



Environment Canada  
Environnement Canada

Environmental Stewardship Branch  
Canadian Wildlife Service  
Nova Coast Plaza, 5019-52 Street  
P.O. Box 2310  
Yellowknife, NT  
X1A 2P7

April 30, 2009

Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board  
Box 938, 5102-50<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Yellowknife, NT  
X1A 2N7

Dear Mr. Ehrlich:

**Re: Notification pursuant to the requirements of subsection 79(1) of the *Species at Risk Act* (SARA).**

Thank you for your notification letter of April 16, 2009 informing Environment Canada (EC) that the proposed Yellowknife Gold Project submitted by Tyhee NWT Corp. (MVEIRB file: EA0809-003) may potentially impact the following Species at Risk: Wood Bison, Rusty Blackbird, Common Nighthawk, Short-eared Owl, Grizzly Bear, Wolverine, and Peregrine Falcon.

Expertise and responsibility for Common Nighthawk is within the jurisdiction of EC. Common Nighthawk has been assessed by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) as Threatened and is under consideration for listing on Schedule 1 of SARA. EC's role with respect to this species will be to provide advice and information on potential adverse effects to the Common Nighthawk and its habitat, and, if required, suggest mitigation and monitoring measures. Note that the proposed mine site is just north of the current known range of the Common Nighthawk. EC will be further reviewing the project details to determine whether there will be any adverse effects to this species or its habitat.

EC is the competent minister under SARA for Wood Bison, Rusty Blackbird, and Peregrine Falcon (*anatum* subspecies). Short-eared Owl, Grizzly Bear, and Wolverine have been assessed by COSEWIC as Special Concern and are under consideration for listing on Schedule 1 of SARA. As such, EC has a national role to play in the conservation and recovery of these species in Canada. However, expertise and day-to-day management responsibility for these species in the Northwest Territories is within the jurisdiction of the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT). Thus, for this particular project, the GNWT is best suited to provide specific advice and information on whether the species is within the range of the project activities, the potential adverse effects of this project to these species and their habitat, and, if required, to suggest mitigation and monitoring measures. EC's role with respect to this particular project and any adverse effects on these species will be to provide advice and information on SARA, and general comments on the assessment.

Sincerely,

Myra Robertson, Environmental Assessment Coordinator, CWS  
Phone: (867) 669-4763  
E-mail: myra.robertson@ec.gc.ca

cc: Vanessa Charlwood (A/Western Arctic Section Head, Northern Conservation Section, CWS, EC)  
Anne Wilson (Water Pollution Specialist, EPOD, EC)  
Chandra Venables (Wildlife Environmental Assessment Specialist, GNWT)  
Rob Gau (Species at Risk Specialist, GNWT)