

Notice of Determination

January 13th, 2026 – Transport Canada has determined that the project is not likely to cause significant adverse environmental effects.

This determination was based on a consideration of the following factors:

- Impacts on rights of Indigenous Peoples;
- Indigenous knowledge;
- Community knowledge;
- Comments received from the public; and
- Technically and economically feasible mitigation measures.

Mitigation measures taken into account for this determination are:

Soil and Water Quality

- At the beginning of the work, the contractor must submit an emergency response plan in case of accidental spills of contaminants. Ensure that the response plan includes, at a minimum, a response diagram and an alert structure, and that it is placed in an easily accessible location visible to all employees. Have on-site response equipment in case of accidental spills of contaminants, including a floating phase collection device that can be quickly deployed, such as booms (in the case of oil spills).
- Carry out all handling of fuel, oil, other petroleum products, or contaminants, including transfer, under continuous supervision and at a safe distance from waterways to prevent accidental spills.
- In the event of a spill, immediately report the situation to: Environment Canada's emergency service (1-866-283-2333) and Urgence Environnement du Québec (1-866-694-5454), as well as to the TC representative.
- Keep all machinery on the site clean, in good working order, and free of leaks.
- Set up an area for the temporary storage of hydrocarbons or other hazardous materials, refueling, and general maintenance of machinery at a minimum distance of 30 m from wetlands or watercourses and 15 m from drainage ditches.
- Adopt construction, renovation, and demolition waste management practices that comply with the Green Government Strategy.
- Storage system (tank) plans signed by an engineer and containing all the elements specified in the regulations must be completed (section 34(2) of the RSSPPA) before installation. A registration number must be assigned by Environment Canada and affixed to the tank.
- An emergency plan addressing the specific vulnerabilities of the storage system must be prepared and available near the tank (section 30 et seq. of the RSSPPA).

- The storage system must be installed by a contractor holding a 1.8 license from the RBQ. Proof of this must be kept by the tank owner (section 33 of the RSSPPA).

Management of Non-Hazardous Waste

- Develop a demolition waste management plan that promotes reuse and/or recycling. If waste must be disposed of, do so at an authorized site.
- Ensure that no waste is left on site at any time and that the site is restored to an environmentally sound condition at the end of the work.
- Hazardous waste management
- The contractor must comply with all regulations in force concerning the transport, storage, handling, and disposal of hazardous materials and hazardous waste.
- Hazardous materials used must be stored in a safe place and transported in properly identified, leak-proof containers.
- Hazardous waste must be managed and disposed of in accordance with applicable regulations by a company authorized by the MELCCFP. Keep the hazardous waste transport manifest.

Soil Management

- Given that the site was formerly used as a firefighting training ground, the soil may be contaminated with perfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). Encourage the reuse of excavated soil on the original site.
- If soil must be managed off-site, it must be analyzed. In addition to the usual parameters, soil must also be analyzed for PFAS. PFAS-contaminated soil must be disposed of in accordance with applicable laws and regulations at a site authorized by the MELCCFP. Notify TC in advance of the method of managing soil off-site.
- All fill material imported to the site must be clean, i.e., below criterion A of the MELCCFP's Guide to Intervention, Soil Protection and Contaminated Land Remediation (Guide). An analysis of the quality of the fill materials must be requested and a copy provided to the TC representative.
- Transport excavated soil off-site in accordance with the Regulation respecting the traceability of excavated contaminated soil.
- At the end of the work, provide Transport Canada with the traceability report generated by Traces Québec.
- If the work is to be carried out near an observation well, the contractor must take the necessary measures to preserve the facility.

Air Quality

- Fires and the burning of waste and woody material on the construction site are prohibited.
- Avoid leaving the engines of construction equipment and trucks running unnecessarily when they are not in use.
- Use well-maintained machinery, preferably equipped with baffles, mufflers in good condition (to minimize air pollutant emissions), exhausts, and engine covers.
- Cover stacked materials with geotextile if they are not used for more than 24 hours.

Terrestrial Vegetation

- In order to limit the spread of invasive species, the Contractor must ensure that machinery entering the work site is clean and free of invasive alien species upon arrival. Machinery must be washed before leaving the site.
- Before work begins, mark and cordon off the areas to be cleared. At no time should machinery be allowed to travel outside the work area.
- Deforestation must be carried out in such a way as to avoid damaging trees and shrubs that are to be preserved, where applicable.
- Avoid unnecessarily stripping vegetation from surfaces.

Birds and Bats

- Carry out work outside the nesting period of the Northern Nighthawk (May 21 to August 5) to prevent the site from being used by the species.
- If work must be carried out between May 21 and August 5, ensure that there are no signs of nesting on the site by having a biologist conduct a visual inspection.
- If a nest containing eggs or fledglings of migratory birds is discovered near or within the work area, stop all noisy activities near the nesting site and protect the nest(s) with a protective zone. Immediately contact the Department Representative, who will contact ECCC's Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) to ensure that the appropriate measures are taken.

User Safety

- Put up clear signs indicating the restrictions imposed by the work (road blocked, detour, no parking, etc.) to ensure the safety of road users and airport users at all times, where applicable.

Transport Canada is satisfied that the carrying out of the project is not likely to cause significant adverse environmental effects. Therefore, Transport Canada can exercise any power, or perform any duty or function, to enable the project to be carried out.