

Our Lands – Land Access Overview

There are many mineral development projects in the Kitikmeot. Many are on Inuit Owned land (IOL) at various stages of exploration and development ranging from early prospecting to operating mining projects. There are also many projects on land owned by the Government of Canada. As defined in Article 19 of the Nunavut Land Claim Agreement (NLCA) the Designated Inuit Organization (DIO) holds title to IOL. As the DIO for all surface IOL in the Kitikmeot, KIA is responsible for ensuring adverse effects to the land and environment are avoided or minimized and that there are acceptable benefits to Inuit from any development on IOL in the Region. KIA also represents the interests of Inuit regarding land use on land owned by the government of Canada.

The KIA's Lands, Environment and Resource Department, located in Kugluktuk, reviews all projects in the Kitikmeot and those outside the region having potential environmental impacts in the Kitikmeot. These projects range from prospecting to final reclamation of mines. The proponent of any proposed development project on IOL is required by KIA to complete an application form to access IOL, viewable using the following link.(insert link to open IOL Access Application). Proposed projects are reviewed, and if the project is deemed not likely to cause significant adverse effects to the environment, may then proceed subject to the terms and conditions of an IOL Land Use Licence. These terms, enforced by the KIA are intended to further reduce the risk of project related impacts. Proposed projects must also be approved by various other regulatory bodies and are subject to their respective terms and conditions if approved. KIA routinely conducts land use inspections to ensure all activities conducted on IOL are compliant with issued Land Use Licences and carried out in a way that protects the environment.

Also, before KIA will allow any project to proceed on IOL, the proponent must provide a reclamation security deposit to KIA. The dollar value of the security deposit is intended to reflect the costs associated with the complete clean up of a particular project and is measured based on the scope and nature of the clean up cost. This deposit is returned to the proponent once the KIA is satisfied the project has been properly cleaned up. If the

proponent does not reclaim the project site to KIA satisfaction, KIA will use funds held in the security deposit to do so and return any unused funds.

Larger projects in the Kitikmeot, such as a mining operation, go through an extensive Environmental Assessment review and permitting period usually spanning several years before any development may occur. If such a project is approved for development on IOL where environmental impacts are predicted, KIA can ensure impacts are minimized and that there are acceptable benefits to Inuit through involvement in the review and permitting of the project, negotiation of an Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreements (IIBA) and Water and Wildlife Compensation Agreements.

The KIA encourages companies operating exploration projects in the Kitikmeot to follow recommendation provided in KIA's *Guide to Best Management Practices for Wildlife Avoidance and Deterrence on Inuit Owned Land* and to be aware of wildlife and water compensation rights as set out in Articles 6 and 20 of the NLCA.

(Insert links to open Wildlife BMP, Art. 6 and Art. 20 brochures)

For further information regarding the KIA's role as set out in the NLCA as a land owner, or questions concerning access to IOL please contact the KIA – Lands, Environment and Resource Department.