


NORTH YUKON REGIONAL LAND USE PLAN CONFORMITY CHECK	
YESAB Project #	2019-0140
Project Title:	Dempster Fibre Optics Project
Date:	January 29, 2020
Submitted to:	YESAB Dawson Designated Office Bag 6050, Dawson City, Y0B 1G0
Completed by:	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 70%;"> Sam Skinner Yukon Land Use Planning Council 201-307 Jarvis St Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2H3 1-867-667-7397 sam@planyukon.ca </div> <div style="width: 25%; text-align: center;">  YUKON LAND USE PLANNING COUNCIL </div> </div>
More information on NYLUP conformity checks:	http://planyukon.ca/index.php/resources/planning-regions-2/north-yukon/59-north-yukon-conformity-checks
Project conforms to Regional Land Use Plan: (select one) Yes	

Background Information and Conformity Check Analysis

Affected Landscape Management Unit (LMU)(s): (insert rows as needed for additional LMUs) Map 1 and Section 6							
LM Unit #	9	LMU Name:	Eagle Plains				
Zoning:	IMA-Zone IV	Land Owner:	YG, VGFN (R-06A, R-08A, S-7A)				
LM Unit #	10A	LMU Name:	Southern Richardson Mountains				
Zoning:	IMA-Zone II	Land Owner:	YG				
LM Unit #	10B	LMU Name:	Rock River – Mount Joyal				
Zoning:	IMA-Zone II	Land Owner:	YG, VGFN (S-9A/D)				
Landscape Disturbance Indicators: Table 3.2, sections 3.3.1.1, 5.1.1							
Surface Disturbance (ha):							
LMU	Cautionary Level	Critical Level	*Current est. Level	Project Estimate **	Total Estimate **	Notification Rqr'd***	Parties Notified
9	4811 ha	6415 ha	Not yet provided	Not determined	Not determined	No	No
10A	117 ha	156 ha	Not yet provided	Not determined	Not determined	No	No
10B	356 ha	475 ha	Not yet provided	Not determined	Not determined	No	No
Linear Disturbance (km):							
LMU	Cautionary Level	Critical Level	*Current est. Level	Project Estimate **	Total Estimate **	Notification Rqr'd***	Parties Notified
9	4811 km	6415 km	Not yet provided	Not determined	Not determined	No	No
10A	117 km	156 km	Not yet provided	Not determined	Not determined	No	No
10B	356 km	475 km	Not yet provided	Not determined	Not determined	No	No
<p>*current <u>estimated</u> cumulative effects levels are to be provided by the Plan Parties</p> <p>** this project will occur within a distance of 1 km of the Dempster Highway where surface disturbance and linear density indicator reporting and evaluation are exempt</p> <p>*** the YLUPC shall notify the Parties prior to submitting the conformity check to YESAB if they are concerned cautionary or critical levels may be reached</p>							
Special Management Considerations: (Section 6, LMUs)							
LMU	Special Management Consideration						
9	None that are relevant						
10A	1. Maintaining the visual quality of mountain and sub-arctic viewsapes along this segment of Dempster Highway is a management priority. 2. Important Porcupine Caribou Herd concentrated use area during fall, winter and spring periods.						
10B	1. Maintaining the visual quality of mountain and sub-arctic viewsapes along this segment of Dempster Highway is a management priority.						

Affected Values and General Management Directions (GMD): (Section 5) Only include values identified in LMU. If no GMDs exist or are relevant, do not include in this table.	
Resources:	Corresponding Strategies:
Wildlife	2.1.1 Reduce size, intensity and duration of human-caused physical surface disturbances (e.g., utilize low impact seismic, winter roads and enhanced reclamation). 2.3.1 Avoid or reduce activities in significant wildlife habitats during important biological periods (e.g., utilize timing windows).
Fish	3.1.1 Minimize surface and vegetation disturbance in riparian areas. 3.3.1 Avoid direct disturbance to sensitive over-wintering habitats (Eagle River) 3.3.4 Avoid or reduce winter in-stream water withdrawals in sensitive over-wintering fish habitat.
Wetland, Lakes and Rivers	4.1/2/3.1 Avoid or minimize industrial land use activities in wetlands and riparian areas. 4.1/2/3.3 Reduce surface and vegetation impacts in riparian and sensitive permafrost areas.
Heritage and Culture	5.1.1 Minimize land use impacts in the vicinity of identified heritage and historic resources. 5.1.3/5.2.1 Avoid or reduce activities in significant heritage and current community use areas during important seasonal use periods (e.g., utilize timing windows).
Plan Recommended Best Management Practices: (Section 5 following each value)	
Surface Disturbances	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The size, intensity and duration of all surface disturbances should be reduced. • Native endemic plants should be used for active reclamation of disturbed sites.
Porcupine Caribou	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid or minimize the size, extent, duration and level of activities in concentrated seasonal use areas (see Map 2, Appendix 1 for locations). • Use appropriate operational timing-windows in significant wildlife habitats to minimize activities, whenever possible, during periods of wildlife use. • Define and implement safe operating distances from the herd.
Major Rivers & Valleys	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To maintain visual quality and aesthetics, all-season infrastructure should be discouraged within Major River corridors (Eagle River). • Surface disturbance and land use activities within and adjacent to Major River and other riparian corridors should not result in diminished water quality, quantity or flow.
Heritage and Culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid and/or mitigate exploration and development activities and impacts in areas with known heritage or historic resource values, where such areas or sites are • not otherwise protected through existing land withdrawals (see Map 3, Appendix 1). • In identified current community use areas (see Map 3, Appendix 1) exploration and construction activities should be minimized or mitigated during subsistence harvesting periods. • Work camps associated with resource exploration and development activity should be sited near areas of resource production, away from identified heritage routes, historic sites, current community use areas, and the Old Crow Community Area.
Plan Recommendations: (Section 5 following each value)	
Climate Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the North Yukon Planning Region, potential climate change impacts should be considered in all land management decisions. • Due to the potential cumulative effects of climate change and land use impacts, sensitive wetland habitats and Porcupine Caribou Herd habitats at risk of significant change should be managed more cautiously, and with a high level of conservation focus.
Dempster Highway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In recognition of the strategic importance of the Dempster Highway and its designation as a Northern and Remote Route under the National Highway System, surface disturbance and linear density indicator reporting and evaluation are exempt within a distance of 1 km on each side of the highway centre line (2-km total corridor width).

Additional Analysis or Comments:

- The installation of the fibre optic line will occur within the ROW of existing roads and highways (the Dempster High in this case). This should reduce the impacts to permafrost.
- Limiting the project largely to the ROW will place new disturbances in areas already disturbed by highway construction and maintenance. Therefore, there should be little net additional disturbance.
- The project appears to fall entirely with the Dempster Highway 1 km zone exempt from disturbance indicator evaluations otherwise required by the plan.
- The project appears to follow most the best management practices listed in the Plan.
- **Most of the proposed activity will be in winter, which may be the best time to mitigate effects on permafrost, riparian environments and other values. However, this timing is not ideal for the Porcupine Caribou Herd. The proposed wildlife monitor and work cessation if caribou are within 1 km should adequately address this concern.**