



## Application for Licence Amendment

### Part V Division 3 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*

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<b>Licence Number</b>	L9362/2022/1
<b>Licence Holder</b>	Norton Gold Fields Pty Limited
<b>ACN</b>	112 287 797
<b>File Number</b>	DER2022/000510
<b>Premises</b>	Binduli Operations  Legal description - Part of mining Tenements M26/115, M26/243, M26/387, M26/420, M26/430, M26/445, M26/446, M26/447, M26/474, M26/629 and M26/833.  BINDULI WA 6430  As defined by the premises map in Schedule 1 and the coordinates outlined in Schedule 2.
<b>Date of Report</b>	25 March 2024
<b>Decision</b>	Revised licence granted

**A/Manager, Resources Industries  
Regulatory Services**

an officer delegated under section 20 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (WA)

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## 1. Decision summary

Licence L9362/2022/1 is held by Norton Gold Fields Pty Ltd (Licence Holder) for the Binduli Operations (the Premises), located within mining tenements M26/115, M26/243, M26/387, M26/420, M26/430, M26/445, M26/446, M26/447, M26/474, M26/629 and M26/833.

This Amendment Report documents the assessment of potential risks to the environment and public health from proposed changes to the emissions and discharges during the operation of the Premises. As a result of this assessment, Revised Licence L9362/2022/1 has been granted.

The Revised Licence issued as a result of this amendment consolidates and supersedes the existing Licence previously granted in relation to the Premises.

## 2. Scope of assessment

### 2.1 Regulatory framework

In completing the assessment documented in this Amendment Report, the department has considered and given due regard to its Regulatory Framework and relevant policy documents which are available at <https://dwer.wa.gov.au/regulatory-documents>.

### 2.2 Amendment summary

On 19 December 2023, the Licence Holder submitted an application to the department to amend Licence L9362/2022/1 under section 59 and 59B of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act). The following amendments are being sought:

- The inclusion of Fort William pit as a discharge location for Brine Water that is a waste stream from the Water Treatment Plan (WTP);
- The addition of the pipeline leading from the pre-existing Brine Water pipeline to Fort William pit. Construction of the pipeline leading to Fort William Pit was completed under Works Approval W6504/2021/1 on 13 December 2023 and is currently operating under Time Limited Operations (TLO) since 18 December 2023; and
- Administrative addition of the Barren Liquor Pond (BLP) into the Licence. The Department received the Environmental Compliance Report for the BLP on 27 June 2022. On 29 March 2023 the Department issued Licence L9362/2022/1 to the Licence Holder. This included a risk assessment for Heap leach operations which included the BLP, however at the time the BLP was not included on the licence.

## 3. Risk assessment

The department assesses the risks of emissions from prescribed premises and identifies the potential source, pathway and impact to receptors in accordance with the *Guideline: Risk assessments* (DWER 2020).

To establish a Risk Event there must be an emission, a receptor which may be exposed to that emission through an identified actual or likely pathway, and a potential adverse effect to the receptor from exposure to that emission.

### 3.1 Source-pathways and receptors

#### 3.1.1 Emissions and controls

The key emissions and associated actual or likely pathway during premises operation which

have been considered in this Amendment Report are detailed in Table 1 below. Table 1 also details the proposed control measures the Licence Holder has proposed to assist in controlling these emissions, where necessary.

**Table 1: Licence Holder controls**

Emission	Sources	Potential pathways	Proposed controls
Brine water	Spill, leak from the pipelines.	Direct discharge to land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Telemetry shutoff and leak detection;</li> <li>• Catch pits installed at low points and has capacity to hold the maximum volume of water contained in the pipeline;</li> <li>• Pipelines banded or buried; and</li> <li>• Twice daily inspections of pipelines when operational.</li> </ul>
	Overtopping of discharge pit	Direct discharge to land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Freeboard of 6 m from below the pit crest to be maintained for pit; and</li> <li>• Flow meter installed to monitor volume of water discharged to the pit.</li> </ul>
	Seepage from pit walls and floor	Seepage from base of pit into groundwater	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None proposed</li> </ul>

### 3.1.2 Receptors

In accordance with the *Guideline: Risk assessments* (DWER 2020), the Delegated Officer has excluded employees, visitors and contractors of the Licence Holder’s from its assessment. Protection of these parties often involves different exposure risks and prevention strategies, and is provided for under other state legislation.

Table 2 below provides a summary of potential human and environmental receptors that may be impacted as a result of activities upon or emission and discharges from the prescribed premises (*Guideline: Environmental siting* (DWER 2020)).

**Table 2: Sensitive human and environmental receptors and distance from prescribed activity**

Human receptors	Distance from prescribed activity
Industrial/commercial/residential premises <b>(Screened out)</b>	<p>The nearest industrial/commercial/residential buildings are located approximately 1.2 kms east of Fort Williams.</p> <p>Due to the nature of the amendment activities and the distance to the receptors there is no risk that the operation will affect the receptors.</p>
Environmental receptors	Distance from prescribed activity
Native Vegetation (Mixed Eucalyptus woodlands)	<p>Native vegetation appears both within and surrounds the prescribed premises.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Native vegetation appears to be located</li> </ul>

	<p>adjacent to some sections of pipeline; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approximately 280 m east of Fort Williams.</li> </ul>
RIWI Goldfields Groundwater Area	<p><b>Standing Water Level</b> Currently between <u>7.67 mbgl</u> (August 2023 in MBH08) to <u>28.68 mbgl</u> (February 2023 in MBH05) (Norton 2024).</p> <p>Groundwater appears to flows to the North using data from the 2022 groundwater monitoring events.</p> <p><b>pH</b> Currently between <u>3.21</u> (August 2023 in MBH04) to <u>7.58</u> (February 2023 in MBH08) (Norton 2024).</p> <p><b>TDS</b> Currently between <u>64,800 mg/L</u> (February 2023 in MBH05) to <u>158,000 mg/L</u> (August 2023 in MBH01).</p> <p>The only known groundwater users within 5 kms of the Premises are for mining processing purposes only. There are no other known groundwater users in the local area of the Premises (5 km radius).</p>
Priority or Threatened Flora <b>(Screened out)</b>	<p>Priority and threatened flora were identified nearby the prescribed premises. Nearby identified priority and threatened flora are presented below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>P2 flora species is located approximately 4 km east and southwest of Fort Williams.</li> </ul> <p>No other priority or threatened flora was identified within 5 km of Fort Williams.</p> <p>Due to the distance from the activities, priority and threatened flora are not considered as a receptor.</p>
Native Fauna <b>(Screened out)</b>	<p>Native fauna is expected to vacate the site due to noise emissions generated during site operation.</p> <p>Therefore, native fauna is discounted as a receptor for the risk assessment.</p>
Priority or Threatened Fauna <b>(Screened out)</b>	<p>Priority and threatened fauna were identified nearby the prescribed premises. Identified priority and threatened fauna are presented below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Critically endangered and Priority 1 species identified approximately 4.8 kms of Fort Williams,</li> </ul> <p>No other priority or threatened fauna was identified within 5 km of the prescribed premises boundary.</p> <p>Due to the distance from the activity, the priority and threatened fauna are discounted and not considered as a receptor.</p>

<p>Kurrawang Nature Reserve (DBCA Legislative tenure) <b>(Screened out)</b></p>	<p>Located adjacent to the west side of the prescribed premises boundary and approximately 3.0 kms southwest from Fort William.</p> <p>Due to the distance from the activity and receptor it is concluded that the amendment will not change the risk to the Kurrawang Nature Reserve and will be discounted for this assessment.</p>
<p><u>Marlinyu Ghoorlie Group</u> <i>The Marlinyu Ghoorlie Group submitted a claim in 2017 (WC2017/007). Claim has been accepted by the National Native Title Tribunal.</i> <b>(Screened out)</b></p>	<p>The prescribed premises is located within the Marlinyu Ghoorlie Native Title claim that is “accepted for registration”.</p> <p>As of 1 February 2024 no determination/native currently exists for the claim and therefore is discounted within the risk assessment.</p>
<p>Vulcan 6 (Artefacts/Scatter) <b>(Screened out)</b></p>	<p>Located approximately 2 kms northwest of the prescribed premises.</p> <p>Due to the distance to the receptor the activities on site are unlikely to affect the receptor and therefore the receptor is discounted for this risk assessment.</p>
<p>Binduli Rock Hole (<i>Place ID: 21047</i>) <b>(Screened out)</b></p>	<p>The Binduli Rock Hole is situated adjacent to the prescribed premises and it located approximately 1.5 kms east from Fort Williams Pit.</p> <p>The site type is classified as a “Historical, Mythological, Natural Feature, Water Source.”</p> <p>Due to the distance to the receptor from Fort Williams the operations are unlikely to affect the receptor and therefore the receptor is discounted for this risk assessment.</p>

## 3.2 Risk ratings

Risk ratings have been assessed in accordance with the *Guideline: Risk Assessments* (DWER 2020) for those emission sources which are proposed to change and takes into account potential source-pathway and receptor linkages as identified in Section 3.1. Where linkages are in-complete they have not been considered further in the risk assessment.

Where the Licence Holder has proposed mitigation measures/controls (as detailed in Section 3.1), these have been considered when determining the final risk rating. Where the Delegated Officer considers the Licence Holder's proposed controls to be critical to maintaining an acceptable level of risk, these will be incorporated into the licence as regulatory controls.

Additional regulatory controls may be imposed where the Licence Holder's controls are not deemed sufficient. Where this is the case the need for additional controls will be documented and justified in Table 3.

The Revised Licence L9362/2022/1 that accompanies this Amendment Report authorises emissions associated with the operation of the Premises i.e. discharging brine water into Fort William.

The conditions in the Revised Licence have been determined in accordance with *Guidance Statement: Setting Conditions* (DER 2015).

Table 3. Risk assessment of potential emissions and discharges from the Premises operation

Risk Event					Risk rating <sup>1</sup> C = consequence L = likelihood	Licence Holder's controls sufficient?	Conditions <sup>2</sup> of licence	Justification for additional regulatory controls / general comments
Source/Activities	Potential emission	Potential pathways and impact	Receptors	Licence Holder's controls				
<b>Operation</b>								
Discharge of brine water from Water Treatment Plant to Fort William.	Brine water	<b>Pathways</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Leaks, spills or rupture of pipeline resulting in a discharge to the environment.</li> </ul> <b>Impact</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Direct contact with receptors causing contamination, stress or death.</li> </ul>	Native vegetation		C = Minor L = Possible <b>Medium Risk</b>	Y	Condition 2 – pipelines containing brine discharge requirements (telemetry, automatic cut-outs and secondary containment).  Condition 3 – Pipeline inspection requirement	The Licence Holder is proposing to apply the same controls to Fort Williams Pit as those that apply to the existing brine discharge pit (Fort Scott).  Existing conditions 2 and 3 (pipeline requirements and inspections) apply to the new brine pipeline to Fort William Pit and are sufficient in managing risk of impacts from pipeline leaks/spills.
		<b>Pathways</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Overtopping of pit resulting in a discharge to the environment.</li> </ul> <b>Impact</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Direct contact with receptors.</li> </ul>	Native vegetation	Refer to Section 5.1	C = Minor L = Unlikely <b>Medium Risk</b>	Y	Condition 1 – Pit freeboard requirements Condition 3 – Freeboard inspection requirement Condition 4 – authorised discharge points Condition 5 – Emissions and discharge monitoring	Storage capacity of Fort Willaim pit (excluding freeboard is approximately 2,784,764 m <sup>3</sup> .  It is anticipated that approximately 82,637 m <sup>3</sup> of brine will be discharged to the pit on a monthly basis. With an estimated operating period of 33 months.  The licence holder is proposing to apply the same controls to Fort Williams Pit as those that apply to the existing brine discharge pit (Fort Scott). This includes a freeboard requirement of 6 meters below pit crest.  This is sufficient to mitigate the risk of impacts from overtopping of the pit.  Conditions 1 and 3 (which outlines freeboard and inspection requirements) has been updated to include Fort William Pit.  Condition 5 have also been updated to require monitoring of the volume of water discharge to fort William pit via a flow meter.
		<b>Pathways</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Leaching of brine water through Fort William base or walls.</li> </ul> <b>Impact</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Groundwater mounding /groundwater quality changes.</li> </ul>	Native vegetation  Groundwater		C = Moderate L = Unlikely <b>Medium Risk</b>	Y	Condition 1 – Pit freeboard requirements Condition 3 – Freeboard inspection requirement Condition 4 – authorised discharge points Condition 5 – Emissions and discharge monitoring	Mine dewater sourced from Navajo Chief Pit and Centurion pits are pumped through a pit water pipeline to the water treatment plant so the water can be treated for use in the heap leach process. The waste stream from this water treatment plant (brine) was being discharged to Fort Scott Pit and is now being discharged to Fort Willam Pit under time limited operations (W6504/2021/1).  The brine water from the water treatment plan has elevated levels of total dissolved solids and a number of dissolved major cations and metal concentrations. This is expected given the brine



Risk Event					Risk rating <sup>1</sup> C = consequence L = likelihood	Licence Holder's controls sufficient?	Conditions <sup>2</sup> of licence	Justification for additional regulatory controls / general comments
Source/Activities	Potential emission	Potential pathways and impact	Receptors	Licence Holder's controls				
								<p>water contains concentrated left-over salts and metals that have been removed by the water treatment plant. Although metal concentrations recorded in the brine water samples are elevated, the water discharged into Fort William pit is likely to become diluted when it is mixed into the large volume of pit water and therefore impacts to groundwater quality is expected to be low.</p> <p>The only known groundwater users within 5 kms of the Premises are for mining processing purposes only. There are no other known groundwater users in the local area of the Premises (5 km radius).</p> <p>The licence holder is proposing to maintain a 6 meter freeboard within the pit which should ensure any potential groundwater mounding does not impact the root zones of native vegetation located close to the discharge pit.</p> <p>Conditions 1 and 3 (which outlines freeboard and inspection requirements) has been updated to include Fort William Pit.</p>

Note 1: Consequence ratings, likelihood ratings and risk descriptions are detailed in the *Guideline: Risk assessments* (DWER 2020).

Note 2: Proposed Licence Holder's controls are depicted by standard text. **Bold and underline text** depicts additional regulatory controls imposed by department.

## 4. Consultation

Table 4 provides a summary of the consultation undertaken by the department.

**Table 4: Consultation**

Consultation method	Comments received	Department response
Licence Holder was provided with draft amendment on (19 March 2024)	Licence holder responded on 21/03/2024 with no comments and requesting the final licence to be issued asap.	Noted.

## 5. Conclusion

Based on the assessment in this Amendment Report, the Delegated Officer has determined that a Revised Licence will be granted, subject to conditions commensurate with the determined controls and necessary for administration and reporting requirements.

### 5.1 Summary of amendments

Table 5 provides a summary of the proposed amendments and will act as record of implemented changes. All proposed changes have been incorporated into the Revised Licence as part of the amendment process.

**Table 5: Summary of licence amendments**

Condition no.	Proposed amendments
1	Addition of Fort William Pit to the table of site infrastructure and equipment to have a 6 m freeboard and to receive brine water from the WTP.
1	Included Barron Water Pond to the list of processing and raw water ponds requiring a freeboard and HDPE liner.
3	Addition of Fort William Pit to require visual inspection when discharging brine water to pit.
4	Addition of Fort Williams Pit as a discharge point for brine water from the WTP
5	Addition of Fort William Pit to table requiring volume of water discharged to be monitored and the SWL.
Definitions	Added additional definitions of abbreviations used within the Licence.
Schedule 1: Figure 3	Amended Figure to include Fort William Pit as a discharge location.

## References

1. Department of Environment Regulation (DER) 2015, *Guidance Statement: Setting Conditions*, Perth, Western Australia.
2. Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) 2020, *Guideline: Environmental Siting*, Perth, Western Australia.
3. DWER 2020, *Guideline: Risk Assessments*, Perth, Western Australia.
4. Norton Gold Fields 2024, Annual Environmental Report, L8327, L8512, L8692 & L9362, Reporting Period: 1 January – 31 December 2023.

## Appendix 1: Application validation summary

SECTION 1: APPLICATION SUMMARY				
Application type				
Works approval	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Licence	<input type="checkbox"/>	Relevant works approval number:		None <input type="checkbox"/>
		Has the works approval been complied with?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
		Has time limited operations under the works approval demonstrated acceptable operations?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/>	
		Environmental Compliance Report submitted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
		Date Report received:		
Renewal	<input type="checkbox"/>	Current licence number:		
Amendment to works approval	<input type="checkbox"/>	Current works approval number:		
Amendment to licence	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Current licence number:	L9362/2022/1	
		Relevant works approval number:	W6504/2021	N/A <input type="checkbox"/>
Registration	<input type="checkbox"/>	Current works approval number:		None <input type="checkbox"/>
Date application received	19 December 2024			
Applicant and Premises details				
Applicant name/s (full legal name/s)	Norton Gold Field Pty Limited			
Premises name	Binduli North Minesite			
Premises location	Mining tenements: M26/115, M26/243, M26/387, M26/420, M26/430, M26/445, M26/446, M26/447, M26/474, M26/629, M26/833			
Local Government Authority	City of Kaloorlie-Boulder			
Application documents				
HPCM file reference number:	DER2022/000510			
Key application documents (additional to application form):	N/A			
Scope of application/assessment				

<p>Summary of proposed activities or changes to existing operations.</p>	<p><b><u>Licence amendment</u></b></p> <p>This Licence amendment is to include Fort William (Pit) as a discharge location for Brine Water from the Water Treatment Plant (WTP). Construction of the pipeline leading to Fort William was completed under Works Approval W6504/2021/1 on 13 December 2023 and is currently operating under Time Limited Operations (TLO) since 18 December 2023.</p> <p>On 30 January 2024 the Department called the Licence Holder and the Department was informed that the Barren Liquor Pond (BLP) was never added to Licence L9362/2022/1 from Works Approval W6504/2021/1. It was reviewed and confirmed that the BLP was added to the initial Works Approval, an Environmental Compliance Report was completed for it and the BLP was incorporated into the decision report and risk assessment on 29 March 2023. Under this amendment the BLP will be added to the Licence under an administrative amendment only as the risk assessment had already been completed in March 2023.</p>
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**Category number/s (activities that cause the premises to become prescribed premises)**

**Table 1: Prescribed premises categories**

Prescribed premises category and description	Assessed production or design capacity	Proposed changes to the production or design capacity
Category 5: Processing or beneficiation of metallic or non-metallic ore	5,000,000 tonnes per annual period	N/A
Category 6: Mine dewatering	1,500,000 tonnes per annual period	N/A
Category 7: Vat or in situ leaching of material	5,000,000 tonnes per annual period	N/A
Category 52: Electric power generation	13 MW per annual period	N/A

**Legislative context and other approvals**

<p>Has the applicant referred, or do they intend to refer, their proposal to the EPA under Part IV of the EP Act as a significant proposal?</p>	<p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Referral decision No: Managed under Part V <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Assessed under Part IV <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>Does the applicant hold any existing Part IV Ministerial Statements relevant to the application?</p>	<p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Ministerial statement No: EPA Report No:</p>
<p>Has the proposal been referred and/or assessed under the EPBC Act?</p>	<p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Reference No:</p>

<p>Has the applicant demonstrated occupancy (proof of occupier status)?</p>	<p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Mining lease / tenement <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>                      Expiry:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- M26/115 – Bellamel Mining Pty Ltd – 16/03/2029</li> <li>- M26/243 - Bellamel Mining Pty Ltd – 11/06/2032</li> <li>- M26/387 - Bellamel Mining Pty Ltd – 10/12/2034</li> <li>- M26/420 - Bellamel Mining Pty Ltd – 16/09/2035</li> <li>- M26/430 - Bellamel Mining Pty Ltd – 24/10/2035</li> <li>- M26/445 - Bellamel Mining Pty Ltd – 19/01/2037</li> <li>- M26/446 – Norton Gold Fields Pty Ltd – 29/11/2036</li> <li>- M26/474 – Bellamel Mining Pty Ltd – 3/11/2039</li> <li>- M26/629 – Bellamel Mining Pty Ltd – 19/09/2042</li> <li>- M26/833 – Norton Gold Fields Pty Ltd – 27/01/2036</li> </ul>
<p>Has the applicant obtained all relevant planning approvals?</p>	<p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Approval:                      Expiry date:                      If N/A explain why? – Works occurring on mining tenements</p>
<p>Has the applicant applied for, or have an existing EP Act clearing permit in relation to this proposal?</p>	<p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>CPS No: N/A                      No clearing is proposed.</p>
<p>Has the applicant applied for, or have an existing CAWS Act clearing licence in relation to this proposal?</p>	<p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Application reference No: N/A                      Licence/permit No: N/A                      No clearing is proposed.</p>
<p>Has the applicant applied for, or have an existing RIWI Act licence or permit in relation to this proposal?</p>	<p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Application reference No: N/A                      Licence/permit No: GWL167686 (6,450,000 kL)</p>
<p>Does the proposal involve a discharge of waste into a designated area (as defined in section 57 of the EP Act)?</p>	<p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Name: N/A                      Type: N/A                      Has Regulatory Services (Water) been consulted?                      Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>                      Regional office: N/A</p>

<p>Is the Premises situated in a Public Drinking Water Source Area (PDWSA)?</p>	<p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Name: N/A Priority: N/A Are the proposed activities / landuse compatible with the PDWSA (refer to 9)? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>Is the Premises subject to any other Acts or subsidiary regulations (e.g. <i>Dangerous Goods Safety Act 2004, Environmental Protection (Controlled Waste) Regulations 2004, State Agreement Act xxxx</i>)</p>	<p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p><i>Environmental Protection (Noise) Regulations 1997</i></p>
<p>Is the Premises within an Environmental Protection Policy (EPP) Area?</p>	<p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Is the Premises subject to any EPP requirements?</p>	<p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Is the Premises a known or suspected contaminated site under the <i>Contaminated Sites Act 2003</i>?</p>	<p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Classification: N/A Date of classification: N/A Closest site is "Remediated for restricted use" and is approximately 2 km northeast of the prescribed premises boundary.</p>