



# Raise Your Voice

Navigating and getting involved in the mining review process

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For those who have been in the Yukon for millenia or months, the impact of mining in the territory is hard to miss. The legacy of the Klondike Goldrush is seen and felt across the landscape. Abandoned dredges, mine shafts, and old camp sites dot the territory, while unseen contamination from failed mines leaves people unable to trust the land.

Mining projects move through the regulatory system every day, from exploration proposals to water licenses and inspection reports, to closure and remediation. Although information about mining projects in the Yukon is publicly available, it's hard to find—and even harder to understand! Knowing what's happening with these projects is an important part of having a say in mining in your community and across the territory.

This guide dives into where to access information, at all stages of a project's lifetime, as well as how and when you can share your opinion about proposed and active mining!



## Step 1

### Impact Assessment

*Submit a comment through YESAB during a two week window.*



## Step 2

### Water License

*Submit a comment through Waterline or attend a public hearing.*



## Step 3

### Land Use Permit

*Stay up to date on permits through the Mining Land Use Registry.*



## Step 4

### Monitoring and Inspection

*Check in on mining operations through their monitoring and inspection reports.*

## WHY SHOULD I CARE ABOUT MINING PROJECTS AND REGULATIONS?

Public consultation is all about asking you what you think and want. It's an essential part of the mining review and regulation process. When people like you participate in comment periods and public hearings, project leaders and government officials use the public's opinion to help decide if a project should go ahead or not, and how it should operate if it does.

When Yukoners don't participate, mining companies and regulators aren't being watched by the people and communities their projects will affect.

This can lead to complacency at all levels when projects are proposed without properly considering changing environmental and social factors. Complacency opens the door to accidents, mismanagement, and even environmental disasters like the [Eagle Mine heap leach failure](#) that began in June 2024.

Your opinion matters and can be shared at more than one stage of the project review process.

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## Step 1: Impact Assessment

YESAB stands for the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board. Proponents, the people or companies that want to mine in an area, submit an application to YESAB, which does impact assessments and recommends changes to projects. YESAB does not issue development permits, but their assessments are a key step in mining review. They consider environmental and social values and give the public a chance to share their opinion on the effects of mining in the region.

Once an assessment is complete, **YESAB issues a recommendation of whether a project should or should not go ahead**, to the Decision Body, which is typically the Yukon government. When proposed projects are on First Nations Settlement Lands, the First Nation is the Decision Body.

It's important to know that YESAB was born out of the Umbrella Final Agreements, signed between eleven Yukon First Nations, the Yukon government, and the Government of Canada. Unceded Yukon First Nations (Liard River First Nation, Ross River Dena Council and White River First Nation) never signed onto the treaty, but projects in their traditional territories must go through YESAB regardless.

If you would like to know more about what projects are being proposed in the territory, check out the [YESAB Registry](#). The map that comes up shows projects currently being assessed at YESAB.

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YESAB Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board

Home Assessment Statistics Emergency Exemption Reports Create Account Log In Start a Proposal

Search for projects... Search ?

☒ Filter By Map  
☐ Include Completed / Withdrawn Projects  
 Clear All Filters  
 >> Advanced Filters

Showing 196 of 196 projects

**2025-0100** Adequacy Review  
 Chum Salmon Restoration Trial - Fishing Branch River  
 Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation Dawson

**2025-0099** Adequacy Review

## ☑ How to navigate the YESAB Registry

- Shut off the **Filter by Map** button so that all projects show up.
- You can **search by project number** in the search bar if you know it. Don't forget the hyphen between the year and project number!
- To view past projects, click the "Include Completed/Withdrawn Projects" box on the **left corner** under the "Filter by Map" box.

## ☑ Curious about one category of project or don't have a project number?

There is an advanced filters feature located above the left project column.

- Filter by **Sector**: try filtering for Mining (Placer, Quartz, Other) projects.
- Filter by **Year**: Adjust the date range slide-bar at the bottom of the filters.
- Filter by **Assessment District**: Select the Assessment District that you live in: Whitehorse, Teslin, Watson Lake, Haines Junction, Mayo, or Dawson.

## ☑ Found a project you are interested in?

- **Create an Account** by clicking the button on the top right of the screen.
- Make sure you **turn on notifications** to stay up to date on project changes.

- YESAB has a **2-week window** for commenting on proposed projects, so keeping up-to-date ensures you don't miss the window to share your thoughts!
- Posting comments through YESAB is a strong way to have your concerns heard at early stages of the project design.

## ☑ Commenting on proposed mining projects through YESAB

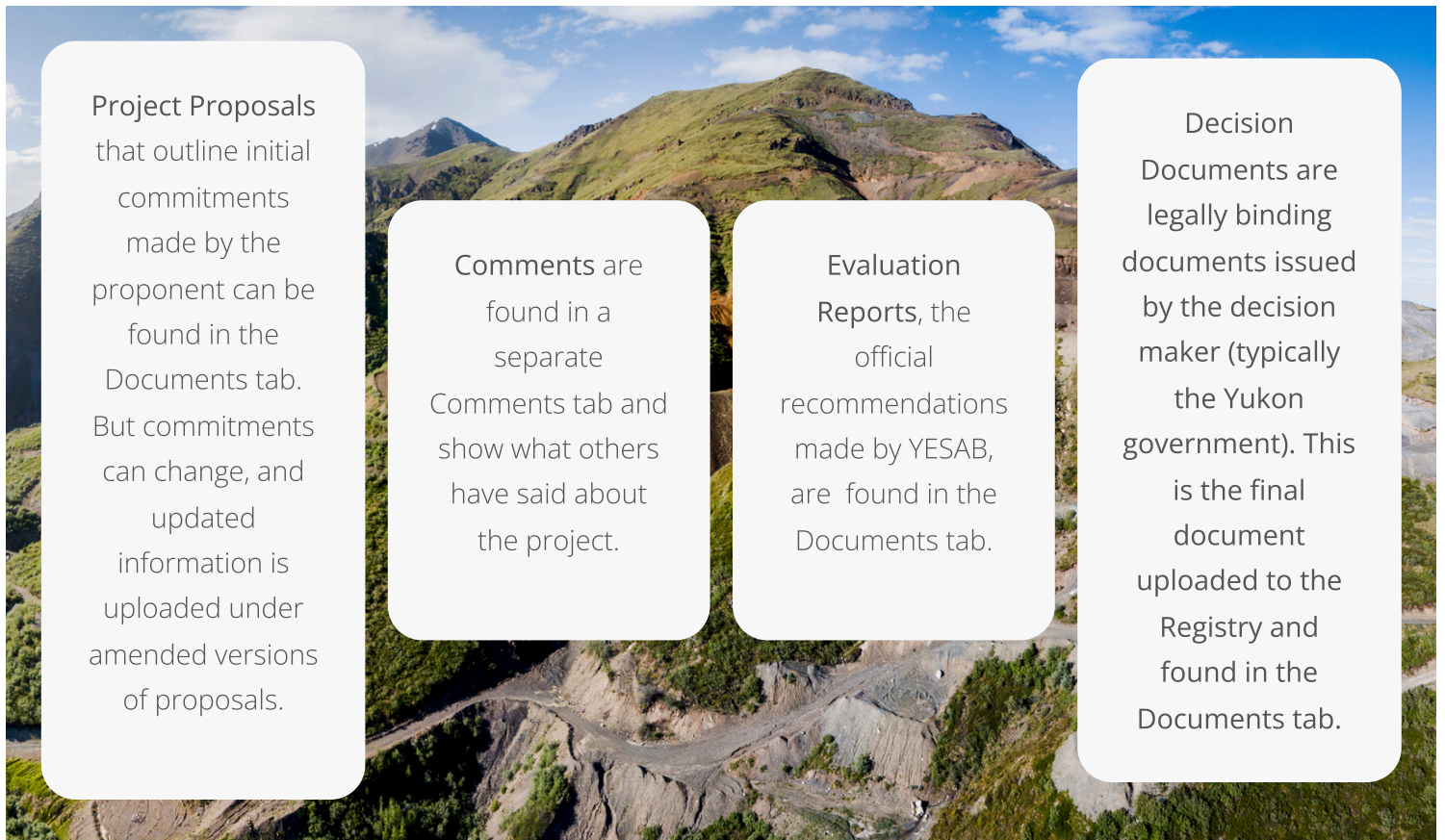
When you submit a comment, don't stop at sharing how you feel about a proposed project, dive deeper into why feel that way with concrete impacts and potential suggestions. Don't be discouraged if a project you comment on goes ahead; **YESAB recommends over 95% of projects proceed**, but can add terms and conditions based on public feedback too.

Check out **YESAB's Guide to Public Participation** to learn about the public comment period and how they consider comments. Here's an excerpt on writing comments:

- What do you value in the proposed project area?
  - Values may include specific wildlife species/populations, environmental elements (land, air, water), aesthetics, social/cultural values (trapping, way of life), etc. How do you use or interact with the area?
- How might those values be affected or impacted by the proposed project, and why?
  - Explain how you think these values would be affected if the project goes ahead. How would this be different from the way it is now?
- Do you have any suggestions for how these effects could be reduced or eliminated?
  - Include any measures you believe may lessen project effects, and why you think these measures would be successful.
- Are your concerns based on your own experience, studies you are familiar with or information passed on to you from someone else?
  - This will help assessors consider your information and allow them to follow-up with questions, if necessary.

TIP: To stay informed about all projects in one area, you can select a boundary of interest and receive notifications about all projects.

## WHERE TO FIND DOCUMENTS IN YESAB



Project Proposals that outline initial commitments made by the proponent can be found in the Documents tab. But commitments can change, and updated information is uploaded under amended versions of proposals.

Comments are found in a separate Comments tab and show what others have said about the project.

Evaluation Reports, the official recommendations made by YESAB, are found in the Documents tab.

Decision Documents are legally binding documents issued by the decision maker (typically the Yukon government). This is the final document uploaded to the Registry and found in the Documents tab.

YESAB makes recommendations that are accepted or rejected by whoever issues the mining land use permit. If YESAB recommends that a project go ahead and that recommendation is accepted by Yukon government, proponents must apply for a water license with the Yukon Water Board.

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## Step 2: Water License

The Yukon Water Board reviews applications and issues water licenses on [Waterline](#). Activities that require a water license are described in [Schedule 2 of the Yukon Waters Act](#) and include both placer and quartz mining activities. These water licenses must be followed by proponents. What they say goes!

The [Water Board](#) considers water-related feedback from the public, so be sure to centre water when you share your thoughts.

☑ How to navigate Waterline

- Waterline doesn't let you filter projects like the YESAB Registry, which makes finding a specific project difficult. You can search for a specific application or license by the **file number, applicant name from YESAB, Traditional Territory, sector**, or browse through the list until you find your application of interest.
- You can sign up for notifications on projects by sector, geographic area, and stage.
- **Application, Active, and Closed Licences** are filed under different tabs. Switch between them to see proposed, approved, or expired projects.

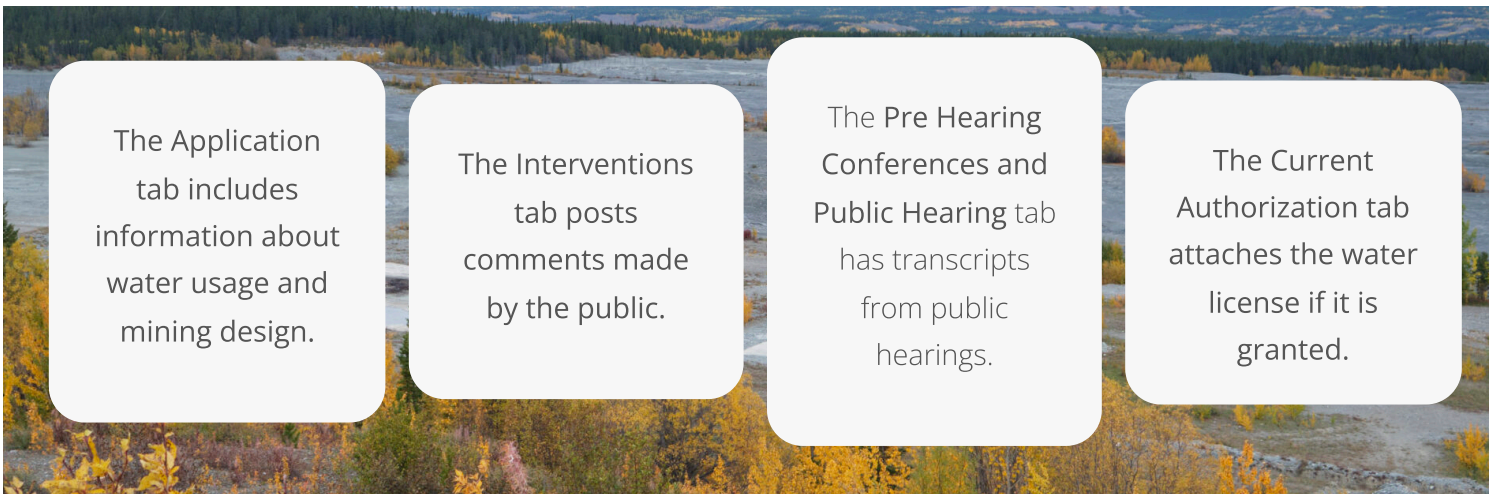
## ☑ Commenting on applications with the Yukon Water Board

- To comment on a license application, create an account (bottom left) by following the prompts.
- Click the "Comment" button on the top heading under the Waterline logo. It will take you to a new page of projects open for public comment. Click on a project to browse the documents. There are many and they can be daunting! The "Water Licence Application" provides project details without getting caught up in the nitty gritty. To see whether any of their details have changed since they applied to YESAB, go back to their YESAB proposal and cross compare.
- Click the Upload Comment button on the top left to submit your comment.
- When a project is of public interest, the Yukon Water Board will trigger a **Public Hearing**. They will set a date and time, and advertise the hearing in the Yukon News newspaper.

TIP: If you don't want to create an account and just want to browse licenses and applications, you can login to Waterline as a Guest (on the bottom right of the web page).

TIP: Sometimes, licenses and company names change. When a license is updated or amended, an additional number is added to the file number (e.g. 2025-XXX becomes 2025-XXX-1), and the Submission Type will say "Amendment." If you are searching for a past project by company name, make sure to use the name that was used when the license was originally submitted.

## WHERE TO FIND DOCUMENTS IN WATERLINE



## Step 3: Land Use Permit

The third step in the mining review is getting a mining land use permit. Mostly, it is the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources at the Yukon government that issues the permit, but a First Nation has that power if the project is on Settlement Lands. The [Mining Land Use Registry](#) shows all the mining land use permits in the territory.

**Mining land use registry**

Quartz Placer Class 1

**Explore valid quartz land use permits**  
This dashboard displays valid Class 3 and 4 quartz mining land use approvals issued by the Mineral Resources branch of the Government of Yukon

Select approval class: All 3 4

**Description**  
This dashboard displays valid Class 3 and 4 quartz mining

**Valid quartz mining land use approvals**

**LQ00424**  
Kudz Ze Kayah  
Operator: BMC Minerals (No.1) Ltd.  
Expiry date: 12/31/2025  
[Details](#)

**LQ00431**  
Mel  
Operator: Silver Range  
[Details](#)

**Quartz approvals by mining district**  
Whitehorse 29 Dawson 21 Watson Lake 9 Mayo 24  
Select a mining district on the pie chart to show valid approvals for

**Valid Class 3 approvals**  
**67**

**Valid Class 4 approvals**  
**16**

Esri, USGS | Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, EPA, NRCAN, Parks Canada | Government of Yukon  
Powered by Esri  
To view all approvals, click on the HOME icon under the downward double arrow button at the top right corner of the map.  
For additional information about the approval, search the [YESAB registry](#) by the YESAB project number.

### 📁 Browsing land use permits

- The **registry** is laid out as a map. **Click on a shape to see the project details:** the date the permit was issued, the number of claims, and their YESAB project number. ID numbers for a project on the Land Use Registry and Waterline are not the same.

- Use the **Zoom feature** to see the number of permits in big or small regions of the Yukon.
- The Land-Use Registry is not a place where you can share your thoughts about mining in the territory, but it shows the commitments proponents must follow while they operate.

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## Step 4: Monitoring and Inspection

Compliance, Monitoring, and Inspection (CMI) Officers check in on mines to ensure miners are abiding by the rules set out in their mining land use permits. Inspection reports show whether mining operations are doing what they said they'd do and following their permits. If reports show that mine operators haven't been following the rules of their permit, it is up to the Yukon government to impose warnings, fines, or revoke their permit.

Reports are uploaded to Waterline, in the Reports section of the Menu (on the left side). Miners do their own reporting too, which are also found under Reports.

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## Other Resources

- The Yukon Government is in the middle of creating new Mineral Legislation for the Territory. The report from their 2023 public engagement is available [here](#).
- [Geo Yukon](#) is an interactive mapping tool. Click on layers in the left-hand column to see information related to development in the Yukon. Clicking the Mining, Quartz Activity, and Land Tenure categories show the thousands of placer and quartz claims across the Territory, and who operates the claims.
- The [Energy, Mines and Resources Library](#) has thousands of online and in-person records about mining development and review. Browse their online catalogue or stop by to talk to someone in person. The library is located at the Elijah Smith building on Main St. The library is open 8:30am – 4:30pm Monday through Friday.
- [Yukon News](#), [CBC North](#), and [APTN News](#) cover mining in the Yukon. Search for "Mining" in their search bar to filter for articles about mining in the territory.

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## Noteworthy Mines

### ☑ Eagle Gold Mine - Heap leach disaster

- First Nation of Na-Cho Nyak Dun [Emergency Response to Eagle Gold Crisis](#) provides up-to-date information about the heap leach failure that is updated regularly.
- [PWC](#) (court appointed Receiver) updates page provides updates from the receiver itself.
- Yukon government [updates page](#) provides updates from the government, including the findings from the independent technical review of the failure.
- [Victoria Gold Corp v Yukon Water Board](#) is the decision issued by the Supreme Court of Yukon regarding Yukon Water Board's breach of procedural fairness in 2020.

### ☑ Gladiator Metals - Proposed exploration in Whitehorse's Copper Belt

- Gladiator Metals is proposing exploration drilling along Whitehorse's Copper Belt. Their [YESAB application](#) has information about the proposed activities and initial commitments.
- Coverage by [CBC North](#) and [Yukon News](#) discusses the proposed exploration project and what it means for the city of Whitehorse.
- Gladiator Metals' [Community Engagement Policy](#) outlines their commitments to the surrounding communities and broader Yukon population.

### ☑ Casino Mine - Proposed open pit mine near Coffee Creek

- Casino Mine is proposing an open pit mine near Coffee Creek. Their [YESAB application](#) has information about the proposed activities and initial commitments.
- Their [Plain Language Summary](#) lays out the proposed activities in readable language.
- Articles from [CBC North](#) and [Yukon News](#) cover the project in mainstream media.