



Whitehorse Mining District
102 - 300 Main Street (K-102)
Whitehorse, YT, Y1A 2B5

April 15, 2025

P2024_0378
By Email

Ben Gruenke
Box 20087
Whitehorse, Canada, Y1A7A2
bengruenke@hotmail.com

Dear Ben Gruenke,

Re: Class 1 Notification P2024_0378 - Quill Creek Placer Allowed with additional terms and conditions.

This letter is to inform you that your Class 1 Notification P2024_0378 is valid as of April 15, 2025.

Your Class 1 Notification and proposed work program (April 15, 2025 - October 31, 2025) is allowed to proceed with the following terms and conditions:

1. The operator shall avoid exploration and exploration related activities in wetlands, if avoidance is not possible, the operator shall minimize disturbance to wetlands.
2. All reclamation must be completed prior to the end of the work program date identified in this Class 1 notification, including but not limited to: closure of all test pits, trenches, hand shafts, removal of camps, removal of vehicles and equipment, etc. Reclamation must be completed to the standards listed in the Operating Conditions, Schedule 1 of the Placer Mining Land Use Regulation/Quartz Mining Land Use Regulation. In areas where wetlands have been disturbed, reclamation

shall be done in a manner that supports the return of wetland benefits to those areas.

3. The map provided identifies areas with elevated potential for heritage resources. The operator shall not conduct land-altering activities within these areas unless prior approval has been granted by the Heritage Resources Unit. The operator may contact heritage.review@yukon.ca for more information on the areas of heritage potential or to discuss potential mitigation options.
4. The operator shall suspend activities between September 15 and October 15 to avoid disrupting caribou movement within the movement corridor during the breeding period (WKA ID 506 on GeoYukon; see attached map).
5. The operator shall suspend exploration activities if caribou are observed within 1 km of active work areas, until they move off on their own accord.
6. The operator shall take all necessary precautions to minimize disturbance to caribou specific habitat (lichen) within the project area. Where disturbance is unavoidable, the lichen mat shall be separately stored and replaced as soon as exploration activities are complete.
7. The operator shall submit a summary of project activities to Yukon Environment (Shawn.Taylor@yukon.ca, Kluane Biologist) at the end of the season. The summary shall include (1) shape files of Class 1 land disturbance and reclamation activities and (2) wildlife log detailing wildlife interactions and mitigations to minimize interaction with wildlife.
8. Any moose encountered on the claim block shall be given the right-of-way until they move off on their own accord.
9. The operator shall suspend exploration activities if sheep are observed within 1 km of active work areas, until they move off on their own accord.
10. The operator shall avoid land clearing within 1 km of any observed active raptor nests between May 1st and August 31st.
11. The location of active raptor nests identified by the operator shall be reported to Environment Yukon, Wildlife Key Area program (wka@yukon.ca).
12. Management of attractants and use of deterrents are effective ways to reduce conflict with bears. The operator shall report any incidents involving nuisance bears or wildlife exhibiting food condition or habituation to the Haines Junction Conservation Officer (867 634-2247).
13. The operator shall ensure trenches are sloped on at least one end at a grade shallow enough to allow ungulates to exit the trench.
14. While a shaft needs to remain accessible during this Notification, the operator shall install fencing around the shaft, cover the opening with logs, or use a similar method to discourage ungulate wildlife from entering the shaft.
15. The operator shall backfill each trench/shaft once a geological evaluation of the trench/shaft has been completed or prior to the end of the work program date identified in this Class 1, whichever occurs first.
16. Drill holes shall be decommissioned and backfilled or plugged to avoid wildlife entrapment.

For greater certainty, the conditions contained in this Notification pertain only to my authorities under the *Placer Mining Act* and do not limit the authorizations, prohibitions, or

restrictions in other federal, territorial or municipal laws.

Security may be required at any time by the Manager, Mining Land Use. The operator must furnish security within thirty (30) days of receiving the written notice from the Manager, Mining Land Use of the requirement to post security.

To help improve the environmental performance of your program, you are encouraged to refer to the attached operational guidelines. In addition, you are encouraged to contact affected First Nations to further discuss your program.

Class 1 work cannot occur on claims/leases that have lapsed or pending claims/leases until they are granted by a Mining Recorder. Please ensure the claims/leases within your Class 1 Notification are in good standing prior to beginning your work program. Any work occurring on pending or lapsed claims/leases will be in contravention of the *Placer Mining Act* and *Territorial Lands (Yukon) Act* and representation work conducted will not be accepted by the Mining Recorder.

Please note: the notification will expire on April 14, 2026 and all reclamation must be completed at the end of the program or prior to the expiry of this notification, whichever comes first. All proposed activities must abide by Schedule 1 (Operating Conditions) of the *Placer Mining Land Use Regulation*. In the event that claims/leases lapse, a Class 3 or 4 authorization is issued, or that agreements to operate on claims/leases are dissolved, the Class 1 notification becomes null and void for that portion of the program, where there is no right to the minerals.

If you have any questions about this letter, please contact the district office by phone at 867-667-3190, fax at 867-667-5150, or email at whitehorse.mining@yukon.ca.

Sincerely,
Paul Inglis

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Paul Inglis". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "P".

A/Manager, Mining Land Use

cc
Environmental Affairs Branch, Environment
Tourism and Culture
Kluane First Nation
White River First Nation