

Yukon Environmental & Socioeconomic Assessment Act Decision Document

This document meets the Yukon government's requirements as a Decision Body as set out in the *Yukon Environmental & Socioeconomic Assessment Act*

Decision Document Issued By

YG Decision Body:	Territorial Minister, as authorized under section 7, to Land Use Manager, Energy Mines and Resources, Land Management Branch
Federal Decision Body(ies):	
First Nation Decision Body(ies):	

Project

Project Name : Casino Trail Winter Road to Toro Property	YESAA File Number 2011-0008
Proponent Name:	Dawson Gold Corporation
<p>Project Description: The proposed project is a two-year land use permit for use of the Casino Trail Winter Road for hauling supplies to the Toro property for the upcoming exploration seasons. The project is approximately 70 kilometers from Carmacks and proposed to occur in late February or early March of 2011 and 2012. Access to the proposed project is by the existing Northern Freegold Road and Casino Trail.</p> <p>Principal activities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • winter trail preparation including flying over, snowmobiling, ice bridge/bank construction and trail compaction. <p>Accessory activities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • mobilization of cats with sloops, 6 loads with supplies to the Toro Property each year; and • hauling of fuel (110 drums diesel, 3 drums gas, 40 drums Jet B and 10 bottles of propane). 	

Other Decision Bodies

Other Decision Body Consultation:	
Consolidated Decision Document:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <i>[list the decision bodies whose decision documents were consolidated, where applicable]</i>

Non-Self Governing First Nations

Non-self governing First Nation Consultation:	
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Decision

Pursuant to YESAA s. 75, 76 and 80, Yukon government has considered the assessment of this project and:	
X	<p>a) Yukon government accepts the evaluation report as presented pursuant to Section 56(1)(b) which includes the following terms and conditions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The proponent shall coordinate with the other companies using the Casino Winter Trail to ensure transits by way of cat train is done in convoys and groups over the shortest period of time practicable. 2. The proponent shall communicate plans and timing of activities to other resource users (trappers, outfitters, wilderness tourism operators, quartz/placer miners, other users of the winter trail and known subsistence harvesters) that may be affected by the proposed project as soon as practicable, prior to the actual commencement of activities to reduce land use conflicts and any potential negative impacts on others interests. 3. The proponent and/or field representative shall avoid covering or destroying traps, snares or any other trapping or outfitting equipment or supplies. 4. The proponent and/or field representative shall maintain the trail in a manner that leaves it passable by snowmobile at all times. 5. The proponent and/or field representative shall follow Department of Fisheries and Oceans standards "<i>Freshwater Intake End-of-Pipe Screen Guidelines</i>" (attached) for water that is withdrawn from tributaries of the Yukon River. This document can also be found at http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/library/223669.pdf 6. The proponent shall ensure that the construction of water crossings are supervised and monitored to ensure the integrity of the crossing structures. 7. The proponent shall ensure that the Spill Response Plan include the provision of sufficient spill clean-up equipment, material and methods (such as inspecting fuel containers in snow covered areas, clean up of fuel contamination in snow, water, ice, cold temperatures and under the ice) which must be in an appropriate state of readiness at all times in order to immediately clean-up all spills in the winter that may occur along the trail during the project life. 8. All drainages, low-lying areas and wetlands must be frozen to a state capable of supporting 125% of the estimated total weight of the loaded equipment before commencement of project activities. 9. If equipment falls through the ice, the proponent and/or field representative shall the immediately advise Fisheries and Oceans Canada in Whitehorse. Telephone number is (867) 393-6721, or Fax (867) 393-6738. The land use inspector and the First Nation of Selkirk or Little Salmon/Carmacks (depending on location) shall also be contacted. 10. The proponent shall conduct all activities associated with the construction of water crossings in accordance with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Operational Statement, "Ice and Snow Fill Bridges". This document can also be found at http://www.-heb.pzc.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/dexisionsupport/os/pdfs/ice_bridges_e.pdf 11. The proponent shall not allow the deposit of any unauthorized soils or debris in any watercourse, or in any location where these materials could be deposited into any watercourse.

	<p>12. Disturbance to stream and riverbanks at the crossings shall be avoided.</p> <p>13. The proponent shall make all efforts to maintain vegetation at the proposed water crossings.</p> <p>14. The proponent shall ensure that all natural or constructed ice crossings are and remain capable of supporting the vehicles taken across them, by monitoring and testing of ice thickness and condition during the period of use (specifically in the spring).</p> <p>15. The proposed trail shall be used only under frozen ground conditions within a minimum maintained <i>packed snow cover of 10cm to the vegetation layer</i>. Where required, an increased snow depth to avoid disturbing surface vegetation and duff (i.e. tussock terrain) must be maintained.</p> <p>16. The proponent shall not move any equipment or vehicles unless the ground surface is in state capable of fully supporting the equipment without rutting or gouging.</p> <p>17. The proponent shall employ sufficient number of Environmental Monitors to observe and ensure environmentally safe practices.</p> <p>18. The first crossing of each waterbody by equipment with a load shall not be carrying fuel.</p> <p>19. The proponent shall have a sufficient number of empty tanks to contain any fuel or other substances that is not already contained in double walled tanks.</p> <p>20. The proponent shall amend their Spill Response Plan to include the reporting of all spills, <i>this to ensure that to ensure that that they have met their obligation to report under section 133 of the Environment Act.</i></p> <p>21. The proponents Environmental Monitors shall submit a report to the Department of Environment to contribute to baseline data in the project area.</p> <p>22. In areas where high snow depth encountered, the proponent shall provide periodic gaps in snow berms along the route to allow for wildlife escape, particularly where tracks observed.</p> <p>23. If large numbers of caribou (or moose) are encountered, the proponent shall consider temporarily altering timing of construction of the winter road and/or transport activities.</p> <p>24. Transit to the Toro camp by way of cat train shall be done in convoys and groups over the shortest period of time practicable.</p> <p>25. The proponent shall take every precaution to ensure that wildlife habitat is not damaged.</p> <p>26. While undertaking the project, if the proponent discovers any ethnographic movable heritage resources, which are directly related to the culture and history of first nation's people, the proponent shall notify the Heritage Resources Department of Selkirk and/or Little Salmon Carmacks First Nations in addition to notifying the Yukon Government, Heritage Branch.</p> <p>27. If the proponent is unable to readily determine whether a movable heritage resource found within the project area is an ethnographic object directly related to the culture and history of First Nations people, the proponent shall notify the Heritage Department of the Selkirk and/or Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation in addition to the Yukon Government, Heritage Branch.</p>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>b) Yukon government rejects the following recommendation for the following reason(s):</p>

<input type="checkbox"/>	c) Yukon government varies the recommendation (inserted below) by changing the following term(s) and condition(s) for the reason(s) specified:
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Dates

Project Recommendation Issued: February 11, 2011	Decision Document Issued: February 28, 2011
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Recommendation Received From

Designated Office	X	Location: Mayo
Executive Committee	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Panel	<input type="checkbox"/>	a) Panel of the YESAB
	<input type="checkbox"/>	b) CEAA Panel
	<input type="checkbox"/>	c) Joint Panel (YESAB and other assessment body)

Authority

By signing below, the Yukon government has exercised its authority as per YESAA s. 75 or s. 76 to issue a decision document on this project.

Name: Marg White

Position: Land Use Manager

Signature: _____ Date: _____
Original signed by [Delegated YG Decision Body]

Copies Forwarded to (as required by YESAA s. 81)):

- Other Decision Bodies _____
- X Project Proponent Dawson Gold Corporation
- DAP Branch, Executive Council Office _____
- X YESAB Designated Office Mayo
- YESAB Executive Committee _____
- Minister Environment (Canada) _____
- Yukon Surface Rights Board _____
- Yukon Water Board _____
- Land Use Planning Commission: _____
- Independent Regulatory Agency _____
- Other Body/Person as Required _____