

Context

The Yukon Environmental and Socio-economics Assessment Act (YESAA) allows actively planning regional planning commissions to provide representations to YESAB regarding a project proposal in a planning region (section 45). Where land use plans are in effect, YESAA allows planning commissions to determine whether a proposed project is in conformity (section 44). In the current case of the Peel Watershed Planning Region, there is no actively planning commission (though the commission still exists), no approved plan, yet there is a plan awaiting approval (the Final Recommended Peel Watershed Regional Land Use Plan). In this case, the Yukon Land Use Planning Council prepared the plan consistency report below. This report has be reviewed and approved by the Commission's Chairman.

**PEEL WATERSHED FINAL RECOMMENDED LAND USE PLAN
CONSISTENCY CHECK**

YESAB Project #	2012-0030		
Project Title:	Quartz Exploration – Mike Lake Project		
Date:	April 2, 2012	Completed by: (name)	Sam Skinner
Submitted to:	YESAB Dawson Designated Office Box 5060 Dawson City, YT Y0B 1G0		

Project is consistent to the Final Recommended Peel Watershed Regional Land Use Plan: (select one) **Yes**

Background Information and Conformity Check Analysis

Affected Landscape Management Unit(LMU)(s): Map 1 and Section 5							
LM Unit #	4	LMU Name:	West Hart River				
Zoning:	Wilderness Area	Land Owner:	YG				
LM Unit #		LMU Name:					
Zoning:		Land Owner:					
Landscape Disturbance Indicators*: Surface Disturbance (ha):							
LMU	Cautionary Level	Critical Level	Current est. Level	Project Estimate	Total Estimate	Notification Rqr'd**	Parties Notified
4	0	0	Not yet provided	0.14	Not determined	No	No
Linear Disturbance (km):							
LMU	Cautionary Level	Critical Level	*Current est. Level	Project Estimate	Total Estimate	Notification Rqr'd**	Parties Notified
4	0	0	Not yet provided	2.5	Not determined	No	No
<p>* Surface disturbance indicators do not apply existing mineral claims. ** 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 5, LMUs)	
No relevant Special Management Considerations were listed.	
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.	
Ecological Resources:	Corresponding GMD:
Hart River Caribou Herd	<i>Avoid or reduce activities in significant wildlife habitats during important biological periods (e.g., utilize timing windows): the proposed project is adjacent to a Key Area for the Hart River Herd in the Fall.</i>
Wildlife	<i>Policy Recommendation #2: Ensure adequate wildlife and habitat baseline data collection is completed prior to any development activities occurring in the Peel Watershed Planning Region</i>
Heritage, Social, Cultural Resources:	Corresponding GMD:
Culturally Important Places	<i>Avoid or reduce activities in significant heritage and current community use areas during important seasonal use periods (e.g., utilize timing windows): the proposed project is in a culturally important area of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in (for caribou hunting).</i>
Economic Development:	Corresponding GMD:
All subsections	No relevant GMD

Plan Recommended Best Management Practices:	
Wildlife	<p>Flying in Caribou Country. How to minimize disturbance from aircraft. MPERG Report 2008-1. Available online: www.geology.gov.yk.ca/pdf/2008_1.pdf</p> <p>Flying in Sheep Country. How to minimize disturbance from aircraft. MPERG Report 2002-6. Available online: www.geology.gov.yk.ca/pdf/MPERG_2002_6.pdf</p> <p>Guidelines for Industrial Activity in Bear Country. For the mineral exploration, placer mining and oil and gas industries. MPERG Report 2008-2. Available online: http://www.geology.gov.yk.ca/pdf/Guidelines_for_Industrial_Activity_in_Bear_Country-web.pdf</p>
Water	<p>Best Management Practices for Works Affecting Water in Yukon. Water Resources Branch, Yukon Environment. May 2011. Available online: www.env.gov.yk.ca/mapspublications/documents/bestpractes_water.pdf</p>

Additional Analysis or Comments:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This review only applies to activities in the Heidi claims that are in the Peel Watershed (see Appendix 1). • Since this project will occur on existing quartz claims, permitted work associated with mineral exploration is allowed by the Final Recommended Peel Watershed Plan, provided the directions above are considered. • The surface and linear disturbances resulting from this project are quite small. The biggest potential for conflict or disturbance resulting from this project will likely be due to air traffic. Though the proposed flight paths pass over very little of the region, the best management practices listed above should be heeded to help mitigate concerns. • Considering this area falls within a national hotspot for plant endemism, and in the absence of adequate baseline data on rare or endemic plants in the area (see Policy Recommendation #2), pre-activity surveys for rare plants are needed.