge when able to meet the required dilution ratio and cease discharge during periods when unable to meet the necessary dilution ratio).</li> <li>Discharging under a variable waste load allocation (i.e., discharge an appropriate effluent volume based on flow in the receiver to maintain minimum dilution ratio).</li> <li>Managing discharge via a hybrid of these (i.e., discharge effluent at a fixed rate to maintain the required dilution ratio, but the fixed rate can be varied on a seasonal basis based on flow).</li> </ol> </li> </ul> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collect and monitor contact water to determine whether treatment is required prior to release to the environment to inform optimal levels of treatment.</li> </ul>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintain the water management system in place during decommissioning until such time that water quality is suitable to release to the environment.</li> </ul>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monitor and manage effluent, including contingency for effluent treatment as may be required, so that water discharge objectives are achieved as defined by applicable provincial and federal regulatory instruments.</li> </ul>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Design and implement an Environmental Code of Practice that defines action levels and appropriate steps to be taken to mitigate elevated concentrations of chemical and radiological constituents in treated effluent discharge to acceptable levels.</li> </ul>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement Project-specific monitoring programs (e.g., effluent monitoring plan, environmental monitoring plan) that include monitoring treated effluent, surface water and sediment quality, and applying adaptive management, if necessary.</li> </ul>   |

|  |
|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with the associated communities to develop and implement the Project-specific monitoring programs and a framework to share the results for the purpose of assessing the performance of the water management system.</li> </ul> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop and implement a decommissioning and reclamation plan to decommission and transfer the site to the province under the Institutional Control Program.</li> </ul>  |

### *Monitoring and Follow-Up Measures*

In order to verify the accuracy of the assessment and assess the effectiveness of the mitigation measures, Denison will implement the following EA follow-up measures.

**Table 6.20: Follow-up program measures for effects on surface water quality**

| <b>Change in the concentration of a water quality parameter (or parameters) that exceeds relevant water quality assessment benchmarks</b>   |
|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitoring to confirm the effluent and receiving water quality meet applicable regulation criteria             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The monitoring and follow-up program will include measurement of water quality parameters to meet regulatory criteria (i.e., provincial discharge permits, Metal and Diamond Mining Effluent Regulations [MDMER; Government of Canada 2022] and CSA N288.4-19 (CSA Group 2019). At a minimum, this will include collection of non-radiological parameters (e.g., metals, nutrients, hardness, temperature, pH, TDS, TSS, and sulphate) and radiological parameters.</li> <li>2. Constituent concentrations will be compared to the values used in the EIS and to applicable regulatory criteria or objectives.</li> </ol> </li> </ul> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collecting and recording surface water quality to confirm that source and receiving water quality predictions are consistent with those presented in the EIS             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Monitoring will occur within the collection ponds, specifically the Effluent Monitoring and Release Ponds and the receiving waterbody (Whitefish Lake). Water quality monitoring in the natural environment will occur at the point of discharge (near-field) at LA-5 (Whitefish Lake South), at an upstream reference location (Whitefish Lake North [LA-6]) and at downstream locations (far-field locations). The far-field monitoring locations will be located in Whitefish Lake South (LA-5) prior to its discharge to McGowan Lake (LA-1).</li> </ul> </li> </ul>     |

## **6.3.3 Other Views Expressed**

### **6.3.3.1 In-Situ Recovery (ISR) Mining Method & Fluids**

ERFN expressed concerns about the In-Situ Recovery (ISR) mining method and its potential environmental impacts.

Members of ERFN are also concerned about the potential escape of mining fluids beyond the freeze wall containment system, potentially contaminating surrounding surface water - key water bodies of concern include Cree Lake and Wheeler River. Given the toxic nature of these mining fluids and the complex flow pathways of ground and surface water in the vicinity, any escape would significantly impact the regional ecosystem and downstream water bodies.

MN-S also noted that ISR is a new mining method in Canada and there are concerns amongst Nation members that potential contamination could impact Whitefish Lake via groundwater and surface water contamination.

### 6.3.3.2 Aquatic Environment Contamination

#### *Indigenous Nations and communities*

ERFN expressed concerns that the project may adversely impact or contaminate the aquatic environment, waterways, fish, and fisheries, affecting their traditional way of life, including water use, fishing, and land harvesting practices tied to Nuhtsiye-kwi Benéne. ERFN indicated that the lack of detailed modeling for the dispersion of radioactive materials if they were to enter Wheeler River raised further concerns. ERFN has also highlighted the importance of safeguarding waterways and fish spawning areas to prevent contamination.

ERFN raised concerns that the presence of molybdenum and sulfate in effluents from the mine could significantly impact the current environment by influencing pH levels and potentially leading to acidification downstream. Additionally, ERFN emphasized the importance of understanding the local hydrogeological setting to assess potential risks associated with water quality.

KML expressed concerns related to the aquatic environment, including baseline data collection and water flow management during all phases of the proposed Project. In addition, MN-S noted that Métis Knowledge should be incorporated into surface water quality monitoring plans.

YNLR shared concerns regarding personal exposure to contamination of surface water. YNLR questioned conclusions derived in the EIS that adverse effects to surface water, and any residual impacts to surface water will be localized. YNLR indicated that abundant clean surface water is a very high priority for the YNLR communities.

BNDN indicated they are concerned about uranium contamination of groundwater and that groundwater contamination could make its way to surface waters. In addition, BNDN indicated concerns that risks to surface water contamination could be reduced through more stringent decommissioning objectives by Denison.

PBCN want to ensure the Treaty Rights of PBCN members are protected, with a focus on the protection of water resources related to the proposed Project. PBCN is particularly concerned about the proposed use of freshwater resources for mining operations and the release of treated effluent into Whitefish Lake. PBCN does not see any assurances in the regulatory documents that the water quality downstream, including water accessed by PBCN communities, will not be compromised. They have requested that stringent guidelines must be added as conditions to any environmental regulatory approval, certificate, permit, or licence granted.

PBCN has expressed interest in co-developing a water quality monitoring program downstream of Whitefish Lake and has requested regular copies of water quality monitoring reports, if the project is approved.

PBCN indicated that they wanted to ensure their citizens Treaty Rights were protected with a focus on the protection of water resources related to the proposed Project.

#### *Federal Authorities*

In ECCC's conclusions following the EIS Technical Review, inconsistencies in the modeling which limit confidence in residual effects to water quality were highlighted. This includes the risk of unmitigated residual effects on aquatic life from 1) Denison's analysis of low flow scenarios using 7Q10 to account for the 23-year project lifecycle and 2) not using the latest FEQG standard for copper. ECCC suggested that Denison conduct a sensitivity analysis on the low water flow scenario to account for additional environmental variables, and to reassess the

aquatic risk associated with copper in freshwater. ECCC noted that it is unclear whether the model considers scenarios where maximum concentration of COPC might occur. Additionally, the models do not include environmental variables such as changes in hydrology or water/sediment chemistry (i.e., seasonal variability) which could result in incorrect environmental concentration predictions.

ECCC noted that the analysis approach for baseline conditions (e.g., smoothing data over locations and seasons) introduced uncertainty and may limit ability to detect changes related to the Project. Sediment in wetlands was not characterized to determine if it would act as a sink for heavy metals. ECCC recommended additional sampling of surface water, sediment, benthic invertebrates, and fish/fish habitat and to provide additional mitigation measures to protect wetlands if required. ECCC also noted that they are unable to provide feedback on residual effects from effluent discharge because the calibration of the model has not been validated.

ECCC identified that Denison has used incorrect screening criteria for water and sediment quality, and therefore effluent could be discharged at concentrations that could negatively impact the aquatic environment. The most stringent guidelines were not consistently applied within the EIS. ECCC emphasized the importance of a robust monitoring program given the uncertainty in the assessment of potential impacts to the aquatic environment and adaptive management to address any impacts.

ECCC also recommended that the diffuser design is optimized to site conditions, that water quality criteria for COPCs is maintained, and conclusions from the EIS are verified through monitoring.

### **6.3.3.3 Water Resource Management**

Additionally, ERFN noted that Denison's water recycling program lacks clarity, necessitating further engagement with ERFN to explore the best available technology options. Ensuring transparency, effective communication, and consideration of community perspectives are essential in evaluating and mitigating the environmental implications of this mining method.

One significant concern raised by YNLR revolves around water resource management for the project, specifically the volume of natural lake and groundwater proposed to be used to support the mining operations. This usage could potentially impact stream flows and lead to contamination of water both below and above ground. Additionally, YNLR has highlighted particular worries about the future water quality of Whitefish Lake, Russell Lake, Wheeler River, Geikie River, and Wollaston Lake.

All Nations and communities indicating concerns of the potential impacts from surface water impacts indicated that potential contamination may lead to avoidance behaviour in areas near the proposed Project site. In particular, impacts to surface water could get into fish and aquatic species which many Indigenous Nations and communities who practice rights in the Project Area rely upon for subsistence. The Nations and communities are concerned that any potential contamination could lead to health impacts of Nation their community members and citizens.

#### *Federal Authorities*

ECCC noted the importance of the Site Water Management Plan including water that is in contact with all project components (e.g., TSS in road run off, de-icing fluid from airstrip, sewage spills on camp pad) and not restricting the definition of contact water to water that has been in contact only with the wellfield, processing plant terrace, or landfills.

### 6.3.3.4 Summary of Mitigations and Commitments related to Views Expressed

#### *In-Situ Recovery (ISR) Mining Methods & Fluids*

Denison has provided information on the ISR mining method (EIS section 2.2.1) to Indigenous Nations and communities, starting with an engagement workshop about potential mining methods in 2018 to gather feedback on the proposed approach. The project has an Environmental Management System framework which is designed to proactively manage environmental risks. This includes continual monitoring and minimizing and managing potential adverse effects.

#### *Aquatic Environment Contamination & Water Resource Management*

Denison has made several commitments to ensuring the mitigation and management of potential adverse effects to ground and surface water (Commitments 7-2 to 7-22 and 8-1 to 8-15). These include, but are not limited to, surface water and groundwater monitoring programs, maximizing the recycling and reuse of process water to reduce freshwater intake and release into Whitefish Lake, developing a groundwater monitoring network with a focus on conditions within and on the outside of the perimeter freeze wall, and continued remediation until groundwater quality in the mining area meets acceptable levels. Denison has committed to no residual effects to groundwater beyond the mining area during operations and during decommissioning activities. Denison has also committed to no effects from changes in groundwater to surface water in the vicinity of the project during the same period.

With respect to safeguarding waterways and fish habitat, Denison has made commitments to mitigate any potential adverse effects on fish and fish habitat. Mitigation measures and follow-up monitoring will be employed to ensure that potential effects on fish and fish habitat will be mitigated and managed, which includes commitments to avoid sensitive habitat to the extent possible, scheduling in-water activities to respect important windows in the fish life cycle (e.g., eggs, juveniles, spawning adults), preparing fish salvage plans to relocate fish prior to in-water work, and designing effluent discharge or freshwater intake infrastructure to prevent entrainment or impingement of fish. Denison has committed to collecting additional aquatic baseline characterization data, including wetlands data, to further refine predictions of risk to fish and fish habitat and assess effectiveness of proposed mitigation measures.

Denison has committed to collaborating with Indigenous Nations and communities to ensure these outcomes. This includes engagement and input on the EMP, EPRP, and the EEM. Note, details of these plans will be developed during the licensing/permitting phase of the process. Denison has also committed to considering local and IK/MK in all areas of the project through continued engagement. Denison provided funding to ERFN and Kineepik Métis Local to complete updated traditional land use studies which were incorporated into the EIS. In addition, YNLR provided Denison with their traditional land use information entitled *An Exploration of Recorded Athabasca Denesuline' Traditional Knowledge, Land Use and Occupancy Information in the Vicinity of Denison Mines Wheeler River Project*. Lastly, Denison signed a funding agreement with MN-S to complete a Métis Knowledge Study, which was shared with Denison in October 2023. Denison revised the EIS to include relevant information in the assessment from these studies.

Denison responded to concerns related to the lack of detailed modeling for radioactive materials into waterways by providing more detailed information in discussion with ERFN and noted that both parties agreed this concern was resolved. Denison has committed to collecting additional baseline data and updating modelling and mitigation measures as necessary. Under licensing

requirements (REGDOG 2.9.1), Denison will also be required to further evaluate effluent treatment technologies and refine effluent concentrations released to the environment through a BATEA study, for contaminants of concern such as molybdenum and sulphates. Additionally, Denison has committed to numerous ground and surface water monitoring and mitigation measures, including monitoring predictions for surface water quality (Commitments 7-2 to 7-22 and 8-1 to 8-15).

Regarding concerns about adverse health effects resulting from exposure to contaminated waters, Denison provided additional information and clarification around their approach to assessing and mitigating these effects. Denison has predicted that any potential effects to surface water quality will be localized to the near-field environment from the project and that significant downstream effects in the Wheeler River system are not anticipated. A Human Health Risk Assessment (HHRA), inclusive of traditional foods, was conducted in appendix 10A of the EIS to evaluate direct and indirect contaminants of concern and determined there would be no significant adverse effects to human health. Denison has also committed to monitoring surface water, sediment, soil samples, fish tissue, benthic invertebrates, and country foods (e.g., blueberries) for radionuclides and non-radionuclides (e.g., metals, chloride, sulfate).

With respect to ECCC concerns regarding limited confidence in the modelling and the recommendation for a sensitivity analysis on flow scenarios to account for the effects of additional environmental variables, CNSC staff have proposed an EA Condition ([table 12.1](#), EA2) which will require that Denison conduct a sensitivity analysis for variable flow scenarios and on sediment coefficients and update the ERA with this information.

CNSC staff propose that Denison be required through a proposed EA Condition ([table 12.1](#), EA2) to collect additional baseline water and sediment quality data prior to disturbance of the baseline and update the modelling with this additional data to address concerns related to modelling uncertainty and ability to detect changes related to the Project, and validation of model calibration. Denison will be required to have a site water management plan and spill response plan to account for management of all potential contact water on site. Denison has also committed that the finalized diffuser design and configuration to be provided during licensing will not change the EA conclusions of risk to aquatic receptors, and that water quality will remain below guidelines (LCH appendix D.2, EP-01).

ECCC also raised concerns related to the use of the most conservative water quality guidelines as screening criteria for water and sediment quality for the assessments in the EIS, with a particular emphasis on use of the FEQG for copper. Denison updated the water and sediment quality assessments to utilize the most stringent environmental quality guidelines in the final EIS, including use of the ECCC FEQG for copper, which resulted in updated conclusions of potential effects to the receiving aquatic environment.

The EMP, EPRP, and EEMP include a surface water monitoring program that is designed to evaluate changes to the aquatic environment that could adversely affect fish, their habitat, and other aquatic biota (e.g., vegetation, invertebrates). Denison has committed to working with Indigenous Nations and communities to develop and implement the monitoring approach and the framework for sharing monitoring results. The monitoring and follow-up program will also measure fish health, including measuring the potential bioaccumulation of non-radiological (e.g., molybdenum, selenium, mercury, and other metals) and radiological parameters. Denison has also committed to monitoring methylmercury (rather than only total mercury), lead, arsenic, and cadmium in fish which will facilitate understanding of any health risks associated with



harvesting from the Project Area. Additionally, key indicators of ground and surface water quality will be measured, including pH and sulfate, in all project phases to monitor potential adverse effects on water acidification. Finally, Denison has also committed to conducting a pre-operations EEM study to allow for assessment of potential changes to the environment after the initiation of project activities (commitment 8-49).

### **6.3.4 CNSC Staff Analysis**

#### **6.3.4.1 Surface Water Quantity - Change in flows or water levels in lakes and rivers**

CNSC staff reviewed Denison's effect assessment of surface water quantity and the aquatic environment, related to changes in flows and water levels in receiving surface water environment due to project overprinting of drainage areas, surface water taking and surface water discharging as well as climate change. CNSC staff confirmed that Denison conducted a comprehensive analysis of surface water quantity effects and identified mitigation and follow-up monitoring program measures that are acceptable. However, CNSC staff have proposed licensing commitments (LCH appendix D.2, PD-03) for Denison to address during licensing related to proponent's reported values of intensity duration frequency (IDF) and PMP.

CNSC staff and other FIRT participants reviewed the 100-year 24-hour precipitation and PMP values as well as proponent's approach to factoring climate change into the estimates and determined the estimates will need to be updated or revisited during the licensing phase as the final estimates will be required at the detailed design stage of the project. Denison has committed to address this concern through additional analyses, as applicable.

CNSC staff have reviewed Denison's climate change effects assessment to the aquatic environment, related to the changes in surface water quantity in the receiving environment due to climate change. CNSC staff confirmed that Denison conducted a sufficient analysis of these effects on surface water quantity and identified mitigation and follow-up monitoring program measures that are adequate. Climate change effects on water quality were raised through the EA process by the FIRT and Denison concluded that climate change is not anticipated to have significant impact on water quality due to identified design, mitigation and follow-up monitoring program measures. However, CNSC staff have proposed an EA condition that Denison complete a sensitivity analysis as part of the ERA update to assess variable low and high flows, how flow rates may change under future climate conditions, and if this influences the assimilative capacity of the receiving environment and has any potential implications to water quality predictions made during the EA review (see [table 12.1](#), EA2).

CNSC staff concurs with Denison's conclusion that no adverse residual effects were identified related to the assessment of the Project's effects on surface water quantity taking into account identified design, mitigation and follow-up monitoring program measures.

#### **6.3.4.2 Surface Water Quality - Change in the concentration of a water quality parameter (or parameters) that exceeds relevant water quality assessment benchmarks**

##### *Mobilization of Suspended Materials*

CNSC staff reviewed Denison's effect assessment of surface water quality, and the aquatic environment related to the mobilization of suspended sediments and confirmed that Denison



conducted a comprehensive analysis of these effects and that identified mitigation and follow-up monitoring program measures are adequate.

### *Controlled Discharge to Receiving Environments*

CNSC staff reviewed Denison's effects assessment of surface water quality and the aquatic environment, related to the changes in surface water quality in the receiving environment due to the controlled discharge of treated effluent. CNSC staff confirmed that Denison conducted a sufficient analysis of these effects and identified mitigation and follow-up monitoring program measures that are mostly adequate. However, CNSC staff have proposed an EA Condition for Denison to address during licensing, including some additional baseline data collection and updates to modelling (see [table 12.1](#), EA2).

CNSC staff and other FIRT participants reviewed the baseline water quality data collected in the LSA and RSA and raised concerns related to the quality and quantity of the baseline data, and how this could impact the near-field and far-field models' calibration, accuracy and ability to address natural variability and climate change. FIRT baseline data concerns included poor baseline sampling effort that did not capture consecutive years or seasons of data, pooling of data from all sampled waterbodies into a singular dataset for each parameter, use of the geometric mean versus the arithmetic mean for calculation of parameters, high occurrence of samples below method detection limits, lack of baseline data in wetlands, use of regional sediment coefficients instead of site-specific sediment coefficients in model calibration, and lack of climate change considerations in far-field modelling. Despite these factors, Denison has incorporated a high level of conservatism into their effects assessment such as the assumption of continuous discharges when discharges are more likely to be intermittent, safety factors applied to predicted effluent concentrations of COPCs, use of 95<sup>th</sup> percentile concentrations of effluent instead of average concentrations, etc. CNSC staff concur that the likelihood of significant adverse effects to the aquatic environment and receptors are low. However, model uncertainty is high, therefore CNSC staff have proposed an EA Condition for Denison to improve confidence in the modelling (see [table 12.1](#), EA2).

As part of the proposed EA Conditions, CNSC staff will recommend that Denison be required to collect additional baseline data for water and sediment quality and update the ERA and near-field water quality modelling with this data to address these concerns, for CNSC review and acceptance prior to any in-water works for construction (see [table 12.1](#), EA2). This is to ensure that ERA predictions of risks to the aquatic environment and receptors are informed by modelling calibrated with a statistically rigorous baseline dataset, which accounts for natural variability within and between locations within the LSA and RSA and minimizes uncertainty in risk predictions. Additionally, CNSC staff have proposed an EA Condition that Denison complete a sensitivity analysis within the IMPACT modelling to assess variable low and high flows, how flow rates may change under future climate conditions, and if this influences the assimilative capacity of the receiving environment and has any potential implications to water quality predictions made during the EA review (see [table 12.1](#), EA2). This sensitivity analysis must be completed after a BATEA study is completed and accepted on the design and construction of the IWWTP system, to ensure effluent discharge rates and quality are fully understood.

Although it is unlikely that additional water and sediment quality baseline data will alter the determination of significant adverse effects, the additional baseline data will improve the quality of future ERAs and further refine predicted levels of risk. If there are any increases to the risk

profiles of receptors exceeding EA predictions due to updates from the incorporation of additional baseline data into the ERA, Denison has committed to addressing these concerns through the implementation of additional mitigation measures, monitoring, and/or adaptive management as needed.

Finally, CNSC staff have established a licensing commitment to be completed during licensing to address concerns related to the design of the IWWTP and final discharge point (see LCH appendix D.2, EP-01). Denison has committed to confirming that the design of the effluent discharge diffuser will not change the environmental assessment conclusions of risk to aquatic receptors. If there are deviations from predicted effluent and near-field surface water concentrations of COPCs and risk to aquatic receptors due to the finalized diffuser design, Denison has committed to identifying and implementing mitigation measures (e.g., treatment) to ensure that the environmental assessment conclusions of risk to aquatic receptors will not change, and that water quality will remain below guidelines. This must also be considered in Denison's EA Follow-Up Program.

#### *Long-Term Transport of Groundwater Solutes to Whitefish Lake (in Future Centuries)*

CNSC staff reviewed Denison's effect assessment of surface water quality and the aquatic environment related to the long-term transport of groundwater solutes to Whitefish Lake in the Future Centuries scenario and confirmed that Denison conducted a comprehensive analysis of these effects and that identified mitigation and follow-up monitoring program measures are adequate.

#### **6.3.4.3 Summary of CNSC's assessment of predicted residual effects on surface water quantity and quality**

CNSC staff reviewed the assessment of predicted residual effects on the aquatic environment due to changes in surface water quantity and quality from project-related effects. For surface water quantity, assessed project related effects included Project overprinting of drainage areas, surface water taking and surface water discharge. CNSC staff reviewed Denison's conclusions that with the implementation of appropriate design and mitigation measures, and the effects being characterized as low magnitude, localized, and fully reversible, the residual effects on surface water quantity are predicted to be not significant. Denison's conservative assessment determined that the largest predicted changes to stream flow is limited to 3% while changes in lake water levels were predicted to be negligible and remain below the natural range of variability considering waterbodies immediately downstream of the project facility.

For surface water quality, assessed project related effects included mobilization of suspended materials, controlled discharge to the receiving environment, and long-term transport of groundwater solutes to Whitefish Lake in a Future Centuries scenario. CNSC staff reviewed Denison's conclusions that with the implementation of appropriate mitigation measures, and the effects being characterized as low magnitude, localized, and fully reversible, the residual effects on surface water quality from mobilization of sediment and long-term transport of groundwater solutes are predicted to be not significant. CNSC staff verified Denison's determination that surface water quality in the receiving environment is likely to be moderately adversely impacted by the controlled discharge of effluent from the Project throughout the operation and decommissioning phases. However, residual effects are expected to be localized and fully reversible following post-decommissioning, and the aquatic environment will likely be resilient to potential changes. Surface water quality is an intermediate VC and is assessed further as a KI

of potential residual adverse effects significance determinations for the receptor VCs Fish and Fish Habitat, Sediment Quality and Benthic Invertebrates, and Fish Health.

CNSC staff reviewed Denison's models and predictions for effects to surface water quantity and quality taking into account input from other federal departments, provincial ministries, Indigenous Nations and communities and the public. CNSC staff confirmed that Denison conducted a sufficient analysis of these effects to determine predicted levels of risk, however CNSC staff have proposed an EA Condition ([table 12.1](#)) that Denison collect additional baseline data and reduce uncertainty in modelling of risk predictions (EA2). CNSC staff reviewed Denison' identified mitigation and follow-up monitoring program measures for the identified effects and have found that they are adequate.

#### **6.3.4.4 Climate Change and the Aquatic Environment**

CNSC staff reviewed Denison's climate change effects assessment to the aquatic environment, related to the changes in surface water quantity in the receiving environment due to climate change. CNSC staff confirmed that Denison conducted a sufficient analysis of these effects on surface water quantity and identified mitigation and follow-up monitoring program measures that are adequate. Climate change effects on water quality were raised through the EA process by the FIRT and Denison concluded that climate change is not anticipated to have significant impact on water quality due to identified design, mitigation and follow-up monitoring program measures. However, CNSC staff have proposed an EA Condition that, if accepted, would require that Denison complete a sensitivity analysis as part of the licensing ERA update to assess variable low and high flows, how flow rates may change under future climate conditions, and if this influences the assimilative capacity of the receiving environment and has any potential implications to water quality predictions made during the EA review (see [table 12.1](#), EA2). CNSC staff concur with Denison's conclusion that no significant residual effects were identified related to the assessment of climate change effects on the aquatic environment taking into account identified design, mitigation and follow-up monitoring program measures and implementation of adaptive management.

#### **6.3.5 CNSC Staff Findings and Recommendations**

Taking into account the implementation of mitigation measures and recommended follow-up program measures, CNSC staff conclude the Project is not likely to cause adverse effects on surface water quantity related to overprinting of flow contributing drainage areas for site footprint development, surface water withdrawal or taking from Whitefish Lake for purposes of mine process water and site water balance, and surface water discharge to Whitefish Lake for maintenance of mine site water balance.

Taking into account the implementation of mitigation measures and recommended follow-up program measures, CNSC staff conclude the Project is not likely to cause adverse effects to surface water quality from mobilization of suspended materials and long-term transport of groundwater solutes to Whitefish Lake in a Future Centuries scenario.

Considering the implementation of mitigation measures and recommended follow-up program measures, CNSC staff conclude the Project has some potential to cause moderate adverse effects to surface water quality from the controlled discharge to the receiving environment due to copper. However, water quality is an intermediate VC and is assessed further as a KI of potential residual adverse effects significance determinations for the receptor VCs Fish, Fish Habitat, and Fish Health Benthic Invertebrates, Terrestrial Biota, and Human Health. The assessments of

project related effects to receptor VCs accounting for changes to surface water quality concluded no significant adverse effects considering the implementation of mitigation measures and follow-up monitoring programs. The effects significance determination table can be found in [appendix B](#).

In order to ensure that the aforementioned assessment conclusions remain valid, CNSC staff recommend that the Commission include the following EA Condition, should it issue a licence. If accepted, Denison will be required to address EA Condition EA2 [in table 12.1](#) related to IRs carried over from the EA Review into licensing. CNSC's assessment conclusions are contingent on the establishment of these EA Conditions.

## **6.4 Sediment and Invertebrates**

The proposed Project could potentially cause changes to the aquatic benthic environment through:

- changes to sediment quantity and particle size from mobilization of suspended materials impacting benthic habitat
- changes in benthic aquatic habitat availability from overprinting of aquatic habitat during construction and commissioning of the effluent discharge/intake pipeline and diffuser in Whitefish Lake
- changes in sediment quality from the controlled discharge to the receiving environments causing impacts to benthic invertebrate communities
- changes in water levels and flows
- changes in surface water and sediment quality from the long-term transport of groundwater solutes to Whitefish Lake in a 'future centuries' scenario

CNSC staff concurred with Denison's assessment of Project activities that may interact with sediment and benthic invertebrates and cause residual effects during construction, operation, and decommissioning, as detailed below.

### **6.4.1 Description of sediment quality and benthic invertebrate communities in the aquatic environment**

The LSA includes surface waterbodies, lakes, ponds, and streams within the Icander River and Williams Lake drainage systems, as well as portions of Russell Lake near the inflows from these areas. Sediment samples collected in 2016 from various lakes within the LSA that may potentially be affected by the Project (e.g., McGowan Lake, Whitefish Lake, and Russell Lake) were analyzed for grain size and chemical composition. Finer sediments (silt, clay) can trap pollutants due to their high surface area and tendency to bind contaminants and can stay suspended longer which increases turbidity affecting water quality. Coarser sediments (sand, gravel) settle quickly, creating more stable habitats, but they allow for greater water flow and less contaminant retention. The sediment was primarily silty-clay or sandy-silt, with clay content ranging from 10% to 82% (average 56%), silt from 13% to 55% (average 30%), sand from 0.1% to 77% (average 14%), and total organic carbon from 0.44% to 26% (average 16%). Table 8.4-2 of the EIS contains the summary of baseline benthic sediment soil classification results for lakes within the LSA. All sediment sample concentrations were within sediment quality guidelines for aquatic life protection, providing a baseline to assess potential project impacts on sediment quality (see table 8.4-3 in the EIS for the full results).

Benthic invertebrate communities, which consist of organisms living at the bottom of water bodies such as lakes and rivers, are widely used in environmental monitoring due to their sensitivity to changes in water quality and habitat conditions. These organisms provide valuable information on the ecological health of a water body, as their distribution, abundance, and diversity reflect the cumulative effects of various environmental stressors over time. Benthic invertebrate samples were collected in 2016 in the local study area at lake locations McGowan Lake, Whitefish Lake, and Russell Lake. These communities were found to be typical of depositional lake habitats, which are areas where fine sediments gradually accumulate due to low water flow. These habitats tend to have soft, muddy bottoms rich in organic material, supporting diverse benthic communities such as chironomids (midges), water fleas, and worms. Because depositional areas can store contaminants more easily, monitoring them helps assess potential long-term effects on sediment quality and aquatic life.

Several indices are commonly used to analyze and interpret benthic community data. These indices help in assessing the ecological integrity of aquatic systems, especially when used in conjunction with other environmental data (e.g., chemical contaminants like metals and radionuclides).

To assess ecological health, several indices were applied to the benthic data (see [table 6.22](#) below for full summary of results):

- **Taxonomic Richness** refers to the total number of different species or families present. High richness indicates a greater variety of species, suggesting a more complex and stable ecosystem, while low richness may imply fewer species and potentially a less resilient or stressed environment. Whitefish Lake South had the highest richness, with 22 families.
- **Simpson's Evenness Index (E)** measures how evenly individuals are distributed among species. A high evenness score suggests that species are evenly distributed within the community, indicating a more balanced and stable ecosystem. A low evenness score means one or a few species dominate, which may signal an imbalanced or stressed environment. McGowan Lake had the highest evenness ( $E = 0.44$ ), indicating a relatively balanced community.
- **Simpson's Diversity Index (SDI)** measures species richness and evenness. It ranged from 0.65 (Whitefish Lake North, LA-6) to 0.85 (Russell Lake, LAB-1). Higher values indicate greater diversity, suggesting that the ecosystem is more stable because it is less dependent on any single species.
- **Taxa Dominance** indicates the structure of the community based on the relative abundance of species. High dominance occurs when a few species dominate the population, suggesting less diversity and potential vulnerability. In contrast, a more even distribution of species indicates a balanced ecosystem, which is generally more ecologically stable and resilient. McGowan Lake exhibited the most diverse benthic invertebrate community, with Chironomids (44%), Phantom Midges (33%), and water fleas (11%).
- **Benthic Index of Community (B-C Index)** compares the structure of benthic communities between sites. A high B-C Index indicates significant differences in the structure of benthic communities, suggesting environmental variability or disturbance, while a low B-C Index reflects more similar community structures, typically signifying a stable or less disturbed ecosystem. McGowan Lake had a higher B-C Index (0.50),

indicating greater variation in community structure compared to Whitefish Lake (0.37–0.39).

The benthic invertebrate endpoints baseline information will allow future comparisons with predicted project effects.

Radionuclide and metal concentrations for caddisfly larvae were also collected from McGowan Lake, Whitefish Lake South, Whitefish Lake North, and Russell Lake. The results are presented in the EIS (table 8.4-5) and will allow for a comparison once site activities take place.

**Table 6.22 adapted from EIS: Table 3.11: Summary of benthic invertebrate endpoints for lakes within the local study area**

| Sample area                                      | Mean Simpson's Diversity | Mean Simpson's Evenness | Mean Family Richness | Mean density (Individuals per m <sup>2</sup> ) | Bray-Curtis Dissimilarity | Dominant taxa  |
|--|--------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|--|---------------------------|--|
| McGowan Lake (LA-1) (far-field)                  | 0.76                     | 0.44                    | 12                   | 981  | 0.50                      | Chironomids 44%<br>Phantom Midges 33%<br>Water Fleas 11% |
| Whitefish Lake South (LA-5) (near-field)         | 0.73                     | 0.23                    | 22                   | 9,597  | 0.39                      | Water Fleas 55%<br>Chironomids 20%                       |
| Whitefish Lake North (LA-6) (upstream reference) | 0.65                     | 0.18                    | 17                   | 10,163   | 0.37                      | Water Fleas 65%<br>Chironomids 16%                       |
| Russell Lake (LAB-1) (far-field)                 | 0.85                     | 0.34                    | 16                   | 3,505  | 0.71                      | Chironomids 59%<br>Naidid Worms 19%                      |
| Russell Lake (LAB-2) (far-field)                 | 0.82                     | 0.25                    | 21                   | 5,295  | 0.87                      | Chironomids 75%<br>Rust Flies 13%                        |

## 6.4.2 Proponent's Assessment

Denison's assessment considered sediment quality as an intermediate VC, and changes to the intermediate VCs were evaluated to facilitate the assessment of potential effects of the Project on receptor VCs. Sediment quality is assessed as a KI in the potential residual adverse effects significance determinations for the benthic invertebrates receptor VC in this section and other receptor VCs in Fish and Fish Habitat ([section 7.1](#)), Terrestrial Biota ([section 7.2](#)), the Human Environment ([section 7.3](#)), and Indigenous Land and Resource Use ([section 7.4](#)).

Denison concluded that the residual effects to sediment quality are unlikely to have significant adverse effects on receptor VCs. Additionally, Denison concluded that the residual effects of the Project are expected to result in no significant adverse effects to benthic invertebrates. More information on each project related effect and the residual effects evaluation can be found below and in the EIS [section 8.4.4](#).

### 6.4.2.1 Sediment Quantity and Particle Size



### *Mobilization of Suspended Materials*

The primary effect pathway during construction relates to the mobilization of suspended material into natural surface water features as a result of land disturbance and clearing. There is no planned discharge to Whitefish Lake during construction. The mitigation of potential mobilization of suspended material into natural surface water features will be mitigated by Denison using a mine development plan and through the implementation of standard water management and sediment control practices. Water management infrastructure (e.g., collection ditches, ponds, pumping, stations) must be put into place by Denison before the initiation of construction activities. Surface water drainage collected as contact water during the construction Phase will be stored within management infrastructure. Any releases to the natural environment would require contaminants to be at acceptable levels prior to release (e.g., suspended solids). No downstream effects on natural sediments, or benthic invertebrate habitats are therefore expected.

During operation, mobilization of suspended materials will be managed through the water management infrastructure and the Surface Water Management Program. Releases of contact water to the natural environment will be directed through collection ponds, the industrial wastewater treatment plant (IWWTP), and the Effluent Monitoring and Release Ponds. Discharge will only be permitted to occur when COPCs are at acceptable levels. Management of TSS levels in the final discharge will be implemented to make sure discharge quality can be maintained consistently to avoid effects on sediment quantity and quality and benthic invertebrates. As necessary, Denison may employ active means (e.g., filtering) to achieve low TSS levels in discharge, in addition to passive means such as settling and clarification in the IWWTP to manage TSS in the effluent stream to low levels. No downstream effects on surface waters, natural sediments, and benthic invertebrate habitats are therefore expected.

During decommissioning, the site-wide water management system will continue to operate and Denison will be required to maintain control of the site process and contact water through the IWWTP. Surface drainage during decommissioning activities will continue to be directed to the system of collection ponds, IWWTP, and Effluent Monitoring and Release Ponds minimizing any potential for sedimentation of existing benthic habitat.

Through implementation of appropriate mitigation measures and follow up monitoring, Denison anticipates that the impact from mobilization of suspended materials on sediment quality and particle size will be negligible throughout all Project phases. Therefore, Denison determined the impact of mobilization of suspended materials from erosion and sedimentation are not expected to have residual effects on sediment.

#### **6.4.2.2 Aquatic Habitat**

##### *Overprinting of Aquatic Habitat*

Overprinting of aquatic habitat is only expected as a result of construction and commissioning of the effluent discharge/intake pipelines and discharge diffuser at Whitefish Lake. Negligible aquatic habitat loss is predicted in Whitefish Lake. The discharge pipeline and diffuser will terminate at an engineered, offshore, submerged, multiport diffuser. It will be designed to maximize the mixing potential and reduce the spatial extent of the mixing zone. The total area of the lake substrate that would be overprinted by the pipeline is expected to be approximately 135 m<sup>2</sup> (which will constitute less than 0.05% of the lake's surface area). The structure will remain in place during operation and decommissioning. The effects on benthic invertebrates and their physical habitat (sediments) will be confined to this area throughout the duration of the Project

but will be returned to pre-construction character following removal of the infrastructure. There will be re-establishment of natural sediment distribution patterns in the lake, and recolonization of benthic invertebrates.

Through implementation of appropriate mitigation measures and follow up monitoring, Denison anticipates that the impact from overprinting of aquatic habitat on benthic invertebrates will be negligible throughout all Project phases. Therefore, Denison determined the impact of overprinting of aquatic habitat from construction of the effluent discharge and intake pipelines and discharge diffuser are not expected to have significant residual adverse effects on benthic invertebrates.

#### **6.4.2.3 Sediment Quality**

##### *Controlled Discharge to Receiving Environment*

Discharge to the environment is not expected during construction, therefore potential effects of discharge on the Sediment Quality and Benthic Invertebrates VCs are not expected.

The potential effects on benthic invertebrates (organisms living in the sediment) during operations were evaluated through pathways involving surface water and sediment quality, considering both radiological and non-radiological substances. Surface water and sediment quality were modeled using IMPACT, as described in [section 6.3.3.2 Surface Water Quality Controlled Discharge to Receiving Environment](#). This modeling predicted water and sediment concentrations in Whitefish Lake (where treated effluent will be released) and locations further downstream. The predicted maximum concentrations of substances in the sediment were compared to sediment quality guidelines designed to protect aquatic life. The most conservative and/or site-specific screening values were selected from several sources.:

Most predicted concentrations of substances (COPCs) did not exceed sediment quality guidelines. However, molybdenum, selenium and vanadium exceeded REF values from Burnett-Seidel and Liber (2013), though they did not exceed NE2 values, indicating a low risk. Molybdenum and selenium were already identified as COPCs based on surface water screening. There is no sediment screening value for cobalt, however cobalt was identified as a COPC in surface water. The COPCs that were already considered COPCs based on the results of the surface water screening, as well as vanadium based on the results of the sediment screening, were evaluated further in the ERA, considering both water and sediment concentrations.

The ecological risk assessment estimated dose and risk to representative aquatic receptors during all Project phases and included the uptake pathways through Surface Water Quality and Sediment Quality for benthic invertebrates. The potential for ecological effects was assessed by comparing exposure levels to toxicological benchmarks for both surface water (discussed in section 6.3.3.2) and sediment screening values presented above and characterized quantitatively in terms of total HQs. A total HQ greater than 1 indicates adverse effects may be possible for a given ecological receptor and further investigation is warranted.

For the sediment quality pathway, there were no significant adverse effects on benthic invertebrates as a result of releases during all Project phases. There were no predicted exceedances of NE2 values from sediments, therefore estimated total HQs for molybdenum and selenium for benthic invertebrates are predicted to remain below the HQ benchmark of 1. As all estimated total HQs calculated for benthic invertebrates with direct contact to sediment were below 1, this indicates low risk to benthic invertebrates from changes in sediment quality.



For the surface water quality uptake pathway, copper was the only non-radiological COPC where there were minor exceedances of surface water quality screening values protective of aquatic life. This indicates there is some potential risk to benthic invertebrates, in all waterbodies including reference locations during operations from copper concentrations in surface water (see [table 6.23](#) below). However, these exceedances are minor and unlikely to cause population level effects (see [section 6.3.3.2](#) Surface Water Quality Controlled Discharge to Receiving Environment for additional details). There were no predicted exceedances of the 9.6 mGy/d radiation dose benchmark for any aquatic biota during any Project phase.

**Table 6.23: Maximum HQs during Project phases for benthic invertebrates**

| Location                      | Maximum HQs during Project phases for benthic invertebrates |          |          |          |          |             |
|-------------------------------|---|----------|----------|----------|----------|-------------|
|                               | Arsenic   | Cadmium  | Chloride | Cobalt   | Chromium | Copper      |
| Reference (Kratchkowsky Lake) | 7.10E-04  | 4.68E-02 | 7.66E-04 | 5.70E-03 | 2.30E-04 | <b>1.49</b> |
| Whitefish Lake North          | 7.10E-04  | 4.68E-02 | 7.66E-04 | 5.70E-03 | 2.30E-04 | <b>1.49</b> |
| Whitefish Lake Middle         | 9.38E-04  | 6.89E-02 | 1.45E-02 | 6.90E-03 | 2.99E-04 | <b>1.97</b> |
| Whitefish Lake South          | 8.96E-04  | 6.79E-02 | 1.45E-02 | 6.88E-03 | 2.96E-04 | <b>1.96</b> |
| McGowan Lake                  | 8.05E-04  | 6.13E-02 | 9.87E-03 | 6.57E-03 | 2.77E-04 | <b>1.80</b> |
| Russell Lake Inlet            | 7.69E-04  | 5.75E-02 | 7.77E-03 | 6.36E-03 | 2.65E-04 | <b>1.72</b> |
| Location                      | Molybdenum  | Sulphate | Selenium | Uranium  | Vanadium | Zinc        |
| Reference (Kratchkowsky Lake) | 3.42E-06  | 9.42E-04 | 3.11E-03 | 1.07E-03 | 1.54E-03 | 2.20E-02    |
| Whitefish Lake North          | 3.42E-06  | 9.42E-04 | 3.11E-03 | 1.07E-03 | 1.54E-03 | 2.20E-02    |
| Whitefish Lake Middle         | 5.80E-04  | 5.28E-02 | 2.74E-02 | 1.33E-02 | 5.11E-03 | 3.02E-02    |
| Whitefish Lake South          | 5.70E-04  | 5.25E-02 | 2.63E-02 | 1.27E-02 | 4.58E-03 | 2.98E-02    |
| McGowan Lake                  | 4.17E-04  | 3.52E-02 | 1.86E-02 | 8.84E-03 | 3.05E-03 | 2.74E-02    |
| Russell Lake Inlet            | 3.17E-04  | 2.73E-02 | 1.44E-02 | 6.75E-03 | 2.50E-03 | 2.60E-02    |

Discharge to the aquatic environment of Whitefish Lake during decommissioning is expected, however effluent rates and water quality during this phase are expected to be lower than during operation. Therefore, the analysis of potential effects on sediment quality during the operations phase is considered the bounding scenario for decommissioning due to the influence of surface water quality on sediment quality and benthic invertebrates.

Denison conservatively determined that while there are no anticipated residual adverse effects from changes in sediment quality due to the controlled discharge of effluent from the Project,

there is likely to be low risk to benthic invertebrates from changes in surface water quality from copper concentrations in effluent discharge. While a change from background conditions is predicted to occur, the anticipated residual effects are likely to be local to Whitefish Lake Middle and South (LA-5 North and LA-5 South) and fully reversible upon cessation of effluent deposition, with a return to baseline conditions anticipated following post-decommissioning. Through the application of mitigative measures, follow-up monitoring, and under average flow conditions, Denison anticipates that benthic invertebrate communities will likely be resilient to potential changes. Therefore, residual effects on benthic invertebrates from changes in surface water and sediment quality due to the controlled discharge to the receiving environment are concluded to be not significant.

#### **6.4.2.4 Long-Term Transport of Groundwater Solutes to Whitefish Lake in Future Centuries**

A ‘future centuries’ scenario was used to assess the long-term future potential effects to benthic invertebrates post-decommissioning from peak concentrations of COPCs in groundwater plumes migrating from the decommissioned project site Phoenix Ore Zone area to surface water. The results of the numerical modelling support the conclusion that with the implementation of appropriate mitigation during the decommissioning and restoration phase of the Project, the residual effects of the Project on the intermediate Groundwater VC will not result in an adverse effect to surface water and benthic invertebrates.

#### **6.4.2.5 Water Levels and Flow**

The projected withdrawal and discharge rates proposed for the Project are the largest influence on the hydrological effects of the Project. Lake levels are expected to deviate less than  $\pm 0.01$  m due to all Project influences. All Project influences on the environment are expected to return to baseline conditions during post-decommissioning. These changes are within the range of fluctuation of environmental flows and water levels and are unlikely to affect the distribution of sediments as habitat for benthic invertebrates in the LSA.

Through implementation of appropriate mitigation measures and follow up monitoring, Denison anticipates that the impact from changes in water levels and flows on benthic invertebrates will be negligible throughout all Project phases. Therefore, Denison determined the impact of changes to water levels and flows from the water intake and effluent discharge are not expected to have significant residual adverse effects on benthic invertebrates.

#### **6.4.2.6 Mitigation Measures**

Denison has proposed the following measures in table 6.18 to mitigate the potential adverse effects from identified project activities on sediment quality and benthic invertebrates. The proposed mitigation measures are consistent with those used to mitigate adverse effects on surface water quantity and quality. CNSC staff have assessed the mitigation measures proposed by Denison and have concluded that they are adequate to manage potential significant adverse effects to sediment quality and benthic invertebrates. See a summary in [table 6.24](#) below.

**Table 6.24: Proposed mitigation measures to address effects on sediment quality and benthic invertebrates**

| <b>Residual effect #1</b><br><b>Mobilization of suspended materials – Change in sediment quantity and particle size</b>   |
|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain existing drainage patterns with the use of culverts, where applicable.</li> <li>• Maintain access roads by periodically regrading and ditching to improve water flow, reduce erosion, and manage vegetation growth.</li> <li>• Inspect culverts periodically. Remove accumulated material and debris upstream and downstream of the culverts to prevent erosion, flooding, habitat damage, property damage, and mobilization of sediment.</li> <li>• Attenuate peak discharges and augment baseflows to the environment through the use of Project water storage features (i.e., runoff, process water, contact water, monitoring/effluent ponds).</li> <li>• Develop and implement a Surface Water Management Program that provides an integrated framework to manage water quality and includes provision for water management practices for each of the primary site aspects, as well as areas of the site where there is contact water.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Residual effect #2</b><br><b>Controlled discharge to receiving environments- Change in sediment quality (Chemical)</b>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Design the discharge diffuser/outfall to have the smallest footprint possible while still providing effective mixing and dilution and discharge flows that do not detrimentally affect sediments.</li> <li>• Develop site-specific effluent treatment to treat COPC to appropriate release limits in accordance with provincial standards and licence/permit conditions.</li> <li>• Discharge effluent under a scenario that will meet provincial and federal discharge criteria, as identified through permitting. i.e.,             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Discharging at a fixed rate while maintaining an appropriate minimum dilution ratio.</li> <li>○ Discharging under a variable waste load allocation (i.e., discharge an appropriate effluent volume based on flow in the receiver to maintain minimum dilution ratio).</li> <li>○ Managing discharge via a hybrid of the two previous options (i.e., discharge effluent at a fixed rate to maintain the required dilution ratio, but the fixed rate is varied on a seasonal basis based on flow).</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Collect and monitor contact water to determine whether treatment is required prior to release to the environment, informing optimal levels of treatment.</li> <li>• Maintain the water management system in place during decommissioning until such time that water quality is suitable to release to the environment.</li> <li>• Monitor and manage effluent, including contingency for effluent treatment as may be required, so that water discharge objectives are achieved, as defined by applicable provincial and federal regulatory instruments.</li> <li>• Design and implement an Environmental Code of Practice that defines actions levels and appropriate steps to mitigate elevated concentrations of chemical and radiological constituents in treated effluent discharge to acceptable levels.</li> <li>• Implement Project-specific monitoring programs (e.g., effluent monitoring plan, environmental monitoring plan) that include monitoring treated effluent, surface water, and sediment quality and applying adaptive management if necessary.</li> <li>• Work with the associated communities to develop and implement the Project-specific monitoring programs and a framework to share the results for the purpose of assessing the performance of the water management system.</li> <li>• Develop and implement a decommissioning and reclamation plan to decommission and transfer the site to the province under the Institutional Control Program.</li> </ul> |

| <b>Residual effect #3</b>   |
|---|
| <b>Overprinting of aquatic habitat- Change in aquatic habitat (Area)</b>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Design the discharge diffuser/outfall to have the smallest footprint possible while still providing effective mixing and dilution and discharge flows that do not detrimentally affect sediments.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Residual effect #4</b>   |
| <b>Surface water withdrawal and discharge/changes in drainage-Change in water level or flow</b>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maximize the recycle and reuse of process water to reduce freshwater intake and release to Whitefish Lake.</li> <li>Maintain existing drainage patterns with the use of culverts, where applicable.</li> </ul> |

#### 6.4.2.7 Monitoring and Follow-Up Measures

In order to verify the accuracy of the assessment and assess the effectiveness of the mitigation measures, Denison will implement the following EA follow-up measures.

The sediment quality and benthic invertebrate monitoring program will be considered in conjunction with the surface water quantity (hydrology) and surface water quality monitoring programs.

**Table 6.25: Follow-up program measures for effects on sediment quality and benthic invertebrates**

| <b>Residual effect #1</b>  |
|--|
| <b>Change sediment quantity and physical quality (Particle Size)</b>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>collecting and recording surface water quality to confirm that source and receiving water quality predictions for mobilization of solids are consistent with those presented in the EIS</li> <li>monitoring of TSS in the effluent monitoring ponds and other catchment ponds prior to discharge</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Residual effect #2</b>  |
| <b>Change in sediment quality (Chemical)</b>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monitoring to confirm that effluent and receiver sediment quality meet applicable regulation criteria. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The monitoring and follow-up program will include measurement of sediment quality parameters to meet regulatory criteria (i.e., provincial discharge permits, MDMER and CSA N288.4). This must include collection of non-radiological parameters (e.g., metals, nutrients, pH, and sulphate), radiological parameters, and physical characteristics (grain size)).</li> </ul> </li> <li>Monitoring benthic invertebrate community structure and abundance in the near-field discharge area to assess any changes that may be attributable to the Project. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This will include reasonable replication over a geographic area. Metrics assessed will be associated with benthic invertebrate community diversity, evenness, density, taxa richness, and similarity indices.</li> <li>Sediment and benthic invertebrate monitoring will occur in tandem and sampling locations will be co-located to facilitate comparison of benthic invertebrate community metrics with sediment quality characteristics.</li> <li>Sediment and benthic invertebrate monitoring in the natural environment will occur at the point of discharge in Whitefish Lake South (near-field), at an upstream reference location (Whitefish Lake North), and at downstream locations (far-field). The far-field monitoring locations will be located in Whitefish Lake South prior to its discharge to McGowan Lake. Constituent concentrations will be compared to the values used in the EIS and to applicable regulatory criteria or objectives.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |

| <b>Residual effect #3</b>   |
|---|
| <b>Overprinting of aquatic habitat - Change in aquatic habitat (Area)</b>   |
| No additional follow-up monitoring requirements to those listed above.  |
| <b>Residual effect #4</b>   |
| <b>Surface water withdrawal and discharge/changes in drainage-Change in water level or flow</b>   |
| No additional follow-up monitoring requirements to those listed above and required in section 6.3.3.1 Table 6.9 for Surface Water Quantity. |

### 6.4.3 Other Views Expressed

#### 6.4.3.1 Potential Impacts to Sediment and Benthic Invertebrates

##### *Indigenous Nations and Communities*

ERFN noted their concerns that metal concentrations in sediment will have a potential adverse impact to benthic invertebrate composition and abundance. ERFN also raised concerns regarding potential contamination of sediments from effluent release and the potential for adverse impacts to bottom-feeding fish such as White sucker.

Concerning baseline sample collection, ERFN recommended additional sediment samples be taken to get a more representative baseline of sediment makeup and health. Further to this, ERFN raised concerns that sediment baseline conditions were predicted from surface water conditions and requested Denison additional monitoring sites for sediments within Northern Pike spawning habitat.

ERFN recommended that Denison complete benthic invertebrate sampling upstream of South Whitefish Lake to sufficiently characterize the benthic invertebrate community. ERFN recommended that additional benthic invertebrate sampling as benthic invertebrates are sensitive end points in aqueous and sediment metal concentrations.

YNLR raised concerns that sampling be conducted to confirm Denison's statement in the EIS that sediment quality in Whitefish Lake and downstream of the proposed Project is not anticipated to be impacted by, and overlap with, Key Lake operations.

MN-S expressed concern to Denison that Métis Knowledge was not incorporated into sediment monitoring plans for the Project.

BNDN raised concerns that baseline sampling lacked sampling mercury in sediments. BNDN raised this concern as mercury biogeochemistry can adversely impact the environment through receptors such as soil and sediments and requested Denison include mercury as a contaminant of potential concern for sediments.

##### *Federal Authorities*

ECCC noted numerous inconsistencies in the modeling which limit confidence in residual effects to water and sediment quality from the Project, and recommends monitoring and follow-up plans to verify the effects and implement adaptive management if required. ECCC also noted that the analysis approach for baseline conditions (e.g., smoothing data over locations and seasons) introduced uncertainty and may limit ability to detect changes related to the Project. Sediment in wetlands was not characterized well enough to determine if it would act as a sink for heavy metals. ECCC recommended additional sampling of sediment and benthic invertebrates and additional mitigation measures to protect wetlands.

### 6.4.3.2 Summary of Mitigations and Commitments related to Views Expressed

Denison has committed to implementing various mitigation and monitoring measures to limit any adverse effects on sediment and benthic invertebrates (Commitments 8-28 to 8-35). These include monitoring sediment quality and benthic invertebrates to verify accuracy of predicted effects and mitigation measure efficacy, monitoring total suspended solids in effluent ponds prior to discharge, monitoring benthic invertebrate community structure and abundance in near-field discharge areas, monitoring sediment for non-radiological (e.g., metals, nutrients, pH, sulfate), radiological parameters, and physical characteristics, and pairing sediment and invertebrate sampling locations, and including surface water monitoring, to facilitate the identification of trends in the fate and effects of effluent. Denison has also committed to sampling sediment and benthic invertebrates at the point of discharge in Whitefish Lake South, at an upstream reference location (Whitefish Lake North), and a downstream location in Whitefish Lake South prior to its discharge into McGowan Lake.

For specific monitoring and follow-up plans for sediment and benthic invertebrates, Denison has committed to refining and finalizing the approach and metrics following consultation with Indigenous groups, among other relevant groups. Denison has committed to a pre-operational Environmental Effects Monitoring to facilitate a Before-After-Control-Impact study design to monitor the impact of the project on water and sediment quality, benthic invertebrates, and fish health. Denison has also committed to collecting additional aquatic baseline characterization data, including wetlands data, to further refine predictions of risk to the aquatic environment and assess effectiveness of proposed mitigation measures. With regards to concerns from ECCC, Denison will be required through an EA condition to collect additional baseline water and sediment quality data prior to disturbance of the baseline and update the modelling with this additional data to address concerns related to modelling uncertainty and ability to detect changes related to the Project, and validation of model calibration (Table 12.1 EA2). Finally, Denison has also committed to collecting monitoring data on mercury and methylmercury in the aquatic environment over the life of the Project (Commitments 8-42 and 8-44).

Denison has also committed to considering local and IK/MK in all areas of the project through continued engagement. Denison provided funding to ERFN and KML to complete updated traditional land use studies which were incorporated into the EIS. In addition, YNLR provided Denison with their traditional land use information entitled *An Exploration of Recorded Athabasca Denesųline' Traditional Knowledge, Land Use and Occupancy Information in the Vicinity of Denison Mines Wheeler River Project*. Lastly, Denison signed a funding agreement with MN-S to complete a Métis Knowledge Study, which was shared with Denison in October 2023. Denison revised the EIS to include relevant information in the assessment from these studies.

## 6.4.4 CNSC Staff Analysis

### 6.4.4.1 Change in Sediment Quantity and Physical Quality (Particle Size)

CNSC staff reviewed Denison's effect assessment on sediment and benthic invertebrates related to the change in sediment quantity and particle size and confirmed that Denison conducted a comprehensive analysis of these effects and that identified mitigation and follow-up monitoring program measures are adequate.



#### **6.4.4.2 Change in Aquatic Habitat (Area)**

CNSC staff reviewed Denison's effect assessment on sediment and benthic invertebrates related to the change in aquatic habitat (area) and confirmed that Denison conducted a comprehensive analysis of these effects and that identified mitigation and follow-up monitoring program measures are adequate.

#### **6.4.4.3 Change in Water Level or Flow**

CNSC staff reviewed Denison's effect assessment on sediment and benthic invertebrates related to the change in water level or flow and confirmed that Denison conducted a comprehensive analysis of these effects and that identified mitigation and follow-up monitoring program measures are adequate.

#### **6.4.4.4 Change in Sediment Quality (Chemical)**

##### *Controlled Discharge to the Receiving Environment*

CNSC staff reviewed Denison's effect assessment on sediment and benthic invertebrates related to the change in sediment quality (chemical) and confirmed that Denison conducted a comprehensive analysis of these effects and that identified mitigation and follow-up monitoring program measures are mostly adequate. However, CNSC staff have proposed several EA Conditions for Denison to address during licensing, including some additional baseline data collection and modelling updates (see [table 12.1](#), EA2).

In the proposed EA conditions, CNSC staff require that Denison collect additional baseline data for water and sediment quality and update the ERA with this data to address these concerns, for CNSC review and acceptance prior to any in-water works for construction (see [table 12.1](#), EA2). Although this baseline data is not anticipated to alter the determination of significant adverse effects, the additional baseline data will inform future environmental risk assessments and strengthen future analysis. Specific concerns regarding sediment baseline data focused on the lack of sediment characterization data in wetlands, which are typically depositional areas that could have higher risk factors for aquatic receptors occupying habitat in these areas, and use of regional sediment coefficients (i.e., Kd values) for model calibration in the ERA, rather than site-specific Kd values calculated from measured data. The proposed EA Condition establishes that Denison will submit an updated ERA incorporating additional baseline water and sediment quality data for CNSC review and acceptance during licensing, prior to any in-water works for construction (see [table 12.1](#), EA2). Denison will also validate measured water and sediment quality data against regional Kd values, and once sufficient monitoring data is available, review calculating site-specific Kd values as needed and incorporate site-specific Kd values as part of required ERA updates for licensing. If there are any increases to the risk profiles of receptors exceeding EA predictions due to updates from the incorporation of additional baseline data into the ERA, Denison has committed to addressing these concerns through the implementation of additional mitigation measures, monitoring, and/or adaptive management as needed.

In addition to these requirements, Denison has also committed to collect additional baseline characterization data of wetlands including sediment quality and benthic invertebrate community data (Commitment 8-45), and will include adding mercury and methylmercury to the aquatic environmental sampling plans to confirm there are no unexpected effects of the project on methylmercury levels, and to satisfy stakeholder concerns (Commitment 8-44).

*Long-term Transport of Groundwater Solutes to Whitefish Lake (in Future Centuries)*

CNSC staff reviewed Denison's effect assessment on sediment quality and benthic invertebrates related to the long-term transport of groundwater solutes to Whitefish Lake in the future centuries scenario, and confirmed that Denison conducted a comprehensive analysis of these effects and that identified mitigation and follow-up monitoring program measures are adequate.

**6.4.4.5 Summary of CNSC's assessment on predicted residual effects on sediment quality and benthic invertebrates**

CNSC staff reviewed the assessment of predicted residual effects on sediment quality and benthic invertebrates due to change in sediment quantity and particle size, change in sediment quality (chemical), change in aquatic habitat (area), and change in water level or flow. CNSC staff reviewed Denison's conclusions that with the implementation of appropriate mitigation measures and the effects being characterized as low magnitude, localized, and fully reversible, the residual effects on sediment quality and benthic invertebrates are predicted to be not significant. CNSC staff verified Denison's determination that surface water quality in the receiving environment is likely to be moderately adversely impacted by the controlled discharge of effluent from the Project throughout the operation and decommissioning phases and that there are potential low levels of risk to benthic invertebrates from surface water quality. However, residual effects are expected to be localized and fully reversible following Project post-decommissioning, and benthic invertebrate communities will likely be resilient to potential changes (see section 6.3.6 for more details).

CNSC staff reviewed Denison's models and predictions for effects to sediment quality and benthic invertebrates and confirmed that Denison conducted a comprehensive analysis of these effects. Furthermore, CNSC staff reviewed Denison's identified mitigation and follow-up monitoring program measures for the identified effects and have found that they are adequate.

CNSC staff also conducted an effects significance determination for the identified effects, taking into account input from other federal departments, provincial ministries, Indigenous Nations and communities and the public, and determined that the identified changes to sediment quality and benthic invertebrates are expected to be not significant due to the implementation of mitigation measures and not cause significant changes to the sediment quality or benthic invertebrate population health.

**6.4.5 CNSC Staff Findings and Recommendations**

Taking into account the implementation of mitigation measures and recommended follow-up program measures, CNSC staff conclude the Project is not likely to cause significant adverse effects on sediment quality and benthic invertebrates. The effects significance determination table can be found in [appendix B](#).

In order to ensure that the aforementioned assessment conclusions remain valid, CNSC staff recommend that the Commission include the following EA Condition, should it issue a licence. If accepted, Denison will be required to address EA Condition EA2 [in table 12.1](#) related to IRs carried over from the EA Review into licensing. CNSC's assessment conclusions are contingent on the establishment of these EA Conditions.



## 6.5 Terrestrial environment

The proposed Project could potentially cause changes to the terrestrial environment. The proposed Project could potentially cause changes to terrain, soil, and organic matter through:

- change in terrain morphology and stability
- change in soil quantity and quality
- change in quantity of organic matter/peat

The proposed Project could potentially cause changes to vegetation and ecosystems through:

- change in the areal extent of habitat types
- change in the areal extent of wetlands
- change in the number of plants of conservation concern
- change in concentrations of constituents of potential concern (COPCs) in vegetation

CNSC staff concurred with Denison's assessment of Project activities that may interact with soil, terrain, organic matter/peat, vegetation and ecosystems, and cause residual effects during all phases of the project, as detailed below.

### 6.5.1 Description of soil and vegetation in the terrestrial environment

The proposed Project site is located near the Wheeler River and the landscape in the RSA is characterized by gently sloping terrain with long winding ridges and hills, and supports mostly undeveloped forested upland, with lowland, waterbodies, and anthropogenically disturbed land present as well. The region has undergone previous disturbance associated with land use activities such as road development, seismic lines, and mineral exploration. Additionally, fire disturbance is naturally prevalent within the area and vegetation communities are commonly in various stages of post-fire regeneration.

The Athabasca Plain Ecozone, where the Project is located, is predominated by Brunisols. As such, Sandy Dystric Brunisols are the predominate mineral soils within the RSA. These soils are typically acidic, hold low fertility and organic matter content, resulting in relatively shallow rooting depths. Topsoils, representing the soil's uppermost and most bioactive portion, feature only a thin surface organic layer followed by a thin sand-textured horizon. Organic soils are limited in the Project Area, as they are commonly associated with lowland sites occurring within or near wetlands and waterbodies which only account for <1% of the Project Area. Based on these soil characteristics and composition, the soil salvage potential and suitability for reclamation are expected to be fair to poor, reflecting the limitations of the growing substrate to support revegetation. While limited, surface organic materials are salvageable and can be used as an organic amendment during reclamation. Soil samples taken throughout the RSA indicated that metals and radionuclides of potential concern do not exceed soil quality guidelines for environmental and human health.

Upland forests are common in the Boreal Shield and prevalent throughout the RSA (73%). These forests are characterized by open stands of Jack Pine (*Pinus banksiana*) and mixed stands of Jack Pine and Black Spruce (*Picea mariana*). Wetland ecosystems are less common and represent 17% of the RSA, including swamps, bogs, fens, and shallow open water. Waterbodies represent the most common wetland ecosystem, followed by the black spruce treed bog and the Labrador tea shrubby bog. One plant species of conservation concern, Alaskan Clubmoss (*Diphasiastrum sitchense*), was observed in the RSA during baseline surveys, although not close to the Project Area. Alaskan Clubmoss is a low-growing evergreen forb that typically inhabits open transitional

zones between upland jack pine stands and forested bogs. Potential exists for unobserved occurrences of other species.

Several native plant species are harvested and collected for cultural uses by Indigenous Nations and communities, such as berries, rice, wild mint, Labrador tea, and sweet grass. These plants are common within the various vegetation communities and ecosystems in the RSA. Samples of lichen and blueberry leaves, stems, and berries were taken throughout the RSA and analysed for metals and radionuclides of potential concern to inform a risk assessment for humans and terrestrial animals ingesting vegetation and/or berries. The sampling program found that concentrations of metals and radionuclides of potential concern in vegetation were generally consistent across locations with the exception of sites near Highway 914 which exhibited elevated concentrations.

## **6.5.2 Proponent's Assessment**

Denison concluded that the residual effects of the Project are expected to result in no significant adverse effects to soil, vegetation and ecosystems. More information on each project related effect and the residual effects evaluation can be found below and in the EIS sections 9.1 and 9.2.

### **6.5.2.1 Soil**

#### *Change in terrain morphology and stability*

Denison predicted residual adverse changes in terrain morphology and stability. Although the RSA is mostly undeveloped, the project is located on terrain that has experienced anthropogenic disturbance associated with previous mining exploration. Most changes to terrain will occur due to major earthworks during the construction and decommissioning phases. There is potential for indirect effects including alteration to overland surface water flow and erosion. Denison noted that project features will be reclaimed during decommissioning, although some features such as the clean waste rock pile may be integrated into the end-landscape. Since the project is sited on terrain that avoids steep or unstable landscape features, the changes are anticipated to be within the range of natural variation. More detailed information can be found in the EIS sections 9.1.5 and 9.1.6.2.

Through implementation of appropriate mitigation measures and follow up monitoring, Denison anticipates that the impact of changes in terrain morphology and stability on soil will be negligible throughout all Project phases. Therefore, Denison determined the impact of changes in terrain morphology and stability from major earthworks are not expected to have significant residual adverse effects on soil.

#### *Change in soil quantity and quality*

Denison predicted residual adverse changes in soil quantity and quality. Mineral soil resources will be stripped, salvaged, and stockpiled prior to construction to conserve soil quantity and quality. This process could lead to a loss in soil quantity and changes in soil physical and chemical properties. Open-source dust, process-source dust, and project emissions are predicted to change concentrations of COPC in soil through deposition, although no exceedances of soil quality guidelines are expected. During reclamation, salvaged soil will be redistributed, however, soil suitability for reclamation is expected to be poor which can affect revegetation. Overall, changes are expected to be within the range of natural variation. Denison concluded that taking

into account the mitigation measures, residual effects are not significant. More detailed information can be found in the EIS sections 9.1.5 and 9.1.6.3.

Through implementation of appropriate mitigation measures and follow up monitoring, Denison anticipates that the impact of changes in soil quantity and quality will be negligible throughout all Project phases. Therefore, Denison determined the impact of changes in soil quantity and quality from major earthworks and project emissions are not expected to have significant residual adverse effects on soil.

#### *Change in quantity of organic matter/peat*

Denison predicted residual adverse changes in quantity of organic matter/peat. Direct effects are limited since lowland sites with organic matter/peat account for less than 1% of the Project Area. There is the possibility of indirect effects from changes in surface water quality and hydrologic connectivity that could affect peat-forming processes. However, project features will be reclaimed which includes reinstating surface drainage patterns. Conditions that support peat-forming processes are expected to be within the range of natural variation. Denison concluded that taking into account the mitigation measures, residual effects are not significant. More detailed information can be found in the EIS sections 9.1.5 and 9.1.6.4.

Through implementation of appropriate mitigation measures and follow up monitoring, Denison anticipates that the impact from changes in quantity of organic matter/peat on soil will be negligible throughout all Project phases. Therefore, Denison determined the impact of changes in the quantity of organic matter/peat from project activities are not expected to have significant residual adverse effects on soil.

#### *Mitigation Measures for Soil*

Denison has proposed the following measures to mitigate the potential adverse effects from identified project activities on soil. CNSC staff have assessed the mitigation measures proposed by Denison and have concluded that they are adequate to manage potential significant adverse effects to soil. See a summary in [table 6.26](#) below.

**Table 6.26: Proposed mitigation measures to eliminate, reduce, or control potential adverse effects on soil (prior to residual effects characterization)**

| <b>Change in terrain morphology and stability</b>   |
|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project design to minimize footprint and area of physical disturbance.</li> </ul>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project siting on terrain that avoids steep or unstable landscape features.</li> </ul>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appropriate setbacks from areas prone to potential instability and areas in proximity to waterbodies and drainage features.</li> </ul>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Siting of project and temporary workspaces and laydown areas on existing cleared or previously disturbed land.</li> </ul>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implementation of sediment and erosion control measures during all project phases.</li> </ul>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implementation of surface water management features during all project phases.</li> </ul>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Progressive decommissioning and reclamation to re-instate predominant landscape features, topographical contours, and surface drainage patterns in order to maintain surface drainage continuity and hydrologic connectivity.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Change in soil quantity and quality</b>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project design to minimize footprint and area of physical disturbance.</li> </ul>  |

|   |
|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sequencing of construction activities to enable salvaging of mineral soil.</li> </ul>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stripping, salvaging, and stockpiling soil prior to construction following best management practices.</li> </ul>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implementation of sediment and erosion control measures during all project phases.</li> </ul>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implementation of surface water management features during all project phases.</li> </ul>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Siting of stockpiling location to reduce soil handling and travel distances and designed to minimize potential for degradation.</li> </ul>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implementation of a Spill Response Plan to address leaks, spills, or releases that may affect soil quality.</li> </ul>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implementation of dust suppression measures and mitigation of open-source dust and process-source dust.</li> </ul>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Access and traffic management to limit dust deposition on soil.</li> </ul>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use of wash bay to clean and decontaminate equipment.</li> </ul>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reclamation using salvaged soil to provide growing substrate for reestablishment of vegetation.</li> </ul>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reclamation trials/research at the project to inform and refine the revegetation strategy.</li> </ul>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Change in quantity of organic matter/peat</b></li> </ul>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project design to minimize footprint and area of physical disturbance.</li> </ul>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project siting that minimizes areas of wetlands to be cleared.</li> </ul>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stripping, salvaging, and stockpiling organic matter/peat prior to construction following best management practices.</li> </ul>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implementation of sediment and erosion control measures during all project phases.</li> </ul>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implementation of surface water management features during all project phases.</li> </ul>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Management of surface water drainage to facilitate surface drainage continuity and hydrologic continuity to support wetland vegetation and peat-forming processes.</li> </ul>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sequencing of construction activities to enable salvaging of organic matter.</li> </ul>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Progressive decommissioning and reclamation to re-instate predominant landscape features, topographical contours, and surface drainage patterns in order to maintain surface drainage continuity and hydrologic connectivity.</li> </ul> |

### *Monitoring and Follow-Up Measures*

In order to verify the accuracy of the assessment and determine the effectiveness of the mitigation measures, Denison will implement the following EA follow-up measures.

**Table 6.27: Follow-up program measures for effects on soil**

|  |
|--|
| <b>Change in terrain morphology and stability</b>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Construction monitoring to verify that the project is built to design specifications and meets geotechnical requirements</li> </ul> |
| <b>Change in soil quantity and quality</b>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Soil monitoring (inventory) during salvage and stockpiling prior to construction</li> </ul>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Periodic soil monitoring of stockpiles during operation to verify stability</li> </ul>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Periodic soil quality monitoring from permanent sampling locations for analysis of COPCs during operation</li> </ul>                |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monitoring post-decommissioning to verify the status and final conditions of the reclaimed landscape</li> </ul>                     |
| <b>Change in quantity of organic matter/peat</b>   |

|   |
|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Soil monitoring (inventory) during salvage and stockpiling prior to construction</li> </ul>                          |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Periodic soil monitoring of stockpiles during operation to verify stability</li> </ul>                               |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Periodic soil quality monitoring from permanent sampling locations for analysis of COPCs during operation</li> </ul> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitoring post-decommissioning to verify the status and final conditions of the reclaimed landscape</li> </ul>      |

### 6.5.2.2 Vegetation and ecosystems

#### Change in the areal extent of habitat types

Denison predicted residual adverse changes in the areal extent of habitat types. Vegetation clearing and grading is expected to result in direct disturbance and loss of habitat. Up to 169.6 ha of habitats within the RSA are anticipated to be cleared, comprised of 24.8 ha that have experienced historic anthropogenic disturbance, 144.5 ha of terrestrial habitats, and 0.5 ha of wetland habitats – the majority of which are common habitats in the RSA. In addition, indirect effects include edge effects, possible introduction and proliferation of invasive plants, and changes in water quantity and quality that can alter moisture regimes. A total of 992.2 ha of habitats within the RSA may experience indirect effects, including up to 851.0 ha of terrestrial habitats and up to 97.7 ha of wetland habitats. In addition, Denison noted that ecosystems within the RSA have experienced frequent fire disturbance as well as historic fragmentation from previous exploration activities. Reclamation is anticipated during decommissioning and habitat types are expected to regenerate over time. Edge effects are expected to decrease as a result of natural encroachment of native species along forest edges. However, some project features will not be reclaimed such as primary access roads, although traffic is reduced at the end of decommissioning. This comes along with reduced risk of introducing and spreading invasive plants. Denison concluded that habitats are not altered to an extent where they are not sustainable or unavailable to contribute to ecological functions. More detailed information can be found in the EIS sections 9.2.4.2.1 and 9.2.6.2.1.

Through implementation of appropriate mitigation measures and follow up monitoring, Denison anticipates that the impact of changes in the areal extent of habitat types on vegetation and ecosystems will be negligible throughout all Project phases. Therefore, Denison determined the impact of changes in the areal extent of habitat types from vegetation clearing and grading are not expected to have significant residual adverse effects on vegetation and ecosystems.

#### *Change in the areal extent of wetlands*

Denison predicted residual adverse changes in the areal extent of wetlands. While the project footprint is designed to avoid wetland habitats, up to 0.5 ha of wetlands are expected to be directly disturbed during construction. The wetland type most directly affected is bogs (0.4 ha), followed by fens (0.1 ha). This direct disturbance is expected to be restricted to wetlands located at access road stream crossings and the transmission line corridor. However, the use of single span bridges enables avoidance of direct wetland disturbance during construction associated with the crossings of Kratchkowsky Creek and Hart Creek. In addition, indirect effects include edge effects, possible introduction and proliferation of invasive plants, and changes in water quantity and quality that can alter natural drainage patterns, moisture regimes, and sediment deposition. A total of 97.7 ha of wetlands within the RSA may experience indirect effects, including 49.0 ha of shallow open water, 45.2 ha of bogs, and 3.5 ha of fens. No swamps are anticipated to be affected directly or indirectly. Reclamation is anticipated during decommissioning to re-establish

natural hydrologic conditions and drainage patterns, enabling altered wetlands to regain their structure and functions. Denison noted that while wetlands typically exhibit low resilience to disturbance, wetlands in the area have experienced frequent fire disturbance as well as historic fragmentation. Denison concluded that wetlands are not altered to an extent where they are not sustainable or unavailable to contribute to ecological functions. More detailed information can be found in the EIS sections 9.2.4.2.1 and 9.2.6.4.1.

Through implementation of appropriate mitigation measures and follow up monitoring, Denison anticipates that the impact of changes in the areal extent of wetlands on vegetation and ecosystems will be negligible throughout all Project phases. Therefore, Denison determined the impact of changes in the areal extent of wetlands from construction of project infrastructure, edge effects, invasive plant introduction, and changes in water quantity and quality are not expected to have significant residual adverse effects on vegetation and ecosystems.

#### *Change in the number of plants of conservation concern*

Denison predicted residual adverse changes in the number of plants of conservation concern. One plant species of conservation concern, Alaskan Clubmoss (*Diphasiastrum sitchense*), was observed locally abundant in the RSA during baseline surveys. The species is listed as “Vulnerable (S3)” in Saskatchewan, indicating a moderate risk of extinction or extirpation. No listed plant species have been observed close to the project, and therefore no direct disturbance is expected. However, potential exists for unobserved occurrences as the Project Area has been revised since surveys were performed, and because field surveys cannot confirm the absence of plants of conservation concern. The planned pre-clearance and pre-construction surveys are designed to mitigate this uncertainty, with focus on ecosites not encountered during baseline surveys as well as within selected areas that could support listed plants. Listed plants typically inhabit specialized habitats that occur infrequently on the landscape, and once lost, are unlikely to regenerate. Should they be detected during pre-clearance and pre-construction surveys, site- and species-specific mitigation measures will be developed. In addition, indirect effects include edge effects, possible introduction and proliferation of invasive plants, and changes in water quantity and quality that can alter moisture regimes. However, indirectly affected plants may naturally re-establish over time. Denison concluded that plants of conservation concern are not altered to an extent where they are not sustainable or unavailable to contribute to ecological functions. More detailed information can be found in the EIS sections 9.2.4.2.1 and 9.2.6.3.1.

Through implementation of appropriate mitigation measures and follow up monitoring, Denison anticipates that the impact of changes in the number of plants of conservation concern on vegetation and ecosystems will be negligible throughout all Project phases. Therefore, Denison determined the impact of changes in the number of plants of conservation concern from vegetation clearing and infrastructure construction are not expected to have significant residual adverse effects on vegetation and ecosystems.

#### *Change in concentrations of COPCs in vegetation*

Denison predicted residual adverse changes in concentrations of COPCs in vegetation. Since vegetation within the Project Area will be cleared, the majority of deposition and uptake of COPCs in vegetation is expected to occur outside of the Project Area within the vegetation LSA, reflecting 992.2 ha of vegetation. These plants can be directly exposed to COPCs in atmospheric emissions and dust, or indirectly through root uptake from contaminated soil or water. Open-source, fugitive dust may arise from traffic on roads and via aircraft and is expected to contain

metals and trace elements originating from oil, grease, hydraulic fluids, fuel additives, and wear of vehicle and equipment parts. In addition, air emissions from fossil fuel combustion and power generation may disperse metals and trace elements into the ambient air. Process-source dust can contain radionuclides originating from ore bodies and mining/process waste materials. Moreover, release of effluent, or leaks and spills, to surface water have the potential to mobilize COPCs into natural waterbodies, which can then be transported to vegetation. Through these pathways, COPCs have the potential to affect plants by reducing plant health, changing plant abundance and ecosystem composition, and potentially changing their nutritional value and toxicity to wildlife. However, changes are expected to be confined along the boundaries of roads and near areas of active soil disturbance, and mitigated through measures such as dust suppression, surface water and waste management.

Denison modelled the dispersion and uptake of COPCs in tissues of blueberry, lichen, browse, and Labrador tea, considering normal operations. The modelling predicted no significant adverse effects on terrestrial plants from hazardous substances during all project phases. Similarly, there were no exceedances of radiation dose benchmarks for terrestrial plants. To verify these predictions, Denison committed to conduct periodic monitoring of vegetation samples throughout all project phases via collection from ten permanent sampling locations and analysis of COPCs. More detailed information can be found in the EIS sections 9.2.4.2.2 and 9.2.6.2.2, as well as in appendix 10-A (ERA).

Through implementation of appropriate mitigation measures and follow up monitoring, Denison anticipates that the impact of changes in concentrations of COPCs in vegetation will be negligible throughout all Project phases. Therefore, Denison determined the impact of changes in concentrations of COPCs in vegetation from project emissions are not expected to have significant residual adverse effects on vegetation and ecosystems.

#### *Mitigation Measures for Vegetation and Ecosystems*

Denison has proposed the following measures to mitigate the potential adverse effects from identified project activities on vegetation and ecosystems. CNSC staff have assessed the mitigation measures proposed by Denison and have concluded that they are adequate to manage potential significant adverse effects to vegetation and ecosystems. See a summary in [table 6.28](#) below.

**Table 6.28 Proposed mitigation measures to eliminate, reduce, or control potential adverse effects on vegetation and ecosystems (prior to residual effects characterization)**

| <b>Change in the areal extent of habitat types</b>  |
|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project design to minimize footprint and area of vegetation disturbance</li> </ul>                             |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Invasive plant management to avoid introduction and spread</li> </ul>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Progressive reclamation and ongoing decommissioning when possible</li> </ul>                                   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ecosystem-based revegetation using suitable native species</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Change in the areal extent of wetlands</b>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project design to minimize footprint and area of wetland disturbance</li> </ul>                                |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Delineation of wetland boundaries in the proximity of planned disturbance with appropriate setbacks</li> </ul> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Surface water management to facilitate drainage continuity and hydrologic connectivity</li> </ul>              |

|   |
|---|
| <b>Change in the number of plants of conservation concern</b>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project design to minimize footprint and avoid disturbance of plants of conservation concern</li> <li>• Species-specific mitigation measures for identified plants of conservation concern in the vegetation local study area</li> <li>• Herbicide use avoided within 100 m of plants of conservation concern</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Change in concentrations of COPCs in vegetation</b>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Waste and hazardous materials management to minimize risk of accidental spills and leakage</li> <li>• Air quality programs to reduce air emissions to the extent practical</li> <li>• Control of snow melt and runoff to prevent release of contaminated runoff</li> <li>• Road and traffic management to reduce open source and fugitive dust deposition</li> <li>• Monitoring of process-source dust</li> <li>• Avoidance of dust-generating activities during dry and high-wind conditions</li> </ul> |

### *Monitoring and Follow-Up Measures*

In order to verify the accuracy of the assessment and determine the effectiveness of the mitigation measures, Denison will implement the following EA follow-up measures.

**Table 6.29 Follow-up program measures for effects on vegetation and ecosystems**

|  |
|--|
| <b>Change in the areal extent of habitat types</b>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Targeted monitoring and inspection during construction to verify compliance and evaluate success of mitigation measures, e.g., whether mitigation measures have been appropriately applied, maintained, and removed, where necessary</li> <li>• Periodic vegetation monitoring throughout all project phases</li> <li>• Periodic invasive plant monitoring within susceptible areas such as roads, stockpiles, and disturbed habitats</li> <li>• Monitoring of progressive reclamation and revegetation of disturbed areas</li> </ul> |
| <b>Change in the areal extent of wetlands</b>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Construction monitoring to verify compliance and evaluate success of mitigation measures</li> <li>• Monitoring of progressive reclamation and revegetation of disturbed areas</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Change in the number of plants of conservation concern</b>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pre-clearance and pre-construction surveys in the Project Area targeted to ecosites not previously surveyed and ecosites with high potential to support plants of conservation concern</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Change in concentrations of COPCs in vegetation</b>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Periodic vegetation quality monitoring from permanent sampling locations for analysis of COPCs</li> </ul>   |

## **6.5.3 Other Views Expressed**

### **6.5.3.1 Potential Impacts to Soils and Vegetation**

#### *Indigenous Nations and Communities*

ERFN raised concerns about Denison's Environmental Risk Assessment, where samples of terrestrial lichens, blueberry and soils showed consistent radionuclide levels when compared to Rio Tinto's Roughrider Project; however, several metal parameters for these samples were elevated in comparison.



YNLR indicated their concerns regarding the Project impacts to area soils in the LSA and RSA, as the extensive seismic network from exploration and proposed Project in Northern Saskatchewan may adversely impact soils, vegetation and wetlands, particularly when assessing edge effects of fragmented habitats. In addition, YNLR raised concerns related to potential impacts to caribou as a result of vegetation regeneration in the Project Area.

BNDN noted that Denison's baseline soil sampling program did not include mercury concentrations in terrestrial and wetland soils downstream of the proposed Project. Including mercury as a potential contaminant of concern in studies would allow for a determination of changes in mercury in soils in the downstream receiving environment.

PBCN raised concerns that the Project may have adverse impacts to vegetation in the proposed Project Area.

### **6.5.3.2 Revegetation**

#### *Indigenous Nations and Communities*

ERFN requested that in addition to committing to using seed mix that is certified weed-free for revegetation/reclamation, that Denison should also include plants of medicinal and traditional importance in revegetation/reclamation plans. In addition, ERFN requested Denison prepare the site in ways that will promote natural revegetation of areas that will not need to remain cleared.

In response to a CNSC request for review of the Views Expressed shared, PBCN indicated that it is concerned about the contamination of vegetation and soil, which would affect the traditional foods and livelihoods of its community members. PBCN claims that its members hunt, harvest, trap and gather as well as dry and store traditional foods in proximity to the Project Area. PBCN's experience on other natural resource development projects is that tainting or perceived diminishment of the quality of the land and resources around the proposed Project will result in avoidance of harvesting of country foods by PBCN members. Ongoing monitoring of country foods is critical to establish a scientific baseline of contaminants in traditional foods and build the confidence of PBCN members to facilitate the continued exercise of PBCN's Aboriginal rights to hunt, harvest, trap and gather.

All engaged Nations and communities have indicated concerns that the proposed Project may adversely impact vegetation and plant species. They are particularly concerned that changes to vegetation may adversely impact their ability to harvest traditional and medicinal plants and alter their experience of traditional gathering activities.

### **6.5.3.3 Summary of Mitigations and Commitments related to Views Expressed**

#### *Potential Impacts to Soils and Vegetation*

Denison has made commitments to mitigate adverse effects to soil and vegetation, monitor conditions, and conduct reclamation activities during decommissioning. Denison and ERFN have reached an agreement regarding radionuclide concentrations in the ERA. Denison responded to BNDN and confirmed that they will collect background information on total and methyl mercury in sediment from LSA lakes and rivers before site development. Denison has also committed to monitoring total and methyl mercury in fish tissue. As part of the licensing technical review, the following elements will be assessed: establishing baseline mercury concentrations, monitoring sulfate as an indicator for mercury in water, and conducting a Human Health Risk Assessment

(HHRA) if results exceed baseline levels to inform adaptive management and mitigation measures.

Denison has also committed to, wherever possible, avoid wetlands through project design and buffer space. Additional wetland surveys will be conducted to supplement existing information in the LSA, including measuring water and sediment quality, benthic invertebrates, fish and fish habitat prior to construction to produce an updated baseline assessment. These monitoring locations will be further considered as part of the EMP for continued monitoring. Construction and geotechnical monitoring will be implemented in accordance with the Environmental Management System (EMS), which will include erosion and sediment controls, soil and vegetation monitoring and the Preliminary Decommissioning Plan.

### *Revegetation*

Denison has made several commitments related to terrain, soil, and organic matter (Commitments 9-12 to 9-20) and vegetation, ecosystems, and wetlands (Commitments 9-21 to 9-28). This includes salvaging sediment and peat/organic matter before construction, reducing disturbance through all project phases, reclaim the site to an ecological trajectory that aligns with end land uses and regulatory requirements, monitoring progressive reclamation during decommissioning and employing adaptive management if necessary, conducting pre-construction listed plant surveys, and conducting targeted monitoring to ensure mitigation measures are effective for projecting vegetation during the project. Denison will develop the specific seed mixture and reclamation plan through updates to the decommissioning plan and will provide opportunities for interested parties to review and provide input.

## **6.5.4 CNSC Staff Analysis**

### **6.5.4.1 Soil**

#### *Change in terrain morphology and stability*

CNSC staff reviewed Denison's effect assessment to terrain morphology and stability, and confirmed that Denison conducted a comprehensive analysis of these effects and that identified mitigation and follow-up monitoring program measures are adequate.

#### *Change in soil quantity and quality*

CNSC staff reviewed Denison's effect assessment to soil quantity and quality, and confirmed that Denison conducted a comprehensive analysis of these effects and that identified mitigation measures are adequate. CNSC staff sought clarification with regard to Denison's follow-up monitoring of soil stockpiles. Since Denison plans to use stockpiled soil in reclamation activities, CNSC staff asked whether Denison's periodic monitoring includes analysis of COPCs that could be deposited from dust-generating project activities. Denison clarified that monitoring of COPCs in soil stockpiles is not planned, but the need could be revisited in case COPCs in sources are detected at concentrations exceeding predictions. In addition, Denison proposed to support reclamation research including investigations into soil conditions which may include analysis of COPCs as warranted. CNSC staff verified in the appendix 10A assessment that COPC concentrations in soil on-site from atmospheric deposition are predicted to be below soil quality guidelines for protection of human health and environmental health. In addition, Denison proposed to support research on soil preparation techniques and amendments to inform the

revegetation strategy. CNSC staff note that this research will support reclamation given that soil suitability is expected to be poor, due to the predominance of sandy soils characterized by a thin surface organic layer and low fertility. Taking into account this information, CNSC staff concluded that Denison's follow-up monitoring program measures for the identified effects are adequate.

#### *Change in quantity of organic matter/peat*

CNSC staff reviewed Denison's effect assessment to organic matter/peat and confirmed that Denison conducted a comprehensive analysis of these effects and that identified mitigation and follow-up monitoring program measures are adequate.

### **6.5.4.2 Vegetation and ecosystems**

#### *Change in the areal extent of habitat types*

CNSC staff reviewed Denison's effect assessment to the areal extent of habitat types and confirmed that Denison conducted a comprehensive analysis of these effects and that identified mitigation and follow-up monitoring program measures are adequate.

#### *Change in the areal extent of wetlands*

CNSC staff reviewed Denison's effect assessment to the areal extent of wetlands and noted that direct disturbance is limited to a small area (0.5 ha). CNSC staff confirmed that the directly affected wetland ecosites (black spruce treed bog, Labrador tea shrubby bog, and willow shrubby rich fen) remain abundant throughout the RSA. CNSC staff sought clarification from Denison with regard to the impact of indirect disturbance on comparably rare wetland ecosites that occur only in small areas (< 30 ha) in the RSA. Particularly, CNSC staff noted that for the graminoid bog/fen ecosite (BS19/24), 0.8 ha of a total of 1.2 ha are predicted to be disturbed. Denison clarified with respect to the ecosite BS19/24 that this is not a unique ecosystem and is instead an artifact of mapping uncertainty, as baseline mappers were unable to distinguish between BS19 (graminoid bog) and BS24 (graminoid fen) ecosites within these areas due to a lack of available information (e.g., soil information, vegetation field plots, water quality data). If all BS19, BS24 and BS19/24 were combined into a single combined "graminoid peatland" category, only 3.6 ha of 170.7 ha would be indirectly disturbed. Since the rare wetland ecosites rely on high water tables and existing water bodies, Denison noted that alteration of water quantity would be expected to have the highest potential to cause an adverse effect, and thus maintenance of wetland hydrology is expected to be the most effective mitigation to sustain these wetland ecosites. Denison confirmed that surface drainage continuity and hydrologic connectivity is expected to be maintained through surface water management such as culverts and ditches. The post-construction surface water management monitoring program is expected to identify issues in a timely manner and allow for an adaptive management process. Overall, Denison confirmed that no direct disturbance of rare wetland ecosites is anticipated.

CNSC staff also questioned whether adequate other habitat is available for species impacted by disturbance to rare wetland ecosites. Denison responded that no plants of conservation concern have been observed in rare wetlands, and that these wetlands are not limiting habitat for ungulates, furbearers, woodland caribou, raptors, or migratory breeding birds. Taking into account this information, CNSC staff concluded that Denison's mitigation and follow-up monitoring program measures for the identified effects are adequate.

*Change in the number of plants of conservation concern*

CNSC staff reviewed Denison's effect assessment to the number of plants of conservation concern and noted that wetlands tend to support a high species diversity and are considered to have a moderate to high potential to support plant species of conservation concern. Thus, CNSC staff asked Denison whether disturbance of rare wetlands would negatively affect sensitive species. Denison responded that the only listed plant species observed during baseline surveys was Alaskan Clubmoss, associated with open jack pine stands and transitional areas between upland and wetland/riparian areas.

Regarding the baseline surveys, CNSC staff recognized uncertainty whether the surveys conducted in 2017 are conservative, as the project footprint had been revised since. Moreover, CNSC staff found that Denison's ecosite factsheets include observations of two provincially listed plant species (Angle-leaved Sundew, Neat Spike-rush) although these were not detected in baseline surveys. Because rare plant surveys were completed only in one summer, they could have missed annual species that may be dormant in the seed bank in some years due to specific seed emergence requirements. Based on these observations, CNSC staff requested more information on potential risks from indirect effects on ecosites with plants of conservation concern as well as the planned pre-construction listed plant surveys. Denison responded that listed plants may be affected indirectly by the introduction and proliferation of invasive plants, dust deposition, edge effects, and changes to water quantity and quality, and referred to several mitigation measures to address these effects. Denison acknowledged that effects on a given listed plant population are dependent on a suite of site-specific factors, including the life requisites of the listed plant species, the species' resilience to disturbance, the size of the population, and the location of the population in relation to project activities. Denison clarified that the pre-construction listed plant surveys will be conducted in ecosites with the potential to support listed plants that may be directly or indirectly affected by the project. This includes ecosites where Alaskan Clubmoss was historically observed, ecosites within the Project Area that were not previously surveyed, and ecosystems known to support Angle-leaved Sundew and Neat Spike-rush populations. Lastly, Denison indicated that in the case that listed plants are identified in the Project Area, site- and species-specific mitigation measures will be developed by a qualified vegetation ecologist. Taking into account this information, CNSC staff concluded that Denison's mitigation and follow-up monitoring program measures for the identified effects are adequate.

*Change in concentrations of COPC in vegetation*

CNSC staff reviewed Denison's effect assessment to concentrations of COPCs in vegetation, along with the appendix 10A assessment for COPC concentrations in terrestrial vegetation. Appendix 10A assessed terrestrial vegetation as a group at the community level, although different plant types (blueberry, lichen, browse, and Labrador tea) were specifically included as food in the ecological and human health models that estimate exposure from the diet. CNSC staff noted that the exposure pathway for lichen was indicated as direct contact on soil, whereas contact with air would be a more applicable pathway since airborne COPCs can deposit on lichen. CNSC staff also noted that lichen samples collected as part of the 2017 baseline studies frequently contained higher concentrations of COPCs than blueberry. CNSC staff requested Denison to include the exposure pathway of direct deposition (dry and wet) of airborne contaminants on lichen in the quantitative assessment. Denison agreed that the air-to-lichen pathway is the primary exposure route for lichen and clarified that the model had considered this

pathway. Denison updated the tables and conceptual model in the appendix 10A assessment to reflect this.

CNSC staff took into account that Indigenous Nations and communities have raised concerns over potential changes in the quality of berries. CNSC staff reviewed the appendix 10A assessment and noted that it considered relevant potential sources of COPCs including air emissions, fugitive dust, fossil fuel combustion, effluent, and surface runoff, along with COPC potential to partition to soil. CNSC staff confirmed that the assessment determined that there are no exceedances of the 2.4 mGy/d radiation dose benchmark for terrestrial vegetation as per the [United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation \(UNSCEAR\)](#), representing berries among other plant types, during any phase of the project or in future centuries at the possible exposure locations around Whitefish Lake, McGowan Lake, and Russell Lake. Similarly, no significant adverse effects on vegetation were predicted from exposure to hazardous substances. Aligned with the requirements in REGDOC 2.9.1, section 4.1, Denison indicated that the licensing ERA will be periodically updated with data collected from monitoring programs. CNSC staff confirmed that the vegetation monitoring program will include blueberry samples. The results of the vegetation monitoring program will confirm whether blueberries are accumulating COPCs, and any risks would be identified through the iterative licensing ERA update process. Taking into account this information, CNSC staff concluded that Denison's mitigation and follow-up monitoring program measures for the identified effects are adequate.

### **6.5.5 CNSC Staff Findings and Recommendations**

Taking into account the implementation of mitigation measures and recommended follow-up program measures, CNSC staff conclude the Project is not likely to cause significant adverse effects to soil from changes in terrain morphology and stability, soil quantity and quality, and organic matter/peat.

Taking into account the implementation of mitigation measures and recommended follow-up program measures, CNSC staff conclude the Project is not likely to cause significant adverse effects to vegetation and ecosystems from changes in the areal extent of habitat types, areal extent of wetlands, number of plants of conservation concern, and concentrations of COPCs in vegetation.

The effects significance determination table can be found in [appendix B](#).

## **7.0 Predicted effects on valued components**

Predicted effects on VCs listed in [table 3.2](#) are described in the sections below, with the exception of benthic invertebrates and wetlands which are addressed above in [sections 6.4](#) and [6.5](#) respectively.

Indigenous Nations and communities identified a number of terrestrial biota species of interest during consultation and CNSC staff considered them during their analysis, where applicable, as defined in [table 3.2](#).

### **7.1 Fish and fish habitat**

The proposed Project could potentially cause changes to fish, fish habitat, and fish health, through:

- change in surface water quality due to mobilization of suspended materials from erosion and sedimentation
- change in fish habitat availability due to overprinting (loss) of fish habitat from project infrastructure
- change in surface water and sediment quality from the controlled discharge of effluent to Whitefish Lake and downstream receiving environments
- change in surface water quantity from water intake and discharge causing changes in flows or water levels in lakes and rivers
- change in surface water quantity, quality, and sediment quality due to long-term transport of groundwater solutes from the remediated ore zone area to Whitefish Lake (in future centuries)
- change in surface water and sediment quality causing changes in the concentration of constituents in fish tissues from uptake by fish through fish life functions (i.e., respiration, ingestion, and absorption)

CNSC staff concurred with the Denison's assessment of Project activities that may interact with fish, fish habitat and fish health, and cause residual effects during all project phases, as detailed below.

### 7.1.1 Description of the aquatic environment

The LSA is the area where both direct and indirect effects resulting from Project activities can be reasonably measured, and includes the waterbodies of Whitefish Lake North (LA-6), Whitefish Lake Middle (LA-5 North), Whitefish Lake South (LA-5 South), McGowan Lake (LA-1), and the Iclander River that inflows to Russell Lake. The RSA is the area that surrounds and includes the LSA, may experience indirect effects of the Project as well as other activities, in a regional context, and is bounded by the regional watershed including Kratchkowsky Lake (LA-7), Williams Lake and Mardoc Lake (LA-4,) and extends downstream to Russel Lake.

Baseline fish and fish habitat surveys were completed in September 2016 in the LSA and RSA (see [table 7.1](#) below). Fish communities were sampled using gill nets, beach seines, minnow traps, backpack electrofishing and dip netting. Fish were identified to species and assigned an age class, and data on length and weight were measured for all fish at each location, and specimens retained for fish tissue chemical analysis. Large-bodied fish spawning surveys were conducted in Fall 2016 and Spring 2017 in several lake and stream locations (see [table 7.2](#) below).

A total of 13 fish species were recorded sampled throughout the LSA, with no abnormalities recorded and no species at risk identified (see table 8.3-5 below). Fish spawning habitat for several species was recorded throughout the LSA. Most ponds and lakes contained typical nearshore substrates including boulder, cobble, sand and organic matter, as well as submergent vegetation, overhanging vegetation and woody debris, and ponds supported emergent, submergent and floating aquatic macrophyte beds. Streams and rivers were generally stable, braided, meandering, straight or ponded portions characterized by riffles, runs pools and flats, with no barriers to fish migration. Detailed aquatic habitat characterization data can be found in Tables 8.3-3 and 8.3-4 of section 8 of the EIS.

Fish tissue samples for characterization of constituent concentrations in flesh and bone were collected in September 2016 and May and June 2017 to be analysed for radionuclides and trace metals. Five samples from a predator species (i.e., Northern Pike [*Esox lucius*]) and five samples

from a forage species (i.e., White Sucker [*Catostomus commersonii*]) were collected at each sampling location. Lengths, weights, and ages of fish comprising the samples are provided in appendix 8-D Aquatic Environment Baseline Study, as well as detailed results and summary statistics of all constituents sampled in section 8 of the EIS. In McGowan Lake, Whitefish Lake North (LA-6) and Whitefish Lake South (LA-5) all mean total mercury concentrations in Northern Pike and White Sucker tissue were below the Health Canada Guidelines of 0.5 ug/g wet weight. Additionally, all mean selenium concentrations in Northern Pike and White Sucker tissue were below the BC Ministry of the Environment and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) guidelines of 4 µg/g dry weight (dw) and 11.3 µg/g dw, respectively (see [table 7.4](#) below).

**Table 7.1 Fish, fish habitat, and fish tissues sampling locations and descriptions**

| Location | Description  |
|----------|--|
| SA-1     | Fish community and habitat survey location on the stream colloquially known as the Icelfinder River, which is located downstream of LA-1 (McGowan Lake).                 |
| SA-2     | Fish community and habitat survey location situated downstream of the outflow from LA-5 (Whitefish Lake South) and upstream of the inflow to LA-1 (McGowan Lake).        |
| SA-4     | Fish community and habitat survey location situated upstream of the inflow to LA-6 (Whitefish Lake North), colloquially known as Kratchkowsky Creek.                     |
| SA-5     | Fish community and habitat survey location situated upstream of the inflow to LA-6 (Whitefish Lake North), colloquially known as Hart Creek.                             |
| SA-6     | Fish community and habitat survey location situated downstream of the outflow from LA-6 (Whitefish Lake North) and upstream of the inflow to LA-5 (Whitefish Lake South) |
| LA-1     | McGowan Lake   |
| LA-5     | Whitefish Lake South   |
| LA-6     | Whitefish Lake North   |

**Table 7.2 Adapted from EIS: Table 8.3-2: Summary of fish survey methods within the local study area**

| Capture Methods | Lake and pond sample stations |                             |                             | Stream sample stations |      |      |      |      |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|------|------|------|------|
|                 | McGowan Lake (LA-1)           | Whitefish Lake South (LA-5) | Whitefish Lake North (LA-6) | SA-1                   | SA-2 | SA-4 | SA-5 | SA-6 |
| Angling         | X                             | X                           | X                           | X                      | -    | -    | -    | -    |
| Electrofishing  | -                             | -                           | -                           | X                      | X    | X    | X    | X    |
| Gill Net        | X                             | X                           | X                           | X                      | X    | -    | X    | X    |
| Minnow Trap     | X                             | X                           | X                           | -                      | -    | -    | -    | -    |
| Seine Net       | X                             | X                           | -                           | -                      | -    | -    | -    | -    |
| Visual          | X                             | X                           | X                           | -                      | -    | X    | X    | X    |

**Table 7.3 Adapted from EIS: Table 8.3-5: Summary of fish survey presence and absence for waterbodies in the local study area**

| Fish Species          | Lake and pond sample stations |                             |                             | Stream sample stations |      |      |      |      |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|------|------|------|------|
|                       | McGowan Lake (LA-1)           | Whitefish Lake South (LA-5) | Whitefish Lake North (LA-6) | SA-1                   | SA-2 | SA-4 | SA-5 | SA-6 |
| Arctic Grayling       | -                             | -                           | -                           | X                      | X    | X    | -    | -    |
| Burbot                | -                             | -                           | -                           | X                      | X    | X    | X    | X    |
| Lake Chub             | -                             | -                           | -                           | X                      | X    | X    | X    | -    |
| Lake Trout            | X                             | X                           | X                           | -                      | -    | -    | -    | -    |
| Lake Whitefish        | X                             | -                           | -                           | -                      | -    | -    | -    | -    |
| Longnose Sucker       | X                             | -                           | -                           | X                      | -    | X    | X    | X    |
| Ninespine Stickleback | -                             | X                           | -                           | -                      | -    | X    | X    | X    |
| Northern Pike         | X                             | X                           | X                           | X                      | X    | X    | -    | X    |
| Slimy Sculpin         | -                             | -                           | -                           | X                      | X    | X    | X    | -    |
| Spottail Shiner       | X                             | X                           | X                           | -                      | -    | X    | -    | X    |
| Walleye               | X                             | X                           | X                           | -                      | X    | -    | X    | X    |
| White Sucker          | X                             | X                           | X                           | X                      | X    | X    | X    | X    |
| Yellow Perch          | X                             | -                           | -                           | -                      | -    | -    | -    | -    |

Blue highlighted cells indicate potential spawning habitat is present for the associated species within that waterbody.

X Indicates that the species was either captured or observed.

- Indicates that the species was neither captured nor observed.



**Table 7.4 Adapted from EIS: Table 8.5-2: Baseline fish tissue chemistry summary values for waterbodies within the local study area and Russell Lake**

| Parameter                  | Statistic | McGowan Lake (LA-1) |        |              |        | Whitefish Lake South (LA-5) |        |              |        | Whitefish Lake North (LA-6) |        |              |        | Russell Lake (LAB) |        |              |        |
|----------------------------|-----------|---------------------|--------|--------------|--------|-----------------------------|--------|--------------|--------|-----------------------------|--------|--------------|--------|--------------------|--------|--------------|--------|
|                            |           | Northern Pike       |        | White Sucker |        | Northern Pike               |        | White Sucker |        | Northern Pike               |        | White Sucker |        | Northern Pike      |        | White Sucker |        |
|                            |           | Bone                | Tissue | Bone         | Tissue | Bone                        | Tissue | Bone         | Tissue | Bone                        | Tissue | Bone         | Tissue | Bone               | Tissue | Bone         | Tissue |
| Total Mercury (ug/g)       | Min       | 0.02                | 0.075  | 0.01         | 0.022  | 0.02                        | 0.047  | 0.01         | 0.014  | 0.03                        | 0.074  | 0.02         | 0.024  | 0.02               | 0.14   | 0.01         | 0.021  |
|                            | Max       | 0.2                 | 0.43   | 0.02         | 0.068  | 0.06                        | 0.23   | 0.03         | 0.076  | 0.08                        | 0.3    | 0.03         | 0.07   | 0.14               | 0.48   | 0.02         | 0.043  |
|                            | Mean      | 0.06                | 0.17   | 0.02         | 0.038  | 0.04                        | 0.16   | 0.02         | 0.045  | 0.05                        | 0.19   | 0.02         | 0.04   | 0.05               | 0.27   | 0.01         | 0.027  |
| Selenium (ug/g) wet weight | Min       | 0.12                | 0.19   | 0.13         | 0.21   | 0.09                        | 0.15   | 0.14         | 0.17   | 0.11                        | 0.19   | 0.15         | 0.18   | 0.2                | 0.25   | 0.32         | 0.33   |
|                            | Max       | 0.2                 | 0.25   | 0.26         | 0.3    | 0.17                        | 0.19   | 0.23         | 0.28   | 0.16                        | 0.23   | 0.22         | 0.24   | 0.27               | 0.53   | 0.59         | 0.56   |
|                            | Mean      | 0.16                | 0.22   | 0.19         | 0.27   | 0.11                        | 0.17   | 0.19         | 0.22   | 0.14                        | 0.21   | 0.18         | 0.22   | 0.23               | 0.35   | 0.44         | 0.44   |
| Selenium (ug/g) dry weight | Min       | 0.30                | 0.85   | 0.27         | 0.88   | 0.22                        | 0.71   | 0.29         | 0.83   | 0.22                        | 0.85   | 0.32         | 0.84   | 0.39               | 1.32   | 0.81         | 1.69   |
|                            | Max       | 0.53                | 1.16   | 0.59         | 1.48   | 0.41                        | 0.9    | 0.50         | 1.27   | 0.41                        | 1.04   | 0.52         | 1.12   | 0.69               | 2.34   | 1.51         | 2.15   |
|                            | Mean      | 0.41                | 1.00   | 0.45         | 1.29   | 0.28                        | 0.81   | 0.41         | 1.03   | 0.31                        | 0.92   | 0.40         | 0.97   | 0.52               | 1.62   | 1.16         | 2.66   |

## 7.1.2 Proponent's Assessment

Denison concluded that the residual effects of the Project are expected to result in no significant adverse effects to fish, fish habitat and fish health. More information on each project related effect and the residual effects evaluation can be found below and in the EIS sections 8.3 and 8.5.

### 7.1.2.1 Fish and Fish Habitat

#### *Mobilization of Suspended Materials*

Mobilization of suspended materials to the receiving environment was primarily assessed through effects pathways to the intermediate VC surface water quality and is covered in section 8.2 of the EIS and [section 6.3](#) of this report.

During construction, the primary effect pathways for mobilization of suspended materials is due to land disturbance and clearing potentially causing erosion and sedimentation to surface water bodies. Surface water drainage collected as contact water during the construction Phase will be stored in the Clean Waste Rock Pond, and a water and sediment control management system following standardized practices will be in place to mitigate the potential effects of erosion and sedimentation. Therefore, potential effects to surface water quality are not expected during the construction phase. Throughout operations and decommissioning, surface water drainage collected as contact water will be treated within the IWWTP prior to release, ensuring management of TSS to levels protective of the environment and aquatic receptors prior to release. Additional active (e.g., filtering) or passive (e.g., clarification in ponds) may be used as needed to manage TSS to lower concentrations. Through implementation of appropriate mitigation measures and follow up monitoring, Denison anticipates that the impact from mobilization of suspended materials on surface water quality will be negligible throughout all Project phases. Therefore, Denison determined the impacts to surface water quality from the mobilization of suspended materials are not expected to have residual effects on fish and fish habitat.

#### *Overprinting (loss) of Fish Habitat*

The primary effect pathway for overprinting of fish habitat occurs during the construction phase from construction and commissioning of the effluent discharge diffuser and water intake pipeline in Whitefish Lake (LA-5). Denison expects approximately 135m<sup>2</sup> of lake substrate would be overprinted by the discharge pipeline and diffuser, resulting in a loss of 0.05% of the lake's surface area, which was concluded to be a negligible loss of aquatic habitat. A Fisheries Act Authorization is not anticipated to be required. The final design and location of the diffuser will be confirmed during licensing, however the multiport diffuser will be located approximately 115m offshore in 3m of water, so as not to impact known Northern Pike spawning habitat in the nearshore. The conceptual design includes a diffuser line with three evenly spaced nozzles, with each nozzle approximately 0.07m in diameter, and a continuous average water discharge rate of 36.5 m<sup>3</sup>/hr. The pipeline and diffuser will be present through the operations and decommissioning phases while the water management system continues operating, however the small loss of overprinted habitat will be fully reversible upon cessation of effluent deposition, with a return to baseline conditions anticipated following post-decommissioning.

In addition to the diffuser commissioning, during the construction phase two water crossings will be installed along the road from the Project site to the airstrip, over Kratchkowsky Creek and

over Hart Creek. Both crossings have previously existed, however they were decommissioned, and new crossing structures are proposed to be clear span bridges without in-water supports. Building activities will include vegetation clearing, filling, grading, and installation of footings which is expected to occur in and around water. Impacts to fish habitat will be avoided or conducted over a short duration during appropriate timing windows. Some additional potential effect pathways may arise from increased fishing pressures due to increased access for recreational resources users and overprinting of wetland features at water crossings for access roads and where hydro-line connections are proposed. However, these impacts are expected to be avoidable or mitigated through best management practices resulting in negligible impacts to aquatic habitat.

Through implementation of appropriate mitigation measures and follow up monitoring, Denison anticipates that the impacts of overprinting of fish habitat on fish and fish habitat will be negligible throughout all Project phases. Therefore, Denison determined the impact of overprinting of fish habitat from the construction and commissioning of the effluent discharge diffuser and water intake pipeline is not expected to have significant residual adverse effects on fish and fish habitat.

#### *Controlled Discharge to Receiving Environments*

Controlled discharge to the receiving environment was primarily assessed through effects pathways to the intermediate VC surface water quality and is covered in section 8.2 of the EIS and [sections 6.3.3.2](#) and [6.4.3.3](#) of this report. However, effects to the VC Fish and Fish Habitat were further assessed in appendix 10-A of the EIS based on pathways through surface water and sediment quality for radiological and non-radiological COPCs discharged from the IWWTP. The IWWTP technology and treatment process continues to be assessed and optimized through a BATEA study and will be finalized throughout the licensing process.

Discharge to the surface water receiving environment is not expected during the construction phase, therefore potential effects to surface water and sediment quality and consequently fish and fish habitat are not expected during this project phase. As described in [sections 6.3.3.2](#) and [6.4.3.3](#), Denison conducted an assessment utilizing both near-field and far-field modelling to predict effects to surface water and sediment quality from the discharge of effluent during operations and decommissioning. The ERA concluded that copper was the only COPC where there were minor exceedances of screening values protective of aquatic life and some potential risk of adverse effects to aquatic receptors from copper concentrations in surface water. However, these exceedances are minor and unlikely to cause population level effects. Additionally, Denison anticipates that it is likely that site conditions will change over the course of operations and decommissioning from baseline, which will further decrease the risk from copper to aquatic receptors. Mercury was not identified as a COPC for further assessment in the ERA as it is not produced as part of the mining processes, and therefore not found in significant concentrations in effluent discharge. Additionally, mercury was not found in detectable concentrations in the receiving environment during surface water quality sampling. However, Denison has committed to further monitoring for mercury and methylmercury in the receiving environment as the Project progresses (Commitments 8-42 and 8-44).

Denison conservatively determined that surface water quality in the receiving environment is likely to be moderately adversely impacted by the controlled discharge of effluent from the Project throughout the operations and decommissioning phases, and that there is likely to be low risk to fish from this pathway. While a change from background conditions is predicted to occur,

the anticipated residual effects are likely to be local to Whitefish Lake Middle and South (LA-5 North and LA-5 South) and fully reversible upon cessation of effluent deposition, with a return to baseline conditions anticipated following post-decommissioning. Through the application of mitigative measures, follow-up monitoring, and under average flow conditions, Denison anticipates that fish and fish habitat will likely be resilient to potential changes. Therefore, residual effects on fish and fish habitat from changes in water and sediment quality due to the controlled discharge to the receiving environment are concluded to be not significant.

#### *Change in Water Levels and Flows*

Changes in water levels and flows to the receiving environment were primarily assessed through effects pathways to the intermediate VC surface water quantity and is assessed in section 6.3.2. Changes in lakes, watercourses and wetland water levels are expected to be negligible, and all Project effects are anticipated to be local and fully reversible following post-decommissioning. Through implementation of appropriate mitigation measures and follow up monitoring, Denison anticipates that changes in water levels and flows on water quantity will be negligible throughout all Project phases. Therefore, Denison determined the impact to water quantity from changes in water levels and flows is not expected to have significant residual adverse effects on fish and fish habitat.

#### *Long-Term Transport of Groundwater Solutes to Whitefish Lake (in Future Centuries)*

A “Future Centuries” scenario was used to assess the long-term future potential effects to surface water quantity and quality post-decommissioning from peak concentrations of COPCs in groundwater plumes migrating from the decommissioned project site Phoenix Ore Zone area to surface water. Changes in the receiving environment were primary assessed through effects pathways to the intermediate VCs surface water quantity and quality and is covered in [sections 6.3.3.1](#) and [6.3.3.2](#) of this report and sections 8.1 and 8.2 of the EIS.

Denison concluded there are no anticipated residual effects to surface water quantity or quality from the future centuries scenario and therefore will not result in adverse effects to fish and fish habitat.

The proposed mitigation measures and monitoring program for fish and fish habitat should be considered in conjunction mitigation measures and monitoring programs for surface water quantity (hydrology), surface water quality, sediment quality and benthic invertebrates, and fish health monitoring programs, as it is specifically tied to these monitoring programs from the perspective of pathways of effects.

#### *Mitigation Measures for Fish and Fish Habitat*

Denison has proposed the following measures in table 7.5 to mitigate the potential adverse effects from identified project activities on fish and fish habitat. CNSC staff have assessed the mitigation measures proposed by Denison and have concluded that they are adequate to manage potential significant adverse effects to fish and fish habitat. See a summary in [table 7.5](#) below.

**Table 7.5: Proposed mitigation measures to address effects on fish and fish habitat**

| Change in fish habitat   |
|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avoid more sensitive habitats (spawning, nursery and overwintering habitats) to the extent practicable.</li> </ul>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adhere, as applicable, to the Interim Code of Practice: End-of-Pipe Fish Protection Screens for Small Water Intakes in Freshwater (DFO 2020a).</li> </ul>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adhere, as applicable, to the <i>Interim Code of Practice for Temporary Cofferdams and Diversion Channels</i> (DFO 2020b).</li> </ul>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adhere, as applicable, to the <i>Interim Code of Practice for Temporary Stream Crossings</i> (DFO 2020c).</li> </ul>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plan in-water works, undertakings, or activities to respect timing windows to protect fish and fish habitat, including their eggs, juveniles, spawning adults, the organisms upon which they feed, and the areas where they migrate. In-water works should be deferred based on the specific waterbody and known species that inhabit the waterbody (<i>Saskatchewan Restricted Activity Timing Windows for the Protection of Fish and Fish Habitat</i> [DFO 2020d]).             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Spring spawning species (Northern Saskatchewan – Lake Sturgeon Absent) – avoid work between May 1 and July 15.</li> <li>○ Fall spawning species (Northern Saskatchewan – Lake Trout present) – avoid work between September 1 and July 15).</li> <li>○ Fall spawning species (Northern Saskatchewan – Lake Trout absent) – avoid work between October 1 and July 15).</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In discussion with responsible authorities, prepare a fish salvage plan to relocate fish prior to in-water works.</li> </ul>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Design treated effluent discharge or freshwater intake infrastructure to prevent entrainment or impingement of fish.</li> </ul>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Workforce members will be transported to/from site via a fly-in/fly-out rotation and will, therefore, not use ground travel options during shift changes, which will eliminate fishing on local lakes during commutes to/from the site and during time off work. Denison site vehicles will not be available for recreational purposes. While at the Project site and off duty, workers may opt to fish local waterbodies. To protect sustainable use of resources, only catch and release of fish will be encouraged, and fish storage or cooking facilities will not be provided.</li> </ul>  |
| Change in flows or water levels in lakes and rivers  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limit and stage the construction footprint (i.e., Project Area).</li> </ul>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain existing drainage patterns with the use of culverts, where applicable.</li> </ul>  |

|  |
|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain access roads by periodically regrading and ditching to improve water flow, reduce erosion, and manage vegetation growth.</li> </ul>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inspect culverts periodically. Remove accumulated material and debris upstream and downstream of the culverts to prevent erosion, flooding, habitat damage, property damage, and mobilization of sediment</li> </ul>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attenuate peak discharges and augment baseflows to the environment using Project water storage features (i.e., runoff, process water, contact water, monitoring/effluent ponds).</li> </ul>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recycle contact water for use as process water.</li> </ul>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recycle process water for re-use.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Change in the water quality</b>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop and implement a Surface Water Management Program that provides an integrated framework to manage water quality, including provision for water management practices for each of the primary site aspects, as well as areas of the Project site where contact water is expected.</li> </ul>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maximize the recycle and reuse of process water to reduce freshwater intake and release to Whitefish Lake.</li> </ul>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Design the discharge diffuser/outfall to provide effective mixing and dilution and discharge flows that do not detrimentally affect sediments.</li> </ul>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop site-specific effluent treatment to treat COPC to appropriate release limits in accordance with provincial standards and licence/permit conditions.</li> </ul>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discharge effluent under a scenario that will meet provincial and federal discharge criteria as identified through permitting. Scenarios may include:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Discharging at a fixed rate while maintaining an appropriate minimum dilution ratio (i.e., discharge when able to meet the required dilution ratio and cease discharge during periods when unable to meet the necessary dilution ratio);</li> <li>2. Discharging under a variable waste load allocation (i.e., discharge an appropriate effluent volume based on flow in the receiver to maintain minimum dilution ratio); and,</li> <li>3. Managing discharge via a hybrid of these (i.e., discharge effluent at a fixed rate to maintain the required dilution ratio, but the fixed rate can be varied on a seasonal basis based on flow).</li> </ol> </li> </ul> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collect and monitor contact water to determine whether treatment is required prior to release to the environment to inform optimal levels of treatment.</li> </ul>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain the water management system in place during decommissioning until such time that water quality is suitable to release to the environment.</li> </ul>   |

|   |
|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor and manage effluent, including contingency for effluent treatment as may be required, so that water discharge objectives are achieved as defined by applicable provincial and federal regulatory instruments.</li> </ul>                                 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Design and implement an Environmental Code of Practice that defines action levels and appropriate steps to be taken to mitigate elevated concentrations of chemical and radiological constituents in treated effluent discharge to acceptable levels.</li> </ul> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement Project-specific monitoring programs (e.g., effluent monitoring plan, environmental monitoring plan) that include monitoring treated effluent, surface water and sediment quality, and applying adaptive management, if necessary.</li> </ul>          |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with the associated communities to develop and implement the Project-specific monitoring programs and a framework to share the results for the purpose of assessing the performance of the water management system.</li> </ul>                              |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop and implement a decommissioning and reclamation plan to decommission and transfer the site to the province under the Institutional Control Program.</li> </ul>   |

### *Monitoring and Follow-Up Measures*

In order to verify the accuracy of the assessment and determine the effectiveness of the mitigation measures, Denison will implement the following EA follow-up measures.

**Table 7.6: Follow-up program measures for effects on fish and fish habitat**

| <b>Change in fish habitat</b>  |
|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitoring for changes in fish communities/populations within the Project LSA             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Assessment through comparison of construction, operation, and decommissioning results to pre-development conditions, as well as through contemporaneous comparison of “exposure area” versus “reference area” data.                 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. In this context an “exposure area” is an area downstream of potential mine influence and a “reference area” is an area outside of potential mine influence.</li> <li>b. Where possible, the reference area would be located in the same drainage, upstream of mine influence where conditions closely mimic those downstream as is possible and where there is no, or reduced likelihood that exposure and reference fish populations can co-mingle.</li> </ol> </li> </ol> </li> </ul> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitoring for changes in physical fish habitat within the receiving environment of LA-5             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Fish and fish habitat monitoring will include collection of metrics associated with species presence, abundance, and life history parameters (e.g., survival, condition, growth) to meet applicable agency guidance (i.e., MDMER and CSA N288.4-19 [CSA Group 2019]).</li> </ul> </li> </ul>  |
| <b>Change in flows or water levels in lakes and rivers</b>   |



|   |
|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Continued hydrologic monitoring to provide Project phase information to monitor predictions and support effluent discharge permitting and approvals (i.e., meet approvals for continued surface water quality levels).</li></ul>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The monitoring program should remain consistent with the long-term (2011) hydrological monitoring study at the Project site to allow for the continued establishment of long-term streamflow trends at the site through relationships to long-term operating hydrometric gauging stations in the same watershed.</li></ul>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Monitoring stations should continue to survey at locations throughout key catchment areas. Hydrometric monitoring at streamflow stations should include measurement of stream discharge and water level survey and maintenance of in-stream data loggers.</li><li>Monitoring should continue to include the following:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>streamflow monitoring</li><li>lake level monitoring</li><li>installation and maintenance of stage dataloggers</li></ul></li></ul>   |
| <b>Change in the water quality</b>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Monitoring to confirm the effluent and receiving water quality meet applicable regulation criteria<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The monitoring and follow-up program will include measurement of water quality parameters to meet regulatory criteria (i.e., provincial discharge permits, Metal and Diamond Mining Effluent Regulations [MDMER; Government of Canada 2022] and CSA N288.4-19 (CSA Group 2019). At a minimum, this will include collection of non-radiological parameters (e.g., metals, nutrients, hardness, temperature, pH, TDS, TSS, and sulphate) and radiological parameters.</li><li>Constituent concentrations will be compared to the values used in the EIS and to applicable regulatory criteria or objectives.</li></ul></li></ul>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Collecting and recording surface water quality to confirm that source and receiving water quality predictions are consistent with those presented in the EIS<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Monitoring will occur within the collection ponds, specifically the Effluent Monitoring and Release Ponds and the receiving waterbody (Whitefish Lake). Water quality monitoring in the natural environment will occur at the point of discharge (near-field) at LA-5 (Whitefish Lake South), at an upstream reference location (Whitefish Lake North [LA-6]) and at downstream locations (far-field locations). The far-field monitoring locations will be located in Whitefish Lake South (LA-5) prior to its discharge to McGowan Lake (LA-1).</li></ul></li></ul> |

### 7.1.2.2 Fish Health

#### *Mobilization of Suspended Materials*

Mobilization of suspended materials to the receiving environment was primarily assessed through effects pathways to the intermediate VC surface water quality and is covered in section 8.2 of the EIS and sections [6.3.3.2](#) and [7.1.3.1](#) of this report. No additional effects to the fish health VC were identified from mobilization of suspended materials., therefore it was concluded that through mitigation measures for the control of suspended material release to Whitefish Lake



and downstream, mobilization of suspended materials is not expected to impact water quality and will not have significant residual adverse effects on fish health. Through implementation of appropriate mitigation measures and follow up monitoring, Denison anticipates that the impacts of the mobilization of sediment on water quality will be negligible throughout all Project phases. Therefore, Denison determined the impact to water quality from the of mobilization of sediment is not expected to have significant residual adverse effects on fish health.

### *Controlled Discharge to Receiving Environments*

Controlled discharge to the receiving environment was primarily assessed through effects pathways to the intermediate VCs surface water and sediment quality and is covered in Sections 8.2 and 8.4 of the EIS and [sections 6.3.3.2, 6.4.3.3 and 7.1.3.1](#) of this report. However, effects to the VC fish health were further assessed in appendix 10-A based on pathways for surface water and sediment quality, and changes in the concentration of constituents in fish tissues for radiological and non-radiological COPCs discharged from IWWTP. The IWWTP technology and treatment process continues to be assessed and optimized through a BATEA study and will be finalized throughout the licensing process.

COPCs in the aquatic environment have the potential to be taken up by fish through fish life functions (i.e., respiration, ingestion, and absorption), therefore concentrations of COPCs in fish tissue were also assessed in appendix 10A. Bioaccumulation of COPCs in tissue from direct contact or uptake of water and sediment by aquatic receptors are modelled using Bioaccumulation Factors (BAFs) based on surface water concentrations, which was conducted according to standardized practices. To determine risk to aquatic receptors, total exposure concentrations from water and sediment pathways are determined for each aquatic receptor for each COPC. These exposure concentrations for each COPC are then compared to screening criteria (i.e., toxicity reference values) for the protection of aquatic life specific to each COPC and aquatic receptor, to calculate HQs. HQs equal to or less than one indicates low risk to receptors, whereas HQs greater than one indicate that there is some potential for adverse effects. This process is repeated in each water body assessed throughout the LSA and RSA.

For selenium, where bioaccumulation in fish tissue is a primary concern identified by the FIRT, screening criteria specific to bioaccumulation included the US EPA criterion for selenium in fish muscle tissue of 8.5 µg/g dw for large-bodied fish included in this assessment (i.e., Northern Pike and White Sucker). To address FIRT concerns, the appendix 10A assessment was also updated to utilize the Federal Environmental Quality Guideline (FEQG) for selenium of 6.7 µg/g dw for whole body and 14.7 µg/g dw for egg-ovary concentrations developed by ECCC, as additional screening criteria. Utilizing species-specific average BAFs, measured baseline fish tissue concentrations, and predicted maximum water concentrations of selenium during the operations phase of the Project, the predicted average muscle tissue concentrations for both fish species were calculated. From these predicted muscle concentrations, predicted whole body and egg-ovary fish tissue concentrations of selenium were calculated for Northern Pike and White Sucker using site-specific moisture content, and species-specific conversion factors. Predicted average muscle, whole body, and egg-ovary fish tissue concentrations of selenium were then compared to the US EPA and FEQG guidelines to determine risk to fish species from selenium (see below, [table 7.7](#)). There were no predicted exceedances of fish tissue guidelines in any locations for all project phases (HQs <1), and no significant residual adverse effects anticipated from changes in the constituent concentrations in fish tissues due to controlled discharge to the receiving environment.

**Table 7.7 Adapted from appendix-10A ERA section 6.3.1: Table 6-4: Calculated whole body and egg-ovary**

| Guidelines (µg/g dw) |                       |          | 8.5      | 6.7        | 14.7      |
|----------------------|-----------------------|----------|----------|------------|-----------|
| Fish species         |                       | Muscle   | Muscle   | Whole body | Egg-ovary |
|                      | Lake                  | µg/g fw  | µg/g dw  | µg/g dw    | µg/g dw   |
| Northern Pike        | Reference             | 1.89E-01 | 8.58E-01 | 0.68       | 1.61      |
|                      | Whitefish Lake North  | 1.86E-01 | 8.45E-01 | 0.67       | 1.59      |
|                      | Whitefish Lake Middle | 1.57E+00 | 7.13E+00 | 5.61       | 13.40     |
|                      | Whitefish Lake South  | 1.51E+00 | 6.86E+00 | 5.40       | 12.89     |
|                      | McGowan Lake          | 1.02E+00 | 4.63E+00 | 3.65       | 8.71      |
|                      | Russell Lake          | 8.12E-01 | 3.69E+00 | 2.90       | 6.93      |
| White Sucker         | Reference             | 1.46E-01 | 6.23E-01 | 0.46       | 0.62      |
|                      | Whitefish Lake North  | 1.43E-01 | 6.10E-01 | 0.46       | 0.61      |
|                      | Whitefish Lake Middle | 1.74E+00 | 7.42E+00 | 5.54       | 7.42      |
|                      | Whitefish Lake South  | 1.66E+00 | 7.08E+00 | 5.28       | 7.08      |
|                      | McGowan Lake          | 1.06E+00 | 4.52E+00 | 3.37       | 4.52      |
|                      | Russell Lake          | 8.06E-01 | 3.44E+00 | 2.57       | 3.44      |

Denison concluded that there were no predicted exceedances of the 9.6 mGy/d radiation dose benchmark for aquatic biota in the Project Area, LSA, or RSA during any phase of the Project. Copper was the only non-radiological COPC where there were minor exceedances of surface water quality screening values protective of aquatic life and some potential risk to aquatic receptors including benthic invertebrates, in all waterbodies including reference locations, and predatory fish in Whitefish Lake Middle and South (LA-5 North and LA-5 South) during operations (see below [table 7.8](#)). However, these exceedances are minor and unlikely to cause population level effects. Additionally, Denison anticipates that it is likely that site conditions will change over the course of operations and decommissioning, which will further decrease the risk from copper to aquatic receptors. Increasing hardness and pH concentrations in the receiving environment during operations and decommissioning from effluent deposition are predicted to alter site conditions, and predictive modelling of these altered site conditions indicates no exceedances in the receiving environment at exposure locations for any aquatic receptors due to copper (See below, [table 7.9](#)). All other estimated total HQs calculated for fish were less than one, including those calculated for invertebrates with direct contact to sediment against sediment screening criteria, indicating low risk to fish health and other aquatic receptors (see EIS section 8.5.4.2.2: table 8.5-4: Estimated Non-radiological Total Risk to Fish Ecological Receptors).

**Table 7.8 Adapted from EIS appendix 10A: Table 6-9A: Re-Evaluated Hazard Quotients for Copper in Aquatic Organisms – Baseline Conditions**

| Location                                   | Maximum copper concentration in water (mg/L) | Hazard quotients (unitless) – Baseline conditions |               |              |                       |                |                |
|--|--|---|---------------|--------------|-----------------------|----------------|----------------|
|  |  | Forage fish                                       | Predator fish | Zoo-plankton | Benthic Invertebrates | Phyto-plankton | Aquatic plants |
| Kratchkowsky Lake (reference) <sup>1</sup> | 6.22E-04                                     | 0.12  | 0.80          | 0.70         | 1.49                  | 0.07           | 0.03           |
| Whitefish Lake North                       | 6.20E-04                                     | 0.12  | 0.80          | 0.70         | 1.49                  | 0.07           | 0.03           |
| Whitefish Lake Middle                      | 8.22E-04                                     | 0.16  | 1.06          | 0.93         | 1.97                  | 0.09           | 0.04           |
| Whitefish Lake South                       | 8.17E-04                                     | 0.16  | 1.05          | 0.92         | 1.96                  | 0.09           | 0.04           |
| McGowan Lake                               | 7.50E-04                                     | 0.14  | 0.97          | 0.85         | 1.80                  | 0.08           | 0.04           |
| Icelander River                            | 7.49E-04                                     | 0.14  | 0.97          | 0.84         | 1.80                  | 0.08           | 0.04           |
| Russell Lake Inlet                         | 7.17E-04                                     | 0.14  | 0.92          | 0.81         | 1.72                  | 0.08           | 0.03           |

**Table 7.9 Adapted from EIS appendix 10A: Table 6-9B: Re-evaluated hazard quotients for copper in aquatic organisms – Site operation conditions**

| Location                                   | Maximum Copper Concentration in Water (mg/L) | Hazard Quotients (unitless) – Site Operation Conditions |               |              |                      |                |                |
|--|--|---|---------------|--------------|----------------------|----------------|----------------|
|  |  | Forage Fish   | Predator Fish | Zoo-plankton | Benthic Invertebrate | Phyto-plankton | Aquatic Plants |
| Kratchkowsky Lake (reference) <sup>1</sup> | 6.22E-04                                     | 0.12  | 0.80          | 0.70         | 1.49                 | 0.07           | 0.03           |
| Whitefish Lake North                       | 6.20E-04                                     | 0.06  | 0.34          | 0.30         | 0.63                 | 0.04           | 0.04           |
| Whitefish Lake Middle                      | 8.22E-04                                     | 0.08  | 0.46          | 0.40         | 0.84                 | 0.05           | 0.05           |

|                      |          |      |      |      |      |      |      |
|----------------------|----------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Whitefish Lake South | 8.17E-04 | 0.08 | 0.45 | 0.40 | 0.83 | 0.05 | 0.05 |
| McGowan Lake         | 7.50E-04 | 0.07 | 0.42 | 0.37 | 0.76 | 0.04 | 0.05 |
| Icelander River      | 7.49E-04 | 0.07 | 0.42 | 0.37 | 0.76 | 0.04 | 0.05 |
| Russell Lake Inlet   | 7.17E-04 | 0.07 | 0.40 | 0.35 | 0.73 | 0.04 | 0.05 |

Note:

Bold and shaded value indicates HQ greater than 1.

<sup>1</sup> Kratchkowsky Lake is a reference lake located upstream of the effluent discharge point, and as such, the site operation conditions were the same as baseline conditions.

Concerns related to mercury and methylmercury bioaccumulation in aquatic receptors were raised by the FIRT during the EIS review process. Denison confirmed that mercury was not identified as a COPC for further assessment in appendix 10A as it is not produced as part of the mining processes, and therefore not found in significant concentrations in effluent discharge. Additionally, mercury was not found in detectable concentrations in the receiving environment during surface water quality sampling. However, nutrient enrichment from treated effluent has the potential to cause changes to mercury concentrations in the environment, and Denison has acknowledged that there is potential for increased methylmercury production from existing mercury in the receiving environment. Therefore, Denison has committed to further monitoring for mercury and methylmercury in the receiving environment as the Project progresses.

Denison conservatively determined that surface water quality in the receiving environment is likely to be moderately adversely impacted by the controlled discharge of effluent from the Project throughout the operation and decommissioning phases. While there are no anticipated residual adverse effects from changes in fish tissue concentrations of constituents or sediment quality, there is likely to be low risk to fish health from changes in surface water quality from copper concentrations in effluent discharge. While a change from background conditions is predicted to occur, the anticipated residual effects are likely to be local to Whitefish Lake Middle and South (LA-5 North and LA-5 South) and fully reversible upon cessation of effluent deposition, with a return to baseline conditions anticipated following post-decommissioning. Through the application of mitigative measures, follow-up monitoring, and under average flow conditions, Denison anticipates the fish health will likely be resilient to potential changes. Therefore, residual effects on fish health from changes in surface water and sediment quality due to the controlled discharge to the receiving environment are concluded to be not significant.

#### *Long-Term Transport of Groundwater Solutes to Whitefish Lake (in Future Centuries)*

A “future centuries” scenario was used to assess the long-term future potential effects to surface water quantity and quality post-decommissioning from peak concentrations of COPCs in groundwater plumes migrating from the decommissioned project site Phoenix Ore Zone area to surface water. Changes in the receiving environment were primarily assessed through effects pathways to the intermediate VCs surface water quantity and quality and sediment quality, and is covered in [sections 6.3.3.1](#), [6.3.3.2](#), and [7.1.3.1](#) of this report and sections 8.1, 8.2, and 8.4 of the EIS.

There are no anticipated residual effects to surface water or sediment quality from the future centuries scenario, and therefore will not result in adverse effects to fish health.

The proposed mitigation measures and monitoring program for fish health should be considered in conjunction mitigation measures and monitoring programs for surface water quantity (hydrology), surface water quality, sediment quality and benthic invertebrates, and fish and fish habitat monitoring programs, as it is specifically tied to these monitoring programs from the perspective of pathways of effects.

#### *Mitigation Measures for Fish Health*

Denison has proposed the following measures in table 7.11 to mitigate the potential adverse effects from identified project activities on fish health. CNSC staff have assessed the mitigation measures proposed by Denison and have concluded that they are adequate to manage potential significant adverse effects to health. See a summary in [table 7.10](#) below.

**Table 7.10: Proposed mitigation measures to address effects on fish health**

| Change in water quality  |
|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inspect culverts periodically. Remove accumulated material and debris upstream and downstream of the culverts to prevent erosion, flooding, habitat damage, property damage, and mobilization of sediment.</li> </ul>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop and implement a Surface Water Management Program that provides an integrated framework to manage water quality, including provision for water management practices for each of the primary site aspects, as well as areas of the Project site where contact is expected.</li> </ul>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maximize the recycle and reuse of process water to reduce freshwater intake and release to Whitefish Lake</li> </ul>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Design the discharge diffuser/outfall to provide the smallest footprint possible while still achieving effective mixing and dilution, and to provide discharge flows that do not adversely effect sediments.</li> </ul>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop site-specific effluent treatment to treat COPC to appropriate release limits in accordance with provincial standards and licence/permit conditions.</li> </ul>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discharge effluent under a scenario that will meet provincial and federal discharge criteria as identified through permitting. Scenarios may include:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discharging at a fixed rate while maintaining an appropriate minimum dilution ratio (i.e., discharge when able to meet the required dilution ratio and cease discharge during periods when unable to meet the necessary dilution ratio);</li> <li>Discharging under a variable waste load allocation (i.e., discharge an appropriate effluent volume based on flow in the receiver to maintain minimum dilution ratio); and</li> <li>Managing discharge via a hybrid of these (i.e., discharge effluent at a fixed rate to maintain the required dilution ratio, but the fixed rate can be varied on a seasonal basis based on flow).</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |

|   |
|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collect and monitor contact water to determine whether treatment is required prior to release to the environment to inform optimal levels of treatment.</li> </ul>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintain the water management system in place during decommissioning until such time that water quality is suitable to release to the environment.</li> </ul>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monitor and manage effluent, including contingency for effluent treatment as may be required, so that water discharge objectives are achieved as defined by applicable provincial and federal regulatory instruments.</li> </ul>                                 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Design and implement an Environmental Code of Practice that defines action levels and appropriate steps to be taken to mitigate elevated concentrations of chemical and radiological constituents in treated effluent discharge to acceptable levels.</li> </ul> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement Project-specific monitoring programs (e.g., effluent monitoring plan, environmental monitoring plan) that include monitoring treated effluent, surface water and sediment quality, and applying adaptive management, if necessary.</li> </ul>          |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with the associated communities to develop and implement the Project-specific monitoring programs and a framework to share the results for the purpose of assessing the performance of the water management system.</li> </ul>                              |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop and implement a decommissioning and reclamation plan to decommission and transfer the site to the province under the Institutional Control Program.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Change in sediment quality</b>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintain existing drainage patterns with the use of culverts, where applicable.</li> </ul>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintain access roads by periodically regrading and ditching to improve water flow, reduce erosion, and manage vegetation growth.</li> </ul>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Attenuate peak discharges and augment baseflows to the environment through the use of Project water storage features (i.e., runoff, process water, contact water, monitoring/effluent ponds).</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Change in the concentration of constituents in fish tissues</b>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mitigation measures for this potential residual effect are consistent with mitigation measures already listed for the protection of surface water quality and sediment quality</li> </ul>  |

### *Monitoring and Follow-Up Measures*

In order to verify the accuracy of the assessment and determine the effectiveness of the mitigation measures, Denison will implement the following EA follow-up measures.

**Table 7.11: Follow-up program measures for effects on fish health**

| Change in water quality   |
|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitoring to confirm the effluent and receiving water quality meet applicable regulation criteria               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The monitoring and follow-up program will include measurement of water quality parameters to meet regulatory criteria (i.e., provincial discharge permits, Metal and Diamond Mining Effluent Regulations [MDMER; Government of Canada 2022] and CSA N288.4-19 (CSA Group 2019). At a minimum, this will include collection of non-radiological parameters (e.g., metals, nutrients, hardness, temperature, pH, TDS, TSS, and sulphate) and radiological parameters.</li> <li>2. Constituent concentrations will be compared to the values used in the EIS and to applicable regulatory criteria or objectives.</li> </ol> </li> </ul>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collecting and recording surface water quality to confirm that source and receiving water quality predictions are consistent with those presented in the EIS               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Monitoring will occur within the collection ponds, specifically the Effluent Monitoring and Release Ponds and the receiving waterbody (Whitefish Lake). Water quality monitoring in the natural environment will occur at the point of discharge (near-field) at LA-5 (Whitefish Lake South), at an upstream reference location (Whitefish Lake North [LA-6]) and at downstream locations (far-field locations). The far-field monitoring locations will be located in Whitefish Lake South (LA-5) prior to its discharge to McGowan Lake (LA-1).</li> </ul> </li> </ul>   |
| Change in sediment quality  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitoring of TSS in the effluent monitoring ponds and other catchment ponds prior to discharge</li> </ul>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitoring to confirm that effluent and receiver sediment quality meet applicable regulation criteria.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The monitoring and follow-up program will include measurement of sediment quality parameters to meet regulatory criteria (i.e., provincial discharge permits, MDMER and CSA N288.4). This must include collection of non-radiological parameters (e.g., metals, nutrients, pH, and sulphate), radiological parameters, and physical characteristics (grain size)).</li> </ul> </li> </ul>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitoring benthic invertebrate community structure and abundance in the near-field discharge area to assess any changes that may be attributable to the Project.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ This will include reasonable replication over a geographic area. Metrics assessed will be associated with benthic invertebrate community diversity, evenness, density, taxa richness, and similarity indices.</li> <li>○ Sediment and benthic invertebrate monitoring will occur in tandem and sampling locations will be co-located to facilitate comparison of benthic invertebrate community metrics with sediment quality characteristics.</li> <li>○ Sediment and benthic invertebrate monitoring in the natural environment will occur at the point of discharge in Whitefish Lake South (near-field), at an upstream reference location (Whitefish Lake North), and at downstream locations (far-field). The far-field monitoring locations will be located in Whitefish Lake South prior to its discharge to McGowan Lake.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |



|   |
|---|
| Constituent concentrations will be compared to the values used in the EIS and to applicable regulatory criteria or objectives.  |
| <b>Change in the concentration of constituents in fish tissues</b>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitoring changes in fish tissue concentrations of COPC that may be attributable to the Project: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The monitoring program will include measurements of fish health for comparison to baseline data and regulatory criteria (i.e., Canadian Tissue Residue Guidelines for the Protection of Wildlife Consumers of Aquatic Biota [e.g., CCME 2000], MDMER [Government of Canada 2022], CSA N288.4-19 (CSA Group 2019), and applicable United States Environmental Protection Agency criteria (e.g., US EPA 2021). This will include the collection of additional pre-mining fish tissue concentration data as needed.</li> <li>○ The collection of representative fish species from multiple trophic levels and size classes to investigate the bioaccumulation potential of non-radiological (e.g., molybdenum, selenium, total mercury, methylmercury and other metals) and radiological parameters.</li> <li>○ The assessment of fish for their general health condition through assessment of condition and growth metrics consistent with those described in current or updated MDMER EEM technical guidance (e.g., Environment Canada 2012).</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Indigenous Nations and communities have expressed concerns related to mercury and increased methylmercury bioaccumulation in fish tissues due to project-related effects, therefore Denison has committed to additional monitoring: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Monitoring mercury and methylmercury in the aquatic environment over the life of the Project to determine the potential changes in mercury concentrations in fish tissue over time.</li> <li>○ Assess health risks from fish consumption by comparing fish tissue data collected during operation from the monitoring program against applicable human health risk-based maximum permissible concentrations.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |

### 7.1.3 Other Views Expressed

#### 7.1.3.1 Potential Impacts to Fish and Fish Habitat

##### *Indigenous Nations and Communities*

ERFN had expressed concerns that the Project has the potential to adversely impact the aquatic environment including water bodies and fish and fish habitat within. ERFN noted that given the potential for accidental releases, and concerns noted about the potential for impacts to groundwater and surface water that fish and fish habitat, including fish spawning areas, could be negatively impacted. Specifically, ERFN inquired about effluent discharge outlets and the protections that would be incorporated to ensure bottom-feeding fish are excluded from the outlet mixing zone.

YNLR indicated that if any impacts to fish and fish habitat are a result of the project that they would like to see habitat offsetting occur. Similarly, PBCN raised concerns that the Project may have adverse impacts to local fish populations in and around Whitefish Lake.

BNDN indicated their concerns that spills, leaks and other accidents and malfunctions will be managed to mitigate potential impacts to fish and fish habitat.

##### *Federal Authorities*



ECCC requested that the selenium in fish tissue assessment be updated to use the ECCC FEQG of 6.7ug/g dry weight fish whole body tissue for selenium. With respect to the commitment to a pre-operational Environmental Effects Monitoring (EEM) study of selenium in fish tissue, ECCC also recommended that whole-body, egg-ovary, and muscle selenium concentrations are measured.

While DFO concluded that they did not anticipate a [Fisheries Act Authorization](#) would be required based on the currently proposed project, should the project be approved, they recommended that Denison review DFO's Projects Near Water website as plans are refined to ensure effects to fish and fish habitat can be avoided and mitigated to comply with the [Fisheries Act](#). Denison should do their due diligence and document this analysis for their records. In cases where risks to fish and fish habitat cannot be avoided, the project does not fall within water bodies where DFO's review isn't required, or the scope of the project is not entirely covered under a code of practice, it is recommended that Denison submit a request for review.

### **7.1.3.2 Fish and Fish Habitat Studies and Monitoring**

#### *Indigenous Nations and Communities*

MN-S noted they were seeking Métis Knowledge to be included in fish and fish habitat monitoring and they questioned if Whitefish Lake North would be a reference area for monitoring fish health.

YNLR indicated they would like to be involved in any fish monitoring programs related to fish health given the importance of fish to YNLR members.

BNDN raised concerns that Denison undertake additional spring and fall fish sampling as the sampling effort to obtain species diversity and abundance of the fish community was noted as low. In addition, BNDN requested that results from EEM concerning fish tissue sampling are shared with the engaged Indigenous Nations and communities.

All engaged Indigenous Nations and communities on the Project raised concerns on the proposed Project's potential to adversely impact fish and fish habitat. Given that the Nations and communities of Northern Saskatchewan fish as part of traditional practices and rely on fish for subsistence, it is important that any potential impacts to fish and fish habitat are avoided and mitigated to allow for the continuation of traditional activities and consumption by Indigenous Nations and communities.

#### *Federal Authorities*

ECCC highlighted inconsistencies in the modeling, advising it limited confidence in residual effects to water and sediment quality, which can adversely affect aquatic life, including fish and fish habitat.

ECCC suggested that Denison conduct a sensitivity analysis on the low water flow scenario to account for additional environmental variables, and to re-assess the aquatic risk associated with copper in freshwater. ECCC recommended Denison conduct a sensitivity analysis for water quality predictions during different precipitation extremes, and that discharge is limited during periods of very low flow to reduce impacts in the receiving environment.

ECCC also notes that they are unable to provide feedback on residual effects from effluent discharge because the calibration of the model has not been validated.

The models do not include environmental variables such as changes in hydrology or water/sediment chemistry which could result in incorrect environmental concentration predictions and the analysis approach for baseline conditions (e.g., smoothing data over locations and seasons) introduced uncertainty and may limit ability to detect changes related to the Project. ECCC recommended additional sampling of surface water, sediment, benthic invertebrates, and fish/fish habitat and to provide additional mitigation measures to protect wetlands. Overall, ECCC recommends monitoring and follow-up plans to verify the effects of the Project on the aquatic environment and the implementation of adaptive management, if required.

### **7.1.3.3 Summary of Mitigations and Commitments related to Views Expressed**

#### *Potential Impacts to Fish and Fish Habitat*

Denison has made commitments to mitigate any potential adverse effects on fish and fish habitat. Mitigation measures and follow-up monitoring will be employed to ensure that potential effects on fish and fish habitat will be mitigated and managed, which includes commitments to avoid sensitive habitat to the extent possible, scheduling in-water activities to respect important windows in the fish life cycle (e.g., eggs, juveniles, spawning adults), and preparing fish salvage plans to relocate fish prior to in-water work.

With respect to accidental releases and effluent, mitigation and monitoring approaches include, but are not limited to, designing effluent discharge or freshwater intake infrastructure to prevent entrainment or impingement of fish, designing the discharge diffuser/outfall to have the smallest footprint possible, developing site-specific effluent treatment to treat COPC to appropriate release limits, discharging effluent under a scenario that meets provincial and federal discharge criteria, monitoring and managing effluent to ensure these objectives are achieved, and designing and implementing an Environmental Code of Practice that defines actions levels and appropriate steps to mitigate elevated concentrations of chemical and radiological constituents in treated effluent discharge to acceptable levels. Denison will also develop and implement a Surface Water Management Program, which will include collecting and monitoring contact water to determine if treatment is required. This program will mitigate changes to water and sediment quality that could affect fish or fish habitat. Finally, Denison will also develop and implement a Spill Management Plan which demonstrates how Denison will respond in the event of a spill. This ensures that Denison will appropriately and timely respond to a spill and reduce any potential impacts to the environment.

With respect to concerns regarding effluent discharge and potential concerns about fish health and fish habitat, effluent will be discharged through a diffuser located approximately 115m offshore in 3m of water. Continuous water intake and discharge is not expected through the operation or decommissioning phases; however, the project was assessed assuming a continuous average water discharge rate of 36.5 m<sup>3</sup>/hr for a conservative assessment. Denison's assessment of potential risk to aquatic receptors concluded that while assuming a continuous discharge there would be no significant adverse health effects to aquatic receptors, including benthic (i.e., bottom-feeding) fish. This assessment was updated to utilize the ECCC FEQG for the selenium bioaccumulation assessment and found no risk to aquatic receptors. Denison's assessment included an adequate level of conservatism and will be further refined through requirements for additional baseline data characterization and updated modelling.

Denison is required to develop an Environmental Management System, including an Emergency Preparedness and Response Program (ERPR) and EPP. The ERPR would identify how the

project prepares for and addresses emergencies that affect the health and safety of persons, the environment, and the protection of property. The EPP would provide a framework for environmental monitoring and management plans and demonstrate compliance with environmental regulatory requirements and performance targets. Note, details of these plans will be developed during the licensing/permitting phase of the process.

Denison has identified areas where a habitat offset may be necessary under the Province of Saskatchewan offsetting framework, however this is focused on terrestrial habitat and biota (e.g., ungulates, furbearers, caribou, birds) and does not address the YNLR concern about aquatic habitat offsetting for fish and fish habitat. Based on the comment responses, this mitigation measure was not satisfactorily settled between Denison and YNLR.

### *Fish and Fish Habitat Studies and Monitoring*

Denison will conduct fish and fish habitat monitoring and follow-up to verify the accuracy of predicted effects and effectiveness of mitigation measures. Fish and fish habitat monitoring will entail measuring species presence, abundance, and life history traits (e.g., survival, condition, growth) over the duration of the project's lifecycle. These measurements will be compared among the construction, operation, and decommissioning time periods with the pre-development time period to assess changes to fish and fish habitat. This monitoring will also co-occur with additional monitoring for water quality, sediment quality, benthic invertebrate, and fish health sampling.

Denison has committed to working with its Indigenous communities of interest to develop and implement the monitoring approach and the framework for sharing monitoring results. This commitment includes collaborating with ERFN and KML on developing a monitoring regime suited to each of their interests and needs (Commitment 10). As part of these programs, Denison will share information in an agreed-upon fashion, including the results of fish tissue monitoring. It is expected that the data collected through these monitoring regimes would also be relevant to other Indigenous Nations. Denison noted BNDN's concern about including fall and spring fish sampling, though they contend that the existing sampling effort provided a sufficient baseline for conducting effects assessments. However, they have made a commitment to implement targeted aquatic surveys prior to site development to capture changes in fish health (e.g., growth, condition, reproduction) at the site, at a reference site, and future effluent site therefore implementing a Before-After-Control-Impact monitoring design. Denison has also committed to collecting additional aquatic baseline characterization data, including wetlands data, to further refine predictions of risk to fish and fish habitat and assess effectiveness of proposed mitigation measures.

The FIRT also raised concerns related to mercury and methylmercury concentrations in the receiving environment and for project related activities to increase the risk for bioaccumulation of methylmercury in fish tissues. Denison has committed to monitoring mercury and methylmercury in the aquatic environment over the life of the Project to determine the potential changes in mercury concentrations in fish tissue over time (Commitments 8-42 and 8-44). Denison will assess health risks from fish consumption by comparing fish tissue data collected during operations from the monitoring program against applicable human health risk-based maximum permissible concentrations. As part of the country food monitoring document developed to support operational licensing, any site-specific contaminant criteria or trigger mechanisms will be developed in consultation with Indigenous Nations and communities.

With respect to ECCC concerns regarding limited confidence in the modelling and the recommendation for a sensitivity analysis on flow scenarios to account for the effects of additional environmental variables, CNSC staff have recommended EA Conditions that would require that Denison conduct a sensitivity analysis for variable flow scenarios and on sediment coefficients and update the licensing ERA with this information(see [table 12.1](#), EA2).

The CNSC have also proposed an EA Condition, which, if accepted, Denison would be required to collect additional baseline water and sediment quality data prior to disturbance of the baseline and update the modelling with this additional data to address concerns related to modelling uncertainty and ability to detect changes related to the Project, and validation of model calibration (see [table 12.1](#), EA2). Denison has committed to have a site water management plan and spill response plan to account for management of all potential contact water on site. Denison has also committed that the finalized diffuser design and configuration to be provided during licensing will not change the EA conclusions of risk to aquatic receptors, and that water quality will remain below guidelines.

#### **7.1.4 CNSC Staff's Analysis**

##### **7.1.4.1 Change in Fish Habitat**

###### *Overprinting (loss) of Fish Habitat*

CNSC staff reviewed Denison's effect assessment to fish and fish habitat from the overprinting of fish habitat and found that Denison conducted a comprehensive analysis of these effects and that identified mitigation and follow-up monitoring program measures are adequate. Denison has committed to collecting additional baseline fish habitat characterization data within wetlands to inform future assessments and improve follow-up monitoring programs (commitment 8-46).

##### **7.1.4.2 Change in Flows or Water levels in Lakes and Rivers**

###### *Change in Water Levels and Flows*

CNSC staff reviewed Denison's effect assessment of surface water quantity to fish and fish habitat due to changes in flows and water levels in receiving surface water environment considering all phases of the project including additional potential effects due to climate change. CNSC staff confirmed that Denison conducted a comprehensive analysis of surface water quantity effects and identified mitigation and follow-up monitoring program measures that are acceptable, as detailed in section 6.3.4.1. CNSC staff have proposed EA Conditions ([table 12.1](#), EA2) for Denison to address during licensing.

CNSC staff concurs with Denison's conclusion that no significant residual effects were identified related to the assessment of Projects effects on fish and fish habitat from changes in flows or water levels taking into account identified design, mitigation and follow-up monitoring program measures.

##### **7.1.4.3 Change in the Water Quality**

###### *Mobilization of Suspended Materials*

CNSC staff reviewed Denison's effect assessment of surface water quality to fish, fish habitat, and fish health from the mobilization of suspended sediments and confirmed that Denison

conducted a comprehensive analysis of these effects, and that identified mitigation and follow-up monitoring program measures are adequate.

#### *Controlled Discharge to Receiving Environments*

CNSC staff reviewed Denison's effects assessment of surface water quality to fish, fish habitat, and fish health from changes in surface water quality in the receiving environment due to the controlled discharge of treated effluent. CNSC staff confirmed that Denison conducted a sufficient analysis of these effects and identified mitigation and follow-up monitoring program measures that are mostly adequate, as detailed in section 6.3.4.2. However, CNSC staff have proposed several EA Conditions for Denison to address during licensing, including some additional baseline data collection and modelling updates, which are outlined in [table 12.1](#) (EA2).

#### *Long-Term Transport of Groundwater Solutes to Whitefish Lake (in Future Centuries)*

CNSC staff reviewed Denison's effect assessment of surface water quality to fish, fish habitat, and fish health from the long-term transport of groundwater solutes to Whitefish Lake in the Future Centuries scenario and confirmed that Denison conducted a comprehensive analysis of these effects and that identified mitigation and follow-up monitoring program measures are adequate.

### **7.1.4.4 Change in the Sediment Quality**

#### *Controlled Discharge to Receiving Environments*

CNSC staff reviewed Denison's effect assessment on sediment quality to fish, fish habitat, and fish health from the change in sediment quality due to the controlled discharge of treated effluent. CNSC staff confirmed that Denison conducted a sufficient analysis of these effects and identified mitigation and follow-up monitoring program measures that are mostly adequate, as detailed in [section 6.4.4.4](#). However, CNSC staff have proposed several EA Conditions for Denison to address during licensing, including some additional baseline data collection and modelling updates, which are outlined in [table 12.1](#).

#### *Long-Term Transport of Groundwater Solutes to Whitefish Lake (in Future Centuries)*

CNSC staff reviewed Denison's effect assessment of sediment quality to fish, fish habitat, and fish health from the long-term transport of groundwater solutes to Whitefish Lake in the Future Centuries scenario and confirmed that Denison conducted a comprehensive analysis of these effects and that identified mitigation and follow-up monitoring program measures are adequate.

### **7.1.4.5 Change in the Concentration of Constituents in Fish Tissues**

#### *Controlled Discharge to Receiving Environments*

CNSC staff reviewed Denison's effect assessment to fish health from the change in concentrations of constituents in fish tissues due to the controlled discharge of treated effluent. CNSC staff confirmed that Denison conducted a sufficient analysis of these effects and identified mitigation and follow-up monitoring program measures that are adequate. However, CNSC staff have proposed EA Conditions ([table 12.1](#)) for Denison to address during licensing improve the quality of future licensing ERAs and further refine predicted levels of risk to aquatic receptors.

The FIRT raised concerns related to bioaccumulation of selenium in fish tissues and the use of the recently published FEQGs for whole body and egg-ovary fish tissue concentrations of selenium. The FEQGs for selenium have a high degree of conservatism and were published in 2022. The FIRT strongly recommended the use of the FEQG for comparison against model predicted selenium concentrations in fish tissue during operations, to conservatively determine if there is any risk to fish health. Denison updated the assessment in appendix 10A to address FIRT concerns and utilize the FEQG in the assessment, including an additional uncertainty assessment utilizing upper and lower bound fish tissue concentrations of selenium to reduce uncertainty and improve confidence in the assessment.

The FIRT also raised concerns related to mercury and methylmercury concentrations in the receiving environment and for project related activities to increase the risk for bioaccumulation of methylmercury in fish tissues. The CNSC agrees with Denison's conclusions that risk from mercury and methylmercury is low, as baseline surface water sampling did not identify measurable concentrations of total mercury in the LSA or RSA, and effluent concentrations of mercury are negligible. However, the CNSC supports Denison's assessment that conditions that could increase mercury methylation processes have the potential to occur due to effluent deposition (e.g., nutrient enrichment). Denison has committed to monitoring mercury and methylmercury in the aquatic environment over the life of the Project to determine the potential changes in mercury concentrations in fish tissue over time (see [section 7.1.2.2.5](#), [table 7.12](#): Follow-up program measures for effects on Fish Health). Denison will assess health risks from fish consumption by comparing fish tissue data collected during operations from the monitoring program against applicable human health risk-based maximum permissible concentrations. As part of the country food monitoring document developed to support operational licensing, any site-specific contaminant criteria or trigger mechanisms will be developed in consultation with Indigenous Nations and communities.

The proposed EA Condition to collect additional baseline data for water and sediment quality and update the licensing ERA with this data to address FIRT concerns regarding surface water and sediment quality data are unlikely to alter the determination of significant adverse effects to fish health from changes in concentrations of constituents in fish tissues ([table 12.1](#), EA2). However, if there are any increases to the risk profiles of receptors exceeding EA predictions due to updates from the incorporation of additional baseline data into the licensing ERA, Denison has committed to addressing these concerns through the implementation of additional mitigation measures, monitoring, and/or adaptive management as needed.

### **7.1.5 CNSC Staff Findings and Recommendations**

Taking into account the implementation of mitigation measures and recommended follow-up program measures, CNSC staff conclude the Project is not likely to cause significant adverse effects on fish and fish habitat from changes in fish habitat (habitat overprinting), changes in flows or water levels in lakes and rivers, or from changes in surface water quality due to the mobilization of suspended materials, controlled discharge to the receiving environment, or the long-term transport of groundwater solutes to Whitefish Lake in a future centuries scenario.

Taking into account the implementation of mitigation measures and recommended follow-up program measures, CNSC staff conclude the Project is not likely to cause significant adverse effects on fish health from changes in water and sediment quality, and changes in constituent concentrations in fish tissues due to the mobilization of suspended materials, controlled



discharge to the receiving environment, or the long-term transport of groundwater solutes to Whitefish Lake in a future centuries scenario.

The effects significance determination table can be found in [appendix B](#).

In order to ensure that the aforementioned assessment conclusions remain valid, CNSC staff recommend that the Commission include the following EA Condition, should it issue a licence. If accepted, Denison will be required to address EA Condition EA2 [in table 12.1](#) related to IRs carried over from the EA Review into licensing. CNSC's assessment conclusions are contingent on the establishment of these EA Conditions.

## 7.2 Terrestrial Biota

The proposed Project could potentially cause changes to terrestrial biota, through:

- alteration and/or loss of habitat, due to disturbance (e.g., fragmentation, noise, dust deposition) or removal to the extent that the area is functionally unsuitable for wildlife, during all Project phases
- change in mortality, both directly (e.g., collisions, entrapment) and indirectly (e.g., changes in predator-prey dynamics, increased competition, or decreased health) during all Project phases

CNSC staff concurred with Denison's assessment of Project activities that may interact with terrestrial biota and cause residual effects during all project phases, as detailed below.

### 7.2.1 Description of the environment for terrestrial biota and species at risk

The area surrounding the Project provides habitat for various terrestrial biota, including mammals, amphibians, arthropods, and birds, including several federal and provincial species at risk (SAR), which are explicitly assessed in the Project's EIS and its Appendices. A list of terrestrial biota assessed as valued components is included in [table 7.14](#).

Furbearers are represented by Wolverine (*Gulo gulo*), Pine Marten (*Martes americana*), Mink (*Neovison vison*), and Muskrat (*Ondatra zibethicus*), whose fur is commonly harvested as economic resource. Baseline studies confirmed the presence of Pine Marten, Mink, and Muskrat, but did not detect Wolverine. Pine Marten trails were observed in several ecosites, most commonly in jack pine – black spruce/feathermoss, whereas Mink trails were prevalent on creek transects including bogs and fens. Muskrat signs were common in surveyed waterbodies across the Wildlife LSA and Terrestrial RSA. Wolverine are distributed within the Project region, although they occur at low densities and occupy large home ranges and avoid human footprints and linear features, which could have prevented their detection during baseline studies.

Moose (*Alces alces*), representing ungulates in the assessment, occur across the Terrestrial RSA in several ecosites, including regenerating forest, black spruce treed bog, transects in riparian habitats, and on hand-cut lines, as observed in baseline studies. Overall Moose density in the Project region is relatively low, but comparable to other northern boreal shield regions. Moose generally benefit from young forest regenerated post-disturbance from fires and some anthropogenic activities, such as logging. In recent years, Moose populations were observed to be declining, possibly due to combination of factors such as habitat alteration and loss, disease, and increased predation and hunting pressure. Moose are highly valued by subsistence and sport hunters.

Woodland Caribou (*Rangifer tarandus caribou*) were documented in the Wildlife LSA and Terrestrial RSA during baseline surveys, although no observations were in the Project Area. Woodland Caribou trails were commonly observed in ecosites with black spruce, jack pine, feathermoss, blueberry and lichen. Baseline studies also confirmed the presence of terrestrial and arboreal lichen, which constitutes up to 70% of the year-round diet of caribou. Notably, the Project is located in the SK1 Boreal Shield Conservation Unit range where the total anthropogenic disturbance should not exceed 5% while maintaining a minimum of 40% undisturbed habitat in the range, as per the [Amended Recovery Strategy for the Woodland Caribou, Boreal Population, in Canada](#) (hereafter, also referred to as “federal recovery strategy”).

Arthropods, represented by three species at risk, were not specifically observed in the Project Area, although the Project is located within their range. The Nine-spotted Lady Beetle (*Coccinella novemnotata*) and the Transverse Lady Beetle (*Coccinella transversoguttata*) are habitat generalists that use a diverse range of habitats, including open to semi-open forests, grasslands, and riparian areas. The Yellow-banded Bumble Bee (*Bombus terricola*) is also a habitat generalist frequenting boreal habitats, mixed woodlands, and montane meadows. All three arthropod species have experienced population declines.

Amphibians are represented by the Northern Leopard Frog (*Lithobates pipiens*), a species at risk not detected during baseline surveys but assumed to be present due to its range overlapping with the Project. The Northern Leopard Frog relies on suitable habitat for overwintering (e.g., rivers, streams, deep lake ponds), breeding and larval development (e.g., shallow, open aquatic habitats), and summering (e.g., shallow marshes, upland meadows) in relatively close proximity.

Bats observed in the Project region include two species at risk, Little Brown Myotis (*Myotis lucifugus*) and Northern Myotis (*Myotis septentrionalis*), as well as Hoary Bat (*Lasiurus cinereus*) and Western Small-footed Bat (*Myotis ciliolabrum*). Bats require overwintering hibernacula that are sufficiently cool and humid, and summering areas that provide foraging areas and suitable locations for roosting and maternity colonies.

Various bird species are present in the environment, represented by raptors, migratory breeding birds and a total of eight avian species at risk. Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) and Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) as well as several of their nests were observed in the Terrestrial RSA. Bald Eagle primarily nest in large trees near waterbodies with a high abundance of fish, while Osprey also use rocky outcrops, artificial platforms, and power poles for nesting in habitats ranging from boreal forest to temperate coasts. More than 20 species of waterbirds and waterfowl were recorded in the Wildlife LSA and Terrestrial RSA, preferring smaller interconnected waterbodies. Waterbirds and waterfowl require open water features for foraging opportunities and suitable upland nesting habitat for upland nesting guilds. Upland game birds detected in the Terrestrial RSA include species of grouse and ptarmigan. Breeding songbird surveys detected 36 avian species, with highest species richness in regenerated, tree-dominated or shrubby ecosites. Among the eight avian species at risk, Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*), Common Nighthawk (*Chordeiles minor*), Horned Grebe (*Podiceps auratus*), Rusty Blackbird (*Euphagus carolinus*) and Olive-sided Flycatcher (*Contopus cooperi*) were observed during baseline surveys. While not detected, Bank Swallow (*Riparia riparia*), Short-eared Owl (*Asio flammeus*), and Yellow Rail (*Coturnicops noveboracensis*) are assessed due to their range overlapping with the Project. Collectively, these species at risk birds represent various diets (e.g., insectivore, omnivore) and habitats (e.g., woodland, burned forests, open grasslands, wetlands, anthropogenic features). For example, Common Nighthawk prefers regenerating forest and cleared areas; Short-eared Owl, Yellow Rail, and Rusty Blackbird prefer shrubby, graminoid, and open bog and fen habitat



types; and, Olive-sided Flycatcher prefers coniferous and mixed-wood forest edges, forest openings, and burned forests with standing trees and snags.

Lastly, it should be noted that various other terrestrial biota inhabit the environment surrounding the Project, which were not specifically assessed as valued components. CNSC staff found this approach to be acceptable, since it is not practical or necessary to specifically assess all species present or likely to be present on a site as long as representative species or groups are chosen for the assessment.

More information is available in the Appendices of Denison's EIS: [appendix 9-B, Terrestrial Environment, Wildlife and Vegetation Baseline Inventory](#), and [appendix 9-C, Annex Report, Soil, Vegetation and Wildlife](#). CNSC staff also reviewed an updated 2024 Omnia Terrestrial Environment Wildlife and Vegetation Baseline Inventory Report, provided by Denison in April 2025<sup>3</sup>.

**Table 7.14: Terrestrial biota considered in the Wheeler River environmental assessment; federal and provincial species at risk status provided as applicable**

| Category   | Species                  | Federal status <sup>1</sup> | Provincial status <sup>2</sup> |
|------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Furbearers | Wolverine                | Special concern             | S2                             |
|            | Pine Marten              | -                           | S4                             |
|            | Mink                     | -                           | S5                             |
|            | Muskrat                  | -                           | S5                             |
| Ungulates  | Moose                    | -                           | S5                             |
| Caribou    | Woodland Caribou         | Threatened                  | S3                             |
| Arthropods | Nine-spotted Lady Beetle | Endangered                  | S4                             |
|            | Transverse Lady Beetle   | Special concern             | S4                             |
|            | Yellow-banded Bumble Bee | Special concern             | S4                             |
| Amphibians | Northern Leopard Frog    | Special concern             | S3                             |
| Bats       | Little Brown Myotis      | Endangered                  | S4B, S4N                       |
|            | Northern Myotis          | Endangered                  | S3                             |
| Birds      | Bank Swallow             | Threatened                  | S4B, S5M                       |
|            | Barn Swallow             | Threatened                  | S4B                            |
|            | Common Nighthawk         | Special concern             | S4B                            |
|            | Horned Grebe             | Special concern             | S5B                            |
|            | Olive-sided Flycatcher   | Special concern             | S4B                            |
|            | Rusty Blackbird          | Special concern             | S3B, SUN                       |
|            | Short-eared Owl          | Special concern             | S3B, S2N                       |
|            | Yellow Rail              | Special concern             | S3B                            |
|            | Waterbirds and waterfowl | -                           | N/A                            |

<sup>3</sup> Omnia Ecological Services - Terrestrial Environment – Wildlife and Vegetation Baseline Inventory – 2024 Report Updated. Provided April 2025

|  |                     |   |               |
|--|---------------------|---|---------------|
|  | Upland game birds   | - | N/A           |
|  | Migratory songbirds | - | N/A           |
|  | Bald Eagle          | - | S5B, S5N, S4N |
|  | Osprey              | - | S2B, S2M      |

<sup>1</sup> As provided in *Species at Risk Act* (S.C. 2002, c. 29), Schedule 1, List of Wildlife Species at Risk, <https://laws.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/s-15.3/page-10.html>

<sup>2</sup> As defined in Saskatchewan; S2 = imperiled/very rare, S3 = vulnerable/rare to uncommon, S4 = apparently secure, S5 = secure/common; <https://biodiversity.sk.ca/ranking.htm>

## 7.2.2 Proponent's Assessment

Denison concluded that the residual effects of the Project are expected to result in no significant adverse effects to terrestrial biota. More information on each project related effect and the residual effects evaluation can be found below and in the EIS sections 9.3, and 9.4.

### 7.2.2.1 General approach used by Denison

Denison's assessment of "alteration and/or loss of habitat" includes both direct and indirect changes. Direct loss relates to habitat disturbance or removal to the extent that it is unsuitable for wildlife use, while alteration addresses indirect disturbance that reduces suitability, such as edge effects, fragmentation, or sensory disturbances (e.g., noise, dust, light). One key element of Denison's residual effects assessment is the determination of "available habitat" as a summary of the ecosite habitat types that a species is assumed to use during all seasons, informed by baseline studies and literature reviews among other information. From this, direct habitat loss is calculated as the area of available habitat that is lost due to site clearing and ground disturbance in the Project Area. Alteration is quantified by applying a species-specific buffer around the Project Area that is intended to capture indirect effects including sensory disturbances.

Denison's assessment of "change in mortality" considers both direct and indirect sources that can affect populations, such as collisions, entrapment, incidental take, changes in predator-prey dynamics, competition for resources, changes in health, or increased hunter access.

### 7.2.2.2 Furbearers, ungulates and caribou

*Furbearers (Wolverine, Pine Marten, Mink, Muskrat)*

#### Alteration and/or loss of habitat

Denison predicted residual adverse changes in the alteration and/or loss of habitat of Wolverine, Pine Marten, Mink, and Muskrat. The Project is expected to affect available furbearer habitat directly through habitat loss from site clearing, and indirectly through habitat alteration around the Project Area (1,000 m buffer for wolverine, 500 m buffer for Pine Marten, Mink, and Muskrat). On the scale of the Terrestrial RSA, direct habitat loss and indirect habitat alteration are 0.5% and 7.7% for Wolverine, 0.5% and 3.9% for Pine Marten, 0.02% and 2.5% for Mink, and 0.001% and 1% for Muskrat, respectively. Denison noted that Wolverine do not require specific habitat types as long as prey is available, that Pine Marten can persist at lower population levels, and that Mink and Muskrat habitat is already limited in the Project Area resulting in only minor loss. Denison expects that progressive reclamation will regenerate habitat over the longer-term, and that alteration will cease once sensory disturbances diminish in post-decommissioning. Denison concluded that alteration and/or loss of available furbearer habitat is not expected to result in a change that will alter furbearer habitat integrity to the point where it

would not be able to sustain the regional furbearer population. More detailed information can be found in the EIS section 9.3.6.3.1.

#### **Change in mortality**

Denison predicted residual adverse changes in mortality of furbearers. Direct mortality can occur from interactions with Project components, including vehicle collisions, entrapment in snow berms, and destruction or abandonment of den sites. These effects will be mitigated through pre-clearing wildlife surveys, implementing breaks in snowbanks, and speed limits. Indirect mortality may occur from decreased health and competition for resources. In addition, increased access for people may result in more harvesting or trapping, although Denison noted that the area is remote with gated access control. Denison concluded that the Project is not expected to result in a change to furbearer mortality that will alter the integrity of regional populations to the point where they could not be sustained. More detailed information can be found in the EIS section 9.3.6.3.2.

Through implementation of appropriate mitigation measures and follow up monitoring, Denison anticipates that the impacts from the alteration and/or loss of habitat and change in mortality on furbearers will be negligible throughout all Project phases. Therefore, Denison determined the alteration and/or loss of habitat and the change in mortality from direct and indirect sources is not expected to have significant residual adverse effects on furbearers.

#### *Ungulates (Moose)*

##### **Alteration and/or loss of habitat**

Denison predicted residual adverse changes in the alteration and/or loss of habitat of Moose. The Project is expected to affect available Moose habitat directly through habitat loss from site clearing, and indirectly through habitat alteration around the Project Area (500 m buffer). On the scale of the Terrestrial RSA, 0.5% of available Moose habitat will be lost and 3.9% may experience alteration from sensory disturbance such as noise or dust. Denison noted that Moose densities are generally low on the regional scale despite available regenerating habitat for forage, indicating that habitat is not limiting. Since Moose prefer habitat of regenerating forage after disturbance, Denison expects that progressive reclamation will provide suitable forage habitat in the Project Area within a few years after revegetation. Alteration is also expected to cease once sensory disturbances diminish in post-decommissioning. Denison concluded that alteration and/or loss of available Moose habitat is not expected to result in a change that will alter Moose habitat integrity to the point where it would not be able to sustain the regional Moose population. More detailed information can be found in the EIS section 9.3.6.2.1.

##### **Change in mortality**

Denison predicted residual adverse changes in mortality of Moose. Direct mortality can occur from interactions with Project components, including vehicle collisions and entrapment in snowbanks along roads, which will be mitigated through speed limits, exclusion fences, and road management. Indirect mortality may occur from increased access of hunters and predators, and sensory disturbances that can cause stress. Hunting is limited by draw and resident regular licences, and mitigation measures will be in place to reduce sensory disturbances from noise and dust. Denison concluded that the Project is not expected to result in a change in Moose mortality that will alter the integrity of the regional Moose population to the point where it could not be sustained. More detailed information can be found in the EIS section 9.3.6.2.2.

Through implementation of appropriate mitigation measures and follow up monitoring, Denison anticipates that the impacts from the alteration and/or loss of habitat and change in mortality on ungulates will be negligible throughout all Project phases. Therefore, Denison determined the alteration and/or loss of habitat and the change in mortality from direct and indirect sources is not expected to have significant residual adverse effects on ungulates.

### *Caribou (Woodland Caribou)*

#### **Alteration and/or loss of habitat**

Denison predicted residual adverse changes in the alteration and/or loss of habitat of Woodland Caribou. The Project is expected to affect available Woodland Caribou habitat directly through habitat loss from site clearing, and indirectly through habitat alteration around the Project Area (500 m buffer). On the scale of the Terrestrial RSA, 0.5% of available Woodland Caribou habitat will be lost and 3.8% may experience alteration from sensory disturbance. Denison notes that disturbed forests may not provide suitable caribou habitat for up to 20 years, until terrestrial and arboreal lichen have reestablished. However, Denison stated that the Woodland Caribou population in SK1 is stable and overall disturbance in the conservation unit remains below the federal recovery strategy threshold required to sustain viable populations. While Denison's assessment assumed Woodland Caribou to be present in the study areas throughout all seasons and life stages including all life requisite attributes (forage, refuge, calving), in appendix 9-F, *Supplemental Information*, Denison illustrated the location of seasonal Woodland Caribou observations in relation to potential calving, foraging, and refuge habitat. Taking into account the mitigation measures, as outlined in appendix 9-E, *Caribou Management Framework*, Denison concluded that alteration and/or loss of available Woodland Caribou habitat is not expected to result in a change that will alter Woodland Caribou habitat integrity to the point where it would not be able to sustain the regional population. More detailed information can be found in the EIS section 9.3.6.4.1.

#### **Change in mortality**

Denison predicted residual adverse changes in mortality of Woodland Caribou. Direct mortality can occur from interactions with Project components, including vehicle collisions, although no caribou-vehicle collisions have been reported in the province. Indirect mortality may occur from apparent competition with alternative prey species that support a higher density of shared predators and facilitated predation by wolves through linear features. Sensory disturbances from noise, dust, or light can increase stress levels and reduce health. Denison listed various mitigation measures such as traffic management, employee education, exclusion fencing, and the reclamation of trails and roads that facilitate predator movement. Denison concluded that the Project is not expected to result in a change in Woodland Caribou mortality that will alter the integrity of the regional population to the point where it could not be sustained. More detailed information can be found in the EIS section 9.3.6.4.2.

Through implementation of appropriate mitigation measures and follow up monitoring, Denison anticipates that the impacts from the alteration and/or loss of habitat and change in mortality on caribou will be negligible throughout all Project phases. Therefore, Denison determined the alteration and/or loss of habitat and the change in mortality from direct and indirect sources is not expected to have significant residual adverse effects on caribou.

### *Mitigation Measures for furbearers, ungulates and caribou*

Denison has proposed the following measures to mitigate the potential adverse effects from identified project activities on furbearers, ungulates and caribou. CNSC staff have assessed the mitigation measures proposed by Denison and have concluded that they are adequate to manage potential significant adverse effects to terrestrial biota. See a summary in [table 7.15](#) below.

**Table 7.15 Proposed mitigation measures to address effects on furbearers, ungulates, and caribou**

| <b>Alteration and/or loss of habitat</b>   |
|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduced Project footprint that is primarily located within previously disturbed areas</li> </ul>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Timing of clearing and other works to avoid disturbance during sensitive time periods (e.g., denning and calving periods)</li> </ul>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pre-disturbance surveys to identify sensitive wildlife habitat features or presence of species at risk, in accordance with the Wildlife Monitoring Plan               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Species-specific pre-clearance surveys for Wolverine and Woodland Caribou</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of Woodland Caribou offsetting plan to satisfy the requirements of the Province of Saskatchewan offsetting framework</li> </ul>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of wildlife monitoring plan to address wildlife-specific mitigation measures</li> </ul>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Progressive reclamation during operation and ongoing decommissioning when possible, following the Reclamation and Closure Plan</li> </ul>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dust suppression techniques to limit deposition on vegetation and waterbodies (e.g., stack height design, access control, wash bay, road watering, traffic control)</li> </ul>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use of high-quality, low sound emission equipment and regular maintenance</li> </ul>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lighting focussed on work sites</li> </ul>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sediment and erosion control measures along with routine inspections and management</li> </ul>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bulk storage tanks for processing chemicals will sit inside appropriately designed and sized secondary containment basins</li> </ul>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contaminated waste properly contained on double-lined waste pad with leak detection and monitoring</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Change in mortality</b>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Road signage (e.g., speed limits, wildlife crossings) to minimize wildlife-vehicle collisions</li> </ul>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vegetation management along roads to reduce attractiveness to wildlife and maintain sightlines</li> </ul>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contaminated areas such as waste ponds and pads and landfill will be fenced to avoid contact with wildlife</li> </ul>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Waste collected and temporarily stored in wildlife-proof containers to avoid attracting scavengers that increase risk for human-wildlife interactions</li> </ul>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policies implemented to prohibit staff to feed, approach, or harass wildlife species</li> </ul>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wildlife education and awareness training for employees and contractors</li> </ul>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exclusion fencing around buildings and other Project components for deterrence and prevention of wildlife entrapment</li> </ul>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project site and access roads will be designed to minimize sightlines for predators</li> </ul>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ditches and culverts along roads designed and maintained to minimize pooling of water as roadside pools may attract wildlife</li> </ul>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Air emissions reduced to the extent practical through implementation of air emissions management and monitoring</li> </ul>  |

### *Monitoring and Follow-Up Measures*

In order to verify the accuracy of the assessment and determine the effectiveness of the mitigation measures, Denison will implement the following EA follow-up measures.

**Table 7.16 Follow-up program measures for effects on furbearers, ungulates, and caribou**

| <b>Alteration and/or loss of habitat, and change in mortality</b>  |
|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Routine monitoring of wildlife species throughout the life of the Project in accordance with the Wildlife Monitoring Plans</li> </ul> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Progressive reclamation and revegetation of disturbed areas monitored in accordance with the Reclamation and Closure Plan</li> </ul>  |

### **7.2.2.3 Arthropods (Nine-spotted Lady Beetle, Transverse Lady Beetle, Yellow-banded Bumble Bee)**

#### *Alteration and/or loss of habitat*

Denison predicted residual adverse changes in the alteration and/or loss of habitat of Nine-spotted Lady Beetle, Transverse Lady Beetle, and Yellow-banded Bumble Bee from various project activities. Denison did not perform detailed calculations for habitat loss and alteration as information for arthropods was provided in response to an IR and is thus not included in the main EIS but in appendix 9-D. Denison stated that mitigation measures designed for soil and vegetation also address effects on arthropods as they limit the loss or disruption of their habitat. In addition, herbicide use for vegetation management will be limited to the Project footprint and only applied if necessary. Denison concluded that alteration and/or loss of available arthropod habitat is not expected to result in a change that will alter arthropod habitat integrity to the point where it is not sustainable to contribute to ecological functions. More detailed information can be found in the appendix 9-D, section 5.

#### *Change in mortality*

Denison predicted residual adverse changes in mortality of Nine-spotted Lady Beetle, Transverse Lady Beetle, and Yellow-banded Bumble Bee from various project activities. As noted above, species-specific mitigation measures will be used to address effects. Denison concluded that the change in mortality is not expected to alter the integrity of the regional arthropod populations to the point where they are not sustainable or available to contribute to ecological functions. More detailed information can be found in the appendix 9-D, section 5.

Through implementation of appropriate mitigation measures and follow up monitoring, Denison anticipates that the impacts from the alteration and/or loss of habitat and change in mortality on arthropods will be negligible throughout all Project phases. Therefore, Denison determined the alteration and/or loss of habitat and the change in mortality from direct and indirect sources is not expected to have significant residual adverse effects on arthropods.

#### *Mitigation Measures for arthropods*

Denison has proposed the following measures to mitigate the potential adverse effects from identified project activities on arthropods. CNSC staff have assessed the mitigation measures proposed by Denison and have concluded that they are adequate to manage potential significant adverse effects to arthropods. See a summary in [table 7.17](#) below.

**Table 7.17 Proposed mitigation measures to address effects on arthropods**

| <b>Alteration and/or loss of habitat</b>  |
|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project Area reduced to the extent safely practicable to reduce habitat disturbance and noise</li> </ul>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project footprint mostly developed within previously disturbed areas to minimize additional habitat disturbance</li> </ul>                           |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Progressive reclamation completed where possible</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Change in mortality</b>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Herbicide use as part of vegetation management limited to immediate Project footprint and applied by licensed professional when necessary</li> </ul> |

*Monitoring and Follow-Up Measures*

In order to verify the accuracy of the assessment and determine the effectiveness of the mitigation measures, Denison will implement the following EA follow-up measures.

**Table 7.18 Follow-up program measures for effects on arthropods**

| <b>Alteration and/or loss of habitat, and change in mortality</b>   |
|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Progress and success of progressive reclamation assessed annually</li> </ul> |

**7.2.2.4 Amphibians (Northern Leopard Frog)***Alteration and/or loss of habitat*

Denison predicted residual adverse changes in the alteration and/or loss of habitat of Northern Leopard Frog from various project activities. Denison did not perform detailed calculations for habitat loss and alteration as information for Northern Leopard Frog was not initially included in the main EIS but added in appendix 9-D. Denison stated that mitigation measures designed for wetlands also address effects on amphibians as they limit the loss or disruption of their habitat. In addition, species-specific pre-disturbance surveys will be conducted to identify habitat such as breeding ponds to implement setbacks and buffers as appropriate. Denison concluded that alteration and/or loss of available amphibian habitat is not expected to result in a change that will alter habitat integrity to the point where it is not sustainable to contribute to ecological functions. More detailed information can be found in the appendix 9-D, section 5.

*Change in mortality*

Denison predicted residual adverse changes in mortality of Northern Leopard Frog from various project activities. As noted above, species-specific mitigation measures will be used to address effects. Denison concluded that the change in mortality is not expected to alter the integrity of the regional Northern Leopard Frog populations to the point where they are not sustainable or available to contribute to ecological functions. More detailed information can be found in the appendix 9-D, section 5.

Through implementation of appropriate mitigation measures and follow up monitoring, Denison anticipates that the impacts from the alteration and/or loss of habitat and change in mortality on amphibians will be negligible throughout all Project phases. Therefore, Denison determined the alteration and/or loss of habitat and the change in mortality from direct and indirect sources is not expected to have significant residual adverse effects on amphibians.



### *Mitigation Measures for amphibians*

Denison has proposed the following measures to mitigate the potential adverse effects from identified project activities on amphibians. CNSC staff have assessed the mitigation measures proposed by Denison and have concluded that they are adequate to manage potential significant adverse effects to amphibians. See a summary in [table 7.19](#) below.

**Table 7.19 Proposed mitigation measures to address effects on amphibians**

| <b>Alteration and/or loss of habitat</b>  |
|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project Area reduced to the extent safely practicable to reduce habitat disturbance and noise</li> </ul>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project footprint mostly developed within previously disturbed areas to minimize additional habitat disturbance</li> </ul>                           |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Progressive reclamation completed where possible</li> </ul>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Locations of site-specific habitat features communicated to Project personnel and implementation of requirements to limit disturbance</li> </ul>     |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vehicle traffic and construction restricted to approved access routes and work areas and will not cross or enter a watercourse or wetland</li> </ul> |
| <b>Change in mortality</b>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pre-disturbance surveys to identify site-specific habitat features (e.g., breeding ponds) and implement setbacks or timing windows</li> </ul>        |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implementation of applicable activity restrictions as per the Saskatchewan Activity Restriction Guidelines for Sensitive Species (SARGSS)</li> </ul> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appropriate setback and buffer distances from wetland features where Northern Leopard Frog is known to occur</li> </ul>                              |

### *Monitoring and Follow-Up Measures*

In order to verify the accuracy of the assessment and determine the effectiveness of the mitigation measures, Denison will implement the following EA follow-up measures.

**Table 7.20 Follow-up program measures for effects on amphibians**

| <b>Alteration and/or loss of habitat, and change in mortality</b>  |
|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Progress and success of progressive reclamation assessed annually</li> </ul>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Routine monitoring of wildlife species throughout the life of the Project in accordance with the Wildlife Monitoring Plans</li> </ul> |

#### **7.2.2.5 Bats (Little Brown Myotis, Northern Myotis)**

##### *Alteration and/or loss of habitat*

Denison predicted residual adverse changes in the alteration and/or loss of habitat of Little Brown Myotis and Northern Myotis from various project activities. Denison did not perform detailed calculations for habitat loss and alteration as information for bats was provided in response to an IR and is thus not included in the main EIS but in appendix 9-D and appendix 9-F. Denison stated that based on the terrain, vegetation, and ecosystem information available, there are no hibernacula anticipated in the Project Area. Terrain is low relief with no rocky outcrops or



bedrock at surface for cave habitats, and there are no man-made structures such as mine openings or buildings with stable and specific temperatures. In appendix 9-F, Denison assessed existing ecosites for their potential for maternity roosts (e.g., presence of larger diameter trees), and identified small areas (<49 ha) of suitable potential roost habitat in the Project Area. Several mitigation measures are proposed to address effects, most notably the pre-clearance surveys specific to Little Brown Myotis and Northern Myotis that will identify maternal roosting sites and hibernacula with implementation of appropriate setbacks and clearance timing windows. Denison concluded that alteration and/or loss of available bat habitat is not expected to result in a change that will alter habitat integrity to the point where it is not sustainable to contribute to ecological functions. More detailed information can be found in the appendix 9-D, section 5, and appendix 9-F, section 2.3.

Notably, Denison provided a supplemental memo to CNSC in October 2024<sup>4</sup> that described additional bat species, Hoary Bat and Western Small-footed Bat, observed in 2024. In a supplemental response, Denison explained that the assessment for bat species at risk is representative of the additional two species given they occupy the same ecological niche and have similar life histories, and thus the assessment conclusions equally apply to the additional bat species.

#### *Change in mortality*

Denison predicted residual adverse changes in mortality of Little Brown Myotis and Northern Myotis from various project activities. As noted above, species-specific mitigation measures will be used to address effects. Denison concluded that the change in mortality is not expected to alter the integrity of the regional bat populations to the point where they are not sustainable or available to contribute to ecological functions. More detailed information can be found in the appendix 9-D, section 5.

Through implementation of appropriate mitigation measures and follow up monitoring, Denison anticipates that the impacts from the alteration and/or loss of habitat and change in mortality on bats will be negligible throughout all Project phases. Therefore, Denison determined the alteration and/or loss of habitat and the change in mortality from direct and indirect sources is not expected to have significant residual adverse effects on bats.

#### *Mitigation Measures for bats*

Denison has proposed the following measures to mitigate the potential adverse effects from identified project activities on bats. CNSC staff have assessed the mitigation measures proposed by Denison and have concluded that they are adequate to manage potential significant adverse effects to bats. See a summary in [table 7.21](#) below.

**Table 7.21 Proposed mitigation measures to address effects on bats**

| <b>Alteration and/or loss of habitat</b>  |
|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vegetation clearing outside of roosting periods, when practical</li> </ul> |

<sup>4</sup> Omnia memo, RE: Denison Wheeler 2024 Replicate Bat Surveys, dated 29 Oct. 2024

|   |
|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Locations of site-specific habitat features communicated to Project personnel and implementation of requirements to limit disturbance</li> </ul>                   |
| <b>Change in mortality</b>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pre-disturbance surveys to identify site-specific habitat features (e.g., roosting sites, hibernacula) and implement setbacks or timing windows</li> </ul>         |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If a maternal roosting site is identified on the Project footprint, implementation of exclusionary methods following the summer maternity roost seasons</li> </ul> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Specific exclusion methods to prevent access to buildings or other infrastructure</li> </ul>   |

### *Monitoring and Follow-Up Measures*

In order to verify the accuracy of the assessment and determine the effectiveness of the mitigation measures, Denison will implement the following EA follow-up measures.

**Table 7.22 Follow-up program measures for effects on bats**

|  |
|--|
| <b>Alteration and/or loss of habitat, and change in mortality</b>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Routine monitoring of wildlife species throughout the life of the Project in accordance with the Wildlife Monitoring Plans</li> </ul> |

### **7.2.2.6 Birds (Bank Swallow, Barn Swallow, Common Nighthawk, Horned Grebe, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Rusty Blackbird, Short-eared Owl, Yellow Rail, waterbirds and waterfowl, upland game birds, migratory songbirds, Bald Eagle, Osprey)**

#### *Alteration and/or loss of habitat*

Denison predicted residual adverse changes in the alteration and/or loss of habitat for all bird species from various project activities. For the raptors Bald Eagle and Osprey, direct habitat loss was calculated based on site clearing, while alteration of available habitat was quantified by applying a 1,000 m buffer around the Project Area to account for sensory disturbance. On the scale of the Terrestrial RSA, the assessment resulted in 0.4% raptor habitat lost and 6.5% altered. These effects will be mitigated through progressive restoration, although differences may exist between habitat types for the time frame for vegetation regeneration. Since both raptor species prefer tall mature trees within upland forest near waterbodies, habitat is assumed to become available when mature trees offer potential nesting habitat after post-decommissioning.

Denison grouped waterbirds and waterfowl, upland game birds, and migratory songbirds as “migratory breeding birds”. Direct habitat loss was calculated based on site clearing, while alteration of available habitat was quantified by applying a buffer (1,000 m for waterbirds and waterfowl, 500 m for upland game birds and migratory songbirds) around the Project Area to account for sensory disturbance. On the scale of the Terrestrial RSA, the assessment resulted in 0.0002% waterbirds and waterfowl habitat lost and 1.6% altered, 0.5% upland game bird habitat lost and 3.8% altered, and 0.5% migratory songbird habitat lost and 3.6% altered. These effects will be mitigated through progressive restoration, although differences may exist between habitat types for the time frame for vegetation regeneration. While avian species that prefer regenerating vegetation types would have suitable habitat available for their use earlier, regeneration of disturbed areas into mature forests is expected to extend beyond post-decommissioning.

For bird species at risk, Denison performed detailed calculations for habitat loss and alteration for five species initially included in the EIS (Common Nighthawk, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Rusty Blackbird, Short-eared Owl, Yellow Rail), and provided additional information for three species (Bank Swallow, Barn Swallow, Horned Grebe) in EIS appendix 9-D in response to an IR. The assessment considered the direct loss of habitat and the indirect alteration (500 m buffer to account for sensory disturbances, habitat fragmentation, and edge effects) of habitat during all Project phases. On the scale of the Terrestrial RSA, direct habitat loss and alteration, respectively, were assessed as 0.4% and 3.6% for Common Nighthawk, 0.01% and 2.9% for Short-eared Owl, 0.02% and 2.4% for Yellow Rail, 0.02% and 2.4% for Rusty Blackbird, and 0.5% and 3.8% for Olive-sided Flycatcher. Given the habitat-based assessment methodology, Denison stated that the assessed species can serve as surrogates for other bird species at risk that use the same habitat types, e.g., Yellow Rail for Horned Grebe, and Common Nighthawk for Barn Swallow; however, species-specific mitigation measures will be applied as outlined in EIS appendix 9-D, section 3.3.4. Habitat loss and alteration will be mitigated through progressive restoration, although differences may exist between habitat types for the time frame for vegetation regeneration. Revegetated areas are anticipated to become available habitat within a few years of revegetation for some species that prefer habitat following disturbance at an early seral stage. Denison stated that while all bird species at risk are expected to be sensitive to changes in their environment, only a limited number of individuals is expected to interact with the Project and displaced individuals are expected to relocate to available habitat elsewhere.

Denison concluded that alteration and/or loss of available bird habitat is not expected to result in a change that will alter habitat integrity to the point where it would not be able to sustain regional populations. More detailed information can be found in EIS sections 9.4.6.2.1, 9.4.6.3.1, and 9.4.6.4.1, and EIS appendix 9-D, section 5.

#### *Change in mortality*

Denison predicted residual adverse changes in mortality of all bird species from various project activities. Potential sources of direct mortality include incidental take during site clearing and vegetation management, collisions with vehicles, equipment, airplanes, buildings or power transmission lines, and electrocution on energized equipment. All birds are vulnerable to incidental take, but particularly those that build inconspicuous nests on the ground (e.g., Common Nighthawk) or nest on structures that require routine maintenance. Denison assessed that raptors are less susceptible to incidental take as they prefer nesting in tall trees or on power poles, and also less vulnerable to collisions as they quickly maneuver in flight. In turn, species that use roadside habitats may be more susceptible to collisions. Larger-bodied flocking birds are considered highest risk for bird strikes with aircraft or collisions with power lines. Short-eared Owl and Olive-sided Flycatcher may be vulnerable to incidental take during Project-related site clearing and vegetation management due to their nesting preferences. In contrast, habitat for Yellow Rail and Rusty Blackbird is limited in the Project Area, resulting in lower probability of direct mortality.

As for indirect sources of mortality, these include nest failure or abandonment due to sensory disturbance, disorientation by artificial light at night, and changes in predator-prey dynamics. Avian species are typically more sensitive to sensory disturbance during the breeding season. Mitigation measures will be in place to limit interactions between birds and potential sources of direct and indirect mortality. Moreover, Denison noted that displaced individuals are expected to relocate to areas of available habitat which limits interactions with the Project that could cause

mortality. Available habitat is not considered to be a limiting factor within the region. Thus, occurrences of mortality are expected to be isolated and infrequent events given the implementation of mitigation measures.

Denison concluded that the change in mortality is not expected to alter the integrity of the regional bird populations to the point where they could not be sustained. More detailed information can be found in EIS sections 9.4.6.2.2, 9.4.6.3.2, and 9.4.6.4.2, and EIS appendix 9-D, section 5.

Through implementation of appropriate mitigation measures and follow up monitoring, Denison anticipates that the impacts from the alteration and/or loss of habitat and change in mortality on birds will be negligible throughout all Project phases. Therefore, Denison determined the alteration and/or loss of habitat and the change in mortality from direct and indirect sources is not expected to have significant residual adverse effects on birds.

#### *Mitigation Measures for birds*

Denison has proposed the following measures to mitigate the potential adverse effects from identified project activities on birds. CNSC staff have assessed the mitigation measures proposed by Denison and have concluded that they are adequate to manage potential significant adverse effects to birds. See a summary in [table 7.23](#) below.

**Table 7.23 Proposed mitigation measures to address effects on birds**

| <b>Alteration and/or loss of habitat</b>  |
|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project Area reduced to the extent safely practicable to reduce habitat disturbance and noise</li> </ul>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project footprint mostly developed within previously disturbed areas to minimize additional habitat disturbance</li> </ul>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Progressive reclamation completed where possible</li> </ul>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Noise management to minimize disturbance especially during sensitive time periods</li> </ul>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dust suppression to limit deposition on vegetation and waterbodies</li> </ul>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Directed, shielded, low or task lighting focussed on work sites</li> </ul>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sediment and erosion control such as fencing or vegetated barriers</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Change in mortality</b>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Site clearing and other works that involve disturbance of vegetation or soil conducted outside of the nesting season when practicable, taking into account individual breeding and nesting seasons for each species at risk</li> </ul> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pre-disturbance nest surveys prior to the commencement of any vegetation clearing or soil disturbance</li> </ul>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Active nests and suspected nest locations protected with setback buffer consistent with regulatory guidelines</li> </ul>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relatively short power transmission line (approx. 7 km) constructed from existing provincial power line adjacent to Highway 914</li> </ul>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deflectors on power transmission lines to discourage nesting</li> </ul>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Infrastructure maintained to exclude birds, including solid and flexible barriers</li> </ul>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Physical, visual, and auditory deterrents and exclusion methods to discourage avian use and prevent entrapment</li> </ul>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wildlife education and training for employees and contractors including avian deterrent techniques and waste management</li> </ul>   |

- Road and traffic management to reduce attractiveness of roadside habitat and minimize collisions

### *Monitoring and Follow-Up Measures*

In order to verify the accuracy of the assessment and determine the effectiveness of the mitigation measures, Denison will implement the following EA follow-up measures.

**Table 7.24 Follow-up program measures for effects on birds**

| Alteration and/or loss of habitat, and change in mortality   |
|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Routine monitoring of wildlife species throughout the life of the Project in accordance with the Wildlife Monitoring Plans</li> </ul>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitoring avian mortality related to avian use of waste and water facilities, as well as mortality events associated with interactions with access roads and transmission lines</li> </ul> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Progressive reclamation and revegetation of disturbed areas monitored in accordance with the Reclamation and Closure Plan</li> </ul>  |

## **7.2.3 Other Views Expressed**

### **7.2.3.1 Wildlife & Habitat**

#### *Indigenous Nations and Communities*

ERFN expressed several concerns on the topic of wildlife and wildlife habitat. First, they emphasize the importance of documenting caribou and moose calving locations and participating in mitigation efforts. The loss of wetland areas and lichen could significantly impact habitat and food availability during critical life stages for these species. Additionally, noise generated by Project-related activities may affect ungulates. ERFN noted concerns that increased access to Cree Lake could adversely impact caribou and moose populations.

YNLR specifically focused on the extensive seismic network's potential effects on vegetation and wetlands. They also highlight the impact of seismic cut lines on land, wildlife, and future land users. Linear disruptions are a concern, affecting ungulates, furbearers, Woodland Caribou, raptors, migratory breeding birds, and species at risk.

Additionally, YNLR questioned the adequacy of the EIS in addressing project-specific concerns related to Woodland Caribou range and Moose. Lastly, community Elders express their worry that future generations may not experience an abundance of wildlife. They emphasized the need to consider IK in the protection of Woodland Caribou.

Métis Nation – Saskatchewan requested they be involved in the development of Wildlife Monitoring and Woodland Caribou Management Plans given the importance of Woodland Caribou to MN-S citizens.

BNDN shared many concerns relating to wildlife and wildlife habitat as a result of the proposed Project. BNDN's concerns regarding wildlife included ingestion of contaminants of potential concern, increased likelihood of human-wildlife road collisions, and interaction of wildlife with areas storing hazardous substances. BNDN noted that concerns related to wildlife have a direct impact on their citizens as the abundance of wildlife present for harvesting may be reduced, as

well as concerns of traditional users that wildlife may be contaminated as a result of the proposed Project activities and operation.

In response to a CNSC request for review of the Views Expressed shared, PBCN indicated that they are concerned that changes to air and noise quality may disrupt wildlife of up to a considerable distance away from the Proposed Project.

### **7.2.3.2 Furbearers**

#### *Indigenous Nations and Communities*

ERFN noted that many important furbearing species (e.g., Lynx, Muskrat, Fisher, Otter, Mink, etc.) were erroneously omitted from the wildlife valued component given these are culturally important species. Further, ERFN believed that monitoring changes in wetland aerial extent alone (as a single monitoring point) was insufficient, given that wetlands serve as key lifecycle habitats for species of concern, including furbearing species such as Beaver and Mink.

YNLR raised concern that given all the residual effects noted across the VCs contained in the EIS that impacts to furbearing wildlife species was noted as non-significant. YNLR indicated they disagree with this assessment conclusion.

BNDN noted that they possess significant IK on furbearing wildlife species and requested to be meaningfully involved in the development of wildlife monitoring and management plans to impart IK to Denison.

### **7.2.3.3 Woodland Caribou**

#### *Indigenous Nations and Communities*

ERFN indicated to Denison that reclamation priorities should include meeting objectives for Woodland Caribou and that any work related to Woodland Caribou must consider the federal recovery strategy for the species.

YNLR raised concerns to Denison that the Woodland Caribou Offset Plan and restoration are insufficient to YNLR citizens given the methodology used and lack of details provided on where the offsets will occur.

MN-S was concerned that the RSA selected for assessment of wildlife did not encompass a sufficient area to consider Woodland Caribou. In addition, MN-S noted their concerns that Denison has not incorporated sufficient Métis Knowledge into their Woodland Caribou Management Plan and requested Denison further engage on this issue and to include Northern Regions 1 and 3 representatives in the development of a Woodland Caribou Management Plan for the Project.

BNDN requested Denison better present the extent of Woodland Caribou habitat alteration and/or loss from the proposed Project by implementing a 5 km avoidance buffer to suitable habitat to more accurately reflect the impacts to Woodland Caribou as a result of the Project.

PBCN raised questions of what the impacts to Woodland Caribou will be as a result from various residual effects noted for the Project. In response to a CNSC request for review of the Views Expressed shared, PBCN requested an opportunity to review and comment on all caribou mitigation and offsetting plans to ensure the disruption to the exercise of PBCN's aboriginal rights to hunt Woodland Caribou is minimized.

#### *Federal Authorities*

ECCC does not agree with the conclusion that the Project will have no significant residual adverse effects on boreal Woodland Caribou. Residual adverse effects with medium risk, based on medium consequence and high likelihood, to the recovery of boreal Woodland Caribou are expected to occur from Project activities if mitigations, including offsetting, are insufficient or not aligned with the objectives of the recovery strategy. Given the ecological context of boreal Woodland Caribou, any loss of critical habitat is a significant risk to the species and the species' ability to recover.

The regional study area is too small to capture cumulative effects on Woodland Caribou. The calculations and effects assessments have not followed Scientific Assessment to Support the Identification of Critical Habitat for Woodland Caribou (*Rangifer tarandus caribou*), Boreal Population, in Canada (Environment Canada, 2011) or the Amended Recovery Strategy for Woodland Caribou (*Rangifer tarandus caribou*), Boreal Population, in Canada. ECCC recommends that Denison assess effects at the scale which is representative of the SK1 range. ECCC recommends updating the assessment of residual and cumulative effects to boreal Woodland Caribou and providing further mitigations, including offsetting, commensurate with risks.

ECCC notes that the current level of detail in the Caribou Management Framework is insufficient to determine if offsetting amount, location, timing and methods will achieve the goal of no net loss and be aligned with the goals of the amended recovery strategy for boreal Woodland Caribou. Based on the information presented in the final EIS, ECCC's analysis is that the offsetting requirement should be much greater than 4:1, and there is a medium level of risk. It is ECCC's expert advice that a detailed mitigation plan is required (e.g., the Caribou Management Framework) that addresses the removal of critical habitat in the SK1 range during the construction, operations, closure and post closure phases as well as the permanent removal of some critical habitat that will not be reforested as a result of this Project (e.g., some access roads). The plan should include details on all parts of the mitigation hierarchy, including avoidance, on-site restoration, mitigations and offsetting.

ECCC recommends that Denison work with the Province of Saskatchewan to ensure that the final mitigation plan (i.e., the Caribou Management Framework) will adequately address the loss of critical habitat. Denison is also encouraged to consult ECCC and interested Indigenous communities as part of developing the final off-site mitigation plan.

#### **7.2.3.4 Amphibians and Birds**

##### *Indigenous Nations and Communities*

ERFN indicated that high disturbance activities should consider Rusty Blackbirds to determine setback distances during sensitive timing windows. In addition, ERFN and YNLR indicated their concerns that amphibians were not included in the EIS as part of a valued component or key indicator species given amphibians were included in wildlife surveys.

YNLR noted concerns that bird species were grouped together incorrectly given their widely varying habitat requirements. This concerned YNLR members as potential impacts to bird species based on Project effects may be inaccurate. YNLR noted that impacts to forest bird species the presence of significant seismic lines and edge effects to habitat may be underestimated.

MN-S noted that Denison should include five years of upland game bird harvest and harvest effort to accurately reflect trends in game bird management in and around the proposed Project Area.

BNDN raised concern that Barn Swallow was not chosen as a key indicator species given they have distinct habitat types and exhibit distinct breeding behaviour. BNDN noted that this was an error by Denison as the unique habitat requirements make it a good indicator species. BNDN also requested that Horned Grebe be an indicator species for the purposes of the EIS.

#### *Federal Authorities*

ECCC recommended additional baseline studies on bats as there is currently insufficient information to make adequate comparisons of bat use at baseline and during construction, operation, and post-construction. ECCC also deemed mitigations for Common Nighthawk insufficient and recommended additional measures to address potential nest destruction or mortality from vehicle collisions.

Overall, ECCC does not recommend the use of nest searches or pre-clearing surveys for active bird nests during the breeding season as a mitigation. In most habitats, detection probably is very low but the risk of disturbing a nest is high. Flushing birds from their nests has detrimental effects on the species' population, including increasing the risk of predation of eggs or young. ECCC recommends non-invasive techniques, such as an area search for evidence of nesting (e.g., presence of birds in breeding habitat through observation of singing birds, alarm calls, distraction displays) using non-intrusive search methods to prevent disturbance (e.g., point count surveys). ECCC also recommends using a scientifically sound approach that considers the available bird habitats, what migratory bird species are likely to occur in those habitats, and the time periods when they would likely be present.

ECCC noted that Denison has not committed to avoiding vegetation clearing during the breeding bird season, and associated timing window for each breeding bird species.

### **7.2.3.5 Mitigation and Management Commitments**

#### *Wildlife & Habitat*

Denison has made numerous commitments to mitigate any adverse effects on wildlife and wildlife habitat (Commitments 9-1 to 9-5 9-11, 9-29 to 9-37). This includes reducing the project footprint and placing the footprint primarily within previously disturbed areas to minimize habitat loss and alteration, timing activities to avoid disturbing wildlife during sensitive periods, and conducting pre-clearing wildlife surveys to identify sensitive wildlife habitat features or the presence of species at risk. To reduce noise and disturbance associated with the project, Denison has committed to using high-quality, low sound emitting equipment and conducting regular maintenance, situating noise generating equipment behind on-site obstructions, monitoring sound levels during operation. To reduce attracting ungulates to roadways in the winter, Denison has committed to using gravel or sand, instead of salt, whenever possible. Denison will also prohibit employees and contractors from feeding, approaching, or harassing wildlife within the Project Area and installing appropriate road signage to minimize wildlife-vehicle collisions. To mitigate adverse effects related to the operating airstrip and flights, Denison has committed to maintaining direct flight paths, leaving the area as quickly and safely as possible, and adjusting flight paths based on Woodland Caribou observations/important locations.



CNSC staff advised Denison to clarify how IK/MK on Moose calving sites and corridors in the RSA is incorporated into the residual effects assessment. Denison explained that the sites identified by IK/MK were explicitly considered in the assessment as indicated by their identification as overlapping with the Terrestrial RSA, however, the areas were not expressly discussed in the residual effects assessment because there is no anticipated spatial overlap of those areas with direct or indirect Project effects. In addition, Denison provided maps that show Woodland Caribou's seasonal use of terrestrial habitat within the study areas, along with habitat potential for different life history requirements, including forage, refuge, and calving. CNSC staff noted that this information also addresses ERFN's concerns on the importance of documenting Woodland Caribou lifecycle habitat and calving locations. On this note, CNSC staff acknowledged Denison's response that summarized IK of Woodland Caribou signs in the Terrestrial RSA.

With respect to particular concerns, CNSC staff noted that ERFN expressed apprehensions regarding whether industrial activities could cumulatively contribute to landscape fragmentation. CNSC staff confirmed that industrial activities with the potential to reduce habitat connectivity were captured. Denison's assessment included infrastructure such as roads, trails, highway 914, and power transmission corridors, as well as considered exploration and mining activities that come along with line cutting and access development. Denison also mentioned that the Project is not expected to affect movement patterns across the landscape as it does not spatially overlap with known wildlife corridors, and therefore habitat connectivity is not expected to be affected. Additionally, Denison acknowledged that ERFN identified a wildlife corridor between Cree Lake and Russel Lake used by several species, including Woodland Caribou, although it only overlaps with the southern portion of the Terrestrial RSA about 6 km south of the Project Area. Denison concluded that there are no barriers preventing Woodland Caribou from moving throughout the Terrestrial RSA through the habitat types that offer a similar level of quality for the various life requisites for this species; therefore, effects on connectivity are not expected.

CNSC staff also acknowledged ERFN's concern about interactive cumulative effects of forest fires and climate change with additional industrial activity. CNSC staff noted that Denison's cumulative effects assessment recognized that natural disturbances such as fires have the potential to affect terrestrial habitat, and that the Project is located within the Boreal Shield Ecozone which experiences a largely natural fire regime that results in much of the vegetation within the RSA (70.6%) being comprised of post-fire regeneration. CNSC staff acknowledge that the interaction of forest fires and climate change can adversely affect terrestrial biota and their habitat. However, CNSC staff also note that the currently already highly fire-disturbed forest habitats provide habitat for several terrestrial biota including species at risk.

The seismic line activity in the region were considered in the terrestrial environmental assessments (section 9, the Existing Environment, Residual Effects Characterization, and Cumulative Effects Assessment sections). The lines were considered low-quality or no habitat, depending on the species being assessed and their habitat requirements. CNSC staff noted YNLR's concerns on the cumulative effects of extensive seismic cutlines on Woodland Caribou. Despite Woodland Caribou not seemingly avoiding existing linear features, such as roads, trails, and transmission lines, in the area, Denison applied a 500 m buffer for habitat alteration for Woodland Caribou in accordance with guidance in the federal recovery strategy. CNSC staff acknowledged that the cumulative effects assessment may not have included all seismic cutlines on the landscape, but noted that the [federal recovery strategy](#) defines anthropogenically disturbed habitat as "anthropogenic disturbance visible on Landsat at a scale of 1:50,000, including habitat

within a 500 m buffer of the anthropogenic disturbance.” Not all linear disturbances, especially narrower lines, may be visible on Landsat imagery at a scale of 1:50,000. That said, CNSC staff acknowledged that Denison proactively initiated research to provide field-based findings on the effectiveness of linear features mitigation and effects on predator/prey movements. This field program will deploy and monitor the effectiveness of five different linear feature treatment types across nine locations. Denison also stated that legacy roads and trails are expected to be the primary candidate features for habitat offsets and restoration activities.

With respect to BNDN’s concerns, CNSC staff note that potential effects on wildlife as the result of exposure to COPCs, including dietary pathways, were assessed in appendix 10A of the EIS. HQs associated with the exposure pathways analyses were below the benchmark of 1 for all COPCs, indicating negligible risk. Furthermore, Denison committed that contaminated areas such as waste ponds and pads and landfill will be fenced to avoid contact with wildlife. Waste will be collected and temporarily stored in wildlife-proof containers to avoid attracting scavengers that increase risk for human-wildlife interactions. Lastly, road signage (e.g., speed limits, wildlife crossings) will be installed to minimize wildlife-vehicle collisions.

### *Furbearers*

In the final EIS, Denison has included furbearers (Wolverine, Pine Marten, Mink, and Muskrat) as VCs. CNSC staff note that it is not practical or necessary to specifically assess all species present at a site, as long as representative species are chosen for the assessment that reflect the main exposure pathways, feeding habits, habitats, etc., and particularly those associated with the highest exposures. The protection of the selected species then provides reasonable assurance that all species are protected. With respect to ERFN’s furbearing species of importance, the ERA directly assessed risk to Lynx (*Lynx canadensis*), Muskrat, and Mink. Fisher and Northern River Otter (*Lontra canadensis*) were also selected as representative species but assessed through the surrogates of Lynx and Mink, respectively.

Denison has also committed to, wherever possible, avoiding wetlands through project design and ensuring buffer space. Furthermore, Denison committed to the monitoring of terrestrial wildlife including small mammals, furbearers, ungulates, and species at risk. Regarding BNDN’s note, Denison stated that the Biodiversity Management Plan is responsive to commitments made to Indigenous Nations and communities through agreements and ongoing engagement. Inclusion of IK/MK and Local Knowledge alongside western scientific knowledge has been considered throughout the Biodiversity Management Plan.

### *Woodland Caribou*

Denison has included IK/MK throughout the EIS, including in section 9.3 Ungulates, Furbearers, and Woodland Caribou, section 9.4 Raptors, Migratory Breeding Birds, and Bird Species at Risk, and the Woodland Caribou Management Framework. Denison also conducted a cumulative effects assessment, which included the highway extension projects, on the atmosphere, acoustics, geology, groundwater, aquatic environment, terrestrial environment, human health, land and resource use, quality of life and economics. Throughout the process, Denison and ERFN worked together to resolve outstanding concerns, including those related to wildfires and wildlife habitat, and reached an agreement on these issues. Denison provided funding to ERFN and KML to complete updated traditional land use studies which were incorporated into the EIS. In addition, YNLR provided Denison with their traditional land use study entitled *An Exploration of Recorded Athabasca Denesuline’ Traditional Knowledge, Land Use and Occupancy Information in the Vicinity of Denison Mines Wheeler River Project*. Denison also signed a funding

agreement with MN-S to complete a Métis Knowledge Study, which was shared with Denison in October 2023. Denison revised the EIS to include relevant information in the assessment from this study. Denison has also acknowledged the need to further discuss cumulative effects with YNLR and has committed to meeting to discuss.

Denison has committed to a Wildlife Management Plan for terrestrial and avian species and a Woodland Caribou Management Plan (Commitment 9-2), which will identify all sensitive periods and habitat types and identify applicable no-disturbance setback buffers to be adhered to during all project activities. In addition to performing species-specific surveys as per their plan submitted for licensing, Denison has also committed to non-species-specific pre-disturbance wildlife surveys (Commitment 9-3) and using results to inform the design and delineation/establishment of setback distances, work delays, and other mitigation measures. During the construction, operation, and decommissioning phases of the project there will be targeted monitoring programs of wildlife, and adaptive management process will be implemented if mitigation measures are ineffective. Management plans will be living documents and updated based on monitoring results, consultations, regulatory/legislative changes, and updated best management practices or science. Denison has also committed to working with its Indigenous communities of interest to develop and implement the monitoring approach and the framework for sharing monitoring results. This commitment includes collaborating with ERFN and KML on developing a monitoring regime suited to each of their interests and needs (Commitment 10).

Denison has committed to a habitat offsetting plan to satisfy the requirements of the Province of Saskatchewan offsetting framework to fulfil objectives of the Woodland Caribou Recovery Strategy. The Woodland Caribou Management Framework was based on discussions between Denison and the Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment, and Denison incorporated IK provided by Indigenous Nations and communities in the framework.

With respect to the Woodland Caribou Management Framework, CNSC staff requested Denison to demonstrate consistency with the federal recovery strategy for Woodland Caribou, boreal population, in particular the application of avoidance and minimization measures for predicted effects to caribou and its critical habitat. The CNSC determined that it is the responsible authority for EAs under the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012* (CEAA 2012) for this Project, and is therefore responsible for ensuring that the requirements of SARA are met. This includes applicable recovery strategies and actions plans for species at risk (ss.79(1) and (2) SARA), like the Amended Recovery Strategy for the Woodland Caribou, Boreal Population, in Canada. Thus, CNSC staff recommend an EA Condition that requires Denison to meet the federal recovery strategy. It is anticipated that Denison will revise the Caribou Management Framework based on [guidance provided by ECCC](#) in order to address ECCC's concerns described above and to ensure alignment with the goals of the federal amended recovery strategy for boreal Woodland Caribou.

As part of decommissioning, Denison has made a commitment to reclaim the affected portions of the Project Area and establish conditions that will support a restoration trajectory to pre-disturbance conditions (Commitment 9-1), therefore restoring wildlife habitat. After decommissioning, all project components will be removed, and site activities will be limited to monitoring and inspections.

#### *Amphibians and Birds*

Denison conducted an assessment for the Rusty Blackbird through its SAR appendix 9-D to the EIS. Several mitigation measures are outlined for Rusty Blackbird that address ERFN's concerns. These include the commitment to conduct site clearing and other works that involve disturbance of vegetation and/or soil outside of the Rusty Blackbird nesting season, when practical, and/or conducting pre-clearance surveys targeted to Rusty Blackbird. Active and/or suspected nests will be protected with a no-disturbance setback buffer consistent with regulatory guidelines.

With respect to BNDN's concern, Denison noted that Common Nighthawk, a nocturnal aerial insectivore, fills a similar niche as the Barn Swallow, a diurnal aerial insectivore, and therefore protecting habitat for the Common Nighthawk will also protect Barn Swallow habitat. Denison also developed a SAR appendix 9-D that includes the life history requirements, expected Project effects, proposed mitigation measures and anticipated residual effects on Barn Swallows and Horned Grebe. Denison provided rationale about the surrogate selection for several species at risk birds, including barn swallow and horned grebe, and elaborated on the habitat-based assessment approach that supports the use of surrogates that are known to utilize the same habitat types. Notably, the SAR appendix 9-D lists and individually assesses all bird species at risk.

Denison provided background information and context for the grouping of bird species in the EIS, including clarifying the choice of valued components and key indicators based on scientific, Indigenous and local knowledge, and community interests regarding potential project effects. With relevance to YNLR's concerns, Denison's assessment approach was focused on the key habitat types (i.e., habitat-based assessment) that all migratory bird species, regardless of guild, would be expected to use on a seasonal or year-round basis depending on the species. As such, the EA considered the potential effects on all available habitat types used by these key indicator species and mitigation measures will address all migratory bird species regardless of focal species/guild. Furthermore, wildlife mortality monitoring would be undertaken as required, continuously throughout the life of the Project. Mortality events associated with interactions with access and transmission lines will be documented and reported to the Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment.

Furthermore, this appendix 9-D also included amphibian SAR which was a concern of ERFN and YNLR. For amphibians, Denison specifically assessed the Northern Leopard Frog. Furthermore, through the Biodiversity Management Plan, Denison committed to continue to conduct nocturnal amphibian call surveys at representative ecosites and wetlands.

With respect to MN-S' comment, Denison included over five years of game bird harvest data on annual grouse harvests in section 9.4.3, table 9.4-3 of the EIS.

CNSC staff have considered advice from ECCC, including recommendations related to baseline studies on bats. Although CNSC staff determined Denison's effect assessment for bats to be adequate, and mitigation measures to be appropriate, concerns remained with respect to the baseline data. Specifically, CNSC staff required the baseline data for bat species at risk to be of sufficient sample size and duration to obtain a basic understanding of within- and between-year variability and to allow for statistically robust comparison to assess potential impacts over the lifecycle of the Project. CNSC staff thus proposed the establishment of an EA Condition to require Denison to conduct at least one more year of additional bat baseline surveys. Further details are in Section 7.2.4.6.

CNSC staff further noted ECCC's concerns about insufficient mitigation measures related to Common Nighthawk. Denison provided various mitigation measures for Common Nighthawk in

the SAR appendix 9-D, including conducting site clearing outside of its nesting season, conducting pre-clearance surveys, and establishing no disturbance setback buffers for active or suspected breeding and roosting locations consistent with regulatory guidelines. Moreover, Denison will implement a Road and Traffic Management Plan which will include reduction of traffic volume, implementation of speed limits, installing visible signage at locations with potential for wildlife crossings (including avian species), communication and reporting of wildlife collisions, and maintenance of ditches and culverts. To address the extent of ECCC's concerns regarding nest destruction, CNSC staff carried forward comments to the Pre-Clearance Wildlife Monitoring Plan, outlining an expectation for Denison to include any open and already cleared areas into the pre-clearance survey target areas for Common Nighthawk. Moreover, CNSC staff strongly recommended that Denison not perform any vegetation clearing during the breeding season and not employ intrusive pre-clearance search methods, aligning with ECCC's advice above.

## **7.2.4 CNSC Staff's Analysis**

### **7.2.4.1 Furbearers (Wolverine, Pine Marten, Mink, Muskrat)**

#### *Alteration and/or loss of habitat*

CNSC staff reviewed Denison's effect assessment for alteration and/or loss of habitat to Pine Marten, Mink, and Muskrat, and confirmed that Denison conducted a comprehensive analysis of these effects and that identified mitigation and follow-up monitoring program measures are adequate.

With respect to Wolverine, CNSC staff noted that the species occupies large home ranges and, therefore, needs vast tracts of undisturbed land to maintain viable populations. The residual effect assessment estimated that 8.2% of available Wolverine habitat within the Terrestrial RSA may be altered or lost, with limited rationale provided with respect to whether the habitat altered or lost may affect Wolverines' home ranges and/or impact the required habitat size to maintain populations. Taking into account the fact that Wolverine is a species at risk, CNSC staff asked Denison to provide additional information on whether the lost and/or altered Wolverine habitat overlaps with Wolverine home ranges, and on whether the remaining, available, undisturbed habitat size is suitable to maintain populations. Denison responded that while Wolverine was not observed during baseline studies for the Project, it is assumed that the Project may overlap with Wolverine home ranges. Denison noted that Wolverine occur in low densities across all forest stand and vegetation types but are generally absent from areas of human development and activities. Also, Denison explained that most of the Project footprint is already disturbed through previous exploration activities which is accounted for in the estimate of habitat loss. Denison's effect conclusions take into account no Wolverine observations during baseline surveys, the small Project footprint, and the typically large size of a Wolverine home range.

CNSC staff also noted ECCC's IR for Denison to describe any important Wolverine habitat feature (i.e., dens) that may be lost as a result of the Project, and to assess the need for pre-clearing surveys to identify any denning sites. Denison responded that no Wolverine dens were identified during any of the baseline studies, and that it is not anticipated that denning sites will be lost and/or altered because there are no specific landscape features typically used by Wolverine as potential denning sites located in the Project footprint. Denison added that pre-clearance surveys will be completed to identify all sensitive wildlife habitat features, including Wolverine denning sites. CNSC staff verified that the methodology and timing of the pre-

clearance surveys (or sometimes called pre-disturbance) were provided in the EIS, tailored to Wolverine.

While Denison has committed to routinely monitoring wildlife species throughout the project lifecycle (Commitment 9-31) and has stated that ongoing monitoring for species at risk will be detailed in the Environmental Management Program documentation, this information is currently outstanding. Given that Wolverine is a listed species at risk in Schedule 1 of SARA, CNSC staff propose an EA condition (table 12.1 EA5) (table 12.1 EA that requires Denison to provide the plans for follow-up monitoring for all listed wildlife species including Wolverine and their critical habitat over the project's lifecycle. CNSC staff expect that the measures taken to monitor adverse effects are consistent with applicable recovery strategies or action plans, are appropriate to detect adverse effects and to verify the effectiveness of mitigation measures, as well as identify circumstances under which corrective measures may be needed.

Taking into account this information, and the proposed EA condition, CNSC staff concluded that Denison's mitigation and follow-up monitoring program measures for the identified effects on Wolverine are adequate.

#### *Change in mortality*

CNSC staff reviewed Denison's effect assessment for change in mortality to Wolverine, Pine Marten, Mink, and Muskrat, and confirmed that Denison conducted a comprehensive analysis of these effects and that identified mitigation and follow-up monitoring program measures are adequate.

#### **7.2.4.2 Ungulates (Moose)**

##### *Alteration and/or loss of habitat*

CNSC staff reviewed Denison's effect assessment for alteration and/or loss of habitat to Moose and acknowledged the concerns from ERFN about declining Moose populations. CNSC staff requested more information from Denison on how to mitigate any residual project impacts. Denison responded that mitigations to minimize potential effects on Moose include minimizing the extent of the Project Area and associated disturbances to the extent practicable, standard mitigation measures to minimize air emissions, dust, light and noise, exclusion fencing around waste pads and ponds, and measures to minimize direct mortality from vehicle collisions through driver training and safety practices. Moreover, CNSC staff advised Denison to clarify how IK/MK on Moose calving sites and corridors in the RSA is incorporated into the residual effects assessment. Denison explained that the sites identified by Indigenous Nations and communities through sharing of IK/MK were explicitly considered in the assessment as indicated by their identification as overlapping with the Terrestrial RSA, however, the areas were not expressly discussed in the residual effects assessment because there is no anticipated spatial overlap of those areas with direct or indirect Project effects. Taking into account this information, CNSC staff concluded that Denison's effect assessment, mitigation and follow-up monitoring program measures for the identified effects on Moose are adequate.

##### *Change in mortality*

CNSC staff reviewed Denison's effect assessment for change in mortality to Moose and confirmed that Denison conducted a comprehensive analysis of these effects and that identified mitigation and follow-up monitoring program measures are adequate.

### 7.2.4.3 Caribou (Woodland Caribou)

#### *Alteration and/or loss of habitat*

CNSC staff reviewed Denison's effect assessment for alteration and/or loss of habitat to Woodland Caribou, and had several questions with regard to baseline data, habitat disturbance, and mitigation measures.

CNSC staff noted that Denison's baseline surveys included: (1) a winter track count survey to assess presence, abundance, feeding activity, and ecosite affiliation; (2) a pellet group/browse availability survey to detect presence and abundance of caribou, and frequency of occurrence and abundance of lichen; and (3) a covert camera survey to determine presence and use of linear features (e.g., roads, trails, and hand-cut lines). From the initial information provided, CNSC staff determined that it was unclear if, or how, any data on seasonal and spatial use of habitat was considered in the residual effect analysis, for example summer/winter home ranges or sensitive life stages including calving (e.g., location of calving sites). Thus, CNSC staff asked Denison to provide a summary of available baseline data on habitat use during all seasons and life stages. Denison responded that the baseline data collection program was not specifically designed to collect seasonal caribou habitat use but to document caribou presence, and that the EIS conservatively assumed caribou to be present in the study areas throughout all seasons and life stages. In addition, Denison provided updated maps in appendix 9-F, section 2.1, that show caribou's seasonal use of terrestrial habitat within the study areas, along with habitat potential for different life history requirements, including forage, refuge, and calving. CNSC staff noted that this information also addresses ERFN's concerns on the importance of documenting caribou lifecycle habitat and calving locations. On this note, CNSC staff acknowledged Denison's response that summarized IK of caribou signs in the Terrestrial RSA.

CNSC staff also noted that forest fires can directly alter Woodland Caribou habitat, making it unsuitable through loss of mature conifer stands, loss of lichens and other forage plants, and barriers to movement. Boreal Woodland Caribou generally do not return to burned areas for several decades until the forest is old enough to support lichens and other food sources, although they may make limited use of burned areas to feed on new growth. CNSC staff questioned whether the ecosites BS3 and BS7 (regenerating forest types) represent suitable habitat for Woodland Caribou year-round. Thus, CNSC staff asked Denison to provide further information on the suitability of ecosites BS3 and BS7 for Woodland Caribou in different life stages and to consider the connectivity of habitat patches in the residual effect analysis. Denison responded that caribou were observed within these regenerating ecosites during baseline studies and therefore to be inclusive of all life stages, they were included in the "available habitat" for Woodland Caribou. Denison also explained that effects on habitat connectivity and fragmentation were considered in the habitat-based effects assessment within the context of habitat loss and alteration. Moreover, with respect to connectivity, Denison stated that Woodland Caribou move broadly across the landscape, and to date, western science has not identified any known corridors used specifically by woodland caribou in the SK1 range. Denison acknowledged that ERFN identified a wildlife corridor between Cree Lake and Russel Lake used by several species, including Woodland Caribou, although it only overlaps with the southern portion of the Terrestrial RSA about 6 km south of the Project Area. Denison concluded that there are no barriers preventing Woodland Caribou from moving throughout the Terrestrial RSA through the habitat types that offer a similar level of quality for the various life requisites for this species; therefore, effects on connectivity are not expected.



For sensory disturbance, CNSC staff concurred with ECCC's identification of a gap in the assessment of noise impacts on caribou from the Project air strip and associated air traffic. Denison was asked to provide additional information on the timing and frequency of air traffic and mitigation measures. Denison responded that the anticipated aircraft traffic at the Project airstrip is expected to include approximately five flights per week during operation, and opportunities to optimize the flight schedule will be completed as the Project advances. Denison also committed to operate the airstrip and flights in a safe manner and will also seek to minimize interactions with wildlife by following guidance and best practice from the Province of Saskatchewan and other jurisdictions. Mitigation measures likely to be incorporated into the operation of the airstrip, with respect to air traffic, would include, as safety allows, maintaining direct approach and departure flight paths, obtaining appropriate altitudes, and leaving the area as quickly as is safely reasonable. Flight paths can be adjusted based on the location of caribou observations or known important areas during sensitive periods, when safe and practical to do so.

CNSC staff and ECCC also inquired about the methods to be used for pre-disturbance surveys for Woodland Caribou and other species at risk. Denison clarified that the pre-clearance surveys are intended to identify sensitive wildlife features that would require specific mitigation measures to avoid or minimize adverse effects. The methods will be tailored to species at risk, including Woodland Caribou, that may potentially be using habitats at certain times of the year. For example, in the event the sweeps are conducted during the winter period, methods would include snow tracking to identify Woodland Caribou presence based on tracks and feeding craters observed within the study areas, based on survey protocols provided by the Government of Saskatchewan. The surveys would be conducted within 7 days prior to disturbance activities, year-round, so that sensitive features can be identified, and appropriate mitigation measures (e.g., avoidance, timing delay) can be developed and implemented, as appropriate. Denison also committed to regular monitoring of the effects on wildlife, as per the Wildlife Management Plan, and to initiate an adaptive management process and additional mitigation measures if needed. CNSC staff verified that the caribou-specific pre-disturbance survey methods are included in appendix 9-D, table 4-1 of the EIS.

CNSC staff also noted YNLR's concerns on the cumulative effects of extensive seismic cutlines on caribou. In response to ECCC's IR to analyze disturbance for caribou at the SK1 range level, Denison stated that the Project would be adding 0.001% of anthropogenic disturbance at the scale of the SK1, based on the Project Area plus a 500 m buffer to account for sensory disturbance. Despite Woodland Caribou not seemingly avoiding existing linear features, such as roads, trails, and transmission lines, in the area, Denison applied a 500 m buffer for habitat alteration for caribou in accordance with guidance in the federal recovery strategy. CNSC staff acknowledged that the cumulative effects assessment may not have included all seismic cutlines on the landscape, but noted that the [federal recovery strategy](#) (page 49) defines anthropogenically disturbed habitat as "anthropogenic disturbance visible on Landsat at a scale of 1:50,000, including habitat within a 500 m buffer of the anthropogenic disturbance." Not all linear disturbances, especially narrower lines, may be visible on Landsat imagery at a scale of 1:50,000. That said, CNSC staff acknowledged that Denison proactively initiated research to provide field-based findings on the effectiveness of linear features mitigation and effects on predator/prey movements. This field program will deploy and monitor the effectiveness of five different linear feature treatment types across nine locations. Denison also stated that legacy roads and trails are expected to be the primary candidate features for habitat offsets and restoration activities.



With respect to Denison's Woodland Caribou Management Framework (appendix 9-E) the CNSC is the responsible authority for EAs under the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act*, 2012 (CEAA 2012) for the Project, and the CNSC is therefore responsible for ensuring that the requirements of the SARA are met. This includes applicable recovery strategies and action plans for species at risk (ss.79(1) and (2) SARA), like the Amended Recovery Strategy for the Woodland Caribou, Boreal Population, in Canada. Given this CNSC staff concurred with ECCC's request to demonstrate consistency with the federal recovery strategy for Woodland Caribou, boreal population, in particular the application of avoidance and minimization measures for predicted effects to caribou and its critical habitat. Denison's Framework is an evergreen document and will be consistent with the management goals of the Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment for the SK1 caribou conservation unit, however, the range plan for SK1 is under development. CNSC staff acknowledged Denison's commitment to develop an offsetting plan to satisfy the requirements of the Province of Saskatchewan offsetting framework and recommend an EA Condition (table 12.1 EA5) that requires Denison to meet the federal recovery strategy.

Furthermore, while Denison has committed to routinely monitoring wildlife species throughout the project lifecycle (Commitment 9-31) and has stated that ongoing monitoring for species at risk will be detailed in the Environmental Management Program documentation, this information is currently outstanding. Given that Woodland Caribou is a listed species at risk in Schedule 1 of SARA, CNSC staff propose an EA condition (table 12.1 EA5) that requires Denison to provide the plans for follow-up monitoring for all listed wildlife species including Woodland Caribou and their critical habitat over the project's lifecycle. CNSC staff expect that the measures taken to monitor adverse effects are consistent with applicable recovery strategies or action plans, are appropriate to detect adverse effects and to verify the effectiveness of mitigation measures, as well as identify circumstances under which corrective measures may be needed.

Taking into account this information and the EA Conditions for Denison to meet the federal recovery strategy and provide monitoring plans, CNSC staff concluded that Denison's assessment and mitigation measures for the identified effects on caribou habitat alteration and/or loss of habitat are adequate.

#### *Change in mortality*

CNSC staff reviewed Denison's effect assessment for change in mortality to Woodland Caribou and reflected on potential toxicity of dietary exposure. With respect to the caribou's primary food source, lichen (up to 70% of the year-round diet), CNSC staff noted that lichen can be exposed to airborne contaminants and dust deposition at distances of 1-40 km. CNSC staff requested more information from Denison to justify how the potential for contamination of the food source "lichen" is reflected in the applied buffers for sensory disturbance. Denison responded that potential effects on caribou as the result of exposure to COPCs, including dietary pathways inclusive of lichen, were in EIS appendix 10-A. HQs associated with the exposure pathways analyses were below the benchmark of 1 for all COPCs. However, when consulting the ERA, CNSC staff found that the ecological model for caribou assumed a diet comprised of 50% browse, 20% lichen and 30% macrophytes. CNSC staff requested additional evidence from Denison to support that those caribou who may have higher consumption rates of lichen (e.g., 70%) as part of their diet, will remain protected. In response, Denison performed modelling for a second Woodland Caribou receptor assuming a diet of 70% lichen, 20% browse, and 10% macrophytes. Compared with the caribou with the lower lichen diet (50% browse, 20% lichen and 30% macrophytes), the predicted total radiological dose for the Woodland Caribou with the

higher (70%) lichen diet increased but remained well below the 2.4 mGy/d radiation dose benchmark for terrestrial biota as per the UNSCEAR, 2008. All HQs for both the Woodland Caribou with the lower and higher lichen diet were below the benchmark of 1 for all COPCs.

CNSC staff acknowledged ECCC's request for more information on the impacts of predation and apparent competition for Woodland Caribou. Denison responded that these effects are qualitatively discussed based on current knowledge of Woodland Caribou mortality in or around the Project study areas (i.e., the existing studies describe wolf predation and hunting). Denison acknowledged that Black Bear (*Ursus americanus*) may also prey on Woodland Caribou, however, this would be expected to follow the same effect pathways. The available information indicated relatively low predator (e.g., Wolf and Black Bear) densities in the area and spatial separation between caribous and predators. Further, Denison stated that apparent competition only plays a minor role because these northern ecoregions are of low productivity where Woodland Caribou may compete with only one ungulate species (i.e., Moose) and therefore, caribou and wolf dynamics do not follow general habitat- or disturbance-mediated apparent competition models.

Taking into account this information, CNSC staff concluded that Denison's assessment and mitigation measures for the identified effects on Woodland Caribou mortality are adequate.

#### **7.2.4.4 Arthropods (Nine-spotted Lady Beetle, Transverse Lady Beetle, Yellow-banded Bumble Bee)**

##### *Alteration and/or loss of habitat*

CNSC staff reviewed Denison's effect assessment for alteration and/or loss of habitat to Nine-spotted Lady Beetle, Transverse Lady Beetle, and Yellow-banded Bumble Bee, which was completed in response to an IR from ECCC that pointed out that these three arthropod species at risk have ranges overlapping with the Project Area. In response, Denison provided an overview of the species' life history requirements, species-specific mitigation measures, and assessments of residual and cumulative effects in appendix 9-D. CNSC staff noted that all three species are habitat generalists that use a diverse range of habitats. Specifically, Denison stated that the Nine-spotted Lady Beetle and Transverse Lady Beetle do not display strong site fidelity. Therefore, CNSC staff determined that habitat should not be a limiting factor on a regional scale. CNSC staff also found Denison's statement appropriate that mitigation measures designed for soil, vegetation, and ecosystems are expected to mitigate adverse effects on arthropods related to limiting the loss and/or disruption of suitable habitat for these species.

While Denison has committed to routinely monitoring wildlife species throughout the project lifecycle (Commitment 9-31) and has stated that ongoing monitoring for species at risk will be detailed in the Environmental Management Program documentation, this information is currently outstanding. Given that all three arthropods are listed species at risk in Schedule 1 of SARA, CNSC staff propose an EA condition (table 12.1 EA5) that requires Denison to provide the plans for follow-up monitoring for all listed wildlife species including the three arthropods and their critical habitat over the project's lifecycle. CNSC staff expect that the measures taken to monitor adverse effects are consistent with applicable recovery strategies or action plans, are appropriate to detect adverse effects and to verify the effectiveness of mitigation measures, as well as identify circumstances under which corrective measures may be needed.

Taking into account this information, and the proposed EA Condition, CNSC staff concluded that Denison conducted a comprehensive analysis of these effects and that identified mitigation measures are adequate.

#### *Change in mortality*

CNSC staff reviewed Denison's effect assessment for change in mortality to Nine-spotted Lady Beetle, Transverse Lady Beetle, and Yellow-banded Bumble Bee, and noted that there are no historical observations of the three species in the Terrestrial RSA. Because it is still possible that these species inhabit the Project Area, CNSC staff concur with Denison's proposed mitigation measure to limit herbicide use, as part of vegetation management, to the immediate Project footprint and to rely on licensed professional applicators. Taking into account this information, CNSC staff concluded that interactions between arthropods and sources of mortality are limited, and that Denison conducted a comprehensive analysis of these effects and that identified mitigation measures are adequate.

### **7.2.4.5 Amphibians (Northern Leopard Frog)**

#### *Alteration and/or loss of habitat*

CNSC staff reviewed Denison's effect assessment for alteration and/or loss of habitat to Northern Leopard Frog, and noted that the species uses three distinct habitats that could be present in the Terrestrial RSA: overwintering waterbodies, breeding and larval waterbodies, and summering areas. Although Northern Leopard Frog was not detected during baseline surveys, CNSC staff acknowledged that Denison will conduct pre-clearance surveys specific to the species in potentially suitable habitats (e.g., wetlands, riparian sites, bogs, fens). If detected, appropriate setbacks will be established and activity restrictions implemented. CNSC staff concur with these species-specific mitigation measures, as well as with Denison's statement that mitigation measures designed for the wetlands are also expected to mitigate adverse effects on the Northern Leopard Frog primarily related to limiting the loss and/or disruption of suitable habitat for these species.

While Denison has committed to routinely monitoring wildlife species throughout the project lifecycle (Commitment 9-31) and has stated that ongoing monitoring for species at risk will be detailed in the Environmental Management Program documentation, this information is currently outstanding. Given that Northern Leopard Frog is a listed species at risk in Schedule 1 of SARA, CNSC staff propose an EA condition (table 12.1 EA5) that requires Denison to provide the plans for follow-up monitoring for all listed wildlife species including Northern Leopard Frog and their critical habitat over the project's lifecycle. CNSC staff expect that the measures taken to monitor adverse effects are consistent with applicable recovery strategies or action plans, are appropriate to detect adverse effects and to verify the effectiveness of mitigation measures, as well as identify circumstances under which corrective measures may be needed.

Taking into account this information, and the proposed EA Condition, CNSC staff concluded that Denison conducted a comprehensive analysis of these effects and that identified mitigation measures are adequate.

#### *Change in mortality*

CNSC staff reviewed Denison's effect assessment for change in mortality to Northern Leopard Frog and noted that the species was not observed during baseline studies. Because it is still

possible that it inhabits the Project Area, CNSC staff concur with Denison's proposed pre-clearance surveys as well as the implementation of setbacks and buffers, in order to limit direct or indirect mortality. Specifically, if any features (e.g., breeding and overwintering habitat) are observed, applicable activity restrictions according to the SARGSS will be implemented in discussion with the Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment. Moreover, Denison stated that vehicle traffic and construction activities will be restricted to the approved access routes and work areas and will not cross or enter a watercourse or wetland. CNSC staff find this measure appropriate to limit frog-vehicle collisions. Taking into account this information, CNSC staff concluded that interactions between amphibians and sources of mortality are limited, and that Denison conducted a comprehensive analysis of these effects and that identified mitigation measures are adequate.

#### **7.2.4.6 Bats (Little Brown Myotis, Northern Myotis)**

##### *Alteration and/or loss of habitat*

CNSC staff reviewed Denison's effect assessment for alteration and/or loss of habitat to Little Brown Myotis and Northern Myotis, which was completed in response to an IR from ECCC that pointed out that Denison initially did not do an effects assessment of either of these bat species despite confirmed presence based on acoustic baseline surveys. CNSC staff concurred with ECCC's request to describe, map, and assess effects on suitable bat hibernacula and/or maternal roost habitat. Denison submitted information on life history requirements, the expected Project effects, proposed mitigation measures, and anticipated residual effects to bats in appendix 9-D, and mapped existing ecosites for their potential for maternity roosts in appendix 9-F. Further, Denison provided a series of 16 maps that show habitat potential specifically for four different life stages (i.e., forage, overwintering hibernacula, maternity roost, and summer roost) for both bat species at risk, along with appropriate justification for how habitat potential was determined. CNSC staff acknowledged that only small areas (<49 ha) of suitable potential roost habitat were identified in the Project Area.

Although CNSC staff determined Denison's effect assessment for bats to be adequate, and mitigation measures to be appropriate, concerns remained with respect to the baseline data (i.e., existing environment for bats). Denison's initial baseline assessment for bats was based on acoustic surveys completed between July 22-23, 2019, with 61 survey points sampled across five ecosite types. CNSC staff and ECCC noted that data from 2 consecutive days in the same month is not an accepted method to document baseline. Denison was requested to use a scientifically defensible method to document baseline occurrences associated with suitable habitat.

Specifically, CNSC staff required the baseline data for bat species at risk to be of sufficient sample size and duration to obtain a basic understanding of within- and between-year variability and to allow for statistically robust comparison to assess potential impacts over the lifecycle of the Project. Denison committed to conduct additional pre-construction baseline surveys that build on the 2019 surveys and will characterize bat presence (occupancy), diversity, and relative abundance, allowing for spatial and temporal comparison between the 2019 baseline data and pre-construction baseline data. As supporting information, Denison provided a supplemental memo that described additional bat surveys conducted on June 18-22 and July 26-28, 2024. When reviewing this information, CNSC staff noted variability within and across years. For example, no bats were detected in June 2024, and 2 additional bat species were detected in July 2024: Hoary Bat and Western Small-footed Bat. In a supplemental response, Denison explained that the assessment for bat species at risk is representative of the additional 2 species

given they occupy the same ecological niche and have similar life histories, and thus the habitat-based assessment approach and conclusions equally apply to the additional bat species. CNSC staff reviewed the additional information and concluded that Denison's justification is acceptable, and that the species-specific mitigation measures for bats are applicable to the newly detected species and remain adequate.

Taking into account this information, CNSC staff concluded that Denison conducted a comprehensive analysis of effects on bats and that identified mitigation measures are adequate. Nevertheless, given the notable variability within and across years, and the 5-year gap between baseline data collected in 2019 and 2024, CNSC staff concluded that there is considerable uncertainty in this data, and thus, CNSC staff propose the establishment of an EA Condition (table 12.1 EA4) to require Denison to conduct at least one more year of additional bat baseline surveys in ideally consecutive years and to formally demonstrate that the baseline data is sufficient to obtain a basic understanding of within-year and between-year variation for bat species. CNSC staff's expectation is that the surveys follow standard accepted methodologies and protocols with appropriate justification for any modifications. The surveys are to be conducted during both June and July, replicating existing sampling points as appropriate and incorporating additional sampling points located in areas that would be cleared during site preparation activities. Furthermore, Denison is expected to assess, based on the resulting baseline data, whether the EA predictions and conclusions remain valid, as well as update the ERA accordingly.

Furthermore, while Denison has committed to routinely monitoring wildlife species throughout the project lifecycle (Commitment 9-31) and has stated that ongoing monitoring for species at risk will be detailed in the Environmental Management Program documentation, this information is currently outstanding. Given that Little Brown Myotis and Northern Myotis are listed species at risk in Schedule 1 of SARA, CNSC staff propose an EA condition (table 12.1 EA5) that requires Denison to provide the plans for follow-up monitoring for all listed wildlife species including these bat species and their critical habitat over the project's lifecycle. CNSC staff expect that the measures taken to monitor adverse effects are consistent with applicable recovery strategies or action plans, are appropriate to detect adverse effects and to verify the effectiveness of mitigation measures, as well as identify circumstances under which corrective measures may be needed.

#### *Change in mortality*

CNSC staff reviewed Denison's effect assessment for change in mortality to Little Brown Myotis and Northern Myotis, and along with ECCC requested more information on pre-clearance surveys. In response, Denison explained that the pre-clearance surveys are designed to identify potential hibernacula or roosting sites. For instance, target areas include treed areas with focus on large snags, tree cavities, as well as old-growth forests. If features are identified in the Project footprint, appropriate setbacks and/or timing windows will be implemented. For example, should a roosting bat be discovered, the area will be afforded protection from clearing for 24 hours and re-surveyed. The area will only be cleared if no bats are discovered. If many roosting bats are recorded, compensation will be considered (e.g., bat houses). Denison also stated that results from these surveys and continuous monitoring will be used in the adaptive management process.

With respect to mitigation measures, CNSC staff also noted ECCC's comment on the potential for bat species at risk to be attracted to and use mine infrastructure for nesting, roosting, or

foraging. To a request for more details on mitigation measures and adaptive management, Denison responded by adding specific exclusion measures to their mitigation measures. Denison elaborated that buildings and other Project infrastructure will be designed and maintained to exclude bats as much as possible, for example through installing solid barriers (e.g., corner slope panels, wooden panels) or flexible barriers (e.g., netting, tarps or geotextiles) under roof eaves or other exterior surfaces. The results of mitigation measures implemented, and any associated bat observations will be considered in an adaptive management process.

With this in mind, CNSC staff reviewed the proposed species-specific mitigation measures and additionally noted that vegetation clearing activities will occur outside of roosting periods, when practical. On this note, CNSC staff also considered ECCC's request for Denison to provide important roosting dates for bat species at risk in the Project Area. Denison responded that the activity timing windows will be adjusted to include the April/May maternity roosting period and the July/August nursery roosting period, to the extent practicable. Denison also reiterated that the pre-clearance surveys will identify all sensitive wildlife habitat features, including potential roosting trees (e.g., hollow trees, trees with defects, trees with cavities, and tree stumps). Should potential roosting trees be detected, consultations with the regulators will be initiated, and appropriate mitigation measures will be designed and implemented.

Taking into account this information, CNSC staff concluded that interactions between bats and sources of mortality are limited, and that Denison conducted a comprehensive analysis of these effects and that identified mitigation measures are adequate.

**7.2.4.7 Birds (Bank Swallow, Barn Swallow, Common Nighthawk, Horned Grebe, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Rusty Blackbird, Short-eared Owl, Yellow Rail, waterbirds and waterfowl, upland game birds, migratory songbirds, Bald Eagle, Osprey)**

*Alteration and/or loss of habitat*

CNSC staff reviewed Denison's effect assessment for alteration and/or loss of habitat to birds, and together with ECCC, had several questions regarding bird species at risk to ensure they are appropriately assessed. ECCC requested Denison to identify all species at risk listed on Schedule 1 of the *Species at Risk Act* and their critical habitat that are likely to be affected by the Project, as well as to describe how they may be adversely affected by the Project, and which species-specific mitigation measures will be implemented. In response, Denison referred to the new appendix 9-D which includes a list of all bird species at risk potentially occurring in the Project study areas, a summary of the life history requirements, the expected Project effects, proposed species-specific mitigation measures, and anticipated residual effects on these listed species. Relatedly, ECCC sought further justification for the habitat models for each avian species at risk. Denison clarified that the assessment was habitat-based, and that species were conservatively assumed to be present and breeding in the Project study areas.

Regarding the selection of VCs, CNSC staff and ECCC also inquired about Denison's rationale for the selection of surrogate species for species at risk birds to ensure these are appropriate and conservative, but at the same time recommended that each species at risk should be assessed individually. Denison provided more rationale about the surrogate selection for several species at risk birds, including Common Nighthawk, Barn Swallow, and Horned Grebe, and elaborated on the habitat-based assessment approach that supports the use of surrogates that are known to utilize the same habitat types. Denison also referred to the new appendix 9-D which lists and

individually assesses all bird species at risk, as well as provided appendix 9-F, section 2.2, that discusses nesting habitat requirements and the results of the habitat-based assessment.

At the more granular VC level, CNSC staff concurred with ECCC's request to Denison to identify focal species/guilds for each key indicator species for migratory breeding birds, noting that indicator species should be demonstrably sensitive to the potential effect of interest, and suitable for inferring effects on other species. ECCC also asked for further discussion on impacts to different focal species/guilds, taking into account important features or habitat types. Denison responded that the assessment approach was focused on the key habitat types (i.e., habitat-based assessment) that all migratory bird species, regardless of guild, would be expected to use on a seasonal or year-round basis depending on the species. As such, the EA considered the potential effects on all available habitat types used by these key indicator species and mitigation measures will address all migratory bird species regardless of focal species/guild. Denison clarified that no important migratory bird habitat features were identified within the Project Area during the baseline surveys. Denison updated the EIS so that discussion regarding guilds/focal species was carried forward within the effects assessment and specifically within the context of the habitat-based assessment to link habitat-related effects to bird species identified in the study areas. CNSC staff noted that ECCC found this response to be acceptable and advised Denison to consider any trends and changes to the avian community during pre-construction, construction, and operational monitoring, including the key indicator species which are representative of other species that may be more difficult to monitor for implementation of adaptive management.

Further, CNSC staff and ECCC noted that baseline studies for birds only covered short time frames, i.e., a single year of breeding songbird point counts and aerial waterfowl surveys including avian species at risk, which could compromise interpretation of post-construction monitoring data if birds may have been unusually scarce or abundant in the surveyed year. Denison was requested to supplement the bird baseline data collected during 2017 with additional pre-construction field data or existing post-2017 data/modelling to provide a comprehensive baseline. Denison responded that the data collected as part of the baseline studies for birds was focused on the habitat types and areas most likely to be disturbed as a result of the Project. Denison also considered supplemental avian data received from records from the Saskatchewan Breeding Bird Atlas that represents bird observations from 2019. A summary of the total number of individuals observed for each species across all plots was provided in EIS appendix 9-F. Following the final submission of the EIS, CNSC staff received further 2024 baseline data on breeding songbirds as well as aerial waterfowl and raptors through the submission of the 2024 Terrestrial Environment Wildlife and Vegetation Baseline Inventory report<sup>5</sup>. Notably, these 2024 surveys confirmed the presence of the Rusty Blackbird, a species at risk bird that had not been previously observed in the Project Area. As requested by ECCC, this data was collected prior to construction and included breeding songbird point count call survey data from a total of 101 survey points across 21 ecosites. A total of 304 songbird pairs were observed. CNSC staff acknowledged ECCC's advice that data collected during construction and operational monitoring should be compared with baseline data to test predictions on impacts

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<sup>5</sup> Omnia Ecological Services - Terrestrial Environment – Wildlife and Vegetation Baseline Inventory – 2024 Report Updated. Provided April 2025

from the Project, and whether mitigation measures are effective. CNSC staff concluded that the additional bird baseline data from 2024 contributes to a more robust characterization of baseline.

Yet, while Denison has committed to routinely monitoring avian species throughout the project lifecycle (Commitment 9-34) and has stated that ongoing monitoring for species at risk will be detailed in the Environmental Management Program documentation, this information is currently outstanding. Given that several birds are listed species at risk in Schedule 1 of SARA, CNSC staff propose an EA condition (table 12.1 EA5) that requires Denison to provide the plans for follow-up monitoring for all listed wildlife species including birds and their critical habitat over the project's lifecycle. CNSC staff expect that the measures taken to monitor adverse effects are consistent with applicable recovery strategies or action plans, are appropriate to detect adverse effects and to verify the effectiveness of mitigation measures, as well as identify circumstances under which corrective measures may be needed.

With respect to the assessment of lost habitat, CNSC staff agreed with ECCC's request for further information on the habitat types considered as available habitat for migratory songbirds, noting that all Project Areas, except some anthropogenic features and open water, would be considered available habitat for migratory songbirds. Denison responded that ecosites with low use/suitability (i.e., open fen, graminoid bog, graminoid fen) were excluded from the description of available habitat for migratory songbirds, further stating that including these low suitability habitat types to the analysis would not alter the findings of the analysis. ECCC countered that the methods used to determine available habitat may underrepresent rare ecosite types that were not sampled or were sparsely sampled, including ecosite types that may be important for species at risk. In response, Denison updated the EIS to include all habitat ecosite types.

Furthermore, CNSC staff noted ECCC's ask for updated information on the available habitat for Common Nighthawk, noting that the species also uses rock outcrops that can be within forested areas. Denison responded that rocky outcrops were not reported during the baseline studies and that pre-clearance surveys will be completed where Common Nighthawks are suspected of nesting. CNSC staff carried forward ECCC's advice through the review of the Pre-Clearance Wildlife Monitoring Plan, outlining the expectation for Denison to include any open and already cleared areas into the pre-clearance survey target areas for Common Nighthawk. ECCC further added that active terrestrial nest searches for birds, including avian species at risk, are generally not recommended because they are likely to cause disruption to breeding activities. ECCC also advised that, if conducted in simple habitats as outlined in the [Guidelines to avoid harm to migratory birds](#), nest searches should be conducted as close to the clearing or construction dates as possible. CNSC staff carried forward ECCC's advice through the review of the Pre-Clearance Wildlife Monitoring Plan, strongly recommending to Denison to not perform any vegetation clearing during the breeding bird season, as well as to not employ intrusive pre-clearance search methods (e.g., nest searches).

In terms of alteration of habitat, a particular concern was sensory disturbance to birds. CNSC staff agreed with ECCC's inquiry on how light pollution and noise would be monitored and managed. Denison committed to implement measures to manage effects of light pollution and noise on migratory birds and species at risk. For light, measures include using low lighting and/or task lighting (e.g., downturned shaded fixtures to prevent sky-lighting or bird disorientation), putting building lighting on sensors or timers, and potentially using a higher lumen/watt ratio on all new buildings or building expansions. For noise, measures include not using the concrete batching plant and crusher during nighttime hours, directing the generator discharge openings away from sensitive features, and collecting sound level measurements from



the identified sources once they are operating. Denison also stated that noise monitoring plans will be implemented to confirm that the Project is compliant with the federal and provincial guidelines. Should monitoring show noise levels surpass modelled sound levels, Denison will implement corrective action to identify noise sources and reduce sound levels. CNSC staff found these mitigation measures to be adequate to address sensory disturbance.

Another concern was about erosion control and how sediment will be prevented from entering waters frequented by migratory birds or species at risk. Denison responded that erosion control measures include the installation of silt fences, straw wattles, and/or erosion control blankets to prevent erosion and limit sediment transport. Additionally, vegetated barriers will be maintained between Project components and wetland features, as much as practical. Denison clarified that routine inspections and management would be completed to document the effectiveness of the erosion control measures, and replacement of these structures would be completed as required.

Taking into account all of this information, and the proposed EA Condition, CNSC staff concluded that Denison conducted a comprehensive analysis of these effects on birds and that identified mitigation measures are adequate.

#### *Change in mortality*

CNSC staff reviewed Denison's effect assessment for change in mortality to birds and noted that exposure to hazardous materials through contact with contaminated waste ponds could affect avian health and contribute to mortality. CNSC staff and ECCC asked Denison to determine if there is a risk to wildlife that may access these areas and to identify the potential toxicity of water management ponds to aquatic migratory birds and species at risk. Denison responded that the water management ponds collect event driven runoff and will not hold standing water for a prolonged time, and that water quality is expected to be relatively good as it would largely comprise precipitation and runoff from natural surfaces. Denison considered that the ponds with potential bird use include the process water pond, and effluent monitoring and release ponds. Denison compared the expected water quality to the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME) water quality guidelines (WQG) for the protection of livestock, resulting in most parameters being below the guideline values except for selenium, molybdenum, and sulphate. Given mitigation measures to deter exposure, Denison concluded that birds and other wildlife that may contact or ingest this water are not expected to be at risk. CNSC staff requested Denison to provide an explanation for the appropriateness and conservatism of using this guideline for avian receptors. Denison responded that the CCME livestock guidelines are intended to protect both birds and mammals and are based on toxicological data from the most sensitive livestock species considering sensitive life stages. As such, Denison stated that the livestock guidelines are considered sufficiently protective in the unlikely case that birds land on and drink from the process water pond or the effluent monitoring and release ponds. CNSC staff verified that the CCME livestock guideline was derived based on both avian and mammalian livestock data and preferentially considers long-term tests conducted on sensitive life stages. At least 2 studies on 2 or more avian species are required for guideline development. Nevertheless, CNSC staff and ECCC asked Denison to ensure adequate mitigation measures are implemented to minimize exposure of birds to waste ponds. Denison noted that numerous mitigation measures will be implemented to minimize the potential for avian exposure to pond water, including physical, visual, and auditory deterrent techniques, but also stated that birds are expected to avoid the area during construction and operation due to noise, light, vibration, and dust, and due to more preferable habitat elsewhere. CNSC staff concurred that birds are mobile receptors and

are not expected to spend significant time in waste ponds. CNSC staff deemed the mitigation measures including avian deterrence measures such as deflectors on poles, physical, visual, and/or auditory deterrents and exclusion measures to be appropriate to limit interaction with waste ponds.

With respect to bird species at risk, CNSC staff requested that Denison provide a discussion on mitigation measures regarding their effectiveness in minimizing mortality for bird species at risk, for which effects on a few individuals would not be acceptable. In response, Denison prepared EIS appendix 9-D that includes species-specific mitigation measures and their effectiveness, that Denison is proposing to implement during the Project to mitigate adverse effects on bird species at risk. The appendix 9-D also included species-specific timing windows and setback distances in response to ECCC's request. This also addressed a concern about how vegetation clearing related to site development will be conducted to minimize risk to migratory birds and species at risk. Denison noted that site clearing and other works that involve disturbance of vegetation and/or soil will be completed during least-risk timing windows for migratory birds and species at risk (i.e., winter), where practical, to avoid disturbance during sensitive time periods. Denison confirmed that pre-clearance surveys will be conducted, and set-back buffers implemented, as needed. If nests or tree cavities should be encountered during pre-construction surveys or ongoing monitoring activities, any subsequent Project activities will be in accordance with the [\*Migratory Birds Regulations, 2022\*](#).

Specifically, with respect to the Common Nighthawk, ECCC noted that the species nests on the roadsides of access roads within the Project Area, and thus asked Denison to develop mitigation plans appropriate for avoiding collisions with vehicles, when and where nighthawks are observed foraging near or roosting on gravel roads. Denison responded that a Road and Traffic Management Plan will be implemented, and mitigation measures will include reduction of traffic volume, implementation of speed limits, installing visible signage at locations with potential for wildlife crossings (including avian species), communication and reporting of wildlife collisions, and maintenance of ditches and culverts. CNSC staff determined that this mitigation is acceptable to limit potential for interactions between the Project activities and Common Nighthawk and their habitat.

Lastly, CNSC staff concurred with ECCC's statement that Project impacts related to mortality of birds, such as collisions with the transmission line, mortality along roads, and use of waste and water management facilities should be monitored during all phases of the Project and adaptively managed. To address this, ECCC requested Denison to provide details on the follow-up program to monitor impacts to avian mortality. Denison responded that a Wildlife Monitoring Plan with details on the monitoring and follow-up programs will be developed, and that wildlife mortality monitoring would be undertaken as required, continuously throughout the life of the Project. All mortalities would require follow-up to determine if anything can be done to prevent similar mortalities from occurring in the future. Data related to avian mortalities would be compiled to identify trends over time and to determine the cause of mortalities and identify if any further mitigation would be appropriate. Additionally, mortality related to avian use of waste and water facilities, as well as mortality events associated with interactions with access and transmission lines will be documented and reported to the Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment.

Taking into account this information, CNSC staff concluded that interactions between birds and sources of mortality are limited, and that Denison conducted a comprehensive analysis of these effects and that identified mitigation measures are adequate.

### 7.2.5 CNSC Staff Findings and Recommendations

Taking into account the implementation of mitigation measures and recommended follow-up program measures for the terrestrial biota assessed in this section, including: furbearers, ungulates, caribou, arthropods, amphibians, bats and birds, CNSC staff conclude the Project is not likely to cause significant adverse effects.

The conclusion is inclusive of terrestrial species at risk listed under Schedule 1 of SARA. CNSC staff will work with ECCC to ensure that measures taken by Denison will be consistent with applicable recovery strategies for the identified species at risk.

The effects significance determination table can be found in [appendix B](#).

In order to ensure that the aforementioned assessment conclusions remain valid, CNSC staff recommend that the Commission include the following EA Conditions, should it issue a licence. If accepted, Denison will be required to address the EA Conditions EA3, EA4, and EA5 in [table 12.1](#) related to IRs carried over from the EA Review into licensing. CNSC staff's assessment conclusions are contingent on the establishment of the EA Conditions EA3, EA4, and EA5 for all listed species at risk, and particularly for Woodland Caribou and bats.

## 7.3 Human Environment

The proposed Project could potentially cause changes to the human environment, through:

- air emissions during all project phases potentially exposing human receptors to air constituents through inhalation, and indirectly through incidental soil contact/ingestion of constituents that deposit to soil, and/or through the terrestrial food chain (i.e., traditional foods diet)
- release of COPCs in treated effluent to receiving surface waters potentially exposing human receptors to the treated effluent releases through drinking water, consuming fish, and incidental dermal contact of water and sediment while swimming in the LSA and RSA
- external exposures to radiation from air, water, soil, and sediment
- long-term transport of groundwater solutes to Whitefish Lake in future centuries

CNSC staff concurred with Denison's assessment of Project activities that may interact the human environment and cause residual effects during all phases of the project, as detailed below.

### 7.3.1 Description of the human environment

The main land use activities in the area by Indigenous Nations and other land users are hunting, trapping, fishing, and firewood gathering. There are recreational and traditional resource user leases in the area. The nearest traditional resource user lease is located approximately 12 km away from the Project Area and the nearest recreational lease is located approximately 2.5 km away. Water in the Project Area drains towards Russell Lake, the Wheeler River, and ultimately into Wollaston Lake.

Indigenous Nations and local communities have identified the importance of protecting the existing environment in the LSA and RSA. The Wheeler River, for instance, is considered both culturally and economically important to ERFN and is an area where traditional land activities such as hunting, fishing, and trapping occur year-round. For more information related to this, see [section 7.3](#).

### 7.3.2 Proponent's Assessment

For non-radiological COPCs, Denison concluded that residual effects on human health are predicted to be not significant. The only scenario that required a residual effects characterization was exposure of the fisher/trapper receptor to selenium through fish ingestion; however, the conservatism in the traditional foods diet would indicate that the overall risk from the Project is low.

Denison concluded that the residual effects of the Project are expected to result in no significant adverse effects to human health. More information on the results of the HHRA along with the residual effects characterization and determination of significance can be found below and in appendix 10-A of the EIS.

No potential for a residual effect to human health with respect to radiological COPCs from the Project were identified via the considered exposure pathways in the HHRA.

#### 7.3.2.1 Human Health: Non-Radiological and Radiological COPCs

Denison evaluated the potential effects of COPCs on human receptors in a human health risk assessment (HHRA) within the EIS appendix 10-A assessment. The assessment was prepared to be compliant with the requirements for an ERA as outlined in section 4.1 of CNSC's 2020 Regulatory Document-2.9.1: *Environmental Principles, Assessments and Protection Measures*. The human receptors selected for the HHRA included:

- camp worker (non-Nuclear Energy Worker) during all Project phases
- seasonal resident during all Project phases
- recreational fisher/hunter during all Project phases
- fisher/trapper during all Project phases
- future permanent resident in the future centuries

Risk estimates were calculated to determine the potential for adverse effects on the selected human receptors via the exposure pathways identified (e.g., consumption of traditional foods, inhalation, dermal contact, etc.). For non-radiological COPCs, the risk was quantified based on calculations of HQs and an incremental lifetime cancer risk (ILCRs) for non-carcinogens and carcinogens, respectively. The potential for adverse effects for non-carcinogens was considered negligible if the HQ < 0.2 per medium (e.g., water, soil, food, air). Cancer risks were deemed to be “essentially negligible” (de minimis) if the estimated ILCR was  $\leq 1 \times 10^{-5}$ . HQs were calculated for baseline HQs (existing risk prior to the Project), Project total HQs (the Project risk in addition to the baseline risk), as well as Project incremental HQs (the Project risk only with baseline component removed). The estimated non-radiological HQs are summarized in table 10.1-8 of EIS section 10.1.6.1.4.

With respect to non-radiological COPCs, Denison identified selenium exposure via fish ingestion as a potential residual effect to the fisher/trapper at Russell Lake. All other non-radiological COPCs assessed in the HHRA (cadmium, copper, chromium, cobalt, molybdenum, uranium, and zinc) were determined to not have potential residual effects during all phases of the Project.

Denison rated the magnitude of this residual effect as “moderate”. This rating was generally defined as: a HQ of greater than 0.2 per exposure pathway, ILCR level is greater than  $1 \times 10^{-5}$ , or radiation dose greater than the regulatory public dose limit of 1 mSv/year. The Project incremental HQ (i.e., excluding existing baseline risk) for selenium via fish ingestion (northern pike and white sucker) by the fisher/trapper was predicted to be 0.93. Denison concluded that the

overall risk from the Project for this exposure scenario would be low based on the conservative assumptions made regarding the traditional foods diet for this receptor group. The Project incremental HQs were below 0.2 for all other non-carcinogens (cadmium, copper, chromium, cobalt, molybdenum, uranium, and zinc) during all phases of the Project for the pathways examined, including consumption of terrestrial and riparian biota harvested in the Project area. The assessment specifically assumed that all fish consumed in the fisher/trapper's diet would be obtained from Russell Lake, which is considered conservative as it is more likely that someone would fish from many different lakes including those outside of the RSA.

With respect to radiological COPCs, radionuclides of the uranium-238 decay series (U-238, U-234, thorium-230 [Th-230], radium-226 [Ra-226], Pb-210, polonium-210 [Po-210]) and radon were included as COPCs. Due to public and regulatory interest, these radionuclides were considered for modeling without conducting a formal screening.

Denison assessed predicted radiological doses to on- and off-site human receptor groups in the HHRA, and the estimated total dose for each receptor was compared directly to dose limits. The incremental radiation dose to all human receptors is predicted to be below the regulatory public dose limit of 1 mSv/year and the dose constraint of 0.3 mSv/year during all Project phases and in the future centuries. The maximum incremental radiological dose for an off-site receptor, the fisher/trapper at Russell Lake, is predicted to be 0.06 mSv/year. Po-210 is the primary radiological COPC contributing to the receptor total dose due to ingestion of fish from Russell Lake (inlet) and ingestion of biota (mallard and woodland caribou) harvested in the area around Russell Lake, which eat from the aquatic environment. A camp worker (i.e., non-nuclear energy worker) was selected as an on-site receptor. The incremental radiological dose to the camp worker is predicted to be 0.16 mSv/year during operations, with radon as the main contributor to total dose. The assessment is conservative in that it assumes that the camp worker spends 100% of the time indoors. Outdoor radon concentrations are expected to dissipate quickly, and exposures are negligible, whereas indoor radon exposures tend to be higher as they accumulate inside buildings.

Based on their assessment, Denison identified potential for a residual adverse effect to human health from exposure to selenium from the Project. However, the conservative assumptions made in characterizing the Traditional Foods diet indicate that the overall risk from the Project is low, and Denison concluded no significant adverse effects to human health are anticipated. For all other COPCs (non-radiological and radiological), through implementation of appropriate mitigation measures and follow up monitoring for potential effects from air and liquid emissions from the Project Denison anticipates that the impact from non-radiological and radiological COPCs on human health will be negligible throughout all Project phases. Denison concluded that the predicted exposures to the identified human receptors from Project-related COPCs within atmospheric and liquid emissions are not expected to have significant residual adverse effects on human health.

#### *Mitigation Measures for Human Health*

Denison has concluded that no additional VC specific mitigation measures are warranted. See a summary in [table 6.24](#) below.

**Table 6.24 Proposed mitigation measures to address effects on human health**

| Exposure to non-radiological and radiological COPCs |
|---|
|---|

|   |
|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mitigation measures refer to Project-specific mitigation and can include, but are not limited to, engineering design features and responses, best management practices, management plans, emergency response programs, and training</li> </ul>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mitigation measures for the human health VC focus on mitigating potential effects to air and liquid emissions from the Project. Therefore, the mitigation measures found in tables 6.3 and 6.4 for air quality and table 6.13 for water quality for mitigating potential project-related effects are applicable for human health. There have been no further additional human health VC-specific mitigation measures identified</li> </ul> |

### *Monitoring and Follow-Up Measures*

In order to verify the accuracy of the assessment, Denison will implement country foods-specific (e.g., blueberries, fish) monitoring and EA follow-up measures. See a summary in [table 6.25](#) below. Future environmental monitoring will focus on providing data to improve model predictions through the phases of the Project, as well as verify model predictions informing the HHRA.

**Table 6.25 Follow-up program measures for effects on human health**

| <b>Exposure to non-radiological and radiological COPCs</b>   |
|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Denison is implementing an environmental monitoring program (EMP) consistent with the requirements and guidance in CSA N288.4-19: <i>Environmental monitoring programs at nuclear facilities and uranium mines and mills</i>, as well as integrate engagement with local communities to ensure the environmental monitoring plan reflects the interests of the Indigenous Nations and communities. Monitoring data will focus on verifying the predictions made by the ERA, refining the models used in the ERA through all phases of the Project, and reducing the uncertainty in the predictions made by the ERA. The EMP will include collection of various media types including surface water, blueberries, and fish tissue samples and will take Traditional Foods into consideration. Monitoring locations will be focused in the areas of Whitefish Lake, McGowan Lake and Russell Lake. Monitoring COPCs would include those identified as COPCs in the ERA, including metals and uranium-238 series radionuclides, and chloride and sulphate in lake waters. Monitoring could extend to include other COPCs for other purposes, such as meeting regulatory requirements for monitoring, or addressing COPCs of public interest based on experience at other uranium mines and process plants.</li> <li>Denison has committed to assessing health risks from fish consumption by comparing fish tissue data of relevant COPCs collected from the monitoring program during operations against applicable human health risk-based maximum permissible concentrations. Further, Denison will be developing a Traditional Foods monitoring document in consultation with Indigenous Nations and communities (Commitment 8-44).</li> </ul> |

### **7.3.2.2 Human Health (Nuclear Energy Workers): Radiological Exposures**

Doses to nuclear energy workers (NEWs) are conservatively estimated by Denison for construction, operations and decommissioning phases of the Project. Predicted doses to NEWs across all phases of the Project are below CNSC's effective and equivalent dose limits. The effective dose limits for nuclear energy workers are, 50 mSv for a one-year dosimetry period and 100 mSv for a five-year dosimetry period.

During construction of the Project, workers on the wellfield will be exposed to radiation from ore cuttings stored in drums at the well head. Drillers will be exposed to low levels of radon in

outdoor air due to venting at the wellfield. Total effective doses to drillers on the wellfield during construction will be bounded by those estimated for drillers during operations.

During operation of the Project, workers will be occupationally exposed to radiation sources in several work areas in the process of drilling, lixiviant recovery, and processing of yellowcake. Expected exposure pathways are through inhalation of dust and radon, as well as external exposure to gamma radiation from process solids and liquids containing radionuclides of the Uranium-238 decay chain:

- Wellfield operators are estimated to have total effective doses ranging from 0.16 to 0.64 mSv/year.
- Drillers on the wellfield are estimated to have a maximum total effective dose of 10.26 mSv/year.
- Plant operators at the precipitate removal area, yellowcake precipitation, water treatment, and drying area are estimated to have total effective doses ranging from 1.66 to 14.88 mSv/year.
- Geologists and geotech loggers are estimated to have a maximum total effective dose of 10.97 mSv/year.
- The equipment operator at the special waste pad, the precipitate pond, and industrial landfill is estimated to have a maximum total effective dose of 6.11 mSv/year.
- Plant operators involved in packaging of nuclear substances are estimated to have a maximum total effective dose of 11.78 mSv/year.

Remediation of the mining area is expected to involve less exposure to nuclear substances than the original drilling of wells into the ore zone, since no ore cuttings are created at this time, and since UBS is not being extracted. The freeze wall wells were not extended into the ore zone and should have no radioactive contamination. The wellfield, waste pads, ponds, water treatment location, and process plant area are expected to be contaminated by nuclear substances; therefore, workers remediating these areas will be potentially exposed to radiation and to radioactive dust. Direct contact with radionuclides is also possible through direct handling of contaminated materials. Levels of radioactive contamination in these areas during decommissioning are expected to be no greater than during operations and therefore doses to workers are bounded by those estimated during the operations phase.

Through implementation of appropriate mitigation measures and follow up monitoring, Denison anticipates that the impact from radiological COPCs on NEWs' health will be negligible throughout all Project phases. Therefore, Denison determined that the radiological COPC to NEWs from occupational exposures due to work activities are not expected to have significant residual adverse effects on NEWs' health.

### **7.3.2.3 Human Health (Workers): Non-Radiological Exposures**

NEWs and other workers on-site (ISR mine and processing plant) will be protected from non-radiological exposures through the Health and Safety Program. Conventional workplace hazards will be managed through a conventional health and safety plan, in compliance with applicable federal and provincial legislation, through all phases of the Project. As such, Denison concluded that conventional workplace hazards are expected to be negligible. Through implementation of appropriate mitigation measures and follow up monitoring, Denison anticipates that the impact from conventional workplace hazards on worker health will be negligible throughout all Project phases. Therefore, Denison determined that non-radiological exposures to human receptors from



conventional workplace hazards are not expected to have significant residual adverse effects on worker health.

### *Mitigation Measures for Worker Health*

**Table 6.24 Proposed mitigation measures to address effects on NEWs Health**

| NEWs exposure to radiological COPCs   |
|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Several mitigations have been assumed and will be important in keeping doses ALARA:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Doses from external sources can be most effectively reduced by maximizing distances or minimizing time at close distance</li> <li>External doses from ore cuttings at the special waste pad were assumed to be mitigated by a berm around the pad, which provides shielding. However, this area is a potentially substantial source of external dose, and work inside the berm will be minimized</li> <li>For the drying and packaging/loading areas of the ISR plant, the equipment sources of dust will be enclosed under negative pressure. Workers will be in the room outside the enclosure, where air exchange is maintained at 6 exchanges per hour. Doses from inhalation of uranium dust will be controlled by monitoring of dust levels and managing worker time in these areas to keep doses ALARA</li> <li>Dust inhalation is also a potentially substantial component of worker dose at the core shack. At this location, dust levels will be monitored and time in the shack will be managed to control dose from inhalation of ore dust. An administrative level of respirable dust equal to one quarter of the ACGIH TLV of 270 microgram per cubic metre (<math>\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3</math>) has been assumed. It may be possible to increase air exchange in the core shack, above the planned six exchanges per hour, should this be necessary. This would also reduce radon exposure in the core shack</li> <li>Radon levels will be monitored in the precipitate removal and yellowcake precipitation areas of the ISR plant, and in the core shack, to support management of radon exposure and dose</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Manage work sequence and schedule to avoid prolonged exposures to the identified sources, especially those identified as being important to worker dose. Doses can be most effectively reduced by reducing exposure times and maximizing distances from the source, as well as by use of protective shielding</li> </ul>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Worker health is managed under the Radiation Protection Program (RPP), which is a worker health and safety plan specifically for radiation exposures. The RPP designates the roles and responsibilities of Denison and contractors, specifies the radiation dose limits, action levels and administrative levels, describes procedures to monitor and manage worker exposures (dust and radon monitoring, personal dose monitoring), and describes the processes for training and record-keeping. The successful implementation of the RPP, in conjunction with in-design measures described for the various project activities, is key to maintaining acceptably low doses of radiation exposure to workers during all phases of the Project</li> </ul>   |

### *Follow-Up Measures for Human Health (Nuclear Energy Workers): Radiological contaminants*

Denison highlighted that the monitoring of radiation exposure to workers throughout all phases of the Project is a key component of the RPP. In accordance with the RPP, workers who have a reasonable likelihood of exceeding an effective dose of 1 mSv per year are classified as NEWs, and are subject to personal dose monitoring, reporting, and information requirements as per the [Radiation Protection Regulations](#). Dosimetry services licensed by the CNSC will be used to measure and monitor the doses of radiation received by and committed to NEWs who have a reasonable probability of receiving one or both of:



- an effective dose greater than 5 mSv in a one-year dosimetry period
- an equivalent dose to the skin, or to the skin of the hands and feet, that is greater than 50 mSv in a one-year dosimetry period

Personal dosimeters to be used include those for external gamma exposure. Personal alpha dosimetry may also be used to monitor worker exposures in areas where workers will be exposed to uranium and decay products. A bioassay program may be implemented to monitor internal exposure of workers.

In addition to personal dose monitoring, area monitoring for gamma radiation, radon and radioactive dust in air will be performed in work areas where higher exposures are expected. This will provide information for estimating doses in these areas to facilitate safe work planning. Action levels and administrative levels for exposure will be defined, and monitoring data will be compared to these levels, to make sure that corrective action can be taken as needed to maintain worker doses ALARA.

### **7.3.3 Other Views Expressed**

#### **7.3.3.1 Potential Impacts to Human Health**

##### *Indigenous Nation and Communities*

ERFN had indicated they are broadly concerned that potential impacts from the proposed Project and cumulative effects in the region will adversely impact community health. General concerns regarding health are due to the potential impacts from contaminants of potential concern being present in receiving environments and impacting ERFN citizens via pathways of effects. Specifically, ERFN raised concerns that Denison noted exceedances in air quality parameters but these parameters were not brought forward into the EIS appendix 10A Human Health Risk Assessment (HHRA) for the Project. ERFN also raised concerns that the HHRA should include vulnerable populations such as pregnant women, youth and Elders to determine potential impacts to area residents.

YNLR raised concerns that Denison's conclusions regarding cumulative effects, including for human health, were non-significant given the residual effects noted across the valued components contained within the EIS.

MN-S indicated they did not feel Denison sufficiently incorporated Métis Knowledge to inform the Project's monitoring and management plans including for human health.

BNDN raised concerns that the Environmental Risk Assessment completed by Denison includes an assessment of mercury biogeochemical cycling and the potential impacts to human health.

PBCN raised concerns on the proposed Project's potential adverse impacts to human health. PBCN is concerned about the potential residual effect on human health from exposure to selenium, which has been identified by Denison in the EIS, and other COPCs. In response to a CNSC request for review of the Views Expressed shared, PBCN noted that there is no commitment to any monitoring of selenium or any other COPC including, but not limited to, uranium, arsenic, cadmium other heavy metals or chemicals in the accumulation in fish and mammals or the bioaccumulation in plants, berries or fungus. PBCN members derive large portions of their diet from country food. To ensure the safety and well-being of PBCN members who rely on the surrounding ecosystem for subsistence harvesting, it is essential to establish a comprehensive tissue sampling program to monitor COPC downstream of the Proposed Project.

All engaged Nations on the proposed Project have indicated concerns linking potential adverse environmental impacts on various valued components that could negatively impact human health. Given the potential for contaminants of potential concern to adversely impact environmental receptors (i.e., water, fish, traditional medicines and plants, wild game, etc.) and given the traditional use of community members and citizens of Indigenous Nations and communities in the Project Area, any pathways that may impact human health are concerning to Indigenous Nations and communities potentially impacted by the proposed Project.

#### *Federal Authorities*

Health Canada highlighted the importance of monitoring baselines related to mercury, selenium, lead, and other COPCs to track trends and re-assess human health risks if increases are observed in the environment. Health Canada also noted that methylmercury should be included in monitoring to confirm concentrations in country foods, that appropriate health-based toxicological reference values (e.g., provisional tolerable daily intake [pTDI] value of 0.2 µg/kg body weight [bw] per day) be used, and that dietary data and consumption rates are verified through engagement with local and Indigenous communities via an updated dietary survey. Health Canada recommended that health risks of mercury exposure should be assessed using local fish consumption rates and the pTDI value of 0.2 µg/kg bw per day.

Health Canada suggested using adaptive management in the country food monitoring and mitigation plans. This recommendation includes that the preliminary monitoring plan has decision criteria/thresholds/benchmarks for initiating action if monitoring results show an increase of COPCs in the environment.

### **7.3.3.2 Summary of Mitigations and Commitments related to Views Expressed**

#### *Potential Impacts to Human Health*

Denison has made several commitments to mitigate and monitor any potential pathways resulting in adverse effects to human health (Commitments 8-44, and 10-10 to 10-18, & 11-8). Denison conducted a predictive HHRA in the EIS appendix 10A, inclusive of traditional foods, to evaluate direct and indirect effects to contaminants of concern and determined there would be no significant adverse effects to human health. Denison has also committed to monitoring surface and groundwater, sediment, soil samples, fish tissue, benthic invertebrates, and country foods (e.g., blueberries) for radionuclides (e.g., uranium-238 series) and non-radionuclides (e.g., metals, chloride, sulfate). This monitoring will also be applied to verify predictions made by the ERA, refine models and reduce uncertainty in the ERA predictions. This monitoring will take place in Whitefish Lake, McGowan Lake, and Russell Lake.

#### *Potential Impacts to Receiving Environment*

Denison has committed to collaborating with Indigenous Nations and communities, including engagement and input on the EMP, EPRP, and the EEMs. Note, details of these plans will be developed during the licensing/permitting phase of the process. This commitment includes considering local and IK/MK in all areas of the project through continued engagement. Denison provided funding to ERFN and KML to complete updated traditional land use studies which were incorporated into the EIS. In addition, Denison received a traditional land use study from YNLR titled [\*An Exploration of Recorded Athabasca Denesuline' Traditional Knowledge, Land Use and Occupancy Information in the Vicinity of Denison Mines Wheeler River Project.\*](#) Denison also signed a funding agreement with MN-S to complete a Métis Knowledge Study,

which was shared with Denison in October 2023. Denison revised the EIS to include relevant information in the assessment from these studies.

The EMP, EPRP, and EEMP include a surface water monitoring program that is designed to evaluate changes to the aquatic environment that could adversely affect fish, their habitat, and other aquatic biota (e.g., vegetation, benthic invertebrates). The monitoring and follow-up program will also measure fish health, including the potential bioaccumulation of non-radiological (e.g., molybdenum, selenium, mercury, and other metals) and radiological parameters. Denison has committed to monitoring methylmercury (rather than only total mercury), lead, arsenic, and cadmium in fish which will facilitate understanding of any health risks associated with harvesting from the Project Area. Additionally, key indicators of ground and surface water quality will be measured, including pH and sulfate, in all project phases to monitor potential adverse effects on water acidification.

### **7.3.4 CNSC Staff's Analysis**

#### **7.3.4.1 Human Health (Public) - Non-Radiological COPCs:**

CNSC staff reviewed Denison's effect assessment to human health from non-radiological COPCs and found that Denison conducted a comprehensive analysis of these effects and that identified mitigation and follow-up monitoring program measures are adequate. Denison identified a potential residual effect from the HHRA in appendix 10A for non-radiological COPCs was selenium exposure to the fisher/trapper receptor at Russell Lake. CNSC staff questioned whether this exceedance of selenium could be more pronounced for human receptors assessed closer to the operation, such as at McGowan or Whitefish Lakes. CNSC staff recommended that an assessment of a receptor located at lakes closer to the project during operation (McGowan, Whitefish) may need to be considered to ensure there are negligible risks. Denison responded that a human receptor (Recreational fisher/hunter) was assessed at McGowan Lake in the HHRA. No unacceptable risk was identified for the Recreational fisher/hunter at McGowan Lake due to releases from the Project. Further, based on Indigenous and Local Knowledge, use of the area near Whitefish Lake for fishing, hunting, gathering is limited. CNSC staff reviewed Denison's response and concluded that this IR was adequately addressed.

During the EIS review, CNSC staff also noted that there is an elevated risk of selenosis in exposed individuals given that the fisher/trapper receptor will likely be exposed to higher concentrations of selenium from the consumption of fish at Russell Lake. This potential for selenosis would be further exacerbated in individuals who consume fish taken from other lakes closer to the mining operation. Denison responded that based on current predictions in lakes where fish consumption is assumed to occur (McGowan Lake and Russell Lake), fish tissue concentrations for selenium are expected to be below the BC Ministry of Environment's 2014 Ambient Water Quality Guidelines for Selenium limit, indicating people eating fish from these lakes would likely be protected from selenosis. This analysis showed that risk to human health (selenosis) will be negligible. CNSC staff found this response to be acceptable. However, CNSC staff recommended that should it be determined that selenium concentrations are increasing in the environment at such levels as there may be in an impact to the environment or human health, installation of a selenium removal circuit into the effluent treatment process should be considered. Denison responded that any further selenium abatement technologies will be considered through the BATEA process during licensing. During the licensing process, CNSC

staff will review the BATEA to verify that the proposed wastewater treatment system design further considers selenium effluent treatment technologies to ensure selenium in effluent is ALARA.

#### *Human Health - Radiological Contaminants:*

CNSC staff reviewed Denison's effect assessment to human health from radiological COPCs and found that Denison conducted a comprehensive analysis of these effects and that identified mitigation and follow-up monitoring program measures are adequate. In the HHRA, Denison had compared the predicted radon exposure to a camp worker against an air concentration limit of 60 Bq/m<sup>3</sup> in the EIS, stating this was a CNSC limit. CNSC staff sought further clarification on this, as there is no such CNSC limit. Denison subsequently revised the EIS and reported the effective dose assessment results for the camp worker from all radionuclides combined, including radon progeny, and compared to the corresponding effective dose limit of 1 mSv/year.

CNSC staff also reviewed Denison's assessment of workers' occupational exposures in the draft EIS and sought clarification through a number of IRs.

CNSC staff raised a comment regarding equivalent dose limit for the lens of an eye for NEWs. Denison clarified the correct dose limit for NEWs for the lens of the eye as 50 mSv in a one-year dosimetry period. CNSC staff requested further details regarding the control measures for air exchanges in the core shack. In response, the engineering design of the core shack including control measures to reduce core shack workers' exposures were also committed to be included in the detailed design, with the core shack HVAC design criteria to be provided to the CNSC during Project licensing. CNSC staff sought further clarifications regarding the dose calculations used in the exposure scenarios assessed. The technical bases for internal and external dose calculations were provided by Denison accordingly, and the modeling was reviewed by CNSC staff. Worker dose assessments were conservatively modelled without reliance on use of respiratory protection in response to CNSC staff's request to modify the exposure scenarios and assumptions (i.e., remove the use of a respirator). Finally, Denison also clarified the values for Th-230 and U-238 and the rationale as to why they are not in equilibrium in response to questions from CNSC staff on the methodology used in selecting these COPCs. Denison's responses to the IRs were accepted by CNSC staff and incorporated in the final EIS, along with revised supporting worker dose assessments.

### **7.3.5 CNSC Staff Findings and Recommendations**

Taking into account the implementation of mitigation measures and recommended follow-up program measures, CNSC staff conclude the Project is not likely to cause significant adverse effects on human health from changes in changes in non-radiological and radiological COPCs from Project air and liquid emissions.

Taking into account the implementation of mitigation measures and recommended follow-up program measures, CNSC staff conclude the Project is not likely to cause significant adverse effects on NEWs and worker health from radiological COPCs and conventional safety hazards due to occupational activities. A summary of the effects Significance Determination table can be found in [appendix B](#) and there are no issues requiring follow-up for this component area.

## **7.4 Indigenous uses: Current use of lands and resources for traditional purposes**

Understanding the current use of land and resources for traditional purposes by Indigenous peoples requires the knowledge of the traditional and contemporary Indigenous land use activities of Indigenous Nations and communities, including hunting, trapping, fishing, gathering and cultural/ceremonial activities carried out by First Nations and Métis peoples for traditional purposes in the Project Area, as well as the LSA and RSA (as defined earlier in [section 2.3](#)).

The proposed Project may cause changes to Indigenous Land and Resource Use (ILRU) for traditional purposes by Indigenous peoples, including fishing, hunting, gathering, trapping and the use of lands and resources for cultural and ceremonial purposes (referred to as Heritage resources). These adverse effects, may result from changes to the environment through:

- changes in quality and quantity of hunting, fishing, trapping, and gathering activities as a result of the Project
- changes in access to lands and waters available to conduct traditional harvesting and cultural activities as a result of the Project
- changes in the number of known heritage resources including any of those of historical, cultural, archaeological, paleontological or architectural significance as a result of the Project

CNSC staff concurred with Denison's assessment of Project activities that may interact with ILRU and cause residual effects during all project phases, as detailed below.

### **7.4.1 Description of the existing environment**

More than 80% of people who live in Northern Saskatchewan Administration District (NAD) self-identify as Indigenous peoples (Statistics Canada 2022). A map of Indigenous communities and organizations can be seen earlier in [section 2.3](#), [figure 2.7](#).

There are no permanent communities that are located within the immediate proximity of the Project Area. The closest community by road is the Northern Village of Pinehouse (NVP), which is located approximately 260 km south of the Project. Further, ERFN reserves lands of Slush Lake 192 and Barkwell Bay 192 are located approximately 15 to 40 km away from the Project respectively, while the ERFN reserves lands of Haultain Lake 192 and Mawdsley Lake 192 are located approximately 90 km south of the Project off Highway #914.

Highway #914, locally referred to as the Key Lake highway, runs from the community of Pinehouse, north to Cameco's Key Lake and McArthur River mine sites and serves as a primary transportation route for these operating mine sites. Access to the provincial Highway #914 north of the Key Lake Operation is controlled by Cameco at the Key Lake gatehouse, although some Indigenous land users also access the area past the gatehouse to the northwest via the decommissioned Fox Lake road.

The study areas for ILRU were based on the combined extent of the related atmospheric environment component (air quality, acoustic environment), human health, terrestrial, water quality, and fish and fish habitat VCs.

The LSA and RSA are accessed and used by Indigenous Nations and communities for traditional and/or cultural and ceremonial activities. The primary Indigenous land use activities carried out within the LSA and broader RSA by Indigenous land users include hunting, trapping, fishing,

and berry picking. There are also recreational and traditional resource user leases in the LSA and RSA. In addition, there are also important cultural heritage sites in the LSA and RSA, such as archaeological sites, historic travel and canoe routes, seasonal camps and traplines, all of which have cultural significance to Indigenous Nations and communities. All of the potentially impacted Indigenous Nations and communities have identified the importance of protecting the existing environment within the LSA and RSA so that they can continue to hunt, trap, and fish and carry out their traditional activities safely into the future.

#### **7.4.1.1 English River First Nation**

The Project is located within the Ancestral Lands of ERFN that stretch from the Churchill River in south to Wapata Lake in northeastern Saskatchewan. The IK that is contained within Denison's EIS was also shared with the CNSC by ERFN for the purposes of the EA process.

This information indicates that the LSA and RSA are important hunting areas for large game such as moose and gathering areas for berries and medicinal plants. ERFN maintains a culture camp in the RSA at kilometre 160 of Highway #914, approximately 100 km south of the project where the highway crosses the Haultain river. ERFN land users gather at the culture camp several times a year with Elders and youth to carry out land use activities such as berry picking, fishing, moose hunting, cultural teachings, and other activities. Moose hunting locations and Woodland Caribou harvesting sites were mapped along the Wheeler River mine site access road and adjacent to the Key Lake highway corridor in the LSA and RSA. The heaviest concentration of contemporary harvesting by ERFN in the region is between the Haultain Lake reserve lands and the McArthur River mine, and on both sides of the Key Lake highway located within LSA/RSA. Closer to the Project site, ERFN IK study participants identified fishing locations in the LSA at Russell Lake and in the smaller lakes and creeks close to the Project site. Plant and berry harvesting areas were also mapped in the LSA around the Fox Lake Road close to the proposed Project site and near the Wheeler River bridge. ERFN also documented a multi-generational history of trapping in the RSA east of the proposed Project, and these same trails are now used currently for subsistence hunting. ERFN reported that Lynx, Muskrat, Fisher, Fox, Otter, and Mink were trapped in the RSA within the last 10 years. ERFN also mapped 61 cultural sites overall in the region, with 10 of those occurring within the LSA. Cultural sites mapped included a birth site, historic family village sites, historically significant sites, ERFN recreation areas, and culturally significant travel routes to ERFN.

#### **7.4.1.2 Kineepik Métis Local #9**

The Project is located within KML traditional lands and occupancy area, which covers approximately 15,000 km<sup>2</sup> and extends 250 km north of Cree Lake, west of Knee Lake, east to Russell Lake and south down to Emmeline Lake located between Beauval and La Ronge (NVP 2011). KML's cultural camp is located at kilometre 67 north of the community, which is along Highway #914. Hunting, fishing, and harvesting areas were primarily documented throughout the RSA, north along the Haultin River system and parallel to Highway #914. KML's land use and occupancy study results show dense moose harvesting sites along Highway #914 south of the Key Lake Mine gate within the RSA, as well as other large game harvesting sites noted around Cree and Russell lakes, but in very low concentrations. Trapping occurs closer to the community, and on the Churchill River system and Gordon Lake, neither of which are located within the RSA. Pinehouse is a strong fishing community with access to hundreds of lakes and rivers in the region. Commercial fishing takes place along several lakes along the Churchill River system while subsistence fishing has been documented on the waterbodies around the Key

Lake Mine and the Wheeler River system west of the Key Lake at the Wheeler River bridge within the LSA. KML members also utilize the broader RSA to collect and gather berries and other edible/medicinal plants. Land use and occupancy studies also recorded birth, death, and burial sites, heritage cabins, and settlements in the region although none of these were recorded within the PA, LSA or north of the Key Lake Mine.

#### **7.4.1.3 Athabasca Denesūliné**

The Black Lake (Treaty 8), Fond du Lac (Treaty 8), and Hatchet Lake Denesūliné First Nations (Treaty 10) are collectively termed the Athabasca Denesūliné (AD) and are represented by the Ya'Thi Néné Lands and Resources Office. Hatchet Lake Denesūliné First Nation is the closest AD First Nation to the Project and is located approximately 150 km to the northeast, downstream from the Project.

YNLR asserts that Treaty Rights are practiced within the LSA, RSA and downstream in the Wheeler River in Northern Saskatchewan and that the Project Area overlaps the southern extent of the AD's traditional territory, in Nuhenéné. The information shared with CNSC by YNLR (in Denison's EIS and in meetings) indicates that AD members access and use the RSA for hunting, fishing, trapping and gathering activities, and that there are important cultural and spiritual sites located in the RSA. Barren-ground Caribou (*Rangifer tarandus groenlandicus*) is one of the most important resources for the AD people and members continue to harvest Barren-ground Caribou for subsistence and cultural purposes. Although the Barren-ground Caribou herds have not travelled into the Project Area recently, YNLR also indicated that other large game species harvested in the RSA include Woodland Caribou, Moose, and Black Bear, while smaller game harvested include Porcupine and Rabbit. Fishing harvesting also takes place primarily within the RSA, although some fishing was also present downstream of the Project in the LSA in the Wheeler River and Keefe Lake in the RSA. Other traditional land use activities practiced by YNLR members in the RSA include the gathering of berries, medicines, firewood and use of overnight sites as well as historical travel routes. Current sites, such as cabins, were not documented in the PA or LSA. Camping sites and navigation routes were documented based on historic use of the LSA by the Hatchet Lake Denesūliné First Nation.

The land use insights presented within this summary are based on an amalgamation of existing information from YNLR's IK Land Use and Occupancy database, which originates from a variety of projects varying in purpose, each with differing objectives and geographic scope. Consequently, these insights were not specific to the Project and not based on a focused Athabasca Denesūliné Knowledge, Land Use, and Occupancy Study which may have generated additional insights.

#### **7.4.1.4 Métis Nation-Saskatchewan**

The Project site is located within Métis Northern Region 1 (NR-1), close to the border of Northern Regions 2 and 3 (NR-2 and NR-3) and within the Homeland of the Métis. The Métis Nation in Saskatchewan claims Aboriginal title to much of Northwestern Saskatchewan, including the Project area, through a claim filed in 1994 which remains before the courts. Métis Citizens have strong ties and interest in the LSA and RSA, including but not limited to those Citizens from MN-S Locals in NR-1 and NR-3, and Métis communities (e.g., Pinehouse, Beauval, Ile-a-La-Crosse) with whom Denison and CNSC have been engaging with. Access to the Project is via road traveling through NR-3.



The Métis Knowledge Study (MKS) was a preliminary survey of Métis land users that was provided to Denison and the CNSC by MN-S included information in the form of interviews, maps, and tables on the traditional use and occupancy, trail and travel networks, seasonal camps and harvesting areas throughout NR-1 and NR-3 in proximity to the proposed Project. The study provided by MN-S identified hunting, fishing and plant harvesting sites, as well as commercial fishing sites<sup>6</sup>, in the LSA and RSA near Cree Lake and the Key Lake highway corridor. In addition, the MN-S also shared that there are culturally important current use and historical sites located in the RSA, including transportation travel routes, seasonal campsites, and gathering sites. Following the MKS submitted, MN-S has provided further mapping and other information from subsequent interviews with land users and continues to conduct such information-gathering activities. Lands within the LSA and RSA are used for knowledge transfer, Métis teachings, hunting, fishing (including commercial fishing)<sup>6</sup> and plant harvesting. These cultural activities are related directly to the Métis people's traditional dietary habits, dependence on traditional foods, commercial activities<sup>6</sup>, and harvesting for medicinal purposes. They are also important for maintaining and restoring the Métis connection to their Homeland after generations of impacts of colonialism, residential schools, and land-exclusion practices against the Métis.

#### **7.4.1.5 Other Indigenous Nations and Communities**

Lac La Ronge Indian Band (LLRIB, Treaty 6), Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation (PBCN, Treaty 6) and Birch Narrows Dene Nation (BNDN, Treaty 10) have all showed interest in the Project and have shared with Denison and the CNSC that the Project may have the potential to impact land users in the region. All three Nations have shared concerns around potential adverse impacts to the ability to hunt, fish, and trap for food and/or the ability to carry out traditional uses including cultural, spiritual or other important sites near the proposed Project Area and the Nation(s) may have land users in the LSA and RSA. CNSC staff are not currently aware of any ILRU that is carried out near the Project Area or within the LSA by LLRIB or BNDN, but both Nations have indicated that they do utilize the region to hunt, trap, fish and gather and carry out ceremonial purposes. CNSC has been made aware by PBCN that they have conducted interviews with community members to document and update their land use in the Project Area however, no specific traditional land use sites in the LSA have been shared to date. PBCN has shared a traditional territory land use map that claims culturally specific values and general harvesting activities that historically have occurred within the LSA and RSA. The CNSC is open to learning more on each Nations' ILRU in the region should individual Indigenous Nations be willing to share additional Indigenous land use information specific to the Project Area, including in the LSA and RSA.

Information on how the CNSC has been consulting and engaging with the identified Indigenous Nations and communities is included in the [Consultation Report](#), located in appendix C of the [CMD](#).

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<sup>6</sup> MN-S has indicated citizens undertake commercial fishing activities at Russell Lake near the Project site. However, no specific details on commercial harvesting, including evidence of a commercial harvesting license issued by the Province of Saskatchewan that is held by a MN-S citizen(s), has been provided to the CNSC to date.



## 7.4.2 Proponent's assessment

Denison's assessment on ILRU included both the direct and indirect effects of the Project on the biophysical environment, which in turn may potentially impact access to, and/or the quality and quantity of areas used for hunting, fishing, trapping and gathering activities, and the use of lands and resources for cultural and ceremonial purposes. These changes were assessed based on the spatial (PA, LSA and RSA) and temporal nature (construction, operation, and decommissioning) of these potential interactions between Project components and activities and the ILRU VC. The pathway analysis identified potential Project-related effects on ILRU and identified mitigation measures for these potential Project-related effects and determined whether the potential Project-related effects could be sufficiently mitigated such that they are not expected to cause a residual adverse effect.

In relation to access to and/or the quality and quantity of hunting, fishing, trapping and gathering activities, Denison did not predict any residual effects from the project due to changes in the biophysical environment, after the implementation of proposed mitigation and follow-up monitoring program measures. Within the Project Area, restrictions to land available to conduct ILRU are expected to begin in construction, continue through operation and end when reclamation of disturbed areas is completed in decommissioning. Denison determined that the Project will likely result in localized and temporal disturbances to ILRU within the Project Area and temporarily into the LSA. To minimize the quantity of land that is disturbed by the Project, Denison has reduced the proposed Project footprint to be developed within previously disturbed areas, including utilising roads currently used for exploration activities. Effects on resource availability to terrestrial resources including plants, furbearers, and large game were determined to be low in magnitude and reversible, as most large game hunting and gathering within the Project Area is sparse to infrequent and most of the hunting takes place outside the LSA. The land available for trapping in fur block N-18 will be reduced by 1.70 km<sup>2</sup> due to the Project footprint and area less than 1/10,000 of N-18 total land area. Access restrictions north of the Key Lake gate also mean that land use within the PA and LSA will be restricted to lease holders (e.g., cabin owners) and select Indigenous Nations and communities. Effects on resource availability of terrestrial wildlife and plant species were, therefore, not expected to affect subsistence hunting, trapping, and gathering because the effects were anticipated to be of low magnitude and reversible.

In relation to the potential effects on aquatic resources availability to surface water, fish, and aquatic furbearers were also assessed by Denison for ILRU. Project-induced changes to fish are expected to be low in magnitude and the abundance and distribution of fish species were not expected to be detectable due the project. Workforce members will be transported to/from site via a fly-in/fly-out rotation and will, therefore will reduce fishing pressure on local lakes. While at the Project site and off duty, workers may opt to fish local waterbodies, however, to protect sustainable use of resources, only catch and release of fish will be encouraged, and fish storage, cooking facilities and boats will not be provided. Given the limited trapping for aquatic furbearers (Beaver and Muskrat) in the PA and for traditional purposes, and the availability of relevant species throughout the LSA and RSA, use of aquatic furbearers for traditional purposes are not expected to be altered due to the Project. Water withdrawals and discharge from groundwater or surface water were also assessed and modelled. The Project will source fresh water from a shallow groundwater well but may draw from both a groundwater source and a surface water source. Potential effects are predicted to begin in construction, continue through

operation while camp facilities are still in operation, and decline in decommissioning as infrastructure is removed.

Indigenous land and resource users are concerned about the potential exposure to contamination of hazardous waste to surface water and groundwater due to ISR mining, plants and soils due to air emissions, and overall, impacts to traditional foods; these concerns may thus impact perceptions around the overall quality of the resource use. Potential effects are predicted to begin in operation and cease when reclamation activities have been completed in decommissioning when Project components are removed, and activities cease. Some perceptions may be strong enough to cause land users to avoid practicing ILRU activities in areas proximal to the Project due to perceived health concerns. A human health risk assessment was conducted to consider both radiological and non-radiological risks to humans, including Indigenous resource harvesters who consume high proportion of traditional foods close to the Project site. The human health risk assessment predicted no radiological exceedances, and only one COPC exceedance (selenium) could potentially arise in the unlikely circumstance that fish were only consumed in large quantities from Russell Lake. Denison has committed to monitoring the health risks from fish consumption by comparing fish tissue data collected during operation from the monitoring program against applicable human health risk-based maximum permissible concentrations. Indigenous Nations and communities have also expressed concerns related to mercury and increased methylmercury bioaccumulation in fish tissues due to project-related effects, therefore Denison has committed to additional monitoring for mercury and methylmercury in the aquatic environment to the list of COPC's over the life of the project to in order to monitor changes in mercury concentrations in fish tissue over time. Changes in fish tissues concentrations will be assessed through comparison of construction, operation, and decommissioning results to pre-development baseline conditions.

Denison also assessed the potential effect of changes in access to cultural and heritage resources and considered both the spatial and temporal boundaries in determining the potential effects to known Heritage Resources. Construction and other activities associated with the Project have the potential to impact or disturb these archaeological sites. To help assess heritage potential, TLU maps from ERFN, KML, and YNLR were reviewed by Denison to identify records of cultural and land use practices in the PA. Potential Project-related effects for Heritage Resources were limited to the areas where ground disturbance will occur which is primarily in the immediate PA. Two Heritage Resource Impact Assessments (HRIAs) were completed to identify any heritage resources that may be affected by the Project and two heritage resources were identified in the PA during the baseline studies. Both sites were single artifact finds and were considered to have low interpretive value by the province of Saskatchewan's Heritage Conservation Branch (HCB). Denison determined that given the low number of Heritage Resources within the PA, LSA, and RSA, the likelihood of this residual effect is considered low and residual effects on heritage resources will occur infrequently. Any changes to the Project (i.e., expansion of the Project Area or the addition of new infrastructure including airstrip) that might affect heritage resources will be required under the *Heritage Property Act* to be submitted to the HCB for their review, and additional HRIAs may be required.

While it is difficult to predict individual perceptions on the suitability of land proximal to the Project for ILRU, Indigenous land users may also experience indirect effects through disturbances from traffic, noise, air quality changes, changes related to the relationship to the land, and increased competition for resources due to increased traffic in the area as was included in Denison's assessment. Denison deemed changes to the perceived experience of land users

would be limited to a small number of individuals and that proven mitigation measures will be applied to traffic disturbances, noise, air quality, and increased competition for resources and therefore the effects are expected to be localized and reversible. Denison's potential effects were predicted to begin in construction, continue through operations, and cease when reclamation activities have been completed in decommissioning when Project components are removed, and activities cease. Denison determined the residual adverse effects for the perceived suitability of lands and resources are expected to be low in magnitude, limited in geographic extent, and reversible, and the conclusion relative to changes to ILRU is not significant. Denison proposed mitigation strategies that have been successful in similar settings and other mining operation across Northern Saskatchewan such as management of noise, traffic, dust, and competition for resources and additional engagement on ISR mining has been proposed. Denison has committed to working with Indigenous Nations and communities to maintaining positive relations and will be open to discussions on any issues or concerns that arise due to these potential disturbances.

### 7.4.3 Other Views expressed

#### 7.4.3.1 Indigenous Land Use

ERFN had expressed concern about Denison's understanding of their land use. Specifically, there is a discrepancy between individual and collectively held rights, inaccurately represented as "limited" or "absent" in the study. ERFN also emphasizes that their actual current use of the land is much more extensive than portrayed. Additionally, Denison's portrayal of the ERFN community through Bobby John's trapline and land use has raised concerns but has since been updated for the final EIS. Former ERFN Chief McIntyre also spoke of the origins of local place names and the presence of important cultural sites in the Project Area:

*"Since 1906, the area where you're working has been Treaty 10 land...[and] those lands were the primary area of ERFN and contain burial sites and birth sites of ERFN members. The Dene name of the Wheeler River, Russell Lake and Cree Lake all come from the Denésuliné of English River. The Elders have always expressed that it's a primary area of ERFN. One of our late Elders was born north of there in 1922. Our traditional gathering place is there."*

KML had expressed concerns around other activities impacting their land use practices and traditional economic activity resulting from cumulative impacts from historical legacy exploration and mining. There is concern that they will inherit severe impacts from increased development and access to their territory. Current regulation of hunting, fishing, tourism, resource development and increased human traffic will affect and limit their ability to practice protected rights.

The MN-S study completed in 2023 identifies potential changes to harvesting and related activities for MN-S members, including but not limited to hunting, fishing, including commercial fishing, gathering, trapping, and related travel and camping. The Métis Knowledge Study was completed using in-person interviews with 9 Métis Citizens who previously worked and lived in NR1 and NR3 and who had strong kinship and familial ties to NR1 and/or NR3 and were able to share Métis knowledge learned through oral history. These hunting, fishing, trapping, gathering,

harvesting and related<sup>7</sup> activities detailed in the Métis Knowledge Study were focused on the Churchill River Watershed, Cree Lake, near existing mine sites (Key and McArthur River) and the proposed Project site. Other activities relate directly to traditional dietary habits, dependence on traditional/country foods and harvesting for medicinal purposes. Specific areas mentioned include the Churchill River area, Cree Lake (both in RSA) and the Key Lake highway corridor in the LSA.

MN-S has expressed concern regarding sensory disturbances that may occur during land and resource use activities. These disturbances may include visual and auditory impacts resulting from mining and exploration activities in the region, increased road traffic, and changes to the visual environment.

MN-S is also concerned about reduced engagement in land and resource use activities, diminished access to previously accessible areas, and Project impacts on health of traditionally harvested populations. This reduction in participation may be attributed to perceived environmental risks, impacts on traditional food sources, and increased involvement in mining activities. The activities associated with this project may adversely affect the safety, both real and perceived, of consuming, or commercially harvesting, species that have been traditionally harvested by MN-S members in the LSA and broader RSA.

YNLR has shared concerns about personal exposure to contamination of surface and groundwater, soils, waste sources, and fish species. Such exposure could lead to avoidance of areas adjacent to the Project, potentially limiting access to Treaty-protected activities. Furthermore, YNLR expresses fears related to uranium exploration and mining contamination of water and traditional foods. These perceived risks could impact culturally important natural resources, potentially leading residents to avoid accessing the general area. Ensuring the protection of ecological systems that support traditional land use activities is crucial, including considerations during the decommissioning of the mines. YNLR also expressed concerns with Denison's representation of the Dene's key traditional and cultural activities. Particularly that the Athabasca Déné do not utilize the area around the proposed Project for traditional purposes.

BNDN expressed concerns in Draft EIS that IK and Land Use from BNDN has not yet been included or considered in Denison's EIS and that a fulsome consideration of BNDN's IK and Land Use was needed to assess the impacts the Project may have on BNDN's rights and interests and contribute to a baseline of ecological knowledge and cultural use in the area.

LLRIB shared concerns around potential adverse impacts to the ability to hunt, fish and trap for food and/or the ability to carry out traditional uses including cultural, spiritual or other important sites near the proposed Project Area and may have land users in the RSA.

PBCN is concerned that Denison is not providing enough capacity funding to support meaningful engagement on the Project to complete a project specific Land Use study. PBCN was unable to determine potential impacts to PBCN Aboriginal and Treaty Rights through independent and objective review of the project impacts on PBCN's land use in the region. PBCN has also raised concerns around the use of the draft territory map shared with CNSC and

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MN-S has indicated citizens undertake commercial fishing activities at Russell Lake near the Project site. However, no specific details on commercial harvesting, including evidence of a commercial harvesting license issued by the Province of Saskatchewan that is held by a MN-S citizen(s), has been provided to the CNSC to date.

Denison. Denison has used the information from this map to support the draft EIS, but this is a draft and not wholly indicative of PBCN's land use in the area and going to share more detailed information when it becomes available with the CNSC and Denison so that they can better understand PBCN's land use in relation to the Project.

In response to a CNSC request for review of the Views Expressed shared, PBCN indicated that it was also concerned about the quality and quantity of resources that PBCN members rely on for subsistence, including wildlife, vegetation, and water. PBCN claims that its members exercise Aboriginal and Treaty rights in the Project Area including hunting, trapping, gathering and cultural activities including, but not limited to, gathering medicinal plants; hunting moose and caribou; harvesting duck, mallard and geese; trapping lynx; harvesting chaga and rat root.

#### **7.4.3.2 Landscape Fragmentation and Terrestrial Environment**

ERFN had expressed concerns around cumulative effects of industry fragmenting the landscape impacting environment and community health as well as ability to practice traditional activities through harvesting, trapping, fishing or hunting. ERFN had expressed concerns around decommissioning, remediation and the reclamation process at the end of the mining process. There are questions about the management of financial guarantees, cavities and wells once mining is complete. This could result in long-term effects on the land and the potential for these effects to negatively affect traditional lifeways.

KML had shared concerns with respect to severe impacts from increased development and access to their territory. Current regulation of hunting, fishing, tourism, resources development and increased human traffic may affect and limit their ability to practice protected rights within the RSA.

MN-S is concerned with increased pressure on terrestrial species and supporting habitats, and the decreased quality and quantity of species and supporting habitats (Moose and Woodland Caribou), which could lead to a noticeable decline in both the quality and quantity of these resources for Métis citizens for harvesting.

YNLR has emphasized the lack of significance associated with the residual and cumulative effects assessments of all ecological VCs. YNLR raised concerns that they submitted on the Draft EIS that Denison did not undertake project specific work of the information shared with Denison, specifically around Woodland Caribou and Moose ranges for the RSA. Some community Elders are concerned that future generations will not have an abundance of wildlife required for harvesting and want to ensure that YNLR IK is considered in the protection of Woodland Caribou and their habitat. YNLR also firmly believes that the addition of the Denison mine, along with its associated disturbances, will have cumulative effects on wildlife, especially Woodland Caribou. YNLR is concerned about the lack of significance associated with the residual and cumulative effects assessments of all ecological VCs as it is crisscrossed with many kilometers of cut lines through the LSA, RSA and beyond. YNLR has also expressed concerns around linear disruptions impacting Moose, furbearers, raptors, migratory breeding birds, other species at risk.

BNDN shared concerns that the avoidance buffer for Moose and Woodland Caribou is not large enough. The anthropogenic disturbance can affect ungulate habitat selection and result in habitat avoidance. BNDN is also concerned that species at risk and endangered species were observed during baseline studies but were excluded in the EIS or were not listed as key indicators.

LLRIB expressed concern for incorporation of chemical and pollutants into the aquatic environment and the effects to water quality and health of aquatic species.

PBCN is concerned about the risk of contamination as well as the perceived risk of contamination to vegetation, fish, wildlife, soils and traditional foods and the avoidance of harvesting of traditional foods by PBCN members. It is critical that Denison, the CNSC and provincial regulators continue to monitor traditional foods to build confidence of PBCN members to facilitate the continued exercise of PBCN's Aboriginal rights to hunt, harvest, fish and gather. PBCN is also concerned with the Project creating disruptions and disturbances to wildlife species in the region including large game such as Moose and Woodland Caribou.

PAGC has raised concerns that the Athabasca region has a history of mismanaged mining operations, as shown by the 38 abandoned mines in the Athabasca region.

#### **7.4.3.3 Surface water and Groundwater Contamination and Use**

At the initial Project stage ERFN expressed concerns that the project may adversely impact or contaminate the aquatic environment, waterways, fish, and fisheries, affecting their traditional way of life, including water use, fishing, and land harvesting practices tied to “Nuhtsiye-kwi Benéne” (Traditional Lands). Specifically, ERFN was concerned by the potential risk of hazardous materials from the project contaminating the surrounding environment, particularly in the event of underground spills to groundwater aquifer that may not be immediately visible or detectable. ERFN also highlighted the importance of safeguarding waterways and fish spawning areas to prevent contamination. Furthermore, members of ERFN perceive risks associated with the nuclear industry, including catastrophic accidents, which could significantly impact their way of life and connection to Nuhtsiye-kwi Benéne.

ERFN initially expressed concerns that the presence of molybdenum and sulfate in effluents from the mine could significantly impact the current environment by influencing pH levels and potentially leading to acidification downstream. ERFN has emphasized the importance of understanding the local hydrogeological setting to assess potential risks associated with water quality and groundwater flow. Additionally, Denison's water recycle program was not clearly defined and engagement with ERFN should be considered in the search for the best available technology.

KML community members noted concerns around perceived risks resulting from the lack of confidence that mining will be able to recover solutions which could impact groundwater quality. KML also expressed concerns the aquatic environment, including baseline collection and water flow management was completed.

YNLR shares similar concerns, particularly regarding personal exposure to contamination of surface and groundwater, soils, waste sources, and fish species. These apprehensions could lead to avoidance of areas adjacent to the project and potentially limit access to Treaty-protected activities such as fishing for traditional purposes. Concerns were raised around future water quality for Whitefish Lake, Russell Lake, and downstream watershed of the Wheeler River, Geikie River and into Wollaston Lake. YNLR also has concerns around water resource management for the project as the volume of natural lake and ground water proposed to be used to support the project. This could impact stream flows and contamination of water below and above ground.

MN-S has raised concerns about potential leaks and contamination in bedrock, and contamination from effluent (including selenium), particularly the impact on Whitefish Lake and downstream impacts to Russell Lake. MN-S also raised concerns that the basement rock is potentially permeable and has concerns that hazardous materials will remain contained within the freeze wall.

BNDN has shared concerns that Denison's sampling effort for identifying the species diversity and relative abundance of the fish community is low and that an additional round of spring and fall baseline sampling should take place. BNDN is concerned that background mercury concentrations in water and fish can be elevated in unexpected and remote locations and Denison's lack of assessment and analysis of baseline mercury concentrations and mercury cycling that could be induced by the Project. BNDN is very concerned that Denison has portrayed their groundwater contamination model with an inappropriate level of confidence. Water quantities used for the Project may also be greater than modelled.

PBCN has concerns around the contamination on waterways downstream due to effluent from the mine entering the waterways that flow downstream into the south end of Wollaston Lake. PBCN is particularly concerned about the proposed use of freshwater for mining operations and release of effluent into Whitefish Lake. PBCN also has expressed concerns and would like to better understand of what specific steps the CNSC is taking to monitor any potential failure of the freeze wall and the whether the CNSC is requiring financial assurance from Denison. PBCN has also expressed concerns that Denison has not consulted with PBCN on water quality impacts to the downstream environment of the project site into the southeastern end of Wollaston Lake.

In response to a CNSC request for review of the Views Expressed shared, PBCN expressed an interest in participating in the environmental committee overseeing the BATEA study.

#### **7.4.3.4 Increased access and use**

At the initial Project stage ERFN expressed concerns that increased access to the Cree Lake area could adversely impact caribou and Moose populations, potentially affecting members' ability to engage in traditional hunting practices. Specifically, ERFN is concerned about Province of Saskatchewan's plan to redesign and provide unimpeded road access to the north, which may lead to an influx of people into the Cree Lake area to set up cabins and fishing lodges. This influx into the area may threaten the region's remoteness, tranquility, and the quality of fishing. Moreover, it could erode the practice of traditional activities and subsistence harvesting. ERFN also expressed concerns that mine truck traffic would impact access to blueberry harvesting areas and impact the berries themselves, that access to hunting areas would be cut off, and that potential mine contamination could impact Moose, Woodland Caribou, and/or fish in the area. ERFN expressed concerns about Denison's understanding of their current land use. Specifically, there was a discrepancy between individual and collectively held rights, inaccurately represented as "limited" or "absent" in the study. ERFN emphasized that use of the land is much more extensive than initially portrayed. An ERFN Trapper stated that more cabins are being built in the area which *"has affected me because there are more boats on the lakes. More boats on the lakes leads to more overfishing, anglers also cut access trails to lakes."*

KML identified that increased access and traffic as a primary concern potentially impacting their ability to practice subsistence harvesting. KML also requested additional information on how Denison and the Province of Saskatchewan plan to address the HWY #914 extension road in the future and its implications for increased traffic through their community if it is advanced. KML

raised a concern with Denison to clarify that they are not representing other Métis locals/communities. KML is the closest Métis Local and community to the Project therefore should be considered one of the primary impacted communities for the Project.

MN-S have also flagged increased traffic and land use pressures as a concern with respect to hunting for large game of its members. As more people travel to and from the project sites additional pressures may be placed by hunters and fisherman on the natural resources that its citizens rely upon to feed their families. MN-S believes Denison should consider limiting non-Indigenous Project staff from hunting, fishing, trapping and gathering around the Project Area. MN-S also would like Denison to allow Métis employees cultural leave for land and resource activities during times of the year designated for harvesting activities and provide access to employees for harvesting activities during time off.

YNLR have also flagged increased traffic and land use pressures as a concern with respect to hunting for large game of its members. As more people travel to and from the project sites additional pressures may be placed by hunters and fisherman on the natural resources that its citizens rely upon to feed their families.

BNDN has shared concerns regarding increased fishing pressure in Whitefish Lake from employees working at the Project site and increased ability for visitors due to improved access could negatively impact fish populations. This could have negative consequences on the population structure of fish in the lake as well as the ability of BNDN members to exercise fishing rights.

#### **7.4.3.5 Indigenous and Treaty Rights**

ERFN expressed concerns about safeguarding the community's collective rights to hunt, fish, and harvest. Additionally, ERFN raised concerns about the potential blocking of Fox Lake Road by the Project—a road that holds contemporary cultural significance as a gathering place for ERFN people. ERFN raised issue with Denison's understanding of ERFN's use in the area with individual vs. collectively held rights inaccurately represented. Denison has used "limited" or "absent" when referring to Indigenous Lands and Resource Use in the Study Areas which diminishes the actual amount of use by ERFN members.

ERFN expressed concerns regarding the protection of the community's collective rights to hunt, fish and harvest and want to ensure all Rights will remain unchanged. ERFN also feels they have a stronger land claim than other Indigenous Nations and communities within the Project Area and want to ensure ERFN Treaty Rights and interests are protected and prioritized. ERFN maintains a cultural camp at Kilometre 160 of Highway 914 where the highway crosses the Haultain River. Former ERFN Chief McIntyre expressed the importance of the cultural camp.

*“For many years I’ve invited (the media) to come to our gathering on the Key Lake road, to showcase and impress on the world that we’re still using those areas.”*

The KML community identified increased access to the area as a concern, potentially impacting their ability to practice subsistence harvesting. KML requested additional information on how Denison and the Province plan to address increased traffic on the roads and safety risks to community members when harvesting due to increased traffic. KML also had concerns from cumulative impacts of historical legacy exploration and mining practices and safety of food gathering in a safe method around growing projects and mineral exploration activities in the region. KML is concerned that cumulative impacts of substantial and growing projects and



mineral exploration activity in the region will severely limit their ability to practice continued and use of the region north of the Haultain River.

MN-S Métis Knowledge Study identifies potential changes to harvesting and related activities for MN-S citizens, including but not limited to hunting, fishing, gathering, and trapping. Indicators for this Valued Component also encompass possible changes to travel and access routes to areas designated for these activities, as well as to cabins and campsites used during these land and resource use activities. MN-S has shared they have trepidations about the increased pressure on species and their supporting habitats, which could lead to a noticeable decline in both the quality and quantity of these resources. The activities associated with this project may adversely affect the safety, both real and perceived, of consuming species that have been traditionally harvested by MN-S members.

YNLR also shared similar concerns stemming from cumulative effects resulting from various industrial developments across the broader region. These cumulative impacts have left residents with shrinking usable areas to exercise their rights. YNLR specifically emphasizes the importance of reflecting Treaty Rights related to fishing, hunting, and trapping in the EIS. YNLR and the Athabasca Denesųliné also expressed concerns and apprehension about potential adverse impacts from the Project or indirect effects of human activity within the Project Area. These impacts could disrupt both Aboriginal and Treaty rights related to hunting, fishing, trapping, and gathering for future generations.

BNDN members continue to exercise our Treaty and Aboriginal rights including hunting, trapping, fishing, plant gathering and cultural/spiritual practices in the immediate area of the Project and throughout our Ancestral Lands.

LLRIB has shared concerns around potential adverse impacts to the ability to hunt, fish and trap for food and/or the ability to carry out traditional uses including cultural, spiritual or other important sites within the direct boundary of the proposed project and downriver. LLRIB has encouraged Denison to reach out to LLRIB to engage LLRIB members and land users who may be potentially impacted.

PBCN has raised concerns and claim that the Project has potential impacts on PBCN's ability to exercise Aboriginal and Treaty Rights. The Crown and Denison needs to engage PBCN meaningfully to ensure impacts to PBCN as an interested Indigenous Nation and community are identified, assessed, mitigated and, where appropriate, reasonably accommodated.

In response to a CNSC request for review of the Views Expressed shared, PBCN indicated that they are concerned with the failure of the Crown and Denison to consider PBCN's comments and concerns on the basis that the EIS contains general mitigation measures. PBCN has stated that this approach is both inaccurate and inconsistent with the Crown's own policies on Indigenous consultation and engagement. This approach disregards the essential requirement of meaningful consultation. The mitigation measures set out in the EIS were developed prior to PBCN expressing interest on the Project and as previously noted, do not incorporate any Indigenous or community knowledge provided by PBCN. PBCN claims that measures developed unilaterally by Denison do not meet the standards required under the Crown's duty to consult. It is imperative that PBCN be actively involved in the evaluation of mitigation measures to ensure they are responsive to the actual and potential impacts on PBCN's Aboriginal and Treaty rights.

PAGC has also shared concerns around potential adverse impacts to the ability to hunt, fish and trap for food and/or the ability to carry out traditional uses including cultural, spiritual or other important sites.

### **7.4.3.6 Increase in Transportation Infrastructure & Use**

ERFN has concerns that noise from the Project has potential to affect human health and change animal behaviors

KML raised concerns related to highway impacts and cumulative road use. Specifically, they worry about the potential effects of the Project and pressures on the existing highway due to increased truck traffic and a lack of stringent oversight and safety concerns. These activities may elevate the risk of heavy haul vehicle incidents involving land users and potentially reduce access to emergency services for the community members. KML would like to ensure safety processes for community members and comprehensive maintenance plans for the road should be thoroughly discussed with the community and implemented to provide the protection of both the environment and the well-being of the closest impacted community.

### **7.4.3.7 Environmental Monitoring**

ERFN would like to be included in all environmental monitoring so they can ensure their ancestral homelands of “Nuhtsiye-kwi Benéne” are being protected.

MN-S has indicated they would like to be more involved in the environmental monitoring programs and ensure they are inclusive of Métis citizens and knowledge throughout the lifetime of the project. MN-S’ involvement and inclusions in measures can help confirm the efficacy of mitigation measures, monitoring of harvest species, protection of water quality, and ensure Métis land and resource use interests.

YNLR has concerns around the uncertainties around Denison's proposed monitoring plans and want to ensure that YNLR is involved in the design, implementation and reporting of all monitoring programs for the Project. Their primary concerns and interest involve water quality and the terrestrial environment with a strong interest in protecting the woodland caribou and their habitat.

BNDN is concerned that there is no engagement with BNDN on the environmental management, monitoring and remediation programs. BNDN is concerned that the Project is reliant on burning diesel to supply project activities. The project should consider Best Available Technologies to reduce the Project's GHG emissions.

PBCN has interest in being involved in the development and implementation of water quality monitoring and sampling programs in the downstream aquatic environment to ensure the watershed is being protected.

In response to a CNSC request for review of the Views Expressed shared, PBCN expressed interest in participating in tissue sampling programs with a focus on fish tissue sampling, mammal tissue sampling and bioaccumulation in plants and fungus. PBCN has urged Denison and CNSC to develop:

- a fish tissue sampling program for grayling, walleye, northern pike, and lake trout)
- a mammal monitoring program centered around commonly harvested mammals, such as moose, deer, and beaver with a focus on organs and tissues that may store contaminants, such as liver and kidney
- a plant monitoring program centered around key medicinal plants, berries, and mushrooms, all of which are crucial for PBCN's traditional health practices with a focus

on leaf, root, and fungal tissue to assess levels of contaminants absorbed from the soil and water

PBCN is also interested in participating in the environmental committee overseeing this project, as well as the BATEA study.

#### **7.4.3.8 Community Health and Socio-Economic**

ERFN had expressed apprehension about potential negative effects on community health resulting from the project. During interviews, community members highlighted significant perceived health impacts arising from cumulative environmental and wildlife effects within ERFN Traditional Territory. These impacts have implications for overall well-being, leading to negative psycho-social consequences and perceived risk that traditional foods are not safe to eat. ERFN also expressed concern that potential effects on the Traditional Economy are underestimated and erosion of traditional economic practices from cumulative effects of resource projects will occur. ERFN is concerned that the socio-economic data from census desktop studies are not accurate.

KML had raised the concern that the community is currently in need of funding for education and training to reach a standard of knowledge in STEM and mining to take advantage of economic opportunities from the project. KML had also raised concerns around language and cultural loss to the community over the years due to the uranium mining industry and being able to continue to speak their language and practice their culture at the mine sites. They have expressed concerns that racial discrimination in hiring for projects in the area has led to detrimental effects against the cultural norms and language of the community. KML had also raised the concern regarding women being offered limited opportunities due to work schedules.

MN-S has indicated that Métis citizens who use the LSA have the potential for economic loss due the projects. Economics is a primary Valued Component for MN-S and includes how the project will impact changes to employment, education and training, and impacts on the traditional Métis economy. MN-S has also raised concerns with quality-of-life valued component that includes changes to Métis kinship and cultural practices, festivals, Métis gatherings, and the use of cultural sites for personal practice or for the purpose of knowledge sharing with future generations. Furthermore, the proposed project may have an impact on the methods of communication, access to technology and the ability to travel for supporting kinship ties. MN-S has also raised concerns with the loss to the Métis title claim from the extraction of the Project resource and the loss of socio-economic opportunities which could result from the development of the Project resource prior to the recognition of Métis title.

BNDN is concerned that Denison has not identified the community as a LSA community. This results in lack of eligibility for priority employment, training or contracting opportunities. BNDN has raised concerns that a transient workforce from the proposed Project will impact the quality of life of BNDN members.

PBCN wants to ensure Treaty Rights of members are protected (with a focus on water) and that socio-economic and cultural rights and well-being of PBCN members are protected. In response to a CNSC request for review of the Views Expressed shared, PBCN also reiterated that it is concerned about bioaccumulation in animal tissue and medicinal plants that are hunted trapped and gathered by PBCN members.

#### **7.4.3.9 Summary of Mitigations and Commitments related to Views Expressed**

In addition to Denison's responses, mitigations, accommodations and commitments to Indigenous Nations and communities, CNSC staff's responses to concerns raised by Indigenous Nations and communities are addressed in section of the Consultation Report, in the responses to Issues and Concerns (appendix A of the Consultation Report – [Volume II](#)) and will be included as in a supplemental submission to in advance of the Part 2 hearing.

#### **7.4.4 CNSC Staff Analysis**

CNSC staff reviewed Denison's assessment of potential effects to ILRU due to decreased access and to the quality and quantity of hunting, fishing, trapping and gathering activities, including ceremonial practices, during all phases of the Project and considered the views shared by Indigenous Nations and communities. CNSC staff have also reviewed and considered all of the IK/MK and local knowledge that was provided in Denison's EIS, as well as TK/MK documents and maps that have been shared directly with CNSC staff that were requested to remain confidential.

CNSC staff have also travelled to the Project site and region on several occasions, visited multiple cultural camps, met and engaged directly with a number Indigenous land users, Elders, and leadership from several Indigenous Nations and communities with rights and interested related to the Project to hear and respond to their concerns. In addition, CNSC staff have also reviewed the mitigation measures that were proposed and applied by Denison in atmospheric and acoustic environment, geology and groundwater, aquatic environment, terrestrial environment, and human health sections as well as the mitigation and follow-up commitments made by Denison for the Project.

The Project's effects to ILRU are predicted to be indirect effects to the quality of the perceived experience may be affected due to hazards related to road safety, waste and the perceived risk to the contamination of traditional foods. The effects of potential changes to the health of Indigenous Nations and communities were assessed for issues related to changes in air quality, noise levels, visual quality, human health and perceived risk to the contamination of traditional foods. When taking into consideration the combined magnitude, geographic extent, duration, and context of the potential residual adverse effects on Indigenous health, and the mitigation measures to address effects on exposure to the traditional land user, CNSC staff have determined that the magnitude of these residual effects are expected to be low.

If granted a licence by the CNSC, Denison is required to implement an EMP consistent with Canadian Standards Association for nuclear facilities and uranium mines. The environmental monitoring program will focus on providing data to verify the predictions made by the ERA, to refine the models used in the ERA, and to reduce the uncertainty in the predictions made by the ERA. The EMP will include collection of surface water, sediment, plants, and soil samples as well as fish tissue, benthic invertebrates, and traditional foods in collaboration with potentially affected Indigenous Nations and communities.

The Projects effects of potential changes to the physical and cultural heritage of Indigenous Nations and communities were also assessed for issues related to the loss, change, or alteration of archaeological and heritage resources of the current use of lands and resources for traditional purposes of culturally/spiritually sites. When considering the mitigation measures proposed and applied to Heritage Resources, CNSC staff conclude that there will be no residual adverse effects to changes in access to cultural and heritage resources for ceremonial purposes. With respect to

potential effects on other cultural resources including archaeology, and considering Indigenous Nations and communities' views, CNSC staff have found that Denison's mitigation measures listed and their commitments to follow the guidance under the *Saskatchewan's Heritage Property Act* (Government of Saskatchewan 2017) pertaining to archaeology sites, built heritage sites and structures of historical and/or architectural interest, and paleontological sites will mitigate any potential effects. Denison has completed the required archaeology assessments in accordance with provincial regulations and has also committed to developing a Heritage Resources Management Plan (HRMP) to help protect and mitigate any potential effects of the Project to Heritage Resources with potentially affected Indigenous Nations and communities to ensure the Project effects are being monitored and appropriately mitigated.

In conclusion, CNSC staff reviewed Denison's assessment of potential impacts on ILRU due to decreased access and to the quality and quantity of hunting, fishing, trapping and gathering activities and perceived changes to the environment and on heritage resources. The Project effects resulting from changes to the biophysical environment are predicted to be primarily indirect effects.

#### **7.4.5 CNSC Staff Findings and Recommendations**

Taking into account the implementation of mitigation measures and recommended follow-up program measures, as well as input received from Indigenous Nations and communities, CNSC staff conclude that there are grounds for the Commission to find that the Project is not likely to cause significant adverse effects on access to and quality and quantity of hunting, fishing, trapping and harvesting activities, or effects on access to cultural sites of importance to Indigenous peoples. The effects significance determination table for ILRU can be found in [appendix B](#).

CNSC remains committed to working with Indigenous Nations and communities to collaborate on follow-up and monitoring activities for the Project, as well as enhance engagement, outreach and information sharing regarding uranium mining and related environmental, health, safety and regulatory measures to mitigate and protect ILRU in the Project Area region and build trust with Indigenous Nations and communities moving forward.

### **8.0 Other effects considered**

#### **8.1 Effects of accidents and malfunctions**

##### **8.1.1 Proponent's Assessment**

Denison carried out an assessment of effects of potential radiological and conventional accidents and malfunctions on human health, safety, and/or biophysical environment in consideration of all mine-life phases focusing on the Project site, the site access road and specific off-site locations along the mine-related transportation route of interest to Indigenous peoples. The assessment followed a risk-based approach whereby 70 potential project-related hazards were identified, screened, and evaluated qualitatively, taking into account design features and mitigation measures. Seven accident and malfunction scenarios initially identified with moderate or high risk were carried forward for more detailed quantitative assessment, including risk characterization. [table 8.1](#) below outlines seven bounding accident and malfunction scenarios and Denison's proposed mitigation measures, including their risk characterization.

**Table 8.1 Bounding accidents and malfunctions, proposed mitigation measures, and risk characterization**

| Type of accident and malfunction                                     | Description  | Mitigation measures  | Risk characterization  |
|--|--|--|--|
| Vehicle accident and aquatic release of radioactivity                | Identified as a bounding potential accident during operation, where an accident of a vehicle transporting packed uranium concentrate, including a rollover, collision, or run off road at or near a water crossing could potentially result in a release of uranium concentrate into the surface water at this location and cause potential effects on surface water quality, sediment quality, aquatic species, wildlife, and human health.   | Mitigation measures proposed by Denison include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• traffic control measures such as speed limits</li> <li>• travel management plans</li> <li>• spill and emergency response planning</li> <li>• driver training</li> </ul>  | Probability: highly unlikely<br>Severity of consequence: moderate<br>Overall risk: low   |
| Vehicle accident and aquatic release of fuel and hazardous chemicals | Identified as a bounding potential accident during construction, operation, and decommissioning, where an accident of a vehicle transporting fuel and hazardous chemicals, including a rollover, collision, or run off road at or near a water crossing could potentially result in aquatic release of fuel, hazardous chemicals, and reagents into surface water and cause potential effects on surface water quality, sediment quality, aquatic species, wildlife, and human health. | Mitigation measures proposed by Denison include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• traffic control measures such as speed limits</li> <li>• travel management plans</li> <li>• spill and emergency response planning</li> <li>• driver training</li> </ul>  | Probability: unlikely<br>Severity of consequence: moderate<br>Overall risk: low          |
| Loss of freeze capacity  | Identified as a bounding potential accident during operation, whereby a loss of containment of mining solution would occur due to loss of freeze capacity. If this occurs, the mining fluids could migrate into the local groundwater environment and cause contamination of groundwater.  | Mitigation measures proposed by Denison include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ensuring the freeze plant is maintained in good working order</li> <li>• maintaining the structural stability of the freeze wall with great effort</li> <li>• maintaining inward hydraulic gradient created by the recovery wells pumps</li> </ul> | Probability: highly unlikely<br>Severity of consequence: major<br>Overall risk: moderate |
| Failure of freeze wall   | Identified as a bounding potential accident during operation whereby the freeze wall could be damaged due to earth movement during major events such as earthquakes. This accidental scenario could result in  | Mitigation measures proposed by Denison include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• monitoring of groundwater and freeze wall thickness</li> </ul>   | Probability: highly unlikely   |

| Type of accident and malfunction  | Description  | Mitigation measures   | Risk characterization  |
|---|--|---|--|
|   | the migration of mining fluids into the local groundwater environment and cause contamination of groundwater.  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• pumping both within the freeze wall and outside the freeze wall if the accident occurs</li> <li>• maintaining inward hydraulic gradient created by the recovery wells pumps</li> </ul>   | Severity of consequence: major<br>Overall risk: moderate                             |
| Process vessel and piping system failure  | Identified as a bounding potential accident during operation, which could result in the release of radon from storage tank and cause potential effects on human health and the environment.  | Mitigation measures proposed by Denison include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• adequate engineering design control</li> <li>• visual inspections</li> <li>• regular and preventive inspection, testing, and maintenance programs</li> <li>• personnel training and orientation</li> <li>• development and implementation of the Occupational Health and Safety Program, including specific plans, procedures and PPE</li> <li>• emergency response and spill response planning</li> <li>• building ventilation</li> <li>• full containment of the processing plant; and</li> <li>• ambient monitoring</li> </ul> | Probability: likely<br>Severity of consequence: minor<br>Overall risk: low           |
| Facility fire and/or explosion, and release of radioactivity and uranium concentrate powder to the atmosphere | Identified as a bounding potential accident during operation, whereby a fire and/or explosion within the processing plant could result in the release of radioactivity and uranium concentrate powder to atmosphere and cause potential effects on air quality and human health. | Mitigation measures proposed by Denison include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• adequate engineering design control</li> <li>• implementation of regular and preventive inspection, testing, and maintenance programs</li> <li>• implementation of personnel training and orientation</li> <li>• development and implementation of the Occupational Health and Safety Program, including specific plans, procedures, and PPE</li> <li>• implementation of fire safety plan and firefighting systems; and</li> <li>• ambient monitoring</li> </ul>   | Probability: highly likely<br>Severity of consequence: moderate<br>Overall risk: low |

| Type of accident and malfunction  | Description  | Mitigation measures   | Risk characterization  |
|---|--|---|--|
| Vehicle accident and terrestrial release of radioactivity and chemicals | Identified as a bounding potential accident during construction, operation, and decommissioning, whereby vehicle accident including collision, rollover, and run off road could result in terrestrial release of radioactivity and chemicals and cause potential effects on groundwater, soils, vegetation, wildlife and human health. | Mitigation measures proposed by Denison include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• traffic control measures such as speed limits</li><li>• transportation management plans</li><li>• spill and emergency response planning</li><li>• driver training</li><li>• limiting wildlife access to spill locations</li><li>• cleaning up spills immediately to a pre-determined level</li><li>• preventing runoff and release to surface water; and</li><li>• preventing penetration to groundwater</li></ul> | Probability: likely<br><br>Severity of consequence: minor<br><br>Overall risk: low |



Of the seven scenarios assessed, taking into account proposed mitigation measures, five scenarios were determined to be low risk. The loss of freeze capacity and failure of the freeze wall scenarios were deemed to be of moderate risk; however, given the high unlikelihood of these two scenarios and consideration of their design features, this level of risk was deemed to be tolerable, and no further mitigation was deemed necessary.

Overall, based on the assessment of accidents and malfunctions, Denison anticipated that potential effects could be addressed through engineering design and compliance with industry best practices that reduce risks associated with the hazard scenarios to ALARA. Based on this assessment, the risks were characterized as tolerable.

### **8.1.2 Other Views Expressed**

#### **8.1.2.1 Spills**

ERFN raised concerns around a spill that occurred at the Wheeler River site during feasibility testing. ERFN perceived this as reminiscent of a spill that previously occurred at Cameco's Key Lake facility, which was concerning to its members. ERFN raised other concerns related to the possibility of underground spills, discrete spills on site and spills arising from a vehicular accident. ERFN is concerned that in these scenarios, underground spills may go undetected and potentially contaminate the surrounding environment, while discrete spills and spills arising from vehicular accidents may contaminate waterbodies near the proposed Project Area.

KML noted that it expects that Denison and the community will co-develop capacity to engage in emergency responses related to a number of emergency scenarios, including spill responses.

BNDN identified that the EIS lacked details on how spills and other accidents and malfunctions would be addressed. Specifically, BNDN requested additional information regarding the development of spill prevention programs and monitoring and remediation for accidents and malfunctions and requested that they be consulted on the development of a Spill Response Plan.

PBCN raised concerns and questions regarding the potential impacts to country foods and harvesting activities, from potential spills. PBCN also wishes to be kept informed of any spills and be included in all spill contingency planning and responses.

#### **8.1.2.2 Malfunction Transparency**

ERFN raised issue with missing information on how malfunctions were evaluated, with limited discussion of food web dynamics for the aquatic section of the EIS. In addition, ERFN asserted that Denison must consider all worker safety risks and potential consequences associated with accidents and malfunctions and questioned how Denison will use IK in its monitoring and/or response to an accident or malfunction.

BNDN noted an interest in being consulted during permitting or remedial activities, as they relate to any accidents and malfunctions.

#### **8.1.2.3 Denison's Accidents & Malfunctions Program (Emergency Management)**

ERFN highlighted deficiencies in Denison's Accidents and Malfunctions program, emphasizing insufficient information provided during engagement sessions, a lack of contingency planning, and deferred responses to as-yet-undrafted documents.

Meanwhile, KML focused on waste and emergency management plans, advocating for community engagement to prevent dilution of access to essential services. KML seeks consultation and engagement strategies that resonate with community members' capacity to understand environmental incident management. KML also indicated their concern of vehicle accidents related to increased road use and how any accident/incident may further strain emergency services for the community.

MN-S expressed an interest in obtaining information on transportation accidents within the Emergency Preparedness and Response Program.

#### **8.1.2.4 Perceived Risk**

All engaged Indigenous Nations and communities on the proposed Project have indicated that potential contamination from accidents and malfunctions may impact traditional land users' perception of health and safety of plants and animals. These perceptions may lead to avoidance behaviours and impact their enjoyment of, and connection to the land.

#### **8.1.2.5 Summary of Mitigations and Commitments related to Views Expressed**

##### *Spills*

Denison has committed to mitigating potential adverse effects from spills and accidents at the Project through a number of commitments (Commitments 12-30, 12-31, 2-10, 2-19, 9-30, 12-20). Measures include developing contingency, emergency response, and spill prevention plans, managing hazardous substances safely, and ensuring secondary containment for chemicals.

Denison will develop specific plans to reduce the likelihood and severity of accidents and fires and may provide support and training to local emergency services. Further, Denison will develop an Emergency Response Plan for transporting hazardous goods and with regards to impacts on country foods and harvesting activities, mitigation measures include immediate cleanup of spills, limiting wildlife access, preventing runoff and groundwater penetration, and prohibiting storage or refueling within 100 m of waterbodies.

CNSC staff have confirmed through conversations with ERFN that many of their concerns have been addressed through engagement and technical discussions with Denison.

##### *Malfunction Transparency, Accidents & Malfunctions Program and Emergency Management*

Denison has committed to addressing emergency management concerns through the Emergency Preparedness and Response Program. Enhanced information sharing will address deficiencies highlighted by ERFN. Comprehensive contingency plans will outline actions for accidents or malfunctions. Robust waste and emergency management plans will meet high standards, including source elimination, operational planning, and follow-up monitoring. Community engagement strategies will ensure access to essential services and meaningful consultation. Measures to mitigate increased road use and vehicle accidents include scheduling high-traffic activities outside peak hours and controlling sound exposure. Detailed transportation accident information will be included in the Emergency Preparedness and Response Program. Denison will develop an Environmental Management System (EMS) incorporating a comprehensive emergency management and monitoring plan in collaboration with ERFN and KML.

CNSC staff are satisfied with Denison's noise baseline studies to support increased traffic and noise, and potential impacts on wildlife behavior and traditional hunting activities.

### **8.1.3 CNSC Staff's Analysis**

CNSC staff reviewed Denison's effect assessment of accidents and malfunctions and found that Denison conducted a comprehensive analysis of these effects and that identified mitigation and follow-up monitoring program measures are adequate. Potential accidents and malfunctions during construction, operation, and decommissioning of the project and their health, safety, and environmental effects were identified, characterized, and evaluated by Denison through a systematic approach. CNSC staff concurs with Denison's approach for accidents and malfunctions assessment, which includes hazard identification and analysis associated with construction, operation, and decommissioning of the project, screening of hazards, and assessments of bounding accidents and malfunctions. CNSC staff also concur with Denison's conclusion that the risk of the project associated with accidents and malfunctions is characterized as tolerable, taking into account the design features, the proposed mitigation measures, and the emergency response procedures.

### **8.1.4 CNSC Staff Findings and Recommendations**

Taking into account the implementation of mitigation measures and emergency response procedures, and the views and concerns expressed by Indigenous Nations and communities, CNSC staff conclude that Denison's assessment of potential accidents and malfunctions associated with the Project are not likely to cause significant adverse effects on health, safety of workers and the public, and on the environment.

There are no issues requiring follow-up for this component area. CNSC staff will work with Denison to ensure Denison communicates spills, and other accidents and malfunctions to identified Indigenous Nations and communities on the Project and provide follow-up engagement activities as part of their Spill Management and Emergency Response Plan.

## **8.2 Effects of the environment on the project**

Pursuant to section 19(1) (h) of CEAA 2012, the EA of a designated Project must take into account any change to the Project that may be caused by the environment, such as natural hazards and climate change. These factors may damage project components and increase the potential for accidents and malfunctions (section 8.1).

### **8.2.1 Proponent's Assessment**

Denison carried out an assessment of potential adverse effects of environment on the Project. The assessment focuses on the effects of potentially significant natural hazards and climate change on the Project. Accidents and malfunctions, which are not caused by natural hazards, are assessed separately in section 8.1.

#### **8.2.1.1 Assessment of Effects of Natural Hazards**

Potential effects of natural hazards on the Project were identified and evaluated with following steps:

- identifying and describing the existing environmental conditions related to natural hazards that may affect the Project
- describing the implications that a natural hazard may have on the performance and environmental consequences of the Project
- selecting appropriate mitigation measures to address reasonable risks through the adaptive management process

As part of the EA process, Denison identified the following major environmental factors/conditions, project components which may be impacted, and the corresponding design features of the Project to mitigate any effects on the Project and where applicable, proposed mitigation measures, as presented in table 8.2 below.

**Table 8.2 Potential effects of the environment on the Project**

| Environmental factor/condition  | Project component or activity   | Design features and where applicable, proposed mitigation measures  |
|---|---|---|
| Seismic events  | Mine and mill buildings, infrastructures, and equipment                         | The Project is located in a low seismic hazard zone of Canada. It is unlikely that a major seismic event would occur in the area of the Project. Denison will appropriately design all buildings and other mine and mill infrastructures to meet the standards of the <a href="#">National Building Code of Canada</a> , which are expected to mitigate the potential of any risk from seismic events.  |
| Forest Fires  | Mine and mill buildings, infrastructures, equipment                             | <p>Forest fires are likely in the project location. Denison will appropriately design facilities and operate the site in accordance with Fire Protection Program to be developed specific to the project. Denison will consider the projected increase of forest fire frequency and severity due to climate change.</p> <p>Denison will also have Emergency Response Program that will include information on how to prevent and suppress forest fires near the Project that include fire guards, on-site emergency response equipment and fire water system. This information has not yet been provided and will be reviewed during future phases of CNSC's regulatory processes, prior to licensing to operate.</p> <p>Denison's EPRP for the Project will provide detail and clarity regarding fire response plans for all fire related hazards.</p>                                   |
| Major precipitation events (e.g., severe rainstorms, snowmelts or flooding) | Mine buildings and site infrastructures (e.g., water management infrastructure) | <p>Denison will design water management infrastructure to meet the requirements of ECCC's <a href="#">Environmental Code of Practice for Metal Mines</a>.</p> <p>Denison will design site surface drainage system for the project to divert clean surface runoff away from developed Project Area and capture, collect, and divert contact water runoff to impound areas identified as site runoff ponds or collection areas.</p> <p>Denison will design wellfield runoff pond as well as process ponds and pads in the Project Area to accommodate PMP.</p> <p>Denison will select suitable equipment and design systems for the Project to enable operation during heavy precipitation events.</p> <p>Denison will have an Emergency Preparedness and Response PEPRP program for the Project that will include information on planning for and responding to severe weather events.</p> |

| Environmental factor/condition | Project component or activity                                     | Design features and where applicable, proposed mitigation measures  |
|--------------------------------|---|---|
|                                |   | Denison will monitor weather forecasts, make back-up power available through diesel generators as well as implement health and safety polices and training programs to cope with major precipitation events.  |
| Drought                        | Site water supply and water management                            | Denison will select suitable equipment and design systems for the Project to enable operation during drought.<br><br>Denison intends to recycle process water, thereby reducing the demand for a fresh water supply and water withdrawal during drought.  |
| Extreme high air temperatures  | Mine and mill buildings, equipment and machinery                  | Denison will select suitable equipment and design systems for the Project to enable operation under extreme high temperatures.<br><br>Denison will have an EPRP for the Project that will include information on planning for and responding to severe weather events.<br><br>Denison will monitor weather forecasts, make back-up power available through diesel generators as well as implement health and safety polices and training programs to cope with severe weather events. |
| Extreme low air temperatures   | Mine and mill buildings, infrastructures, equipment and machinery | Denison will select suitable equipment and design systems for the Project to enable operation under extreme low temperatures.<br><br>Denison will have an EPRP for the Project that will include information on planning for and responding to severe weather events.<br><br>Denison will monitor weather forecasts, make back-up power available through diesel generators as well as implement health and safety polices and training programs to cope with severe weather events.  |
| Extreme high winds             | Mine and mill buildings, infrastructures, and equipment           | Denison will select suitable equipment and design systems for the Project to enable operation under high wind events.<br><br>Denison will have an EPRP for the Project that will include information on planning for and responding to severe weather events.<br><br>Denison will monitor weather forecasts, make back-up power available through diesel generators as well as implement health and safety polices and training programs to cope with severe weather events.          |

In summary, Denison expects that potential effects of the environment on the project, particularly for seismic events, forest fires, and extreme weather events, including major precipitation events (e.g., severe rainstorms, snowmelts or flooding), drought, extreme temperatures and extreme high winds, can be addressed through engineering best practices and compliance with current regulations and building codes.

Denison will design site water management infrastructures for contact water (runoff generated from areas of the wellfield and processing plant) to convey and store 24-hour PMP extreme precipitation event with sufficient design freeboard. The design of non-contact water collection and conveyance system will be based on the 100-year 24hr event design criteria. There is a potential for forest fires to occur during the life of the Project due to its location, however, Denison is proposing design features and measures to mitigate the effects of forest fires should they occur.

Based on this assessment, adverse effect of these events on the project's components and activities is unlikely.

#### *Assessment of Effects of Climate Change*

Denison carried out an assessment of potential adverse effects of climate change on the Project. The assessment focused on the effects of climate related natural hazards on the Project with consideration of climate change.

The climate change assessment was conducted using climate change projection data based on an ensemble of 24 different Global Climate Models (GCMs) of Coupled Model Intercomparison Project Phase 5 (CMIP5) obtained from Climate Atlas of Canada. The climate model projections data comprises statistically downscaled simulated historical (1976-2005), near term (2021-2050) and far-term (2051-2081) time horizons at project location. Two emission scenarios, represented by representative concentration pathways (RCPs): RCP 4.5 (moderate emission) and RCP8.5 (high emission), that cover the expected 38 years life of the project were considered. The climate variables that are considered for assessment include precipitation (total, maximum one day and heavy), temperature (mean, maximum and minimum), the number of very hot and cold days and growing degree days and are selected inline with climate related natural hazards identified in table 8.2.

The assessment indicated that under RCP4.5 and RCP8.5 emission scenarios, mean and maximum annual temperatures are predicted to increase approximately 2°C by mid century, and 3°C to 5°C by 2080. The number of very hot days (>30°C) is expected to increase from one day per year (historical mean) to one to two weeks per year by 2080 whilst the number of very cold days is predicted to decrease due to predicted increase in minimum temperatures. The prediction indicated that total precipitation is not expected to change substantially over time and extreme rain events (1-day maximum rain events) are expected to show small increase (<5 mm) under both emission scenarios. The predicted temperature increases are expected to result in more growing days for forage and crops, but increased evaporation could cause water stress and potentially decreased productivity. Overall, climate model prediction indicate future climate conditions over the life of the Project will likely include warmer, snowier winters and longer, hotter summers under RCP4.5 and RCP8.5. With the regard to effects on the project, Denison deduced that it is not clear if the increased trend in total and extreme precipitation events will produce local climatic conditions that will affect the Project due to the uncertainty around projected precipitation. However, forest fire frequency, severity, and extent are expected to increase in in the Project Area due to the influence

of climate change on factors affecting fire occurrence, such as lightning, fuel moisture, temperature, precipitation, and vegetation.

Overall, based on the assessment of effects of climate change factors that will affect the project, Denison expected that potential effects will be addressed through consideration of the predicted changes in climate conditions that could occur during its lifecycle into the design features and mitigation measures identified in [table 8.1](#) and the project will be designed using engineering best practices and meeting current regulations and building codes. The design of site water management infrastructure for contact water using the PMP event as design criteria is expected to adequately consider uncertainty related to climate change and provides adequate provisions to manage any potential increase in extreme precipitation events. Denison will also incorporate additional climate change provisions into the 1:100-year design storm event in the design of non-contact water collection and conveyance system. Denison also will apply adaptive management that includes monitoring climate factors so that they can proactively mitigate or prevent adverse climate effects on the Project if unforeseen effects on the Project occur from longer and more severe forest fire seasons associated with climate change, or increased frequency or severity of extreme weather (e.g., ice storms, snowstorms, flooding). Based on this assessment, adverse effects from climate change on the project's components and activities are unlikely.

## **8.2.2 Other Views Expressed**

### **8.2.2.1 Effects of the Environment**

#### *Indigenous Nations and Communities*

ERFN raised concerns that habitats in and around the proposed Project Area may be permanently altered as a result of increasing wildfire, which interacts with the potential cumulative impacts resulting from climate change. ERFN noted that Denison should implement meaningful and realistic approaches to minimizing greenhouse gas emissions from its operation to reduce the proposed Project's impact on climate change. ERFN requests that Denison provide additional information on fire mitigation and suppression activities. ERFN also noted that permafrost was not adequately delineated within the proposed Project Area to determine climate change impacts on permafrost.

KML indicated they expected Denison to engage with the community to develop capacity for emergency response activities such as firefighting and that this was a priority for the community.

YNLR asserted that wildlife, such as predators, have been impacting the SK1 Caribou population due to its altering of available habitat. The cumulative impacts, including from wildfire in Northern Saskatchewan is, a concern of YNLR.

MN-S requested Denison provide information on how the Project will be designed to exceed current regulations with respect to flood and fire-proofing given changing climatic conditions in Northern Saskatchewan. Additionally, MN-S suggested that Denison should develop a Project-specific climate change model to account for changing environmental conditions, such as groundwater recharge rates, in the proposed Project Area as a result of climate change.

BNDN raised concerns about how Denison would evaluate cumulative effects from dust and poor air quality from wildfire. Specifically, BNDN community members were concerned with how Denison will implement adaptive management strategies to deal with air quality parameter



exceedances during wildfire events. BNDN also requested that Denison develop a greenhouse gas emissions/carbon offsetting plan to mitigate the Project's impact to climate change.

#### *Federal Authorities*

ECCC requested that Denison consider potential future climate-change related precipitation extremes in IDF calculations and demonstrate the resilience of the project. ECCC also requested that Denison clarify if climate change has been considered in the PMP values or discussed how potential increases in PMP have been considered in the Project design, as not considering climate change could result in inappropriate mitigation or follow-up programs that lead to residual effects on water quality and quantity.

#### **8.2.2.2 Summary of Mitigations and Commitments related to Views Expressed**

Denison has committed to reducing the Project footprint and Project Area to the extent practical, and developing within previously disturbed areas, to reduce habitat loss in the area. Denison has also conducted a cumulative effects assessment, which included the highway extension projects, on the atmosphere, acoustics, geology, groundwater, aquatic environment, terrestrial environment, human health, land and resource use, quality of life and economics. Throughout the process, Denison and ERFN worked together to resolve outstanding concerns, including those related to wildfires and wildlife habitat, and reached an agreement on these issues.

Denison has stated they support KML's vision for emergency response, where it makes sense and is possible, and will continue discussions. Denison has committed to prioritizing Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities within the LSA for employment and training opportunities. If employment opportunities cannot be filled by Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities' priority for employment and training will then focus on Indigenous and non-Indigenous residents of the RSA and then beyond.

Denison has shared information on the potential effects of wildfire in the study area and will develop an EPRP. The EPRP will address forest fires and extreme weather that may occur, and Denison developed an adaptive air quality management program and addresses the potential impact on human health in the EPRP, including dust and air quality.

Denison also committed to revisiting the estimates of the IDF curves as per CNSC's recommendations to consult *CSA PLUS 4013:19 (2019) Technical guide: Development, interpretation and use of rainfall intensity- duration-frequency (IDF) information: Guideline for Canadian water resources practitioners* regarding the consideration of future changes in short-duration precipitation extremes, as applicable, for the licensing phase. Specifically, Denison agrees to provide the requested information related to the IDF (1 in 100 year 24-hour rainfall) and demonstrate climate change resilience of the project. Denison suggests that a sensitivity analysis on water quality predictions for low and high precipitation scenarios, including the potential influences of climate change can be completed as part of licensing and as applicable to REGDOC-2.9.2.

#### **8.2.3 CNSC Staff's Analysis**

CNSC staff reviewed Denison's assessment of effects of the environment on the Project and found that Denison conducted a comprehensive analysis of these effects and that identified mitigation and follow-up monitoring program measures are adequate. CNSC staff confirm that Denison has identified all relevant natural hazards at the project site that include seismic events, forest fires and extreme weather events, described their potential impact on the project performance, and identified

appropriate design features and mitigation measures to address the potential effects. Denison's assessment also includes climate change considerations in design features and mitigation measures to account for effects of future modification of climate sensitive natural hazards.

#### **8.2.3.1 Seismic Events**

In the review of Denison's assessment, CNSC staff advanced 1 IR related to effects of seismic events on the Project and requested that Denison provide an assessment of seismic events on the mine-induced voids stability and the resulted effects on the mine operation and post decommissioning. Denison satisfactorily responded to the request. CNSC staff have found that Denison's proposed design features and mitigation measures are expected to mitigate the potential of any risk from seismic events and to be acceptable.

#### **8.2.3.2 Forest Fires**

CNSC staff reviewed Denison's assessment of effects of forest fires on the project that included consideration of climate change. CNSC staff confirmed that Denison conducted a sufficient assessment of forest fires at the project site and that the identified design features and mitigation measures are acceptable and will be adequately addressed through the CNSC's regulatory processes.

Provincially, under Section 20(1) of Province of Saskatchewan's [\*The Wildfire Act\*](#), northern industrial and commercial operations must prepare and submit to the minister for consideration a wildfire prevention and preparedness plan. The province has indicated that there were no outstanding review comments related to this topic area and that they will review the facility's emergency response plan as part of permitting, under the [\*Environmental Management and Protection Act, 2010\*](#).

As part of the CNSC's licensing process CNSC staff reviewed Denison's preliminary fire protection program and fire protection assessments. Once available, CNSC staff will review the updated fire protection assessments to verify that Denison has met all applicable regulatory requirements, including those outlined in CNSC regulatory documents and referenced codes and standards, as well as detailed fire protection design and construction documents.

Given the federal and provincial regulatory oversight related to fire protection, CNSC staff are satisfied with Denison's assessment of forest fires.

#### **8.2.3.3 Extreme Weather Events**

CNSC staff reviewed Denison's assessment of effects of extreme weather events on the project and confirmed that Denison conducted a sufficient assessment of the relevant extreme weather events at the project site and that identified design features and mitigation measures are adequate. Denison plans to design water management infrastructures based on the 100-year return period precipitation event and PMP extreme rainfall event that consider uncertainty related to climate change. These design criteria are acceptable to CNSC staff to ensure adequate capacity for surface drainage facilities (e.g., ditches and culverts) and water storage systems (e.g., process water and wellfield ponds) for managing surface runoff generated during extreme precipitation events expected during the lifetime of the project. In the review of the Denison's assessment, CNSC staff and other FIRT participants reviewed Denison's estimates of the 24-hour 100-year precipitation and PMP as well as Denison's approach to factoring climate change into the estimates and reiterated the estimates to be updated or revisited during licensing phase,

as the final estimates are required at detailed design stage of the project. Denison has committed to address this concern through additional analyses, as applicable (related to Commitment 8-50).

#### **8.2.3.4 Climate Change**

Denison's climate change assessment identified the relevant climate variables and used appropriate emission scenarios and assessment time scales based on current ensemble GCMs future predictions that take in to account the lifetime of the project. CNSC staff reviewed Denison's plan to consider the predicted changes in climate conditions that could occur during its lifecycle into the design features and mitigation measures and have found them to be acceptable to mitigate the potential effect of climate change. CNSC staff requested Denison to provide more information on likelihood and consequences of pertinent climate related hazards on the project components and activities by completing a climate risk and resilience assessment during licensing phase. Denison has committed to address this concern through additional assessment (commitment 8-50).

#### **8.2.4 CNSC Staff Findings and Recommendations**

CNSC staff are satisfied with Denison's assessment of Effects of the Environment on the Project related to natural hazards and climate change pertinent to the project and that the proposed design features, mitigation measures and response measures are appropriate to account for the potential effects of the environment on the Project.

The Project is not likely to cause significant adverse effects on health, safety of workers and the public, and on the environment taking into account the implementation of mitigation measures, design considerations, emergency preparedness and response program, and the views and concerns expressed by Indigenous Nations and communities.

There are no issues requiring follow-up for this component area.

### **8.3 Cumulative environmental effects**

The proposed Project could cause cumulative effects, in combination with the environmental effects of past, existing and reasonably foreseeable projects or activities, on the following VCs (only includes the VCs where cumulative effects from the reasonably foreseeable developments (RFD) have been identified):

- air quality, noise and GHG emissions
- surface water quality
- soil and terrain
- vegetation and ecosystems
- terrestrial biota

Denison's cumulative effects assessment evaluated the contribution of effects from the Project in combination with previous, existing, and RFDs or activities in the region that may overlap spatially (i.e., in the same geographic area) and temporally (i.e., over time) ([table 8.3](#)). RFDs can be defined as activities in the region that have not yet been approved, developments and activities that are currently under application review, or that have officially entered a regulatory application process.

Denison's cumulative effects assessment considered all primary pathways that were likely to result in detectable changes in measurements indicators and subsequent residual effects on VCs after the implementation of environmental design features and mitigation.

**Table 8.3 Past, existing, and future projects included in the cumulative effects assessment**

| Physical Activity                                   | Description  |
|---|--|
| Historical activities and past projects             |  |
| Various completed roads                             | Highway 914, as well as winter roads, mine access and haul roads, as well as exploration roads and trails  |
| Existing and reasonably foreseeable future projects |  |
| Cameco Key Lake Operation                           | Existing Mines and Mills   |
| Cameco McArthur River Operation                     |  |
| Cigar Lake Mine                                     |  |
| Highway 914 All Weather Road                        | Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure proposes to extend Highway 914 by approximately 51 km, between Cameco McArthur River Operation and Highway 905, to approximately 8 km southeast of the Cameco Cigar Lake mine site |
| Other Activities                                    | Lodge and outfitter camps, campgrounds and recreational sites, ecological reserves, Indigenous land use activities   |

Denison also considered two other potential projects for this cumulative effects assessment: Cameco's Millennium Mine, a federal EA under the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act (1992), which was never completed; and, mining of the Wheeler River Gryphon deposit, which is still in prefeasibility stage. At the time of assessment, neither project was expected to be carried out in the reasonably foreseeable future. More detailed information on Denison's cumulative effects assessment methodology can be found in EIS section 5.9. Air quality, Noise and GHG emissions

### 8.3.1 Air Quality and Noise

#### 8.3.1.1 Proponent's assessment of environmental effects and mitigation

The project site will be accessed from Highway 914. Highway 914 is approximately 3.4 km (direct) from the site, or approximately 5 km from a proposed access road. The cumulative effects assessment assumed that Cameco McArthur River Operation and Key Lake sites would be in Care and Maintenance mode, so there would be no truck traffic between the sites on Highway 914. During operations, however, road traffic will result in an incremental noise which may add to the cumulative effects at sensitive locations near the highway.

The average daily traffic between Key Lake and the project site is expected to increase by 23% during construction and 30% during operation. An air dispersion model and emissions from traffic associated with the project were considered. Cameco's operations were not included in model, but conservative regional background concentrations from the [Saskatchewan Air Quality Modelling Guideline](#) and the La Loche monitoring station were used for particulate matter, NO<sub>2</sub>, SO<sub>2</sub>, and CO. The La Loche monitoring station is located near anthropogenic sources, while the project is in a remote area removed from anthropogenic sources. Accordingly, emissions to air from traffic associated with Cameco's operations are captured by the regional background concentrations used in the air dispersion model and are considered in the assessment of Project-related effects.

Mitigation measures proposed by Denison are detailed in [tables 6.2](#) and [6.3](#), and EA Follow-Up Program measures in [section 6.1.2.4](#).

### **8.3.2 CNSC staff analysis and findings**

CNSC staff reviewed Denison's cumulative effects assessment for air quality and noise, and confirmed that Denison conducted a comprehensive analysis of these effects and that identified mitigation and follow-up monitoring program measures are adequate. CNSC staff verified that Denison had identified applicable projects and activities that could cumulatively interact with the project effects. The analysis considered climate change impacts and emissions to air from project activities and traffic associated with Cameco's operations, which are captured by the regional background concentrations used in the air dispersion model.

CNSC staff agree with Denison's conclusions that the risk is low with no cumulative effects anticipated. In addition, CNSC is satisfied with Denison's cumulative effects assessment as it relates to how Denison considered and addressed concerns regarding cumulative effects raised by Indigenous Nations.

With respect to noise, CNSC staff reviewed Denison's cumulative effects assessment for noise and confirmed that Denison conducted a comprehensive assessment of these effects. Applicable reasonably foreseeable projects and activities that could cumulatively interact with the proposed Project have been assessed, including but not limited to climate change and noise from project works and traffic on Highway 914 associated with Cameco operations. These cumulative effects did not change the predicted noise levels when added on a logarithmic basis, and therefore do not change the assessment results based on Health Canada guidelines.

CNSC staff conclude that there are no anticipated cumulative effects to the atmospheric environment. The Project's follow up monitoring will verify these conclusions.

### **8.3.3 Surface Water Quality**

#### **8.3.3.1 Proponent's assessment of environmental effects and mitigation**

Potential cumulative effects to the aquatic environment and the receptor VCs fish, fish habitat, and fish health are through the surface water and sediment quality exposure pathways during the operation and decommissioning phases. Therefore, cumulative effects were primarily assessed through effects to the intermediate VCs surface water quantity, quality and sediment quality

Project interactions to surface water quantity are expected to be highly localized to Whitefish Lake (LA-5) with no downstream effects. Denison assessed the potential for existing projects (Cigar Lake Mine, Key Lake Operation and McArthur River Operation) to interact with the

surface water quantity VC. Denison concluded these existing projects to be spatially outside of the LSA of the proposed Project, and therefore will not have any meaningful cumulative effect on surface water quantity. To assess the cumulative effects to the aquatic environment, the analysis considered surface water releases and the movement of contaminants to sediments from both the Project and the nearby Key Lake Operation throughout all phases of the Project. The assessment considered the potential interaction of the Project treated effluent releases with Cameco's existing water releases, which include treated effluent released into David Creek, treated groundwater, and diverted surface water into the McDonald Creek drainage.

There is the potential for spatial overlap with the Key Lake Operation, which is also located in a watershed that ultimately drains to Russel Lake (within the RSA). Discharges from Key Lake are received by the David Creek, McDonald Creek, and Outlet Creek drainages which join the Wheeler River and then flow into Russel Lake. There will also be some temporal overlap between the Key Lake Operation and the Project during the "future centuries" phase, which refers to the period after decommissioning, as outlined in the Key Lake Extension Project EIS (EIS, Cameco 2020). In this phase, there is potential for increased contaminant transport via groundwater to surface water, continuing up to 10,000 years after the operation ceases and the site is reclaimed.

However, impacts on the aquatic environment from the Key Lake Operation are expected to remain localized and will not extend into the Wheeler River system or Russell Lake. The changes in surface water quality due to the Key Lake Operation are not expected to overlap spatially with those from the Project, either during the operation, decommissioning or in the "future centuries" phases. As a result, Denison concluded no significant adverse residual cumulative effects to fish, fish habitat or fish health from changes in surface water quantity, quality, and sediment quality are anticipated. More detailed information can be found in EIS section 8.1.7, 8.2.7, 8.3.7, 8.4.7 and 8.5.7.

Mitigation measures proposed by Denison are detailed in [tables 6.14, 6.19, 6.24, 7.5 and 7.10](#) and EA Follow-Up Program measures in table [6.15, 6.20, 6.25, 7.6 and 7.11](#).

### **8.3.4 CNSC staff analysis and findings**

CNSC staff reviewed Denison's cumulative effects assessment for the surface water quantity and quality, sediment quality and benthic invertebrates, as well as fish, fish habitat and fish health. CNSC staff confirmed that Denison conducted a comprehensive analysis of these effects and that identified mitigation and follow-up monitoring program measures are adequate. CNSC staff verified that Denison had identified applicable projects and activities that could cumulatively interact with the Project effects. CNSC staff agree with Denison's conclusions that existing projects have no meaningful cumulative effect on surface water quantity. For the effects assessment of surface water quality, the analysis considered surface water releases and the movement of contaminants to sediments from both the Project and the nearby Key Lake operation across all phases of the Project.

CNSC staff agree with Denison's conclusions that the risk is low, as impacts on the aquatic environment from the Key Lake Operation are expected to remain localized and not extend into the Wheeler River system or Russell Lake. The changes in surface water quality due to the Key Lake Operation are not expected to overlap spatially with those from the Project, either during operation and decommissioning or in the "future centuries" phase.



CNSC staff conclude that there are no anticipated cumulative effects to the aquatic environment, including surface water quantity and quality, sediment quality and benthic invertebrates, fish, fish habitat or fish health. The Project's follow up monitoring will verify the effectiveness of mitigation measures.

### **8.3.5 Terrestrial Environment**

#### **8.3.5.1 Proponent's assessment of environmental effects and mitigation**

Denison's cumulative effects assessment considered whether residual adverse effects will overlap spatially and/or temporally with the same residual adverse effects resulting from other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable projects or activities. Denison also considered that climate change can affect landscape patterns and could contribute to cumulative effects.

##### *Soil and terrain*

The assessment considered proposed and foreseeable seismic and geologic/mineral explorations, the completed Cree Lake winter access trail development, ongoing highway 914 road maintenance, recreation and harvesting activities, and traditional land use. Potential cumulative effects are associated with clearing of vegetation, stripping and salvaging of soil, and surficial earthworks, although Denison concludes that these are expected to be within the natural range of variation.

For soil and organic matter/peat, warmer seasonal temperatures and longer summers can change evapotranspiration and soil-moisture regimes, as well as cause an increase in fire disturbance. Possible consequences are more areas of exposed and unvegetated soil which increases erosion potential, as well as altered vegetation cover and decomposition rates which can result in the conversion of organic to mineral soils. Increased fire disturbance can also increase the potential for burning organic matter and peat and can alter the conditions for peat-forming processes. However, Denison stated that the Brunisolic soils and organic soils in the RSA are adapted to periodic fire disturbance and seasonal variations in temperature and precipitation. While isolated changes in soil mineralization and fertility patterns are possible, effects on soil and organic matter during the life of the Project are not expected to exceed the natural range of variability.

For terrain, warmer seasonal temperatures and longer summers can change the distribution of cryosolic soil and permafrost terrain, and their thawing may result in subsidence and other changes in surface drainage patterns, permanence, and soil moisture regime. Over time, these changes may indirectly affect landscape patterns and processes, including erosion potential and terrain stability. However, Denison noted that large areas of continuous cryosolic soil and permafrost terrain do not occur in the RSA, and therefore adverse effects on the Project Area are not expected.

Denison concluded that the cumulative effects for soil, terrain, and organic matter/peat are not significant. Additional mitigation measures were not considered necessary to avoid or minimize the predicted cumulative effects. More detailed information can be found in EIS section 9.1.7.

Mitigation measures proposed by Denison are detailed in [table 6.20](#), and EA Follow-Up Program measures in [table 6.21](#).

### *Vegetation and ecosystems*

Denison stated that for vegetation and ecosystems, the effects of past and existing projects and activities are captured in the baseline conditions (i.e., existing disturbance), and thus, the focus is on cumulative effects as a result of ongoing and reasonably foreseeable future projects. The assessment considered infrastructure and maintenance activities (e.g., Cree Lake winter trail, highway 914, transmission line), mineral exploration and other resource use (e.g., line cutting, drilling, access development), Indigenous land use activities (e.g., harvesting), and recreational activities (e.g., lodges, tourism). Potential cumulative effects are associated with vegetation clearing, edge effects, the introduction and proliferation of invasive plants, dust and contaminant deposition.

With respect to climate change, Denison stated that the effects on vegetation are complex and are expected to affect vegetation species and communities differently, depending on their identity and resilience to anticipated change. Broadly, warmer and drier conditions can increase fire disturbance which can result in more regenerating seral stages of vegetation on the landscape. Longer, warmer summers and winters can alter the distribution and degree of insect pest infestations, while at the same time increasing vegetation growth rates. Yet, changes in precipitation and increased temperature can lead to more evapotranspiration that can reduce water availability, particularly in wetlands.

Denison stated that ecosystems within the Terrestrial RSA are common throughout the Boreal Shield Ecozone and expected to be resilient to disturbances and climate change due to their adaptation to disturbance, vast distribution, and genetic diversity. In fact, most of the vegetation in the Terrestrial RSA is comprised of post-fire regeneration. Most of the vegetation lost or altered within the Terrestrial RSA has the potential to regenerate over time after the source of the disturbance has ceased. Furthermore, accumulated COPC deposited on above-ground plant tissue or on soil is expected to be fully reversible over the long-term through natural attenuation processes.

Denison concluded that the cumulative effects for vegetation and ecosystems, listed plant species, and wetlands are not significant. Additional mitigation measures were not considered necessary to avoid or minimize the predicted cumulative effects. More detailed information can be found in EIS section 9.2.7.

Mitigation measures proposed by Denison are detailed in [table 6.22](#), and EA Follow-Up Program measures in [table 6.23](#).

#### **8.3.5.2 CNSC staff analysis and findings**

CNSC staff reviewed Denison's cumulative effects assessment for the terrestrial environment and confirmed that Denison conducted a comprehensive analysis of these effects. CNSC staff verified that Denison had identified applicable projects and activities that could cumulatively interact with the Project effects. It was noted that the Wheeler River (Gryphon) Project is located relatively close, within the Terrestrial RSA. However, Denison stated that the Gryphon deposit is an exploration phase property and is inherently captured as such in the cumulative effects assessment because the levels of disturbance from these activities to date are captured with the characterization of existing conditions. CNSC staff found this assumption reasonable for soil, vegetation and ecosystems. Moreover, CNSC staff deemed Denison's proposed mitigation,



monitoring, and follow-up measures as appropriate to address potential cumulative effects on soil, vegetation and ecosystems. Notably, these include monitoring of soil during salvaging and stockpiling, routine monitoring of vegetation and invasive plants throughout the life of the Project, pre-construction listed plant surveys, and progressive reclamation and revegetation.

CNSC staff conclude that there are no anticipated cumulative effects to the terrestrial environment. The Project's follow up monitoring will verify the effectiveness of mitigation measures.

### **8.3.6 Terrestrial Biota**

#### **8.3.6.1 Proponent's assessment of environmental effects and mitigation**

Denison's cumulative effects assessment considered whether residual adverse effects will overlap spatially and/or temporally with the same residual adverse effects resulting from other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable projects or activities. These included infrastructure use and maintenance activities (e.g., old exploration roads and trails, Highway 914, and power transmission lines), exploration and mining activities (e.g., line cutting, drilling, and access development), Indigenous and other land use activities, and lodges, outfitters, tourist and recreational activities. Denison stated that additional mitigation measures were not considered necessary to avoid or minimize the predicted cumulative effects.

For the residual effect "alteration and/or loss of habitat", Denison stated that mining exploration and development are expected to be responsible for most of the ongoing and future habitat loss and alteration within the Terrestrial RSA. While the spatial and temporal extent of these activities is unknown, it is anticipated that all future exploration and development will be conducted in accordance with all applicable provincial and federal approval processes and will implement proven mitigation measures. Denison also stated that natural disturbances such as fires have the potential to affect habitat within the Terrestrial RSA, which could be worsened by climate change due to increased frequency, severity, and extent. The Terrestrial RSA is known to experience a largely natural fire regime that results in much of the vegetation being a result of post-fire regeneration. Available habitat is reasonably resilient to stress and to regenerate within a few years of a disturbance (e.g., vegetation clearing, forest fire). For example, Wolverine and Pine Marten populations can maintain viable populations in revegetating forest stands. Bird species at risk have been exposed to historic and ongoing anthropogenic and natural disturbances throughout their ranges, including within the Terrestrial RSA. Yet, for Woodland Caribou, disturbed forest habitats may not provide suitable habitat until 20 years after the disturbance ceases when terrestrial and arboreal lichen have re-established. For Woodland Caribou, it is also relevant to consider that in the SK1 Boreal Shield Conservation Unit range the total anthropogenic disturbance should not exceed 5% while maintaining a minimum of 40% undisturbed habitat in the range. Denison stated that currently, 3% of the range are affected by anthropogenic disturbances, and that the Project is estimated to add 0.001% disturbance at the SK1 scale, which remains below the 5% threshold. Most areas of cleared vegetation, as the result of the Project and other past, current, or reasonably foreseeable projects or activities, are anticipated to be reclaimed and/or revegetated and are expected to recover to a safe, stable, and self-sustaining condition. Denison's assessment concluded that the cumulative effect of alteration and/or loss of habitat is not expected to alter the integrity of habitat within the Terrestrial RSA to the point where it is not sustainable or available to contribute to ecological functions for the terrestrial biota. Denison concluded that residual effects are not significant.

For the residual effect “change in mortality”, Denison noted that approved projects and activities have the potential to result in a change in mortality through increased vehicle activity, ease of access, and human-wildlife interactions, among others. However, these projects and activities are expected to follow mitigation measures, best management practices, and applicable regulations and legislation that are effective at maintaining mortality within the range of natural variability and management guidelines. Denison’s assessment concluded that the cumulative effect of change in mortality is not expected to alter the integrity of the regional terrestrial biota populations to the point where they are not sustainable or available to contribute to ecological functions. Denison concluded that residual effects are not significant.

More detailed information can be found in EIS sections 9.3.7 and 9.4.7, and appendix 9-D, section 5.

Mitigation measures related to terrestrial biota are detailed in [tables 7.15, 7.17, 7.19, 7.21 and 7.23](#). EA Follow-Up Program measures are detailed in [tables 7.16, 7.18, 7.20, 7.22, and 7.24](#).

### **8.3.6.2 CNSC staff analysis and findings**

CNSC staff reviewed Denison’s cumulative effects assessment for terrestrial biota and confirmed that Denison conducted a comprehensive analysis of cumulative effects and that identified mitigation measures are adequate. This takes into account the assumption that future anthropogenic exploration and development will be conducted in accordance with all applicable provincial and federal approval processes and will follow best management practices and implement effective mitigation measures.

CNSC staff conclude that there are no anticipated cumulative effects to the terrestrial biota. The Project’s follow up monitoring will verify the effectiveness of mitigation measures.

### **8.3.6.3 Views expressed**

#### **8.3.6.4 Cumulative Effects on the Environment**

MN-S noted to Denison that the final EIS must assess cumulative impacts to changes in vegetation and determine the potential impacts from contaminants of potential concern.

ERFN also raised concerns about decreasing wildlife numbers and increased access to the area, both of which have been incorporated into the cumulative effects assessment. Furthermore, ERFN expressed worry that forest fires, compounded by cumulative effects from industry and climate change, could permanently alter wildlife habitat.

ERFN has expressed concerns around cumulative effects through climate change and vulnerability of northern environments on permafrost.

YNLR shared concerns about the residual and cumulative effects assessments for all ecological VCs, which they consider a high priority. YNLR believe that adding this mine, with its associated disturbances, will cumulatively impact wildlife—especially Woodland Caribou — given the existing network of seismic cut lines throughout the landscape. YNLR firmly believes that the addition of this mine, along with its associated disturbances, will have adverse cumulative effects on wildlife, especially Woodland Caribou.

PBCN is concerned about the future development of Denison’s nearby Gryphon deposit, which Denison has identified as 1 of the 2 target deposits in the area and potential cumulative effects of the future mining of the deposit on the surrounding environment and the PBCN communities

located downstream of these projects. The cumulative effects assessment only provided a cursory reference to the Gryphon deposit and PBCN is concerned that assessment did not adequately evaluate the cumulative impacts of future phases of this project and of the neighbouring projects.

In discussions with CNSC staff, PBCN requested additional information on the following topics: whether Denison was required to collect baseline data; the Crown's assessment of cumulative effects related to animal density, migration, denning and other activities; as well as the requirement for wildlife surveys at regular intervals, so as to measure the impact of the construction and operation of the Project on wildlife.

Additional concerns related to terrestrial biota, along with staff's assessment of these topics, are included in more detail in [section 7.2.4.1](#).

### **8.3.6.5 Cumulative effects on Indigenous Rights and Interests**

ERFN has concerns that cumulative impacts of substantial and growing projects and mineral exploration activity will severely limit their ability to practice continued use of the region north of the Haultain River.

ERFN's Nuhtsiye-kwi Benéne has been subject to decades of uranium mining and other development. ERFN therefore views the cumulative and long-term impacts of uranium mining, other development, and other environmental changes in Nuhtsiye-kwi Benéne on the ERFN community as a key consideration in the Project and in future impact assessments in the region. One Elder from ERFN summed up his experience as follows:

*“Well, basically we were in an isolated community before the roads came in, and so on and so forth, and basically, we had used the rivers and the lake systems for our transportation, and some of the areas that had been fly-in areas, where the people used to gather and hunt, and trap at the same time. In the last, I would say 30 to 40 years that has changed dramatically, in terms of the road access to these areas, roads being built because of corporations and because of development. As well, the areas where people used to hunt and trap, there is the construction of roads, the 914, that's Key Lake Road, that goes right across the Churchill River.”*

KML are concerned that cumulative impacts of substantial and growing projects and mineral exploration activity will severely limit their ability to practice continued and use of the region north of the Haultain River.

KML discusses cumulative effects in region on land use by its citizens. YNLR expressed concern resulting from cumulative effects of all industrial developments which have left residents with shrinking usable area to exercise their Aboriginal and Treaty rights to hunt, fish, trap and gather.

KML has issues with cumulative impacts from historical legacy exploration, current exploration activities and current mining practices which have left land users with impacts and shrinking land base in which to practice their rights. Based on being the nearest community south of the uranium mining and having partnered with Cameo Corporation, KML noted they have a unique perspective on the cumulative effects of uranium mining (KML and Limnos Environmental 2022). Historical activities are an important consideration for the community, which noted:

*“We have issues on cumulative impacts from historical legacy exploration and mining practices. Not specific to Denison, Cameco or Orano our land users have often found*

*remnants of past poor exploration practices that are now affecting our continued land use. The abandoned camps and industrial waste left with no community known program for cleanup are the most significant of these remnants” (KML and NVP 2022).*

KML had also raised additional concerns regarding the Province of Saskatchewan proposing an expansion of HWY # 914, which could further exacerbate impacts.

MN-S raises cumulative effects in region on land use by its citizens and on ecosystem health.

YNLR discusses cumulative effects in the region on land use by its community members. YNLR raised concerns regarding cumulative effects of all industrial developments which have left residents with shrinking usable area to exercise their Aboriginal and Treaty rights to hunt, fish, trap and gather.

BNDN is concerned that the EIS does not take cumulative effects of Cameco's operations in Northern Saskatchewan into consideration when completing the atmospheric environment assessment. BNDN indicated they expect to be kept informed of future potential mining activities on the Project Area which Denison may be considering, including the Gryphon Property, as future activities on the property may also have impacts on BNDN's Treaty and Aboriginal Rights and interests.

#### **8.3.6.6 Summary of Mitigations and Commitments related to Views Expressed**

With respect to particular concerns, CNSC staff noted that ERFN expressed apprehensions regarding whether industrial activities could cumulatively contribute to landscape fragmentation. CNSC staff confirmed that industrial activities with the potential to reduce habitat connectivity were captured. Denison's assessment included infrastructure such as roads, trails, highway 914, and power transmission corridors, as well as considered exploration and mining activities that come along with line cutting and access development. CNSC staff concurred with Denison's description that all these activities can contribute to habitat loss and alteration due to sensory disturbances. CNSC staff verified that the assessment discussed Project-related habitat fragmentation and edge effects as sources of habitat alteration. Denison stated that past and ongoing anthropogenic development have altered the RSA resulting currently in 1.5% of habitat loss. While Denison's assessment did not specifically quantify the connectivity of isolated habitat patches, CNSC staff found Denison's conclusions that suitable habitat remains abundant in the RSA for all terrestrial biota to be well supported by the available habitat-based assessment data. Denison also mentioned that the Project is not expected to affect movement patterns across the landscape as it does not spatially overlap with known wildlife corridors, and therefore habitat connectivity is not expected to be affected. Additionally, CNSC staff acknowledged Denison's study of wildlife use of linear features (e.g., road, trail, cutline) that detected moose and woodland caribou using these features, among other species, providing supporting evidence for functional connectivity. Lastly, CNSC staff concurred with Denison's statement that during post-decommissioning, fragmentation and edge effects are expected to decrease over time as vegetation regeneration and tree growth create a gradual structural transition throughout disturbed areas and along forest edges. Therefore, CNSC staff concluded that Denison's cumulative effects assessment has appropriately considered landscape fragmentation for terrestrial biota.

CNSC staff also acknowledged ERFN's concern about interactive cumulative effects of forest fires and climate change with additional industrial activity. CNSC staff noted that Denison's cumulative effects assessment recognized that natural disturbances such as fires have the

potential to affect terrestrial habitat, and that the Project is located within the Boreal Shield Ecozone which experiences a largely natural fire regime that results in much of the vegetation within the RSA (70.6%) being comprised of post-fire regeneration. Denison also stated that additional forest fire disturbance is likely to occur in the future, and its frequency, severity, and extent are expected to increase with a changing climate. CNSC staff acknowledge that the interaction of forest fires and climate change can adversely affect terrestrial biota and their habitat. However, CNSC staff also note that the currently already highly fire-disturbed forest habitats provide habitat for several terrestrial biota including species at risk. Therefore, CNSC staff concluded that Denison's cumulative effects assessment has appropriately considered the interacting effects of forest fires and climate change.

As described in more detail above in sub-section 7.2.4.7, CNSC staff noted YNLR's concerns on the cumulative effects of extensive seismic cutlines on caribou. CNSC staff acknowledged that the cumulative effects assessment may not have included all seismic cutlines on the landscape but noted that the federal recovery strategy defines anthropogenically disturbed habitat as "anthropogenic disturbance visible on Landsat at a scale of 1:50,000, including habitat within a 500 m buffer of the anthropogenic disturbance." Not all linear disturbances, especially narrower lines, may be visible on Landsat imagery at a scale of 1:50,000. CNSC staff took into account that caribou do not seemingly avoid existing linear features, such as roads, trails, and transmission lines, and that legacy roads and trails are expected to be the primary candidate features for habitat offsets and restoration activities. CNSC staff also noted that the Project would be adding 0.001% of anthropogenic disturbance at the scale of the SK1. Therefore, CNSC staff concluded that Denison's cumulative effects assessment has appropriately considered the effects of cutlines on caribou. Yet, with relevance to the restoration and offsetting measures, CNSC staff proposed an EA Condition that requires Denison to meet the Government of Canada's Amended Recovery Strategy for Woodland Caribou (*Rangifer tarandus caribou*), Boreal Population, in Canada. CNSC staff are satisfied that EA3 in [table 12.1](#) requiring Denison to meet the Government of Canada's Amended Recovery Strategy for Woodland Caribou (*Rangifer tarandus caribou*), Boreal Population, in Canada addresses concerns raised by Indigenous Nations related to cumulative effects to caribou habitat.

CNSC is satisfied with how Denison considered and addressed concerns raised by Indigenous Nations related to cumulative effects to the atmospheric, aquatic and terrestrial environment, as well as terrestrial biota.

## **9.0 Indigenous consultation and assessment of impacts to Indigenous and/or Treaty rights**

The common law duty to consult with Indigenous Nations and communities applies when the Crown contemplates actions that may adversely affect potential or established Indigenous and/or Treaty rights. The CNSC, as an agent of the Crown recognizes the obligation to fulfill the duty to consult and where appropriate accommodate and ensures that it considers Indigenous peoples' potential or established Indigenous and/or treaty rights pursuant to section 35 of the *Constitution Act*, 1982 when it makes EA decisions under CEAA 2012 and licensing decisions under the NSCA.

This section of the EA report summarizes the Indigenous consultation and engagement activities conducted to date by CNSC staff and Denison to date. As noted earlier, the full details and

records related to consultation and engagement activities with Indigenous Nations and communities are contained in the [Consultation Report](#), appended to the [CMD](#) as appendix C.

## **9.1 Asserted or Established Indigenous and/or Treaty Rights in the Project Area**

The Project falls within the boundaries of Treaty 10 of 1906, which covers the northeast quadrant of Saskatchewan, and is bordered by Manitoba and the Northwest Territories to the east and north, while the south and west border extends to central Saskatchewan and Alberta. Treaty 10 (1906) includes the signatories of seven First Nations and contains a provision that establishes treaty rights to hunt, fish and trap throughout the Treaty territory. Signatories of Treaty 10 include: ERFN, Birch Narrows Dene Nation, Buffalo River Dene Nation, Hatchet Lake First Nation, Canoe Lake Cree First Nation, Barren Lands First Nation and Northlands First Nation.

No communities or settlements are located within the immediate proximity of the Wheeler River property. Travelling by existing roads, the closest community to the Project is 260 km away. Calculated using a straight line, the closest communities are approximately 150 km from the site. The federal lands within a 100 km radius of the Project Area are First Nation reserve lands which do not contain permanent residences and belong to ERFN.

This determination is a preliminary assessment that can be adjusted based on information received from Indigenous Nations and communities throughout the lifecycle of the Project, should it proceed.

## **9.2 CNSC Staff-led Consultation Activities with Indigenous Nations and Communities**

To fulfill the CNSC's consultation obligations for a decision rendered under the NSCA and CEAA 2012 on the Project, CNSC staff sent early notification of the expected Wheeler River application to Indigenous Nations and communities and since have provided multiple opportunities for consultation, engagement and collaboration with Indigenous Nations and communities regarding their concerns and interests related to the Project. CNSC staff provided opportunities for dialogue through multiple phone calls, correspondence, and meetings with leadership and community representatives, as well as through the provision of funding and capacity support. CNSC staff have also encouraged and facilitated the participation of the identified Indigenous Nations and communities in the CNSC's EA process, as well as the Commission's public hearing process to advise the Commission of any concerns they may have and proposed resolution to those concerns. Additional information about the specific consultation and engagement activities with each Indigenous Nation and community can be found in section 4 of the Consultation Report.

### **9.2.1 EA Specific Consultation and Engagement Activities**

CNSC staff provided a number of project specific opportunities for participation in the CEAA 2012 EA process, as described in [Public Participation in Environmental Assessment under the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012](#).

These included:

- an opportunity to review and comment on the PD and inform the scoping decision
- an opportunity to review and comment on the draft EIS

- opportunity for participation in the FIRT
- review and inform the CNSC regarding Denison's responses to comments and concerns
- participation in technical discussions
- invitations for sharing of IK for inclusion and consideration in CNSC documentation
- collaboration on input into the EA report and subsequently, CNSC staff's Consultation Report
- the development and signing of Terms of Reference for consultation on the project and collaboration on the EA and regulatory review process for the Project
- discuss mitigation measures and commitments to address concerns raised including potential impacts on rights and interests

These opportunities are reflected in table 1.1, along with links to information on the Registry.

### **9.3 CNSC Staff Findings and Recommendations**

CNSC staff have aimed to conduct a thorough consultation and regulatory process for the Denison Project. All identified Indigenous Nations and communities were provided with multiple opportunities to participate in the EA and regulatory review and consultation process and funding was offered to support their participation. Indigenous Nations and communities who have raised issues and concerns related to the Project were offered opportunities to collaboratively develop sections of the Consultation Report, this EA report and issues tracking tables contained within the Consultation Report.

CNSC staff will also continue to engage and collaborate with all identified and interested Indigenous Nations and communities to address and respond to any outstanding concerns with regards to the Project. CNSC staff will involve Denison in these discussions and consultation activities as appropriate.

CNSC staff's conclusions and recommendations with regards to consultation and potential impacts to Indigenous and/or Treaty Rights will be provided as part of CNSC staff's supplemental submission, prior to Part 2 of the hearing.

## **10.0 Public engagement and information disclosure**

This section of the report is focused on CNSC staff's EA-specific communications and public engagement activities, as well as Denison's public engagement and information disclosure activities that reflect intended guidance of REGDOC 3.2.1 and 3.2.2. Details on all public engagement activities conducted by Denison and CNSC staff with respect to the Project are provided in section 4 and appendix c of staff's CMD.

Pursuant to section 24 of CEAA 2012, as responsible authority, the CNSC must ensure that the public is provided with an opportunity to participate in the EA of a designated project. For CNSC-led EAs, CEAA 2012 does not prescribe when and for which EA steps the opportunities are to be provided. The breadth and timing of public participation is at the discretion of the CNSC.

The CNSC provided 3 formal opportunities for the public, Indigenous Nations and communities, and government reviewers to participate in the EA process for the Project. Notices of these opportunities to participate were posted on the Registry, the CNSC's website, and sent out



directly via the Project distribution list, which included interested Indigenous Nations and communities and members of the public who requested Project updates. During these opportunities, comments were solicited on:

- the Wheeler River Project Description (May 31 to June 30 2019)
- the Wheeler River draft EIS (November 21 2022 to February 18 2023)
- the Wheeler River EA Report (this report, August 12 to October 24 2025)

In addition to the formal opportunities for participation, CNSC staff responded to inquiries (telephone calls and e-mails) as they were received, throughout the duration of the EA process. CNSC staff also maintained the project Registry, posting regular project updates and bulletins, all relevant documentation as it was received, and sent these updates via email to the distribution list.

This EA report includes the CNSC's findings and recommendations and, as demonstrated in previous sections of the report, was informed by comments received from the public, Indigenous Nations and communities, and government reviewers.

### **10.1 Denison-led public participation activities**

From 2016 to 2025, Denison held several public information sessions and site tours across Northern Saskatchewan. Denison also organized other forms of Wheeler River Project-specific engagement and outreach activities, including but not limited to:

- posting and publishing of information, including key milestone events and engagement activities, on a Project-specific website
- posting of project-related information through its social media accounts on X, Facebook, LinkedIn, and Instagram
- technical workshops/information sessions for interested communities
- site visits to the Wheeler River Project site
- open houses and public events
- virtual meetings (TEAMS, Zoom) in 2020-2021 due to COVID-19 pandemic
- in-person leadership meetings with elected officials, including mayors and councillors
- emails and letters to communities and interested parties, including notifications of the draft EIS submissions and responses to questions submitted

Denison developed project materials and Executive Summaries of the Draft EIS in additional languages, including Cree, and Dene. In addition, interviews and meetings were conducted with regional businesses, municipalities, and other interested parties. Denison also completed public outreach and communications using radio stations, digital and social media, local print media, community newsletters and by mail, to reach a variety of audiences.

### **10.2 CNSC attended public participation activities**

The NSCA mandates the CNSC to disseminate objective scientific, technical and regulatory information to the public concerning its activities and the activities it regulates. CNSC staff fulfilled this mandate to the public in a variety of ways, including in-person outreach events and open houses, virtual webinars, Project specific update emails and bulletins, social media, and funding opportunities throughout the regulatory process. In-person engagement for the Project was often conducted in collaboration with Denison and the Province of Saskatchewan, specifically Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment (SME), and SKEAB, who also have key



oversight roles and provide interested parties with information relevant to provincial regulatory approvals related to uranium mining and milling.

### 10.2.1 Open houses and outreach events

Over the regulatory review process, CNSC staff participated in 2 public outreach and open house events in Northern Saskatchewan with Denison and the province of Saskatchewan on the Project. Travel restrictions resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic prevented CNSC staff from completing in-person outreach events in 2020 and 2021. The community outreach events took place on May 29 to June 1 of 2022 and October 23 to 25 of 2023.

The main topics raised to CNSC staff by attendees at these open house events were:

- positive economic opportunities associated with the Project for the broader region
- concerns that certain communities may have more opportunity for jobs and economic benefits than others in the region
- safety concerns with respect to increased truck traffic on the roads and opportunities for improvements to roads across the north
- questions around transportation routes and concerns around potential spills, accidents and malfunctions
- requests for more information about existing ISR mining facilities around the world and how they compare to the proposed Project
- concerns around surface water and groundwater contamination due to the Project
- concerns for the protection of the environment, including water, fish, and wildlife
- request for additional environmental monitoring in the local area by communities
- concerns around freeze wall and the decommissioning of reclamation for the project
- questions on job and training opportunities for young people in the north
- questions regarding whether public concerns will be taken into consideration when the Commission is making a decision on this project

CNSC staff also participated in a number of other in-person relationship building events with Indigenous Nations and communities and the public across Northern Saskatchewan, including 2 culture camps and 3 Elders gatherings from 2022 to 2025.

#### *Updates to the NSEQC*

In addition to open houses and outreach events, the Northern Saskatchewan Environmental Quality Committee (NSEQC) was identified as potentially having an interest in the Project. The NSEQC has representatives from the majority of the northern municipalities and First Nation communities located in the NAD. CNSC staff participated in 5 NSEQC meetings that took place from 2022-2025 to provide updates to the NSEQC on the Project.

The main concerns discussed and raised by NSEQC members at the events included the following:

- specific questions on ISR mining and how safe it is in relation to other mining methods
- opportunities for northern communities and businesses to be involved
- concerns with respect to downstream effects on water and fish and communities
- questions on other mines in the region and cumulative effects due to exploration

#### *Webinars*

CNSC staff also hosted 1 webinar for the Project on September 13, 2023. This webinar provided an overview of CNSC's regulatory review process for licensing and EA, provided an update on the Project, provided information on how to get involved in the process and allowed time for questions from attendees. In total 51 people participated in the first webinar. The webinar was also recorded, for those who were unable to attend.

Questions and concerns discussed and raised by members of the public at this webinar included the following:

- general timelines of upcoming public review periods, including the draft EIS and final EIS documents and Commission hearings
- CNSC integrated regulatory approach for EA and licensing
- what determines whether a nuclear project assessment is conducted under CEAA 2012 or IAAC legislation
- harmonization of the provincial and federal EAs

### **10.2.2 Email Updates**

CNSC staff provided regular updates to all who participated and/or expressed an interest in the regulatory review process for the proposed Project. Email updates were sent at each stage of the process, with links to additional information posted to the project Registry and the CNSC website. Project bulletins were sent in the spring (April) and winter (December) of 2023 and summer (August) of 2024, which included Project updates, major milestones, details on next steps of the process, as well as information on how to stay informed and contact information for CNSC staff. Another Project Bulletin is planned for summer of 2025.

### **10.2.3 CNSC Participant Funding Program**

CNSC staff encourage the public to participate in the CNSC's regulatory process and Commission hearings. The CNSC offered assistance to interested members of the public, Indigenous Nations and communities, and other interested parties, through the CNSC's Participant Funding Program (PFP), to review and participate in the CNSC's regulatory process for the Project. The CNSC supported 3 separate participation opportunities in the EA through its PFP.

On January of 2022, the CNSC announced it was offering up to \$250,000 under its PFP to assist participation of members of the public, Indigenous Nations and communities, and other interested parties in the review of Denison's draft EIS. A total of \$404,723 was awarded for this phase of funding to the following 7 recipients:

- Birch Narrows Dene Nation
- English River First Nation
- Ya'thi Néné Land and Resource Office
- Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation
- Métis Nation-Saskatchewan
- Kineepik Metis Local #9
- Prince Albert Grand Council

In January of 2023, CNSC announced it was awarding \$88,780 to ERFN to support its participation in the FIRT for the Project and its continued participation in the EA process.

In February of 2025, the CNSC announced it was offering up to \$250,000 under PFP to assist to assist participation of members of the public, Indigenous Nations and communities, and other interested parties in the remaining steps of the EA process, licence application review and Commission hearing. Based on recommendations from the Funding Review Committee, the CNSC awarded a total of \$548,350 for the second phase to the following recipients:

- Birch Narrows Dene Nation
- English River First Nation
- Ya'thi Néné Land and Resource Office
- Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation
- Métis Nation-Saskatchewan
- Kineepik Metis Local #9
- Lac La Ronge Indian Band
- Saskatchewan Environmental Society
- Nuclear Transparency Project
- Mining Watch Canada

## 11.0 Monitoring and Follow-up Programs

The purpose of the monitoring and follow-up programs are to verify the accuracy of predictions in the EA, determine the efficacy of the mitigation measures in place to reduce adverse environmental impacts from the Project, ensure regulatory compliance, and communicate findings with Indigenous Nations and communities, government organizations, and other interested parties.

Denison has provided high level information regarding their proposed monitoring and follow-up program details in the EIS, which was reviewed by the FIRT and refined in response to IRs. The information Denison has shared regarding proposed monitoring and follow-up programs are conceptual, and detailed programs will be developed as the Project designs are finalized and the licensing process advances.

Denison will be expected to provide finalized EA follow-up program details once a licence is granted. This information should be consistent with the information provided in the EIS and supplementary documentation (including proposed mitigation plans, commitments, etc.). Denison's monitoring and follow-up programs will be integrated into the Environmental Management System (EMS) framework, and carried out by the programs, plans, and procedures within the EMS throughout all phases of the project (construction, operation, decommissioning, post-decommissioning). Conceptual monitoring and follow-up programs have been developed for the following valued components and their respective sections of the EIS:

1. Air quality and noise (section 6 Atmospheric and Acoustic Environment)
2. Geology and groundwater (section 7 Geology and Groundwater)
3. Surface water quantity, surface water quality, fish and fish habitat, sediment quality and benthic invertebrates, fish health (section 8 Aquatic Environment)
4. Terrain, soil, organic matter/peat, vegetation and ecosystems, listed plant species, wetlands, ungulates, furbearers, woodland caribou, raptors, migratory breeding birds, bird species at risk (section 9 Terrestrial Environment)
5. Human health and worker health and safety (section 10 Human Health)
6. Indigenous land and resource use, other land and resource use, heritage resources (section 11 Land and Resource Use)

7. Cultural expression, community well-being, infrastructure and service (section 12 Quality of Life)
8. Economy (section 12 Economics)

A summary of all conceptual monitoring and follow-up programs can also be found in appendix 16-C of the EIS.

From an information management perspective, Denison has committed to ensuring data is stored securely in a database for analysis, and reporting on and submitting results to regulatory agencies. A process for sharing monitoring and follow-up program data will be developed to provide timely and transparent sharing of information with government departments, Indigenous Nations and communities, and interested parties.

Denison has committed to conducting monitoring and follow-up programs using an adaptive management approach, so that monitoring results inform the continued mitigation and monitoring of the Project. Denison has also committed to proactive engagement with interested parties and Indigenous Nations and communities on the monitoring and follow-up programs. This includes developing a protocol for sharing of information with the expectation that information collected will be integrated into the adaptive management process. Denison has also conducted outreach and information sharing with Indigenous Nations and communities to explain how the outcomes of the EA process will be monitored and reported on during the licensing and oversight process and will influence environmental monitoring.

As the monitoring and follow-up programs are currently conceptual, Denison has assumed responsibility for the execution of all proposed activities, including funding. However, as the programs become finalized there will be more defined roles and responsibilities for regulatory agencies and Indigenous Nations and communities in the design, implementation, and evaluation of these programs.

In accordance with the LCH, Denison will report to CNSC staff on environmental monitoring, including requirements in the monitoring and follow-up programs, each quarter, as well as an annual compliance report by March 31 of each year, covering the monitoring data for the 12-month period from January 1 to December 31 of the previous year. CNSC staff review these reports to verify compliance with regulatory requirements set in the regulations and their licensing basis.

CNSC staff will review the detailed follow-up and monitoring plans as they are developed, to ensure consistency with the commitments and predictions provided throughout the EA process, and to ensure that measures are in place to prevent any potential adverse environmental effects from the Project.

## **12.0 CNSC staff findings and recommendations**

In preparing this report, CNSC staff took into account Denison's EIS, its responses to IRs and comments, and the views of government agencies, Indigenous Nations and communities, and the public.

The environmental effects of the Wheeler River Project and their significance have been determined using assessment methods and analytical tools that reflect current accepted practices of environmental and socio-economic assessment practitioners, including consideration of potential accidents and malfunctions and the potential for cumulative effects and IK/MK shared.

CNSC staff assessed the likelihood of the Project to cause significant adverse environmental effects, following the application of mitigation measures, in accordance with the CNSC Generic Guidelines, CNSC REGDOC-2.9.1, and the Impact Assessment Agency's (formerly the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency) *Operational Policy Statement: Determining Whether a Designated Project is Likely to Cause Significant Adverse Environmental Effects under CEAA 2012*. CNSC staff's findings regarding significant adverse effects are contingent on the establishment of the EA Conditions listed in table 12.1.

CNSC staff recommend that:

- the Commission conclude that, taking into account the implementation of proposed mitigation and follow-up monitoring program measures, the Project is not likely to cause significant adverse environmental effects as defined by CEAA 2012. CNSC staff also recommend that:
  - the Commission's decision should be based on the description of effects under subsections 5(1) and 5(2) of CEAA 2012, as well as the scope of factors defined in paragraphs 19(1) (a) to (h) of CEAA 2012, as determined in the Commission's decision on the scope of the EA.
  - the 5 EA Conditions listed in table 12.1 below and described in sections 6 and 7, along with Denison's commitments, as identified and included in the document titled "Denison Mines Corp. Commitments Register (Version 5, December 2024)" become enforceable conditions that are set out in the licence and in the Commission's decision.

**Table 12.1: List of proposed EA Conditions**

| EA Condition Numbers  | EA report chapter   | EA Condition  |
|---|---|---|
| EA1<br>Licence Conditions Handbook (LCH) section G.5 and related appendix D.1 | Environmental Protection, Geology and Groundwater<br>(see section 6.2 of the EA report) | The licensee shall conduct further characterization and assessment of geological and hydrogeological conditions and update the groundwater flow and contaminant transport models and the EA follow-up monitoring programs and mitigation measures as necessary.   |
| EA2<br>LCH section G.5 and related appendix D.1                               | Environmental Protection, Aquatic Environment<br>(see section 6.3)                      | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The licensee shall collect additional baseline water and sediment quality data to supplement existing baseline characterization data.</li> <li>2. The licensee shall update the ERA and near-field water quality modelling with the additional baseline data collected.</li> <li>3. The licensee shall review the option of calculating site-specific sediment coefficients (i.e. Kd values) for use in future licensing phase ERAs.</li> </ol> |
| EA3   | Environmental Protection,   | The licensee shall submit a woodland caribou mitigation and offset plan based on site-specific information to evaluate effects to woodland caribou and includes a plan for habitat offsetting.  |

| EA Condition Numbers                            | EA report chapter  | EA Condition   |
|---|--|--|
| LCH section G.5 and related appendix D.1        | Terrestrial Biota<br>(see section 7.2)                           | The plan must ensure that measures are taken to avoid or lessen any adverse effects to woodland caribou and monitor those effects. The plan shall be consistent with the <a href="#">Government of Canada's Amended Recovery Strategy for Woodland Caribou (<i>Rangifer tarandus caribou</i>), Boreal Population, in Canada.</a> |
| EA4<br>LCH section G.5 and related appendix D.1 | Environmental Protection, Terrestrial Biota<br>(see section 7.2) | The licensee shall conduct additional bat baseline surveys to supplement existing baseline characterization data in order to obtain a basic understanding of within-year and between-year variation for bat species, and to inform the environmental risk assessment.  |
| EA5<br>LCH section G.5 and related appendix D.1 | Environmental Protection, Terrestrial Biota<br>(see section 7.2) | The licensee shall submit plans for the monitoring of adverse effects of the project on listed wildlife species and their critical habitat over the lifecycle of the project.  |

Further licence conditions can be found in section 1.2.3 of the CMD and section G (General) of the licence and the associated LCH.

CNSC staff are proposing a Licence Condition for Indigenous engagement which includes requirements for Denison to report annually on their engagement activities and progress on implementing their commitments to Indigenous Nations and communities. The proposed Licence Condition includes EA follow up actions that address issues and concerns raised by Indigenous Nations related to their practice of Aboriginal and treaty rights as outlined in section 35 of the *Constitution Act*, 1982.

For commitments specific to Indigenous Nations and communities, additional information can be found in the LCH and Consultation Report.

## Appendix A. Environmental effects rating criteria

**Table A.1 - General Assessment criteria for significance determination**

| Effect criteria rating definitions   |   |   |  |
|--|---|---|--|
| Residual adverse effect criteria   | Low   | Moderate  | High   |
| <b>Magnitude*</b><br>severity of the adverse effect*   | VC-Specific   | VC-Specific   | VC-Specific  |
| <b>Geographic extent</b><br>spatial reach of the adverse effect  | Site-specific<br>Within the Project Study Area  | Local<br>Within the LSA   | Regional<br>Within the Regional Study Area   |
| <b>Duration</b><br>length of time a VC would be affected by the adverse effect                                   | Short-term/Temporary<br>Effects that occur within the construction phase OR that occur within one generation or recovery cycle of the environmental component<br>CULR**: Effect lasts less than one complete seasonal round (<1 year) | Medium-term<br>Effects that extend through the operation and decommissioning phases (from 2 to 50 years) OR that extend to one or 2 generations or recovery cycles of the environmental component<br>CULR**: Effect lasts less than one generation of land users (< 25 years) | Long-term<br>Effects that extend into abandonment and beyond (>300 years) OR that extend for 2 or more generations or recovery cycles of the environmental component<br>CULR**: Effects last for more than one generation of land users (> 25 years) |
| <b>Frequency</b><br>rate of recurrence of the adverse effect   | Once<br>Occurs once during any phase of the Project   | Intermittent<br>Occurs occasionally or at intermittent intervals during any phase of the Project  | Continuous<br>Occurs continuously during any phase of the Project  |
| <b>Reversibility</b><br>degree to which the environmental conditions can recover after the adverse effect occurs | Reversible<br>Reversible within the lifetime of the Project, or after project decommissioning and reclamation   | Partially Reversible<br>Partially reversible within the lifetime of the Project or after project decommissioning and reclamation  | Irreversible<br>Persists after project decommissioning and reclamation   |
| <b>Timing***</b><br>consideration for the time of year that a project activity is undertaken                     | Inconsequential<br>Timing of predicted project activities is not expected to affect sensitive activities  | Moderate<br>Timing of predicted project activities may affect some sensitive activities   | Unfavorable<br>Timing of predicted project activities will affect some sensitive activities  |

\*Magnitude effects rating definitions are VC-specific. The list of VCs and the definitions of the effects ratings for each are to be determined on a Project-specific basis.

\*\*CULR = Current Use of Lands and Resources for traditional purposes

\*\*\* Timing is a VC-specific consideration, applied to fish and fish habitat, where disturbance may occur during sensitive life stages, and for the current use of lands and resources for traditional purposes, which may be affected seasonally by changes to the environment.

**Table A.2 - Description of magnitude ratings for CNSC-identified VCs specific to Wheeler River Project**

| VC   | Magnitude Ratings   |  |   |
|--|---|--|---|
|  | Low   | Moderate   | High  |
| <b>Fish and fish habitat</b>   | Little to no effect on fish health or fish populations in the receiving environment   | Measurable effect on fish health or fish populations in receiving environment, but one which would not likely result in changes to the regional status of fish populations and health  | Measurable effect on fish health or fish populations in the receiving environment which could result in changes to the regional status of fish populations and health   |
| <b>Migratory birds</b>   | Little or no effects on migratory birds or unique migratory bird habitats   | Detectable change on many individual migratory birds or unique migratory bird habitats, but one which would not likely change the status of the regional populations or availability of unique habitats  | Detectable change on the majority of migratory birds or unique migratory bird habitats which would result in changes to the status of regional populations or availability of unique habitats   |
| <b>Indigenous uses:<br/>Current use of land and resources for traditional purposes</b> | The effect results in a change to locations or resources, experience, or use of locations or resources for traditional purposes, but the activity and use by an Indigenous Nation or community could be practiced in the same or similar manner as before | The effect results in a change to locations or resources, experience, or use of locations or resources for traditional purposes, and preferred locations or means to practice the activity and use by an Indigenous Nation or community may be modified or limited | The effect results in a change to locations or resources, experience, or use of locations or resources for traditional purposes, and the activity can no longer be carried out by an Indigenous Nation or community in its preferred manner and locations |
| <b>Human health (including Indigenous peoples health)</b>                              | The effect results in a change in health status, but the change would be negligible or low and exposure   | The effect results in a change in health status, with exposures below but nearing health-based standards   | The effect results in a change in health status, with exposures above health-based standards  |



| VC  | Magnitude Ratings  |  |  |
|---|--|--|--|
|   | Low  | Moderate   | High   |
|   | does not approach health-based standards                           |  |  |
| <b>Transboundary environmental effects: GHG emissions</b> | Emissions are detectable but within normal variability of baseline | Emissions would cause an increase relative to baseline but are within regulatory limits and objectives | Emissions would singly or as a substantial contribution in combination with other sources cause exceedances of objectives or standards beyond the Project boundaries |

Appendix B. Significance Determination Tables

Table B-1 Summary of significance determination for predicted residual adverse effects from Wheeler River Project

| Predicted degree of residual effect      |  |   |   |   |   |  |  |
|--|--|---|---|---|---|--|--|
| Residual adverse effect                  | Magnitude  | Geographical extent   | Duration  | Frequency   | Reversibility   | Timing   | Significance of residual effect  |
| Valued component – Fish and fish habitat |  |   |   |   |   |  |  |
| Change in Aquatic Habitat                | <b>Low</b><br>The change in available benthic invertebrate habitat by the overprinting of substrates in LA-5 constitutes less than 0.05% of the surface area of the waterbody. | <b>Low</b><br>Local<br>The effects are expected to be limited to the LSA, specifically a small portion of LA-5. | <b>Moderate</b><br>Medium-term<br>The effects are expected to last between 3 to 38 years (i.e., effects expected during construction through to the end of post-decommissioning). | <b>High</b><br>Continuous<br>This is considered as a continuous effect. | <b>Fully Reversible</b><br>Following decommissioning and removal of the pipeline and diffuser, the available habitat will be restored to natural conditions due to lake currents and sediment transport dynamics. | <b>Unfavourable</b><br>As overprinting of habitat is considered continuous through all Project phases, timing of project activities could affect some sensitive life stages and biological processes (i.e. breeding seasons) of aquatic receptors. | <b>Not Significant</b><br>The Benthic Invertebrates and Fish and Fish Habitat VCs have a high resiliency with respect to physical disturbance in the context of a small, localized area being altered or disturbed. It is not expected that the ecological integrity of the areas adjacent to the infrastructure will be affected and, as such, will provide for sources of re-distribution and recolonization |

| Predicted degree of residual effect |   |   |   |  |  |   |  |
|-------------------------------------|---|---|---|--|--|---|--|
| Residual adverse effect             | Magnitude   | Geographical extent   | Duration  | Frequency  | Reversibility  | Timing  | Significance of residual effect  |
|                                     |   |   |   |  |  |   | following post-decommissioning.  |
| Change in flows or water levels     | <b>Low</b><br>Under all scenarios, the Project-related change in hydrology (flows or levels) compared to baseline conditions, is less than 5% of baseline conditions, and generally less than 3%. | <b>Moderate</b><br>Local<br>The effects are expected to be limited to the LSA, specifically the lakes within close proximity to the Project site (i.e., LA-5, LA-6, and LA-1) | <b>Moderate</b><br>Medium-term<br>The effects are expected to last between 3 to 38 years (i.e., effects expected during construction through to the end of post-decommissioning). | <b>High</b><br>Continuous<br>Although the mine is unlikely to require water taking on a continuous basis, this has been assessed as a bounding scenario and, as such, must be considered as a continuous effect. | <b>Fully Reversible</b><br>Surface water hydrology is expected to return to pre-development levels following post-decommissioning. | <b>Unfavourable</b><br>As water intake is considered continuous through all Project phases, timing of project activities could affect some sensitive life stages and biological processes (i.e. breeding seasons) of aquatic receptors. | <b>Not Significant</b><br>Surface water flow regimes are variable, and it is this variability that provides for morphological form to be maintained and for ecological reliance (i.e., benthic invertebrate and fish habitat, movement, and life-cycle success). Some change to environmental flows is tolerated by benthic invertebrate communities and fish populations. |
| Change in surface water quality     | <b>Moderate</b><br>The magnitude of the residual effect is predicted to be low to moderate overall. All   | <b>Moderate</b><br>Local<br>The geographic extent of the residual effect is predicted to occur in   | <b>Moderate</b><br>Medium-term<br>The residual effect is expected to last between 3 to 38 years   | <b>High</b><br>Continuously<br>For the purposes of this EIS, a conservative scenario   | <b>Fully Reversible</b><br>Surface water quality is expected to return to pre-development levels following post-                   | <b>Unfavourable</b><br>For the purposes of this EIS and identifying the conservative  | <b>Not significant</b><br>Benthic invertebrate and fish health are expected to be resilient to changes   |

| Predicted degree of residual effect |   |  |  |  |  |   |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|--|--|--|--|---|---|
| Residual adverse effect             | Magnitude   | Geographical extent  | Duration   | Frequency  | Reversibility  | Timing  | Significance of residual effect   |
|                                     | constituents in effluent with the exception of copper are expected to remain below criteria for the protection of aquatic life and human health. Copper exceeds the FEQG guidelines and has minor exceedances of HQ benchmarks (HQ >1) for predatory fish in Whitefish Lake South (LA-5) and benthic invertebrates in all waterbodies. These exceedances are minor and unlikely to cause population level effects, and receptors are predicted to be resilient to site changes over time. | Whitefish Lake South (LA-5) with low possibility of some downstream effects for copper.  | (i.e., effect expected during construction through to the end of post-decommissioning).  | was identified, with effluent discharge being considered as continuous during operation and decommissioning.                                   | decommissioning as Project-related sources will cease to operate.  | scenario, effluent discharge is expected to be continuous through all Project phases, therefore timing of project activities could affect some sensitive life stages and biological processes (i.e. breeding seasons) of aquatic receptors. | in surface water quality in the context of this assessment, as COPC meet protective criteria even at the extreme low water scenario. Therefore, under applicable mitigative measures and average flow conditions, the contextual resilience of the aquatic system to respond to change is considered to be great. |
| Changes in sediment quality         | <b>Low</b><br>The magnitude of the residual effects associated with the Project are expected to be low as constituents that may be introduced as part of Project activities are anticipated to remain   | <b>Low</b><br>Local<br>The geographic extent of the residual effects is predicted to be local as effects are anticipated to be confined to the immediate waterbody adjacent to the Project | <b>Moderate</b><br>Medium-term<br>Effects are expected to last between 3 to 38 years (i.e., effects expected during construction through | <b>High</b><br>Continuous<br>For the purposes of this EIS and identifying the conservative scenario, effluent discharge has been considered as | <b>Fully Reversible</b><br>Sediment quality is expected to return to pre-development levels following post-decommissioning as Project-related sources will cease to operate. | <b>Unfavourable</b><br>For the purposes of this EIS and identifying the conservative scenario, effluent discharge is expected to be continuous through  | <b>Not Significant</b><br>COPC meet protective criteria under the bounding scenario, therefore under applicable mitigative measures the resilience of the aquatic system to   |

| Predicted degree of residual effect                    |   |   |   |   |   |  |   |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|--|---|
| Residual adverse effect                                | Magnitude   | Geographical extent   | Duration  | Frequency   | Reversibility   | Timing   | Significance of residual effect   |
|  | below criteria for the protection of aquatic life, or below risk HQs.   | (Whitefish Lake) and the estimated mixing zone is less than 5 m, facilitating an effluent discharge configuration that promotes mixing.   | to the end of post-decommissioning).  | continuous during operation and decommissioning.  |   | all Project phases, therefore timing of project activities could affect some sensitive life stages and biological processes (i.e. breeding seasons) of aquatic receptors.  | respond to change is considered to be great.  |
| Sediment Quantity and Physical Quality (Particle Size) | <b>Low</b><br><br>Using design-based mitigation through water balance and best practices or erosion and sediment control planning, the potential for an increase of suspended solids to the natural environment is predicted to be low. | <b>Moderate</b><br><br>Local<br><br>The effects are expected to be limited to the waterbodies (LA-5) and stream crossings associated with the Project Area and the discharge location at LA-5, which is in the LSA. | <b>Moderate</b><br><br>Medium-term<br><br>The effects are expected to last for the duration of the Project through to post-decommissioning. | <b>Moderate</b><br><br>Continuous<br><br>Although mobilization of suspended materials will occur at the greatest magnitude during construction, a much smaller continuous source is considered as part of effluent discharge to LA-5. | <b>Fully Reversible</b><br><br>Following cessation of discharge to the natural environment and reclamation of the site during post-decommissioning, the potential for mobilization of suspended materials to the natural environment is expected to stop and the natural processes associated with sediment mobilization and deposition are then expected to characterize the benthic environment within the LSA. | <b>Unfavourable</b><br><br>As mobilization of suspended materials is expected to be continuous through all Project phases, timing of project activities could affect some sensitive life stages and biological processes (i.e. breeding seasons) of aquatic receptors. | <b>Not Significant</b><br><br>There is a low probability of the residual effect following proper implementation of the erosion and sediment control plan and design-based water management and water treatment prior to discharge to the environment. |

| Predicted degree of residual effect                             |   |   |   |   |   |  |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|---|
| Residual adverse effect   | Magnitude   | Geographical extent   | Duration  | Frequency   | Reversibility   | Timing   | Significance of residual effect   |
| Changes in concentrations of constituents in fish tissues       | <b>Low</b><br>The magnitude of the residual effects associated with the Project is predicted to be low as constituents that may be introduced as part of Project activities are expected to remain below criteria for the protection of aquatic life or below risk HQs. | <b>Moderate</b><br>Local<br>The geographic extent of the residual effects is predicted to be confined to the immediate waterbody adjacent to the Project (i.e., Whitefish Lake). The estimated mixing zone is less than 5 m, implementing an effluent discharge configuration that promotes mixing. | <b>Moderate</b><br>Medium-term<br>Effects are expected to last between 3 to 38 years (i.e., effects expected during construction through to the end of post-decommissioning). | <b>High</b><br>Continuously<br>For the purposes of this EIS, a conservative scenario was identified, with effluent discharge being considered as continuous during operation and decommissioning. | <b>Fully Reversible</b><br>Water quality and sediment quality are expected to return to pre-development levels following post-decommissioning as Project-related sources will cease to operate. As a result, exposure to COPC by fish will cease, reversing the potential for uptake of these constituents to fish tissues. | <b>Unfavourable</b><br>For the purposes of this EIS and identifying the conservative scenario, effluent discharge is expected to be continuous through all Project phases, therefore timing of project activities could affect some sensitive life stages and biological processes (i.e. breeding seasons) of aquatic receptors. | <b>Not Significant</b><br>Fish health is expected to be resilient to changes in fish tissue concentrations in the context of this assessment as COPC meet protective criteria even at the extreme low water scenario. |
| Valued component – Vegetation and ecosystems including wetlands |   |   |   |   |   |  |   |
| Change in the areal extent of habitat types                     | <b>Low</b><br>Direct disturbance of 169.6 ha of habitats, reflecting 0.4% of habitats on the scale of the RSA. This includes 24.8 ha anthropogenically disturbed habitats, 144.5  | <b>Low-Moderate</b><br>Local<br>Direct effects are limited to the Project Area, while indirect effects (e.g., edge effects, spread of invasive plants) may  | <b>High</b><br>Long-term<br>Effects will occur during construction and will last into post-decommissioning.   | <b>Moderate</b><br>Intermittent<br>Direct effects will primarily occur during construction. Habitat alteration by indirect effects is anticipated to occur  | <b>Moderate</b><br>Partially reversible<br>Progressive restoration and reclamation are expected to result in habitats regenerating over time. However,  | <b>Timing</b><br>Inconsequential<br>The timing of project activities is not expected to have an effect.  | <b>Not significant</b><br>The majority of terrestrial habitats predicted to be disturbed are common across the RSA. Moreover, habitats have been historically disturbed   |

| Predicted degree of residual effect    |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|--|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Residual adverse effect                | Magnitude  | Geographical extent   | Duration  | Frequency   | Reversibility   | Timing  | Significance of residual effect   |
|  | ha terrestrial habitats, and 0.5 ha wetlands. Indirect disturbance of 992.2 ha of habitats, reflecting 2.5% of habitats on the scale of the RSA.   | extend into the local study area.   |   | frequently during all project phases and can last into post-decommissioning.  | some features, such as access roads, are not expected to be reclaimed.  |   | from fires and existing anthropogenic activities. Reclamation is anticipated to re-establish habitats, although it may take a few decades for regeneration of forests. Mitigation measures are adequate to address direct and indirect effects on terrestrial habitats.         |
| Change in the areal extent of wetlands | <b>Low</b><br>Direct disturbance of 0.5 ha of wetlands, reflecting less than 0.1% of wetlands on the scale of the RSA. Indirect disturbance of 97.7 ha of wetlands, reflecting 1.5% of wetlands on the scale of the RSA. | <b>Low-Moderate</b><br>Local<br>Direct effects are limited to the Project Area, while indirect effects (e.g., changes in surface drainage patterns and hydrologic connectivity) may extend into the local study area. | <b>High</b><br>Long-term<br>Effects will occur during construction and will last into post-decommissioning. | <b>Moderate</b><br>Intermittent<br>Direct effects will primarily occur during construction. Wetland alteration by indirect effects is anticipated to occur frequently during all project phases and can last into post-decommissioning. | <b>Moderate</b><br>Partially reversible<br>Reclamation will occur during decommissioning. Surface drainage patterns will be reinstated to re-establish hydrologic connectivity. However, wetlands can exhibit low resilience and high susceptibility to | <b>Timing</b><br>Inconsequential<br>The timing of project activities is not expected to have an effect. | <b>Not significant</b><br>The project footprint has limited overlap with wetland ecosites. Direct disturbance affects wetlands that are common in the RSA. Rare ecosites may be indirectly disturbed, although these are not limiting habitat for rare plants or for ungulates, |

| Predicted degree of residual effect                    |   |  |   |   |   |   |  |
|--|---|--|---|---|---|---|--|
| Residual adverse effect                                | Magnitude   | Geographical extent  | Duration  | Frequency   | Reversibility   | Timing  | Significance of residual effect  |
|  |   |  |   |   | disturbance, and some ecosites may not fully return to a pre-disturbed state, although they may regain equivalent functions.  |   | furbearers, woodland caribou, raptors, or migratory breeding birds. Mitigation measures are adequate to address direct and indirect effects on wetlands.   |
| Change in the number of plants of conservation concern | <b>Low</b><br>No listed plant species have been observed in the Project Area, although potential exists for unobserved occurrences. The listed species Alaskan Clubmoss was observed locally abundantly during baseline surveys in the RSA, reflective of its provincial ranking (S3) of lower conservation priority. | <b>Low-Moderate</b><br>Local<br>Direct effects are limited to the Project Area, while indirect effects (e.g., edge effects, spread of invasive plants) may extend into the local study area. | <b>High</b><br>Long-term<br>Effects will occur during construction and will last into post-decommissioning.<br><br>Directly disturbed listed plants are unlikely to regenerate and may be lost permanently. | <b>Moderate</b><br>Intermittent<br>Direct effects will primarily occur during construction. Alteration by indirect effects is anticipated to occur frequently during all project phases and can last into post-decommissioning. | <b>Moderate</b><br>Partially reversible<br>Listed plants are unlikely to return once lost from a specific location.<br><br>However, indirectly disturbed plants by dust or edge effects may regenerate over time if enough individuals are preserved in a population. | <b>Timing</b><br>Inconsequential<br>The timing of project activities is not expected to have an effect. | <b>Not significant</b><br>Plants of conservation concern typically inhabit specialist habitat and have low resilience to disturbance. To mitigate uncertainty, pre-construction listed plant surveys will be conducted. Mitigation measures are adequate to address direct and indirect effects on plants of conservation concern. |



| Predicted degree of residual effect  |   |  |   |  |  |   |   |
|--|---|--|---|--|--|---|---|
| Residual adverse effect  | Magnitude   | Geographical extent  | Duration  | Frequency  | Reversibility  | Timing  | Significance of residual effect   |
| Change in concentrations of Constituents of Potential Concern (COPC) in vegetation | <b>Low</b><br>Deposition and uptake of COPC is predicted to occur within up to 992.2 ha of vegetation, reflecting 2.5% of vegetation on the scale of the RSA. | <b>Moderate</b><br>Local<br>Vegetation in the Project Area will be cleared and therefore not affected by COPC. COPC exposure is expected in the local study area, particularly along roads and near areas of soil disturbance. | <b>High</b><br>Long-term<br>Accumulation in soil and plant tissues can lead to prolonged exposure. Some COPC degrade slowly and may remain elevated in soil for many years. | <b>High</b><br>Continuous<br>Exposure is frequent throughout the project phases and can last into post-decommissioning until COPC concentrations have degraded to background levels. | <b>Low</b><br>Reversible<br>COPC levels in vegetation are expected to return to background, although this may take a long time depending on degradation rates. | <b>Timing</b><br>Moderate<br>Uptake rates of COPC in vegetation can vary seasonally. Moreover, the timing of activities resulting in dust and air emissions can affect COPC dispersion and deposition on vegetation depending on atmospheric conditions (e.g., wind direction, speed, precipitation). | <b>Not significant</b><br>Vegetation has been disturbed from historic anthropogenic activities, resulting in some COPC being detected at elevated concentrations during baseline surveys, particularly near the highway. The EIS appendix 10A assessment concluded that the risk of COPC in terrestrial vegetation is negligible. A follow-up vegetation sampling program for COPC will be conducted periodically to identify possible accumulation of COPC in plant tissues (lichen, blueberry). |

| Predicted degree of residual effect                            |  |  |  |  |   |  |   |
|--|--|--|--|--|---|--|---|
| Residual adverse effect  | Magnitude  | Geographical extent  | Duration   | Frequency  | Reversibility   | Timing   | Significance of residual effect   |
| Valued component – Terrestrial biota including Species at Risk |  |  |  |  |   |  |   |
| Furbearers:<br>Alteration and/or loss of habitat               | <b>Low-Moderate</b><br><br>Available habitat altered or lost within the RSA: Wolverine up to 8.2%; Pine Marten up to 4.4%; Mink up to 2.5%; Muskrat up to 1%. The “moderate” rating is based on Wolverine. | <b>Low-Moderate</b><br><br>Local<br><br>Direct loss limited to Project Area. Indirect effects may extend into the LSA. | <b>High</b><br><br>Long-term<br><br>Effects last throughout all Project phases and into post-decommissioning as areas are reclaimed and revegetated. | <b>High</b><br><br>Continuous<br><br>While habitat loss is initially through vegetation clearing during construction, habitat alteration is predicted to be continuous throughout all Project phases until post-decommissioning. | <b>Low</b><br><br>Reversible<br><br>Effect predicted to be reversible as reclamation of disturbed areas is proposed to achieve baseline conditions. | <b>Moderate</b><br><br>Timing of project activities can affect some sensitive life stages, which is particularly relevant for Wolverine, a species at risk. However, no Wolverine or dens were observed during baseline studies. Project activities will be assessed for their potential to disturb or remove habitat. | <b>Not significant</b><br><br>Alteration and/or loss of habitat is expected for furbearers, but these are addressed through appropriate mitigation measures. Wolverine require larger, undisturbed areas, but habitat is not restricted to specific vegetation cover types and is more dependent on available food sources. Notably, pre-clearing surveys will be performed for Wolverine prior to disturbance. For example, methods will include searching prominent topographic features such as rock outcropping or downed forest trees and debris where |

| Predicted degree of residual effect |   |   |  |   |  |   |  |
|-------------------------------------|---|---|--|---|--|---|--|
| Residual adverse effect             | Magnitude   | Geographical extent   | Duration   | Frequency   | Reversibility  | Timing  | Significance of residual effect  |
|                                     |   |   |  |   |  |   | wolverine may establish denning sites. In the event the sweeps are conducted during the winter period, methods related to snow tracking would identify Wolverine presence based on tracks and potential denning sites in the snow pack within ravines or drainages within the forested areas within the study areas. |
| Furbearers:<br>Change in mortality  | <b>Low-Moderate</b><br><br>Possibility of direct and indirect mortality through, e.g., vehicle collisions, competition, increased stress. Species at risk (Wolverine) are more sensitive to mortality events. | <b>Low-High</b><br><br>Regional<br><br>The change in direct mortality is expected to occur mainly within the Project Area; however, indirect mortality may extend into the Terrestrial RSA, e.g., on Highway 914 and within wolverine home range. | <b>Moderate</b><br><br>Medium-term<br><br>Mortality may occur during all phases of the Project. Limited effects during post-decommissioning. | <b>Moderate</b><br><br>Intermittent<br><br>While the possibility for a change in direct and indirect mortality exists throughout all Project phases, the actual mortality events are expected to occur sporadically and are therefore intermittent. | <b>Low</b><br><br>Reversible<br><br>Change in mortality is expected to diminish to baseline conditions following post-decommissioning. | <b>Low</b><br><br>Inconsequential<br><br>Project activities will be assessed for their potential to disturb or remove habitat, and clearing will be completed during least-risk timing windows (e.g., outside denning windows). | <b>Not significant</b><br><br>Several mitigation measures are proposed that are expected to limit interactions between furbearers and sources of mortality. Examples include speed limits and exclusion fences preventing access to Project components.  |

| Predicted degree of residual effect             |  |  |  |  |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|--|--|---|--|--|
| Residual adverse effect                         | Magnitude  | Geographical extent  | Duration   | Frequency  | Reversibility   | Timing   | Significance of residual effect  |
|   |  |  |  |  |   |  | With regard to the species at risk Wolverine, it is noted that they avoid human footprint types and linear features, therefore vehicle collisions are comparably unlikely. No wolverine signs were detected during baseline studies.                               |
| Ungulates:<br>Alteration and/or loss of habitat | <b>Low</b><br>Up to 4.4% of available Moose habitat within the RSA may be altered or lost (0.5% direct loss; 3.9% indirect effect, e.g., noise or dust). | <b>Low-Moderate</b><br>Local<br>Direct loss limited to Project Area. Indirect effects may extend into the LSA. | <b>Moderate</b><br>Medium-term<br>Effects last throughout the Project phase and into post-decommissioning as areas are reclaimed. However, rating reflects that Moose benefit from regenerating forests. | <b>High</b><br>Continuous<br>While habitat loss is initially through vegetation clearing during construction, habitat alteration is predicted to be continuous throughout all Project phases until post-decommissioning. | <b>Low</b><br>Reversible<br>Progressive and final reclamation of disturbed areas is proposed to achieve baseline conditions. Revegetated areas are expected to become available Moose habitat within a few years of revegetation. | <b>Moderate</b><br>Timing of project activities can affect some sensitive life stages, but Project activities will be assessed for their potential to disturb or remove habitat. | <b>Not significant</b><br>The regional moose population has generally low densities and habitat is not limiting. Moose are known to prefer habitat following disturbance due to a proliferation of preferred forage. Appropriate mitigation measures are proposed. |

| Predicted degree of residual effect           |   |  |   |   |  |  |  |
|---|---|--|---|---|--|--|--|
| Residual adverse effect                       | Magnitude   | Geographical extent  | Duration  | Frequency   | Reversibility  | Timing   | Significance of residual effect  |
| Ungulates:<br>Change in mortality             | <b>Low</b><br><br>Possibility of direct and indirect mortality through, e.g., vehicle collisions, predator access, increased stress.                                    | <b>Low-High</b><br><br>Regional<br><br>The change in direct mortality is expected to occur mainly within the Project Area; however, indirect mortality may extend into the Terrestrial RSA.              | <b>Moderate</b><br><br>Medium-term<br><br>Mortality may occur during all phases of the Project. Limited effects during post-decommissioning.  | <b>Moderate</b><br><br>Intermittent<br><br>While the possibility for a change in direct and indirect mortality exists throughout all Project phases, the actual mortality events are expected to occur sporadically and are therefore intermittent. | <b>Low</b><br><br>Reversible<br><br>Change in mortality is expected to diminish to baseline conditions following post-decommissioning. | <b>Low</b><br><br>Inconsequential<br><br>Project activities will be assessed for their potential to disturb or remove habitat, and clearing will be completed during least-risk timing windows.  | <b>Not significant</b><br><br>Several mitigation measures are proposed that are expected to limit interactions between Moose and sources of mortality. Examples are speed limits and exclusion fences preventing access to Project components.   |
| Caribou:<br>Alteration and/or loss of habitat | <b>Low</b><br><br>Up to 4.3% of available Woodland Caribou habitat within the RSA may be altered or lost (0.5% direct loss; 3.8% indirect effect, e.g., noise or dust). | <b>Low-Moderate</b><br><br>Local<br><br>Direct loss limited to Project Area. Indirect effects may extend into the LSA. The Project’s incremental increase of the disturbance at the SK1 Range is 0.001%. | <b>High</b><br><br>Long-term<br><br>Effects last throughout all Project phases and into post-decommissioning as areas are reclaimed. Forest habitats experiencing anthropogenic disturbances may not provide suitable Woodland Caribou habitat until 20 years after the disturbance ceases to allow for | <b>High</b><br><br>Continuous<br><br>While habitat loss is initially through vegetation clearing during construction, habitat alteration is predicted to be continuous throughout all Project phases until post-decommissioning.                    | <b>Low</b><br><br>Reversible<br><br>Reclamation of disturbed areas is proposed to achieve baseline conditions.                         | <b>Moderate</b><br><br>Timing of project activities can affect some sensitive life stages, which is particularly relevant for Woodland Caribou, a species at risk. Project activities will be assessed for their potential to disturb or remove habitat. For example, timing of air traffic is considered to | <b>Not significant</b><br><br>Woodland Caribou are a federal and provincial species at risk that is present and uses habitat within the RSA. Potential habitat disturbance is expected to be appropriately addressed through mitigation, offsetting, and/or other measures necessary to meet |

| Predicted degree of residual effect |  |  |  |   |  |  |   |
|-------------------------------------|--|--|--|---|--|--|---|
| Residual adverse effect             | Magnitude  | Geographical extent  | Duration   | Frequency   | Reversibility  | Timing   | Significance of residual effect   |
|                                     |  |  | establishment of their primary food source, terrestrial and arboreal lichen.   |   |  | minimize sensory disturbance from airplane noise.  | the Government of Canada’s Amended Recovery Strategy for Woodland Caribou ( <i>Rangifer tarandus caribou</i> ), Boreal Population, in Canada. An EA Condition (see <a href="#">table 12.1</a> EA3) to meet the federal recovery strategy is proposed accordingly.   |
| Caribou: Change in mortality        | <b>Moderate</b><br><br>Possibility of direct and indirect mortality through, e.g., vehicle collisions, predation, increased stress. Species at risk (Woodland Caribou) are more sensitive to mortality events. | <b>Low-High</b><br><br>Regional<br><br>The change in direct mortality is expected to occur mainly within the Project Area; however, indirect mortality may extend into the Terrestrial RSA, due to size of home range. | <b>Moderate</b><br><br>Medium-term<br><br>Mortality may occur during all phases of the Project. Limited effects during post-decommissioning. | <b>Moderate</b><br><br>Intermittent<br><br>While the possibility for a change in direct and indirect mortality exists throughout all Project phases, the actual mortality events are expected to occur sporadically and are therefore intermittent. | <b>Low</b><br><br>Reversible<br><br>Change in mortality is expected to diminish to baseline conditions following post-decommissioning. | <b>Low</b><br><br>Inconsequential<br><br>Habitat clearing will be completed during least-risk timing windows (e.g., outside calving periods). Pre-clearing surveys will be performed for caribou signs prior to disturbance. | <b>Not significant</b><br><br>The Woodland Caribou population in the region is reported to be stable. However, caribou populations naturally occur at low densities, reproduce slowly and are extremely sensitive to even minor changes in mortality rates. Several mitigation measures are proposed that are expected to limit |

| Predicted degree of residual effect              |  |   |  |  |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|--|--|--|--|---|
| Residual adverse effect                          | Magnitude  | Geographical extent   | Duration   | Frequency  | Reversibility  | Timing   | Significance of residual effect   |
|  |  |   |  |  |  |  | interactions between caribou and sources of mortality. Dietary exposure to COPC in lichen is no concern.  |
| Arthropods:<br>Alteration and/or loss of habitat | <b>Low</b><br>All three species are habitat generalists that use a diverse range of habitats. Therefore, habitat should not be limiting on a regional scale. | <b>Low-Moderate</b><br>Local<br><br>Direct loss limited to Project Area. Indirect effects may extend into the LSA.  | <b>High</b><br>Long-term<br><br>Effects last throughout all Project phases and into post-decommissioning as areas are reclaimed.         | <b>High</b><br>Continuous<br><br>While habitat loss is initially through vegetation clearing during construction, habitat alteration is predicted to be continuous throughout all Project phases until post-decommissioning. | <b>Low</b><br>Reversible<br><br>Reclamation of disturbed areas is proposed to achieve baseline conditions.                         | <b>Moderate</b><br>Timing of project activities can affect some sensitive life stages, but Project activities will be assessed for their potential to disturb or remove habitat. | <b>Not significant</b><br><br>Alteration and/or loss of habitat is expected for arthropods, but these are addressed through appropriate mitigation measures, including those for soil and vegetation. |
| Arthropods:<br>Change in mortality               | <b>Low</b><br>There are no historical observations of the three species in the Terrestrial RSA.  | <b>Low-Moderate</b><br>Local<br><br>The change in direct mortality is expected to occur mainly within the Project Area. Indirect mortality may extend into the LSA based on | <b>Moderate</b><br>Medium-term<br><br>Mortality may occur during all phases of the Project. Limited effects during post-decommissioning. | <b>Moderate</b><br>Intermittent<br><br>While the possibility for a change in direct and indirect mortality exists throughout all Project phases, the actual mortality events are expected to occur sporadically              | <b>Low</b><br>Reversible<br><br>Change in mortality is expected to diminish to baseline conditions following post-decommissioning. | <b>Low</b><br>Inconsequential<br><br>Habitat clearing will be completed during least-risk timing windows. Herbicides will be used by licensed professional applicators which     | <b>Not significant</b><br><br>Several mitigation measures are proposed that are expected to limit interactions between arthropods and sources of mortality. For example, herbicide use as part        |

| Predicted degree of residual effect              |   |  |  |  |   |   |  |
|--|---|--|--|--|---|---|--|
| Residual adverse effect                          | Magnitude   | Geographical extent  | Duration   | Frequency  | Reversibility   | Timing  | Significance of residual effect  |
|  |   | alteration of terrestrial habitats.  |  | and are therefore intermittent.  |   | would be familiar with timing considerations.   | of vegetation management will be limited to the immediate Project footprint and only when necessary.   |
| Amphibians:<br>Alteration and/or loss of habitat | <b>Moderate</b><br><br>Amphibians rely on specific habitats that must be in proximity with suitable dispersal corridors interconnecting them (e.g., riparian areas and waterways). Wetland and riparian areas are present in the study areas. | <b>Low-Moderate</b><br><br>Local<br><br>Direct loss limited to Project Area. Indirect effects may extend into the LSA. | <b>High</b><br><br>Long-term<br><br>Effects last throughout all Project phases and into post-decommissioning as areas are reclaimed. | <b>High</b><br><br>Continuous<br><br>While habitat loss is initially through vegetation clearing during construction, habitat alteration is predicted to be continuous throughout all Project phases until post-decommissioning. | <b>Low</b><br><br><b>Reversible</b><br><br>Reclamation of disturbed areas is proposed to achieve baseline conditions. A small area of wetlands will be disturbed which may not fully return to a pre-disturbed state, but is likely to regain equivalent ecological function. | <b>Moderate</b><br><br>Timing of project activities can affect some sensitive life stages (e.g., breeding, larval development), but Project activities will be assessed for their potential to disturb or remove habitat. | <b>Not significant</b><br><br>Alteration and/or loss of habitat is expected for amphibians, but these are addressed through appropriate mitigation measures, including those for wetlands. For locations of site-specific habitat features used by Northern Leopard Frog, a requirement to limit disturbance in will be implemented. |
| Amphibians:<br>Change in mortality               | <b>Low</b><br><br>Northern Leopard Frog was not detected during baseline surveys, but might be present in the   | <b>Low-Moderate</b><br><br>Local<br><br>The change in direct mortality is expected to                                  | <b>Moderate</b><br><br>Medium-term<br><br>Mortality may occur during all phases of   | <b>Moderate</b><br><br>Intermittent<br><br>While the possibility for a change in direct  | <b>Low</b><br><br>Reversible<br><br>Change in mortality is expected to diminish   | <b>Low</b><br><br>Inconsequential<br><br>Habitat clearing will be completed   | <b>Not significant</b><br><br>Several mitigation measures are proposed that are expected to limit  |



| Predicted degree of residual effect     |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|---|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Residual adverse effect                 | Magnitude   | Geographical extent  | Duration   | Frequency  | Reversibility  | Timing   | Significance of residual effect  |
|   | study areas as suitable habitat is available.   | occur mainly within the Project Area. Indirect mortality may extend into the LSA based on alteration of wetland habitats. Amphibians do not move long distances. | the Project. Limited effects during post-decommissioning.  | and indirect mortality exists throughout all Project phases, the actual mortality events are expected to occur sporadically and are therefore intermittent.  | to baseline conditions following post-decommissioning.   | during least-risk timing windows. Activity restrictions for overwintering and breeding habitat if observed during pre-clearance surveys.   | interactions between amphibians and sources of mortality. Pre-disturbance clearance surveys will be conducted to identify site-specific habitat features (e.g., breeding ponds) and implement setbacks and/or timing windows. Vehicles and construction activities will not cross or enter wetlands. |
| Bats: Alteration and/or loss of habitat | <b>Moderate</b><br>A total of four bat species were detected in the region, of which two are species at risk which would be particularly sensitive to habitat loss. Bats have specific habitat requirements for their lifecycle; hibernacula and maternity sites are main limiting habitat features. A small area of potential roosting habitat was | <b>Low-Moderate</b><br>Local<br>Direct loss limited to Project Area. Indirect effects may extend into the LSA.   | <b>High</b><br>Long-term<br>Effects last throughout all Project phases and into post-decommissioning as areas are reclaimed. | <b>High</b><br>Continuous<br>While habitat loss is initially through vegetation clearing during construction, habitat alteration is predicted to be continuous throughout all Project phases until post-decommissioning. | <b>Low</b><br>Reversible<br>Reclamation of disturbed areas is proposed to achieve baseline conditions. | <b>Moderate</b><br>Timing of project activities can affect some sensitive life stages, especially hibernation and roosting. However, vegetation clearing will occur outside of roosting periods. | <b>Not significant</b><br>Alteration and/or loss of potential habitat is expected for bats, but with respect to limiting habitat, there are no hibernacula anticipated in the Project Area (i.e., caves, mines, buildings with stable and specific temperatures), and                                |

| Predicted degree of residual effect |   |   |   |  |   |   |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|---|---|--|---|---|---|
| Residual adverse effect             | Magnitude   | Geographical extent   | Duration  | Frequency  | Reversibility   | Timing  | Significance of residual effect   |
|                                     | identified in the Project Area.   |   |   |  |   |   | only small areas (<49 ha) of suitable potential roost habitat was identified in the Project Area. All habitat potential specifically for four different life stages (i.e., forage, overwintering hibernacula, maternity roost, and summer roost) was identified and mapped. Mitigation measures (e.g., vegetation clearing outside of sensitive time periods) are deemed effective in limiting habitat loss and alteration. |
| Bats: Change in mortality           | <b>Moderate</b><br>Possibility of direct and indirect mortality. Species at risk bats are more sensitive to mortality events. | <b>Low-Moderate</b><br>Local<br>The change in direct mortality is expected to occur mainly within the Project Area. Indirect mortality may extend | <b>Moderate</b><br>Medium-term<br>Mortality may occur during all phases of the Project. Limited | <b>Moderate</b><br>Intermittent<br>While the possibility for a change in direct and indirect mortality exists throughout all Project phases, the | <b>Low</b><br><b>Reversible</b><br>Change in mortality is expected to diminish to baseline conditions | <b>Low</b><br>Inconsequential<br>Habitat clearing will be completed during least-risk timing windows. Pre-disturbance | <b>Not significant</b><br>Several mitigation measures are proposed that are expected to limit interactions between bats and sources of  |

| Predicted degree of residual effect                                     |  |  |  |  |  |   |  |
|---|--|--|--|--|--|---|--|
| Residual adverse effect   | Magnitude  | Geographical extent  | Duration   | Frequency  | Reversibility  | Timing  | Significance of residual effect  |
|   |  | into the LSA based on alteration of terrestrial habitats.  | effects during post-decommissioning.   | actual mortality events are expected to occur sporadically and are therefore intermittent.   | following post-decommissioning.  | clearance surveys will be completed to identify habitat features such as maternal roosting sites and hibernacula.   | mortality. Notably, pre-clearance surveys will identify bats or bat features that require setbacks or activity restrictions. Exclusion methods will prevent access to buildings and other infrastructure.  |
| Valued component – Migratory birds including Species at Risk            |  |  |  |  |  |   |  |
| Raptors and migratory breeding birds: Alteration and/or loss of habitat | <b>Low-Moderate</b><br>Up to 6.9% of available raptor habitat within the RSA may be altered or lost (0.4% direct loss; 6.5% indirect effect) which drives the “moderate” rating. The amount of habitat altered or lost in the RSA for migratory breeding birds is up to 1.6% for waterbirds and waterfowl, up to 4.3% for upland game birds, and up to 4.1% for migratory songbirds. | <b>Low-Moderate</b><br>Local<br>Direct loss limited to Project Area. Indirect effects may extend into the LSA. | <b>High</b><br>Long-term<br>Effects last throughout all Project phases and into post-decommissioning as areas are reclaimed. | <b>High</b><br>Continuous<br>While habitat loss is initially through vegetation clearing during construction, habitat alteration is predicted to be continuous throughout all Project phases until post-decommissioning. | <b>Low</b><br>Reversible<br>Reclamation of disturbed areas is proposed to achieve baseline conditions. The loss of different habitats may affect bird groups differently based on their habitat needs (e.g., upland/lowland, regenerated/mature forest). For example, raptor species prefer tall mature trees within upland forest | <b>Moderate</b><br>Timing of project activities can affect some sensitive life stages. Setback distances are outlined in the SARGSS for many nesting and breeding birds for certain time periods. | <b>Not significant</b><br>Alteration and/or loss of potential habitat is expected for raptors and migratory breeding birds. Both raptors and migratory breeding birds have been exposed to historic and ongoing anthropogenic and natural disturbances throughout their ranges. Population declines have been documented for |

| Predicted degree of residual effect                       |  |   |   |  |   |   |  |
|---|--|---|---|--|---|---|--|
| Residual adverse effect                                   | Magnitude  | Geographical extent   | Duration  | Frequency  | Reversibility   | Timing  | Significance of residual effect  |
|   |  |   |   |  | habitat near waterbodies. Revegetated areas are anticipated to become available after post-decommissioning when mature trees offer nesting habitat. |   | some songbirds and waterbirds across North America. Osprey has provincial at-risk status (refer to table 1), but it not federally designated as species at risk. Suitable habitat for all species remains available throughout the RSA and is expected to be able to support any displaced individuals. Displacement will be temporary since the Project Area is planned to be reclaimed to baseline conditions. |
| Raptors and migratory breeding birds: Change in mortality | <b>Moderate</b><br><br>Possibility of direct and indirect mortality through, e.g., vehicle collisions, nest failure, or abandonment. | <b>Low-High</b><br><br>Regional<br><br>The change in direct mortality is expected to occur mainly within the Project Area. However, | <b>Moderate</b><br><br>Medium-term<br><br>Mortality may occur during all phases of the Project. Limited | <b>Moderate</b><br><br>Intermittent<br><br>While the possibility for a change in direct and indirect mortality exists throughout all Project phases, the | <b>Low</b><br><br>Reversible<br><br>Change in mortality is expected to diminish to baseline conditions  | <b>Low</b><br><br>Inconsequential<br><br>Habitat clearing will be completed during least-risk timing windows. | <b>Not significant</b><br><br>Observations of Bald Eagle and Osprey, as well as active nest sites for both species, have been recorded within  |

| Predicted degree of residual effect |           |   |                                      |  |                                 |        |   |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|---|--------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|--------|---|
| Residual adverse effect             | Magnitude | Geographical extent                                     | Duration                             | Frequency  | Reversibility                   | Timing | Significance of residual effect   |
|                                     |           | indirect mortality may extend into the Terrestrial RSA. | effects during post-decommissioning. | actual mortality events are expected to occur sporadically and are therefore intermittent. | following post-decommissioning. |        | the Project study areas. Likewise, several waterbirds and waterfowl, upland game birds, and migratory songbirds were recorded. However, birds are expected to avoid the area during construction and operation due to noise, light, and dust, and due to more preferable habitat off-site. Several mitigation measures are proposed that are expected to limit interactions between birds and sources of mortality. Moreover, the SARGSS specify setback distances for several species including Bald Eagle, Osprey, several waterbirds and songbirds, and some game birds. |

| Predicted degree of residual effect                     |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Residual adverse effect                                 | Magnitude   | Geographical extent   | Duration  | Frequency   | Reversibility   | Timing  | Significance of residual effect   |
| Bird species at risk: Alteration and/or loss of habitat | <p><b>Low</b></p> <p>The amount of habitat altered or lost in the RSA for bird species at risk is up to 4.7% for Common Nighthawk, up to 2.9% for Short-eared Owl, up to 2.4% for Yellow Rail, up to 2.4% for Rusty Blackbird, and up to 4.3% for Olive-sided Flycatcher. Calculations were not provided for other species at risk birds but are expected to be captured in this range due to similar habitat requirements and the assessment’s habitat-based approach.</p> | <p><b>Low-Moderate</b></p> <p>Local</p> <p>Direct loss limited to Project Area. Indirect effects may extend into the LSA.</p> | <p><b>High</b></p> <p>Long-term</p> <p>Effects last throughout all Project phases and into post-decommissioning as areas are reclaimed.</p> | <p><b>High</b></p> <p>Continuous</p> <p>While habitat loss is initially through vegetation clearing during construction, habitat alteration is predicted to be continuous throughout all Project phases until post-decommissioning.</p> | <p><b>Low</b></p> <p>Reversible</p> <p>Reclamation of disturbed areas is proposed to achieve baseline conditions. The loss of different habitats may affect bird groups differently based on their habitat needs (e.g., upland/lowland, regenerated/mature forest). While some wetland types may not recover, other suitable wetlands are likely available.</p> | <p><b>Moderate</b></p> <p>Timing of project activities can affect some sensitive life stages, but Project activities will be assessed for their potential to disturb or remove habitat.</p> | <p><b>Not significant</b></p> <p>Alteration and/or loss of potential habitat is expected for bird species at risk. While Common Nighthawk, Rusty Blackbird, and Olive-sided Flycatcher were detected in the study areas, Short-eared Owl and Yellow Rail were not observed. Suitable habitat for all species remains available throughout the RSA and is expected to be able to support any displaced individuals. Displacement will be temporary since the Project Area is planned to be reclaimed to baseline conditions.</p> |

| Predicted degree of residual effect       |  |   |  |   |  |   |  |
|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|
| Residual adverse effect                   | Magnitude  | Geographical extent   | Duration   | Frequency   | Reversibility  | Timing  | Significance of residual effect  |
| Bird species at risk: Change in mortality | <b>Moderate</b><br><br>Possibility of direct and indirect mortality. Species at risk birds are more sensitive to mortality events. | <b>Low-High</b><br><br>Regional<br><br>The change in direct mortality is expected to occur mainly within the Project Area. However, indirect mortality may extend into the Terrestrial RSA. | <b>Moderate</b><br><br>Medium-term<br><br>Mortality may occur during all phases of the Project. Limited effects during post-decommissioning. | <b>Moderate</b><br><br>Intermittent<br><br>While the possibility for a change in direct and indirect mortality exists throughout all Project phases, the actual mortality events are expected to occur sporadically and are therefore intermittent. | <b>Low</b><br><br>Reversible<br><br>Change in mortality is expected to diminish to baseline conditions following post-decommissioning. | <b>Low</b><br><br>Inconsequential<br><br>Habitat clearing will be completed during least-risk timing windows, outside of bird species at risk nesting season when practical. Pre-disturbance clearance surveys will be completed to identify the presence of nests. | <b>Not significant</b><br><br>Populations of listed species are less resilient to changes in mortality, however, several mitigation measures are proposed that are expected to limit interactions between birds and sources of mortality. Notably, pre-clearance surveys will identify bird species at risk nests that require setbacks or activity restrictions. Various physical, visual, and/or auditory deterrents and exclusion measures will be employed that will limit bird interactions with Project components and activities such as waste and water management ponds, roads and traffic, |

| Predicted degree of residual effect   |   |   |  |  |  |  |   |
|---|---|---|--|--|--|--|---|
| Residual adverse effect   | Magnitude   | Geographical extent   | Duration   | Frequency  | Reversibility  | Timing   | Significance of residual effect   |
|   |   |   |  |  |  |  | and transmission lines.   |
| Valued component – Human health (including Indigenous peoples health)                                 |   |   |  |  |  |  |   |
| Exposure to air and water non-radiological contaminants (except Selenium) by inhalation and ingestion | <b>Low</b><br>No residual adverse effects anticipated after application of mitigation and follow-up monitoring measures.  | N/A   | N/A  | N/A  | N/A  | N/A  | <b>Not significant</b><br>No residual adverse effects carried into significance assessment.   |
| Exposure to air and water radiological contaminants by inhalation and ingestion                       | <b>Low</b><br>No residual adverse effects anticipated after application of mitigation and follow-up monitoring measures.  | N/A   | N/A  | N/A  | N/A  | N/A  | <b>Not significant</b><br>No residual adverse effects carried into significance assessment.   |
| Exposure of the Fisher/Trapper receptor to Selenium at Russell Lake via fish ingestion                | <b>Moderate</b><br>The Project’s incremental HQ (with baseline removed) is higher than 0.2 for the fisher/trapper for selenium due to ingestion of fish (the predicted HQ is 0.93). | <b>Low</b><br>Russell Lake is not located within the Project Area, but rather in the RSA. The geographic extent of any direct effects is predicted to be confined | <b>Moderate</b><br>Medium-term<br>Effects are expected to last during the time that treated effluent is released into the aquatic environment (receiving waterbody | <b>High</b><br>Continuous<br>Treated effluent discharge has been considered as continuous over the operation and decommissioning | <b>Low</b><br>Reversible<br>The exposure of the fisher/trapper to selenium at levels that will result in an HQ greater than 0.2 will only occur during the | <b>Low</b><br>Inconsequential<br>For the purposes of this EIS and identifying the conservative scenario, effluent discharge is | <b>Not significant</b><br>There is a moderate to high probability that this residual effect will occur; however, the likelihood may be overestimated due to |



| Predicted degree of residual effect  |   |  |  |  |  |  |   |
|--|---|--|--|--|--|--|---|
| Residual adverse effect  | Magnitude   | Geographical extent  | Duration   | Frequency  | Reversibility  | Timing   | Significance of residual effect   |
|  | The effect can result in a change in health status (e.g., Indigenous Peoples health), with exposures above health- based standards.   | to the immediate waterbody adjacent to the Project (i.e., Whitefish Lake).   | is Whitefish Lake) during the operation and decommissioning phases of the Project.<br><br>No effluent will be released during construction nor post-decommissioning phases of the Project.                     | phases of the Project.   | operation and decommissioning phases of the Project.<br><br>During the ‘future centuries’, remediation works will be completed, and the site naturalized. Thus, exposure will be reduced during post-decommissioning and beyond. | expected to be continuous through all Project phases, therefore timing of project activities could affect some traditional activities in the Project Area such as fishing. However, Russell Lake is not located within the Project Area, but rather further away in the RSA. | conservatism in the exposure assessment. Further, Denison has committed to assessing health risks from fish consumption during operations. CNSC staff conclude that this residual effect is not likely to cause significant adverse effects to human health as the magnitude of effects are expected to be low. |
| Valued component – Indigenous uses: Current use of lands and resources for traditional purposes  |   |  |  |  |  |  |   |
| Changes to access of and/or quality and quantity of hunting, fishing, trapping, and ceremonial gathering activities in the Project Area as a | <b>Moderate</b><br><br>A loss of access to the Project Area is expecting for the surface lease area. The effect results in a change to locations or resources, experience, or use of locations or resources for traditional purposes, and preferred | <b>Moderate</b><br><br>Local<br><br>Effect predicted to be in the Project siting area but may extend into the LSA as construction takes place in the short term due to increase in traffic etc. so some land | <b>Moderate</b><br><br>Medium-term<br><br>Access to the Project Area is expected to be restricted at the Denison gate to the project site and is expected to last between 3 to 38 years (i.e., effect expected | <b>High</b><br><br>Continuous<br><br>Effect predicted to occur to start during construction (1-3 years) and continuously during operations, and decommissioning. | <b>Moderate</b><br><br>Partially Reversible<br><br>Effect predicted to be reversible as the access to the Project Area would be permitted for hunting, fishing and trapping post-decommissioning for                             | <b>Moderate</b><br><br>Timing of project activities may affect some traditional activities in the Project Area including moose harvesting, fishing and berry picking but mitigation  | <b>Not Significant</b><br><br>The Project may change the availability and distribution of resources for hunting, fishing and gathering for the Project Area and to a lesser extent as there   |

| Predicted degree of residual effect  |  |  |   |   |   |  |   |
|--|--|--|---|---|---|--|---|
| Residual adverse effect  | Magnitude  | Geographical extent  | Duration  | Frequency   | Reversibility   | Timing   | Significance of residual effect   |
| result of the project.   | locations or means to practice the activity and use by an Indigenous group may be modified or limited. However, Indigenous Nations and communities are able to continue to utilize both the LSA and RSA for traditional activities.  | users may choose to stay away from LSA.  | during construction through to the end of post-decommissioning) when the lands are expected to return to province through Institutional Control Program (ICP)   |   | traditional activities once it enters provincial Institutional Control Program (ICP)  | measures will reduce these activities during the cultural harvesting seasons where possible.   | will be restricted access. However, there is limited ILRU in the Project Area and the changes in the availability of resources are not expected to affect the ability of Indigenous Nations and communities to hunt, fish or gather plants in the LSA or RSA. |
| Changes to access of and/or quality and quantity of hunting, fishing, trapping, and ceremonial gathering activities in the Regional Study Area (LSA/RSA) as a result of the project. | <b>Low</b><br>A loss of access to the LSA/RSA is not expected and Indigenous Nations and communities should continue to have full access to the LSA and RSA to hunt, fish, and trap and carry out ceremonial and traditional gathering and activities in the same or similar manner. | <b>Moderate</b><br>Local<br>Effects are predicted to extend into the LSA along the Key Lake haul road only and will not extend into the RSA. | <b>Moderate</b><br>Medium-term<br>Access to LSA/RSA is not expected to be restricted but the Project is expected to last between 3 to 38 years (i.e., effect expected during construction through to the end of post-decommissioning when the lands are | <b>High</b><br>Continuous<br>Effect predicted to occur to start during construction (1-3 years) and continuously during operations, and decommissioning | <b>Low</b><br>Reversible<br>Effect predicted to be reversible as the access to the LSA and RSA would be permitted for hunting, fishing and trapping for traditional activities. | <b>Low</b><br>Inconsequential<br>Timing of project activities that take place are not expected to affect hunting, fishing and harvesting activities in the LSA or RSA. | <b>Not Significant</b><br>It is expected that changes to access of and/or quality and quantity of hunting, fishing, trapping, and ceremonial gathering activities in the LSA/RSA as a result of the project will be Not Significant                           |

| Predicted degree of residual effect  |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |
|--|---|---|--|---|---|---|---|
| Residual adverse effect  | Magnitude   | Geographical extent   | Duration   | Frequency   | Reversibility   | Timing  | Significance of residual effect   |
|  |   |   | expected to so may potentially impact use of LSA due to mine.  |   |   |   |   |
| Changes in access to cultural and heritage resources including any of those of historical, archaeological, paleontological or architectural significance | <b>Low</b><br><br>The effect results in a change to locations or experience, or use of locations or for traditional purposes, but the activity and use by an Indigenous group could be practiced in the same or similar manner as before. | <b>Low</b><br><br>Site-Specific<br><br>The change could be direct but will only likely take place in the Project study area as no other areas outside the lease areas should be disturbed during construction, operations and decommissioning activities. | <b>High</b><br><br>Long-term<br><br>Any change to a historical, archaeological, paleontological or architectural significance likely be permanent. | <b>Moderate</b><br><br>Intermittent<br><br>While the possibility for a change exists throughout all Project phases, the actual change events are expected to occur sporadically and primarily take place during the construction phase of the project (1-3 years) during ground disturbance activities and are therefore deemed intermittent. | <b>High</b><br><br>Irreversible<br><br>Any destruction or heritage resources that take place would likely be permanent and therefore deemed not reversible. | <b>Low</b><br><br>Inconsequential<br><br>The timing of predicted project activities is not expected to affect sensitive activities to changes to a historical, archaeological, paleontological or architectural significance. | <b>Not significant</b><br><br>The Project may change the availability of a historical, archaeological, paleontological or architectural significance sites in the Project Area. However, there are limited Heritage resources known to exist in the Project Area and the identified mitigation and follow-up monitoring program measures, including the Wheeler River Uranium Project Heritage Resources Management Plan, were deemed adequate. |

| Predicted degree of residual effect  |   |  |   |   |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|---|---|--|---|--|
| Residual adverse effect  | Magnitude   | Geographical extent  | Duration  | Frequency   | Reversibility  | Timing  | Significance of residual effect  |
| Fear and Avoidance and/or Perceived contamination of animals, water and plants (traditional foods) near the Wheeler River area causing avoidance behaviour due to low trust in quality of harvested resources. | <b>Moderate</b><br><br>The effect may result in a modification or change to a harvesting location(s) and/or experience, or use of preferred locations or resources for traditional purposes, by Indigenous Nations and communities due to perceived risks of contamination. | <b>Low to Moderate</b><br><br>Local<br><br>Fear and avoidance behaviour is generally expected to be limited to around the Project site but some land users perceived risks may extend into the LSA.              | <b>Moderate to High</b><br><br>Medium-term to Long-term<br><br>Perceived risk and fear and avoidance behavior is generally expected to last the life of construction, operations and through decommissioning although some land users may feel comfortable continuing to hunt, fish and trapping in the LSA while the project in ongoing. | <b>High</b><br><br>Continual<br><br>Effect predicted to occur continuously during all phases of the Project.  | <b>Moderate</b><br><br>Partially Reversible<br>Some land users will be open to learning more from monitoring programs and testing results and be confident with harvesting game, fish and plants again while others may avoid the area and find new areas to hunt, fish, trap etc. | <b>Low</b><br><br>Inconsequential<br><br>Denison has committed to engaging with Indigenous Nations and communities on Project Follow-up Monitoring Programs in order to help address concerns raised regarding fear and avoidance behaviours. | <b>Not significant</b><br><br>Denison has committed to engaging with Indigenous in their Project Follow-up Monitoring Programs in order to help address concerns raised regarding fear and avoidance behaviours. |
| (Sensory) Noise, traffic, and dust from construction and operation activities degrades the sensory experience of being on the land, causing  | <b>Moderate</b><br><br>The effect may result in a modification or change to a harvesting location(s) and/or experience, or use of preferred locations or resources for traditional purposes, by Indigenous Nations and communities  | <b>Low to Moderate</b><br><br>Local<br><br>The primary sensory disturbances are expected to take place at the Project Area although may extend into the LSA due to increased boundary traffic and access to site | <b>Moderate</b><br><br>Medium-term<br><br>Sensory disturbances are expected to be primarily during the construction phase (years 1-3) yet may extend into the operations phase due  | <b>High</b><br><br>Continuous<br><br>Effect predicted to occur continuously during all phases of the Project although initial construction will likely have a greater impact due to | <b>Low</b><br><br>Reversible<br><br>Effect predicted to be reversible after the project is decommissioned.   | <b>Moderate</b><br><br>Timing of project activities may affect some sensory experiences including traditional activities in the Project Area including moose harvesting and berry picking but   | <b>Not significant</b><br><br>Denison has committed to a number of mitigation measures regarding noise, traffic and sensory disturbances to ensure monitoring is taking place and has committed to work          |

| Predicted degree of residual effect                                      |   |   |  |  |               |  |   |
|--|---|---|--|--|---------------|--|---|
| Residual adverse effect  | Magnitude   | Geographical extent                     | Duration                                   | Frequency                              | Reversibility | Timing   | Significance of residual effect   |
| avoidance of the area for traditional land use and ceremonial activities | due to sensory disturbance  | primarily during construction activity. | to increased traffic to and from the site. | increase in human activity to the site |               | mitigation measures will help to reduce these sensory experiences during the cultural harvesting seasons where possible. | with Indigenous Nations and communities to understand when cultural important periods relative to harvest times culture camps are taking place to reduce potential sensory impacts. |
| Valued component – Transboundary environmental effects                   |   |   |  |  |               |  |   |
| GHG emissions  | <b>Low</b><br>Emissions from the Project would result in 0.041% of provincial emissions and 0.0043% of total national emissions, therefore no residual adverse effects anticipated after application of mitigation and follow-up monitoring measures. | N/A                                     | N/A  | N/A                                    | N/A           | N/A  | <b>Not significant</b><br>No residual adverse effects carried into significance assessment.   |

Appendix C. Acronyms

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| µg/m³             | Micrograms per cubic meter                               |
| <sup>210</sup> Pb | Lead-210   |
| <sup>226</sup> Ra | Radium-226   |
| <sup>230</sup> Th | Thorium-230  |
| ACGIH             | American Conference of Governmental Hygienists           |
| ALARA             | As Low As Reasonably Achievable                          |
| BAF               | Bioaccumulation Factors                                  |
| BATEA             | Best Available Technology Economically Achievable        |
| B-C Index         | Benthic Index of Community                               |
| BC MOE            | British Columbia Ministry of the Environment.            |
| BNDN              | Birch Narrows Dene Nation                                |
| CAAQS             | Canadian Ambient Air Quality Standards                   |
| CCME              | Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment.        |
| Cd                | Cadmium  |
| CEAA              | <i>Canadian Environmental Assessment Act</i> (1992)      |
| CEAA 2012         | Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012              |
| CMD               | Commission Member Document                               |
| CNSC              | Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission                       |
| CNWA              | <u>Canadian Navigable Waters Act</u>                     |
| Co                | Cobalt   |
| CO <sub>2</sub>   | carbon dioxide   |
| COPC              | constituents of potential concern                        |
| COSEWIC           | Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada |
| CSA               | Canadian Standards Association                           |
| CSM               | Conceptual Site Model                                    |
| dBA               | A-weighted decibels                                      |
| Denison           | Denison Mines Corp.                                      |
| DFO               | Fisheries and Oceans                                     |
| DOC               | Dissolved organic carbon.                                |
| EA                | Environmental Assessment                                 |
| EC                | Electrical conductivity                                  |
| ECCC              | Environment and Climate Change Canada                    |
| EEM               | Environmental Effects Monitoring                         |
| EEMP              | Environmental Effects Monitoring Programs                |
| EEMP              | Environmental Effects Monitoring Programs                |
| EIS               | Environmental Impact Statement                           |
| EMP               | Environmental Management Plan                            |
| EMS               | Environmental Management System                          |
| EP                | Environmental Protection                                 |
| EPA               | Environmental Protection Agency                          |
| EPP               | Environmental Protection Plan                            |
| EPR               | Environmental Protection Review                          |
| EPRP              | Emergency Preparedness and Response Program              |
| EPRP              | Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan                 |

|        |   |
|--------|---|
| ERFN   | English River First Nation                    |
| FA     | Federal authorities                           |
| FEFLOW | Subsurface flow and transport model           |
| FEQG   | Environmental Quality Guideline               |
| FEQG   | Federal Environmental Quality Guidelines.     |
| FIRT   | Federal-Indigenous Review Team                |
| FWQG   | Federal Water Quality Guideline               |
| GCM    | Global Climate Models                         |
| GHG    | Greenhouse gas                                |
| GWMP   | Groundwater Monitoring Program                |
| GWR    | Groundwater Regional                          |
| % HA   | Percentage Highly Annoyed                     |
| %Ha    | Percentage hectares                           |
| HC     | Health Canada.                                |
| HCB    | Heritage Conservation Branch                  |
| HHRA   | Human Health Risk Assessment                  |
| HQ     | Hazard Quotients                              |
| HRIA   | Heritage Resource Impact Assessments          |
| IAA    | <u>Impact Assessment Act</u>                  |
| IDF    | Intensity duration frequency                  |
| ILCR   | Incremental lifetime cancer risk              |
| ILRU   | Indigenous Land and Resource Use              |
| IR     | Indigenous Land and Resource Use              |
| IRs    | Information requests                          |
| ISR    | <i>In-situ</i> recovery                       |
| IWWTP  | Industrial Wastewater Treatment Plant         |
| KI     | Key Indicators                                |
| KML    | Kineepik Métis Local of Pinehouse             |
| LCH    | Licence conditions handbook                   |
| LLRIB  | Lac La Ronge Indian Band                      |
| LNG    | Liquefied natural gas                         |
| LSA    | Local study area                              |
| LUC    | Land Use Change                               |
| masl   | Metres above sea level                        |
| MDMER  | Metal and Diamond Mining Effluent Regulations |
| MF     | Manitou Falls Group                           |
| Mfa    | Read Formation                                |
| MFb    | Bird Formation                                |
| MFc    | Collins Formation                             |
| MFd    | Dunlop Formation                              |
| MK     | Métis Knowledge                               |
| MN-S   | Métis Nation of Saskatchewan                  |
| MOE    | Ministry of the Environment                   |
| mSv    | Millisievert                                  |
| MW     | Megawatt                                      |
| NEW    | Nuclear Energy Workers                        |

|                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| NO <sub>2</sub>               | Nitrogen Dioxide   |
| NRCan                         | Natural Resources Canada   |
| NSCA                          | <i>Nuclear Safety and Control Act</i>  |
| NSEQC                         | Northern Saskatchewan Environmental Quality Committee                                  |
| <i>NVP</i>                    | The Northern Village of Pinehouse  |
| ORP                           | Oxidation-Reduction Potential  |
| PAGC                          | Prince Albert Grand Council  |
| PBCN                          | Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation   |
| PD                            | Project Description  |
| PFP                           | Participant Funding Program  |
| PHREEQC                       | A computer program used to perform a wide variety of aqueous geochemical calculations. |
| PMP                           | Probable Maximum Precipitation   |
| PPE                           | Personal Protective Equipment  |
| Registry                      | The Canadian Impact Assessment Registry  |
| RFD                           | reasonably foreseeable developments  |
| Rights Impact Assessments     | Rights Impact Assessments  |
| RPP,                          | reasonably foreseeable developments  |
| RSA                           | Regional study area  |
| SACC                          | Strategic Assessment of Climate Change   |
| SARA                          | <i>Species at Risk Act</i>   |
| SARGSS                        | Saskatchewan Activity Restriction Guidelines for Sensitive Species                     |
| SDI                           | Simpson's Evenness Index   |
| Se                            | Selenium   |
| SEQG                          | Saskatchewan Environmental Quality Guidelines  |
| SK MOE                        | Saskatchewan Ministry of the Environment   |
| SKEAB                         | Saskatchewan Environmental Assessment Branch   |
| SO <sub>2</sub>               | Sulfur Dioxide   |
| SSA                           | Site study area  |
| TC                            | Transport Canada   |
| TDS                           | total dissolved solids   |
| IK                            | Indigenous Knowledge   |
| TLU                           | Traditional Land Use   |
| TLV                           | Threshold Limit Values   |
| TSP                           | Total suspended particles  |
| TSS                           | Total suspended solids   |
| U <sub>3</sub> O <sub>8</sub> | tri-uranium octoxide   |
| UBS                           | Uranium bearing solution   |
| UNSCEAR                       | United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation                 |
| VC                            | Valued component   |
| VWP                           | Vibrating Wire Piezometers   |
| YNLR                          | Ya'thi Néné Land and Resource Office   |