



Water Resources Division  
Resource Management Directorate  
Nunavut Regional Office  
918 Nunavut Drive  
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Your file - Votre référence  
2BE-RCE----  
Our file - Notre référence  
GCDOCS# 132511397

January 13, 2025

Robert Hunter  
Licensing Administrator  
Nunavut Water Board  
P.O. Box 119  
Gjoa Haven, NU, X0B 1J0  
E-mail: [licensing@nwb-oen.ca](mailto:licensing@nwb-oen.ca)

**Re: Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada's review of White Cliff Minerals Limited Type B Water Licence application 2BE-RCE---- for Rae Copper Exploration Project in the Kitikmeot Region of Nunavut**

Dear Mr. Hunter,

Thank you for the December 11, 2024 invitation to review the referenced White Cliff Minerals Limited Type B Water Licence application 2BE-RCE---- for Rae Copper Exploration Project in the Kitikmeot Region of Nunavut.

Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC) reviewed the Type B water licence application pursuant to its mandated responsibilities under the *Nunavut Waters and Nunavut Surface Rights Tribunal Act* and the *Department of Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Act*. **CIRNAC has no comments.**

If there are any questions or concerns, please contact me at [michelle.blade@rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca](mailto:michelle.blade@rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca) or Andrew Keim at [andrew.keim@rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca](mailto:andrew.keim@rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca).

Sincerely,

Michelle Blade,  
Regulatory and Science Advisor



## **Technical Review Memorandum**

**Date:** January 13, 2025

**To:** Robert Hunter, Licensing Administrator, Nunavut Water Board

**From:** Michelle Blade, Regulatory and Science Advisor, CIRNAC

**Subject: Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada's review of White Cliff Minerals Limited Type B Water Licence application 2BE-RCE---- for Rae Copper Exploration Project in the Kitikmeot Region of Nunavut**

**Region:** ☒ Kitikmeot ☐ Kivalliq ☐ Qikiqtani

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### **A. BACKGROUND**

White Cliff Minerals Ltd. (WCM) holds mineral claims on a combination of Crown Land and Inuit Owned Land associated with their Rae Copper Project (the Project) located approximately 70 kilometres southwest of Kugluktuk, in the West Kitikmeot Region near the Coppermine River. These areas have previously been explored by other companies, and WCM is applying to conduct similar drill-based exploration activities following up on historical drilling results.

WCM is proposing to set up a temporary tent-based exploration camp and run a small seasonal drill exploration program with up to three exploration drills. The camp will be set up near areas of drilling interest and on dry durable ground. Before we select the exact location, an archaeologist is checking to make sure there are no archaeological sites. Water will be drawn from nearby lakes and Project average water use is expected to be less than 100 m<sup>3</sup>/day and not more than 299 m<sup>3</sup>/day on any one day. The camp will usually house between 12 and 45 people, depending on whether there is one drill operating or three. The camp will be opened seasonally for a winter and/or a summer exploration program and closed between uses. Every year the exploration camp will be closed and exploration activities stopped while the Bluenose East Caribou herd is in the areas for their calving (May 28 to July 3) and post calving (June 21 to July 3) periods.

The Project will be accessed by air, or possibly overland by winter trail from Kugluktuk if local community members are hired to bring supplies to site in winter. Within the Project area, personnel and materials will get around on foot, by helicopter, or by winter trails. We will not be building any all-weather roads during exploration activities. Fuel will be stored on site in secondary containment and will mainly be in the form of diesel (for the drills and camp generators and heaters) and jet fuel (for the helicopters) and we will have a spill contingency plan.

Exploration drilling will mainly be carried out with the use of diamond drills searching for copper and silver, but similarly sized reverse circulation drills may alternately be used. Other



exploration activities such as aerial mapping surveys, ground sampling, and/or baseline studies may also be carried out. Drill and core cutting waste will be deposited in natural depressions or dug sumps, as will camp greywater from the kitchen, sinks and showers, and any outhouse blackwater. Either pacto, incinerating, or outhouse-type pit toilets will be used. An incinerator may be used to incinerate suitable wastes, and untreated wood, cardboard, and paper may be open burnt. All other wastes will be backhauled to an approved waste management facility outside of Nunavut. A wide range of environmental and archaeological protection measures will be implemented to make sure any potential impacts are minimized, particularly those on wildlife and wildlife habitat.

WCM will apply for a 7-year water licence to align with a 5-year land use permit with a possible 2 year extension. If this project is approved, WCM plans to conduct an initial drill program in 2025 to verify historic results and find areas of high copper and silver potential. If those results are promising, exploration would continue seasonally in winter and/or summer over subsequent years. WCM will preferentially source Project personnel, materials, and services from Kugluktuk and the broader Kitikmeot Region and offer on-the-job training.

Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC) reviewed the Rae Copper Project Type B Water Licence application pursuant to its mandated responsibilities under the *Nunavut Waters and Nunavut Surface Rights Tribunal Act* and the *Department of Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Act*. CIRNAC has no comments. Documents reviewed as part of this submission can be found in Table 1 of Section A.

## A. DOCUMENTS REVIEWED AND REFERENCED

The following table (Table 1) provides a list of the documents reviewed under the submission and reference during the review.

**Table 1: Documents Reviewed and Referenced**

Document Title, Author, File No., Rev., Date
Application for Type B Water Licence for White Cliff Minerals Ltd.'s Rae Copper Project, Eric Sondergaard, White Cliff Minerals Ltd., 25 October 2024
GENERAL WATER LICENCE APPLICATION for Rae Copper Project, Eric Sondergaard, White Cliff Minerals Ltd., 25 October 2024
Non-Technical Project Summary
Project Description and Application Supporting Materials for Type B Water Licence, Class III Land Use Licence, Class A Land Use Permit. Prepared by RainCoast Environmental Services Ltd. for White Cliff Minerals. October 2024.
Mining and Milling Supplemental Information Guideline (SIG) for Mineral Exploration / Remote Camp (MM1)
Nunavut Planning Commission Conformity Determination File No. 150522-ILAE, Solomon Amuno, Nunavut Planning Commission, 30 August 2024
Applicant Representative Authorization for White Cliff Minerals Ltd.'s Rae Copper Project, Eric Sondergaard, White Cliff Minerals Ltd., 22 July 2024



Document Title, Author, File No., Rev., Date
RAE COPPER PROJECT Spill Contingency Plan. Prepared by RainCoast Environmental Services Ltd. for White Cliff Minerals. October 2024.
RAE COPPER PROJECT Waste Management Plan. Prepared by RainCoast Environmental Services Ltd. for White Cliff Minerals. October 2024.