

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION: LUPIN MINE WINTER ACCESS

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### **Purpose**

Nahanni Construction Ltd. (NCL; the Applicant) wishes to obtain access to a portion of the Tibbitt to Contwoyto Winter Road (TCWR) route from the Ekati Mine turnoff on Lac de Gras in the Northwest Territories (NT; Lac de Gras) to the Lupin Mine in Nunavut (NU; Lupin) in order to construct and operate this portion of the TCWR to mobilize and demobilize equipment and supplies that may be used for ongoing reclamation of Lupin in the Kitikmeot Region of Nunavut (the Program).

It is understood that the Tibbitt to Contwoyto Joint Venture (TCJV) currently holds a licence of occupation for the entire winter road route; conversations with TCJV personnel indicate that there are no current plans to construct the segment of the TCWR extending from Lac de Gras to Lupin and so there are no known conflicts with this aspect of the land use.

### **Location**

The Program will extend from Lac de Gras to Lupin along the existing TCWR route, traversing 95 km in NT and 118 km in NU (213 km in total).

Mobilization to construct and operate this portion of the winter road will occur from the existing seasonally constructed portion of the TCWR from Yellowknife to Lac De Gras, and/or from Lupin.

As the route crosses the NT/NU border, this is a transboundary project.

### **Timing**

Use is expected to be seasonal for two (2) consecutive years, commencing in January 2019, however, as a contingency, use over a five (5) year period is being sought in the event of unforeseen delays.

Construction is expected to occur in December and January each year.

Operations are expected to occur from January to April, depending on ice conditions.

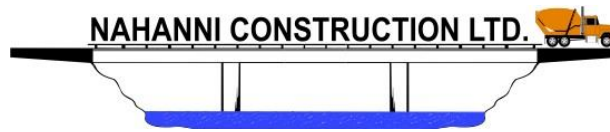
Closure will occur seasonally once ice conditions are such that ice travel is deemed unsafe. Typically, this will occur in April.

### **Scope**

To execute the Program, approval of the following activities is being sought:

- Construction, operations and closure of a winter road occurring within the existing corridor for the TCWR from Lac de Gras to Lupin.

Construction of the winter road will follow current best practices and standards for winter road construction. Depending on conditions and staging area availability, construction will start at Lupin with crews working southward. Alternatively, as available, crews may also start simultaneously at Lac de Gras



and Lupin, working both northwards and southwards. Crews will be accommodated at the mine site throughout construction, operation and closure. A small, mobile, temporary camp will be utilized as construction progresses to provide emergency shelter for work crews.

Operation of the winter road will occur generally in accordance with the procedures already in place for the TCWR, along with those associated with this application. Operational activities include:

- Transport of equipment and supplies required for mine reclamation activities;
- Maintenance of the winter road including removal of blowing snow, and repairing potholes and rough areas.

Seasonal closure of the winter road will occur once conditions are deemed unsafe for operations.

### **Alternatives**

Alternatives to the project have been considered and involve:

- Lupin Mine construct and operate the TCWR. While winter access to Lupin has occurred in the past, the current owners appear to consider air access to be the main means of transporting supplies to site, and appear to have no current plan to construct and operate the TCWR.
- TCJV construct and operate the TCWR. Personnel at the TCJV indicate that this option is not favourable as they currently have no plans to construct this portion of the TCWR in the upcoming years.
- Airlift supplies and equipment into Lupin. Equipment and supplies required to support ongoing reclamation activities are of a size and weight that is either not possible, logistically difficult and/or cost prohibitive to transport to site by air.

Accordingly, it is the Applicant's preference to seasonally construct, operate and close the TCWR from Lac de Gras to Lupin themselves, to ensure an economic and efficient means of transporting supplies and equipment to Lupin in support of ongoing reclamation activities.