



Fisheries and Oceans
Canada

Pêches et Océans
Canada

Fish and Fish Habitat Protection Program
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Yellowknife, Territoires du Nord-Ouest
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February 3, 2026

Your file *Votre référence*
2BE-NUT

Subject: Greenridge Exploration, New Type B Application; Nut Lake Project

To whom it may concern,

On January 6, 2026, the Nunavut Water Board invited parties to comment on the Greenridge Exploration, New Type B Application; Nut Lake Project: 2BE-NUT. The Fish and Fish Habitat Program of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (FFHPP-DFO) appreciates the opportunity to review the application and offers a comment below.

Comment DFO:

Comment:

The Greenridge Nut Lake Project, file number 2BE-NUT, discusses water withdrawal activities from multiple unnamed lakes/ponds for the duration of the project for drilling purposes, which have the potential to impact fish and fish habitat.

Direct fish mortality can occur during water withdrawal activities through entrainment/impingement. Entrainment occurs when a fish is drawn into a water intake and cannot escape. Impingement occurs when a fish is held in contact with the intake screen and is unable to free itself. Excessive amounts of water withdrawn from ice-covered waterbodies can impact fish through oxygen depletion, loss of over-wintering habitat and/or reductions in littoral habitat.

Recommendation:

In order to comply with the Fisheries Act, it is recommended that the Proponent follow DFO's protective measures for fish and fish habitat and standard codes of practice which can be found on DFO's website (<https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/pnw-ppe/measure-mesures-eng.html>) and <https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/pnw-ppe/practice-practique-eng.html>).

Proponents are also asked to respect the NU in-water works restricted activity timing windows ([Projects Near Water - Nunavut Restricted Activity Timing Windows for the Protection of Fish and Fish Habitat \(dfo-mpo.gc.ca\)](https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/pnw-ppe/projects-near-water-nunavut-restricted-activity-timing-windows-for-the-protection-of-fish-and-fish-habitat-dfo-mpo.gc.ca)) to protect fish during spawning and incubation periods when spawning fish, eggs and fry are vulnerable to disturbance or sediment.

The proponent should refer to DFO's Interim code of practice: End-of-pipe fish protection screens for small water intakes in freshwater available at <https://www.dfo->

mpo.gc.ca/pnw-ppe/codes/screen-ecran-eng.html when using fish screens and if the water intake flow is up to 0.150 m³/s, or 150 liters per second (L/s).

For water withdrawal from watercourses, DFO recommends the proponent follow the Framework for Assessing the Ecological Flow Requirements to Support Fisheries In Canada (<https://waves-vagues.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/Library/348881.pdf>) and demonstrates that water withdrawal rate remains <10% of actual (instantaneous) flow and does not result in flows <30% of mean annual discharge (MAD).

In addition, the proponent should follow the DFO Protocol for Winter Water Withdrawal in the NWT (2010) and not withdraw more than 10% of under-ice water volumes (Attachment 1: DFO Winter Water Withdrawal Protocol, 2010).

If the proposal meets the criteria for a site specific review, as described on DFO's website (<https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/pnw-ppe/reviews-revues/request-review-demande-d-examen-003-eng.html>), they should complete and submit the request for review form available on the website (<https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/pnw-ppe/reviews-revues/request-review-demande-d-examen-004-eng.html>).

It is also the proponent's Duty to Notify DFO if they have caused, or are about to cause, the death of fish by means other than fishing and/or the harmful alteration, disruption, or the destruction of fish habitat. Such notification should be directed to DFO.ARCEMTriage-TriageGEARC.MPO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Yours sincerely,

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