



Box 32, Wekweètì, NT X0E 1W0  
Tel: 867-713-2500 Fax: 867-713-2502  
(Main)

#1-4905 48<sup>th</sup> Street, Yellowknife, NT X1A 3S3  
Tel: 867-765-4592 Fax: 867-669-9593

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January 23, 2012

File: W2011C0004

Ms. Ellen Clements  
New Nadina Explorations Limited  
Box 130  
Greenwood, BC V0H 1J0

Fax: (250) 445-2259

Dear Ms. Clements:

**Re: Joint Submission Regarding Engagement for Land Use Permit Application W2011C0004 (New Nadina Explorations, Ltd. – Mineral Exploration at Lac de Gras)**

With regard to the above-noted Land Use Permit application and the further studies ordered on September 20, 2011, the Wek'èezhii Land and Water Board (WLWB) requires further information in order to:

1. determine the adequacy of engagement between New Nadina and the Yellowknives Dene First Nation (YKDFN);
2. ensure that the necessary mitigation measures are included in the Land Use Permit terms and conditions; and
3. proceed with a decision regarding the issuance of Land Use Permit W2011C0004.

In relation to the items above, the WLWB sent an information request to the YKDFN on January 17, 2012 asking for potential issues of concern to be identified in relation to the above-noted land use permit application. A response from the YKDFN was received on January 23, 2012 and the WLWB awaits submission of additional documents referred to in the YKDFN's letter.

The WLWB now requests that a joint report be submitted by New Nadina and YKDFN detailing the outcomes of engagement-to-date, by **February 3, 2012**. This report should include, but not be limited to:

- A list of issues raised by YKDFN, New Nadina's response, and details on how the proposed project has been modified in any way as a result of the engagement activity, if applicable; and
- A list of unresolved issues, if any.

If additional time is necessary, the parties should notify the WLWB by February 3, 2012 and indicate the expected submission date. If a joint report cannot be agreed upon, the submission of individual reports to the WLWB is required.

While acknowledging that some engagement efforts have been made between Nadina and the YKDFN, the WLWB encourages both parties to undertake further engagement efforts. At this time, (1) New Nadina should make efforts to engage with the YKDFN in a timely manner, and (2) the YKDFN should provide timely information to the Board regarding potential concerns with this Land Use Permit, as per the information request dated January 17, 2012, and should respond to New Nadina's engagement efforts in a timely manner. For the information of both parties, an excerpt from the soon-to-be-released MVLWB Draft Engagement Guidelines has been attached, which includes Appendix D: Example of Engagement Record, which should be used to document engagement between the parties.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this letter, please contact Regulatory Specialist Brett Wheler at (867) 765-4590 or [brett@wlwb.ca](mailto:brett@wlwb.ca).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "V. C. Blondin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the beginning.

Violet Camsell-Blondin  
Chair

Attachments: MVLWB Draft Engagement Guidelines (sections 6.4.1 and 6.4.2, and Appendix D)

Copied to: Todd Slack, YKDFN  
Wek'èzhii East Distribution List

## **EXERPT FROM MVLWB WORKING GROUP 1 DRAFT ENGAGEMENT POLICY**

### **6.4.1 Identify Values, Attitudes, and Expectations**

Proponents may be concerned that taking a proactive approach to engagement may lead to unrealistic expectations. While this is a valid concern, speculation about a project may have already occurred, which can result in negative attitudes towards a project. Expectations and attitudes can be identified through a range of techniques, such as community public meetings, face-to-face meetings, or workshops.

Sometimes the needs and wants regarding the engagement process will differ from what the proponent can provide. To manage a difference in engagement expectations, proponents can develop a statement about a decision to be made. The statement should:

- Clearly summarize the intent and issues to be dealt with; and
- Provide details of how people are being asked to participate and why.

A well-constructed statement will assist in getting the most from the engagement process.

### **6.4.2 Assess the Level of Potential Impacts**

Once the affected communities and Aboriginal government/organizations have been identified, an assessment of the impact that the activities may have will be helpful in identifying the appropriate level of engagement. Impact levels are based on the assumption that the activity will have some potential impacts.

#### **High impact**

Significant, repetitive, regular, or frequent aspects of the project that will affect people's lives and lifestyles are considered to be high impact. It may also relate to unavoidable visual landscape changes that negatively affect people. If there was a significant incident at the site, those in the high impact group may also be those most at risk. Criteria for this rating include activities that have a high-level, real, or perceived impact on:

- People's wellbeing, for example, their health, safety, lifestyle, or cultural values

It would also include activities that have:

- Any significant impact on attributes that are considered to be of high value, such as the environment, wildlife, or heritage resources; and

- The potential for high levels of controversy or conflict.

### **Medium impact**

Medium impact means occasional or regular aspects of the project that may be partial or avoidable/manageable. This may also include disruptions caused during the construction (development) phase of a project. Criteria for this rating include activities that have medium-level, real, or perceived impacts, for example:

- Some impact on attributes that are considered to be of value, such as environment, wildlife, or heritage resources; and
- The potential for controversy or conflict.

### **Low impact**

Infrequent and very occasional aspects of the project are referred to as low impact. It can also include some visual issues that are manageable and not a constant issue. Criteria for this rating include activities that have a low-level, real, or perceived impact, including:

- No significant impact on people's wellbeing or on attributes with value; and
- Low or no risk of controversy

Figure 1 is designed to assist with identification of impact levels.

**Figure 1: Identification of Impact Levels**

Type of Activity	Air Quality	Water Quality	Water Quantity	Rate of Water Flow	Wildlife	Birds	Fish	Hunting	Fishing	Trapping	Cultural	Social	Archaeological Sites
Access Road													
Construction													
Abandonment/removal													
Modification e.g. widening, straightening													
Automobile, aircraft or vessel movement													
Blasting													
Building													
Burning													
Burying													
Channeling													
Cut and fill													
Cutting or trees or removal													
Dams and Impoundments													
Waste management													
Disposal of hazardous waste													
Waste generation													
Sewage													
Disposal of sewage													
Geoscientific sampling													
Trenching													
Diamond drilling													
Borehole core sampling													
Bulk soil sampling													
Ditch construction													
Drainage alteration													
Drilling other than geoscientific													
Ecological surveys													
Excavation													
Explosive storage													
Fuel storage													
Topsoil, overburden or soil													
Slashing and removal of vegetation													
Soil testing													
Stream crossing/bridging													
Tunneling/underground													

**Appendix D: Example of Engagement Record**

**Engagement Record for Project**  
Between Proponent and Engaged Party

Date & Time	Attendees	Engagement Activity Type (e.g., written notification, face-to-face, workshop)	Information materials provided to engaged party <sup>8</sup>	Issue Raised	Proponent Response - indicate if issue was resolved or unresolved	Transcripts or minutes of meeting (Y/N)

<sup>8</sup> provide the materials/transcripts/minutes with the engagement record