

PRELIMINARY SCREENING REPORT FORM

PRELIMINARY SCREENER REFERENCE / FILE NUMBER: S02A-004 APPLICANT: Northrock Resources Ltd. DATE: November 8, 2004	EIRB REFERENCE NUMBER:EA03-001 TITLE: Land/Resource Geographer ORGANIZATION: Sahtu Land and Water Board
--	---

Type of Development:

- Type of Development:
(CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)
- New Development
 - Amend, EIRB Ref. # EA03-001
 - Renew, EIRB Ref. #
 - Requires permit, license or authorization
 - Does not require permit, license or authorization

Principal Activities (related to scoping)
(CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

- Construction
 - Installation
 - Maintenance
 - Expansion
 - Operation
 - Repair
 - Water Intake
 - Other: _____
- Exploration
 - Industrial
 - Recreation
 - Municipal
 - Quarry
 - Linear / Corridor
 - Sewage
- Decommissioning
 - Abandonment
 - Aerial
 - Harvesting
 - Camp
 - Scientific / Research
 - Solid Waste
- (DESCRIBE)

Principal Development Components (related to scoping)
(CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

- Access Road
 - construction
 - abandonment/removal
 - modification e.g., widening, straightening
 - Automobile, Aircraft or Vessel Movement
 - Blasting
 - Building
 - Burning
 - Burying
 - Channeling
 - Cut and Fill
 - Cutting of Trees or Removal of Vegetation
 - Dams and Impoundments
- Waste Management
 - disposal of hazardous waste
 - waste generation
 - Sewage
 - disposal of sewage
 - Geoscientific Sampling
 - trenching
 - diamond drill
 - borehole core sampling
 - Bulk soil sampling
 - Gravel
 - Hydrological Testing
 - Site Restoration

- construction
- abandonment/removal
- modification
- Ditch Construction
- Drainage Alteration
- Drilling other than Geoscientific
- Ecological Surveys
- Excavation
- Explosive Storage
- Fuel Storage
- Topsoil, Overburden or Soil
 - fill
 - disposal
 - removal
 - storage
- fertilization
- grubbing
- planting/seeding
- reforestation
- scarify
- spraying
- recontouring
- Slashing and removal of vegetation
- Soil Testing
- Stream Crossing/Bridging
- Tunneling/Underground
- Water Intake
- Other

NTS Topographic Map Sheet Numbers
(LIST ALL THAT APPLY)

NTS Map Sheet #s: NTS 1:250,000: 96C

Latitude / Longitude and UTM System: N 64° 25.699' W 124° 48.852'
(DEGREES, MINUTES, SECONDS, MAP SHEET)

Nearest Community and Water Body: Keele River, Mackenzie River

Land Status (consultation information)
(CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

- Free Hold / Private
- Commissioner's Land
- Federal Crown Land
- Municipal Land

Transboundary Implications
(CHECK ALL THAT APPLY - IF KNOWN & APPLICABLE)

- British Columbia
- Nunavut
- Alberta
- Wood Buffalo National Park
- Saskatchewan
- Yukon
- Inuvialuit Settlement Region

N/A

Type of Transboundary Implication: Impact / Effect Development

Public Concern _____ (DESCRIBE)

N/A

PHYSICAL - CHEMICAL EFFECTS

IMPACT

MITIGATION

1. Ground Water

- water table alteration
- water quality changes
- infiltration changes
- other: _____

N/A

IMPACT

2. Surface Water

- flow or level changes
- water quality changes
- water quantity changes
- drainage pattern changes
- temperature
- wetland changes / loss
- other: _____
- N/A

MITIGATION

Water will be used to freeze down the snow pad for the airstrip. Water withdrawal will be in accordance to DFC Protocol under existing Land Use Permit.

IMPACT

3. Noise

- noise increase
- noise in/near water
- other: _____
- N/A

MITIGATION

Noise will be limited to the access road. Noise will be transient (along access) and local and temporary. The program will be conducted during the winter to minimize activity during critical periods for wildlife (Spring and Fall).

Noise in or near water will be limited to the project area and water intake. It will be temporary.

IMPACT

4. Land

- geologic structure changes
- soil contamination
- buffer zone loss
- soil compaction & settling
- destabilization / erosion

MITIGATION

Northrock has a Fuel and Oil Spill Contingency Plan in place. Spill response equipment includes a fuel transfer hose, sorbent blanket, scoop shovels and 205 litre empty drums. Should a spill occur, the NWT 24-hour spill line will be called. Project conducted during late winter conditions (frozen ground and snow cover) when spills are highly visible. No fuel will be stored on the temporary airstrip.

Access will be constructed using snow and ice that will create a protective layer for vegetation. Bulldozers will be equipped with shoes for the blades to prevent disturbance to soil and vegetation. Removal of minor scrub brush and shrubs will be restricted to the temporary airstrip. Disposal of brush and debris, and use of the airstrip will be compliant with existing terms and conditions of the Land Use Permit.

- permafrost regime alteration
- other: _____
- N/A

IMPACT

MITIGATION

5. Non Renewable Natural Resources

- resource depletion
- other: _____
- N/A

IMPACT

MITIGATION

6. Air / Climate / Atmosphere

- Green House Gases
(DESCRIBE)

- N/A

Vehicles, heavy equipment and aircrafts will emit greenhouse gases but are necessary to conduct the project.

BIOLOGICAL ENVIRONMENT

IMPACT

MITIGATION

1. Vegetation

- species composition
- species introduction
- toxin / heavy accumulation
- other: _____
- N/A

Care will be taken to clean all equipment prior to bringing into program area to limit the likelihood of introduction of non-native species.

IMPACT

MITIGATION

2. Wildlife & Fish

- effects on rare, threatened or endangered species
- fish population changes

- waterfowl population changes
- breeding disturbances
- population reduction

Program conducted during winter conditions to avoid critical periods for wildlife (late Spring and early Fall).

The project has a potential to indirectly cause population reduction through increased stress from disturbance, habitat changes, or hunting pressure. The project is not expected to directly cause any population reduction. Mitigation measures listed under rare/threatened species, habitat effects, and game species effects apply.

- species diversity change
- health changes (identify)
- behavioural changes (identify)
- habitat changes / effects
- game species effects

An existing access route will be used and only small amounts of clearing will be required for the construction of the airstrip.

Game species include moose and caribou. Moose have in the past shown great resilience to disturbance and noise from exploration. The disturbance is short in duration and localized. The mitigation measures under rare species apply to caribou.

- toxins / heavy metals
- forestry changes
- agricultural changes
- other: _____
- N/A

INTERACTING ENVIRONMENT

IMPACT

MITIGATION

1. Habitat and Communities

- predator-prey
- wildlife habitat / ecosystem composition changes
- reduction / removal of keystone or endangered species
- removal of wildlife corridor or buffer zone
- other: _____
- N/A

The use of an existing access route will minimize any increase in hunting pressure through opening lines of sight and provide easier access for predators.

As only small amounts of clearing will be required, the project is not expected to cause any significant habitat or ecosystem changes.

IMPACT

2. Social and Economic

planning / zoning changes or conflicts

rental house

airport operations / capacity changes

human health hazard

impair the recreational use of water or aesthetic quality

affect water use for other purposes

affect other land use operations

quality of life changes

public concern

other: _____

N/A

IMPACT

3. Cultural and Heritage

affects to historic property

MITIGATION

The Sahtu Land Use Planning Board has released a Preliminary Draft Land Use Plan. No approved Land Use Plan exists. The proposed airstrip is located at Keele River, which is defined as a "Conservation Area". All surface and subsurface development activities, except for low impact recreation and tourism, are prohibited on lands designated Conservation Areas. Transportation and Infrastructure Development is listed as Restricted or unacceptable activities within all Conservation Areas.

Temporary (3 week period) shared use of 500m of an existing 20m-wide portion of the access road with fixed-wing aircraft. Expansion of 200m of the existing 10m-wide trail by an additional 10m for shared-use as an access road/airstrip.

The Keele River airstrip is suggested as a safer, more practical alternative to flying personnel and supplies into the KP160 airstrip, then ferrying them by helicopter to the west side of the river. Temporary use of the road by aircraft is compatible with vehicular traffic as use would be limited to construction equipment during the early stages of access building, and use as an airstrip would be terminated once the drilling program begins.

The Tulita District Land Corporation (TDLC) at a meeting on October 27, 2004 made a motion to reject the request for amendment to Land Use Permit S02A-004. TDLC is the registered landowner. They cited in their letter that the Keele River area is Moose habitat where people harvest moose for their personal use and this area is also known to be a good stopping area for the migratory birds in the springtime. The people are concerned about the possibility of causing disturbance to the wildlife habitat and the construction of the airstrip would make significant impact and make changes to the surrounding environment and this would not be acceptable to the people of Tulita. The Board of Directors of TDLC is recommending that Northrock Resources Ltd use the existing KP160 airstrip and they do not construct other airstrips elsewhere.

MITIGATION

increased economic pressure

changes to or loss of historic resources

change to or loss of archaeological resources

increased pressure or archaeological sites

change to or loss of aesthetically important site

affects to aboriginal lifestyle

other: _____

There are 52 known archaeological sites within the program map area (stretching N to Tulita, E to the winter road, and S to the Keele River) according to the Canadian Museum of Civilization. Some 19 of these are near potential access routes. Of those only 1 may be impacted by the access. The same access however, has been used in the past and any damage likely already occurred. If a suspected site is discovered during the conduct of the program, the crew will not disturb the site and will contact the Land and Water Board for instructions.

The Tulita District Land Corporation cited in their letter that the Keele River area is Moose habitat where people harvest moose for their personal use and this area is also known to be a good stopping area for the migratory birds in the springtime. The people are concerned about the possibility of causing disturbance to the wildlife habitat and the construction of the airstrip would make significant impact and make changes to the surrounding environment and this would not be acceptable to the people of Tulita.

PRELIMINARY SCREENER / REFERRING BODY INFORMATION
(CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

	RA or DRA	ADVISE	PERMIT REQUIRED
Federal			
ATOMIC ENERGY CONTROL BOARD	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
CANADIAN HERITAGE	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
CANADIAN TRANSPORTATION AGENCY	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
ENVIRONMENT CANADA	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
FISHERIES & OCEANS	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
INDIAN AFFAIRS & NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
INDUSTRY CANADA	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
NATIONAL DEFENSE	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
NATIONAL ENERGY BOARD	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
NATURAL RESOURCES	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
PUBLIC WORKS & GOVERNMENT SERVICES	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
TRANSPORT CANADA	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Territorial			
MUNICIPAL & COMMUNITY AFFAIRS		<input type="radio"/>	
PUBLIC WORKS & GOVERNMENT SERVICES		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
RESOURCES, WILDLIFE & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
TRANSPORTATION	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
HEALTH BOARD	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
PRINCE OF WALES NORTHERN HERITAGE CENTRE	<input type="radio"/>		
Boards			
GWICH'IN LAND & WATER BOARD	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
SAHTU LAND & WATER BOARD	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
MACKENZIE VALLEY LAND & WATER BOARD	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	
RENEWABLE RESOURCE BOARDS	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
SAHTU LAND USE PLANNING BOARD	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	
LOCAL HEALTH BOARD	<input type="radio"/>		
Aboriginal / First Nation			
Sahtu Secretariat Inc.		<input checked="" type="radio"/>	
Tulita District Land Corporation		<input checked="" type="radio"/>	
Fort Norman Metis Local #60 Land Corp.		<input checked="" type="radio"/>	
Ernie McDonald Land Corporation		<input checked="" type="radio"/>	
Tulita, Norman Wells Renewable Resources Councils		<input type="radio"/>	
ADJOINING LAND CLAIM			
Local Government			
_____		<input type="radio"/>	
(IDENTIFY)		<input type="radio"/>	

(IDENTIFY)			
Communities			
_____		<input type="radio"/>	
(IDENTIFY)			
Non Governmental Organizations (NGO)			
_____		<input type="radio"/>	
(IDENTIFY)			

REASONS FOR DECISION

(LIST ALL REASONS AND SUPPORTING RATIONALES FOR PRELIMINARY SCREENING DECISION)

- The program is in an area of pre-existing oil and gas exploration activity. Existing access roads will be used for the airstrip.
- The drilling program will be of economic benefit to the residents of the Sahtu Region.
- The immediate environmental impacts from this development can be mitigated with known technology or are of temporary nature.
- There is significant public concern from the Tulita District Land Corporation.

PRELIMINARY SCREENING DECISION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Outside Local Government Boundaries
<input type="checkbox"/>	The development proposal might have a significant adverse impact on the environment, refer it to the EIRB.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Proceed with regulatory process and/or implementation.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The development proposal might have public concern, refer it to the EIRB.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Proceed with regulatory process and/or implementation.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Wholly within Local Government Boundaries
<input type="checkbox"/>	The development proposal is likely to have a significant adverse impact on air, water or renewable resources, refer it to the EIRB.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Proceed with regulatory process and/or implementation.
<input type="checkbox"/>	The development proposal might have public concern, refer it to the EIRB.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Proceed with regulatory process and/or implementation.

Preliminary Screening Organization

Sahtu Land & Water Board

Signatures

Edna Force