



Environmental Rights Act

Annual Report

2023-2024

The *Environmental Rights Act* recognizes the right to protect the integrity, biological diversity and productivity of the ecosystems in the NWT, and to provide NWT residents with the tools and processes needed to ensure these rights are protected by the GNWT.

Section 19 of the *Environmental Rights Act* requires the Minister to table a report to the Legislative Assembly as soon as possible after the end of each year, describing:

- all applications for investigations made under section 8;
- all prosecutions commenced under subsection 12(1);
- all actions commenced under subsection 13(1);
- the disposition of any money received under subparagraph 13(5)(c)(ii); and
- all convictions for offences under subsection 15(1).

In the 2023-2024 fiscal year, no applications for investigations under section 8 of the Act were received. No prosecutions, or actions as detailed in the *Environmental Rights Act* were undertaken. Therefore, there was no deposition of money or convictions for offences.

Update on 2020-2021 Investigation

An investigation into the dispersion of dust from a tailings area at the former Ptarmigan Mine Site on the Ingraham Trail was completed in September 2021.

As the Ptarmigan Mine site is a designated Excepted Waste Site under the Devolution Agreement, the government responsible for the ongoing management of the site is under negotiation.

As an interim measure, the Department of Environment and Climate Change (ECC), with funding from Canada, issued a request for tender for a dust suppression program in May 2022, however after two unsuccessful procurement processes, a contract wasn't awarded until August 2022.



Given the lateness in the season, and the need to consider optimal application conditions (e.g. curing temperatures), dust suppression application was postponed until the summer of 2023. The dust suppressant was applied on the tailings areas in June 2023. ECC will continue the dust suppression program as part of the Excepted Waste Sites care and maintenance program if and when required, through funding from Canada.

This investigation is now considered to be closed and updates will no longer be provided in future annual reports.