



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

May 07, 2026

P2026_0035
By Email

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

Dear Ben Gruenke,

Re: Class 1 Notification P2026_0035 - Quill Creek Placer Allowed with additional terms and conditions.

This letter is to inform you that your Class 1 Notification P2026_0035 is valid as of May 07, 2026.

Your Class 1 Notification and proposed work program (May 07, 2026 - November 20, 2026) is allowed to proceed with the following terms and conditions:

1. The operator shall store all attractants, including garbage, kitchen waste and strained solids from grey water in a container that prevents access by bears and other wildlife, until properly disposed of according to the Solid Waste Regulation or burned daily to ash by forced air and fuel fired incineration according to the Air Emissions Regulations.
2. The operator shall install an electric fence around the food preparation and storage area, grey water sump, and incinerator.
3. Management of attractants and use of deterrents are effective ways to reduce

conflict with bears. The operator shall report to the TIPP line (1-800-661-0525) any wildlife incident, mortality and/or ongoing bear presence/habituation.

4. The operator shall suspend exploration activities if ungulates are observed from active work areas, until they move off on their own accord.
5. 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.
6. The operator shall avoid exploration and exploration related activities in wetlands, if avoidance is not possible, the operator shall minimize disturbance to wetlands.
7. 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.
8. The notification area overlaps with a moose late-winter range wildlife key area. Typically, placer exploration activities are carried out outside of winter months, however, activities have been proposed to occur year round. As such, the operator should plan activities to avoid use of the area in late-winter (Feb 1st – April 30th).
9. Any moose encountered on the claim block shall be given the right-of-way until they move off on their own accord.
10. The operator shall ensure trenches are sloped on at least one end at a grade shallow enough to allow ungulates to exit the trench.
11. 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.
12. 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.
13. 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 Manager, Mining Land Use. The operator may contact heritage.review@yukon.ca for more information on the areas of heritage potential or to discuss potential mitigation options.
14. No alteration, disturbance, or destruction shall occur to Kluane First Nation Heritage Route #15, as identified by the map provided.
15. You are reminded of Schedule 1 Operating Condition #17 which states: "A spill contingency plan for petroleum products and other hazardous substances must be prepared and posted in the camp and at all fuel handling locations used in carrying out the operation."
16. The operator shall not conduct any land-altering activities within 30 m of a discovered heritage resource unless prior approval has been granted, in writing, by the Manager, Mining Land Use. The operator is encouraged to contact heritage.review@yukon.ca for information.

17. The operator shall share fish and wildlife observation information (e.g. wildlife logs, seasonal reports etc.), shared with other agencies (e.g. YG biologists, Yukon Conservation Data Center etc.), with the Kluane First Nations Resources and Heritage Department at (867) 668-3108, prior to the expiry of this Notification.
18. There are areas with elevated potential for heritage resources that overlap Settlement Land. Heritage resources located on Settlement Land are owned and managed by the First Nation. The operator should contact the Kluane First Nation Heritage Department for information on areas of heritage potential or to discuss potential mitigation options.
19. The operator shall maintain a 50m no disturbance buffer around known and observed raptor nests from April 1 - September 30. If two or more nests are within 100m of each other they shall be considered as one nest site and a 50m buffer applied around the whole area. The operator shall make best efforts to not island raptor nests, allowing for connectivity to the forest from nest sites. The operator shall contact the Wildlife Key Area (WKA) program (wka@yukon.ca), for information on known raptor nests within the project area. The operator shall report any observed nests to the WKA program.
20. The operator shall not restrict access to KFN R-49B and shall not impede First Nation citizens undergoing traditional pursuits.
21. The operator shall communicate plans and timing of activities to Kluane First Nations (environment@kfn.ca) and other land and resource users as soon as practicable and prior to the commencement of project activities to identify potential land use conflicts and any potential negative effects on other users. The operator shall make best efforts to resolve these issues.

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.

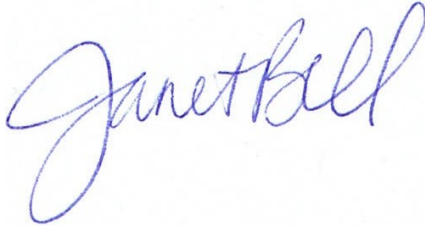
Class 1 work cannot occur on claims/leases that have lapsed or pending claims/leases until they are granted by a Mining Recorder. Please ensure the claims/leases within your Class 1 Notification are in good standing prior to beginning your work program. Any work occurring on pending or lapsed claims/leases 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 May 06, 2027 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,
Janet Bell-MacDonald

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Janet Bell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Manager, Mining Land Use

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