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Votre référence / Our file reference

07LN014

June 23, 2010

Mars Society
11111 W. 8th Ave. Unit A
Lakewood, CO 80215

Dear Mr. Zubrin:

Re: **Land Use Permit #N2003J0001**
Type of Operation: Campsite and Research Station
Location: Devon Island, Baffin, NU

This will acknowledge receipt of your request for an extension dated June 18, 2010.

Once our review process is complete, we will contact you further.

Sincerely,

John Craig
Assistant Land Administrator

cc: Manager, Field Operations
RMO - Baffin RMO
NIRB
NPC
CIDMS #412624

Canada

Mars Society
11111 W. 8th Ave. unit A
Lakewood, CO 80215
303-980-0890 (phone) 303-980-0753 (fax)
www.marsociety.org

June 18, 2010

Mr. John Craig
Land Administration
P.O. Box 100
Iqaluit, Nunavut
X0A 0H0
Canada

Dear Mr. Craig:

This letter is to request a one-year extension of the Mars Society's Land Use permit #N2003J0001 so that processing of our Crown Land application relating to the Flashline Mars Arctic Research Station on Devon Island can be completed.

In July 2000, the Mars Society established a research facility at the Mars-like Haughton impact crater site on Devon Island, Nunavut, called the Flashline Mars Arctic Research Station (FMARS). This station has been operated during the summers of 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2007, and 2009. Designed to simulate a landed spacecraft on Mars, the Mars Society's FMARS allows a substantial enhancement in the level of fidelity of human Mars exploration operations research on Devon Island. The FMARS project serves three goals:

- 1) To provide a testbed for studying the many aspects of field exploration operations on a human mission to Mars.
- 2) To provide a capable field research laboratory to help further our understanding of the Arctic, the Earth, Mars, and the possibilities and limits of life on our planet and beyond.
- 3) To inform and inspire people around the world to greater interest in space and science by bringing before them in a tangible form the vision of human exploration of Mars.

The research program carried out at the FMARS is unique. For an extended period of time, a six or seven person crew of scientists and engineers attempts to conduct a sustained program of field exploration in the 75 degree North polar desert of Canada's Devon Island, while working under the same operational constraints as a human expedition exploring Mars. The crew lives in a combination habitat/laboratory module that is an architectural duplicate of a Mars mission unit. Anyone leaving the station to do field research needs to wear a simulated spacesuit, that limited the mobility, agility, dexterity, and sensory abilities of the wearer much as a real spacesuit would, and communication between EVA team members separated by more than a few feet had to be done by suit radio. While in the station, crew members also perform laboratory analysis of samples brought in from the field, repaired equipment, write reports (which are exchanged with Mars Society's Mission Support group via a satellite link that imposes a Mars-like delay on communications), and engage in the chores of daily life living together as a team. The purpose of conducting such simulated operations is to gain essential knowledge of Mars exploration tactics,

human factors issues, and engineering requirements — in short, to start learning how to explore Mars.

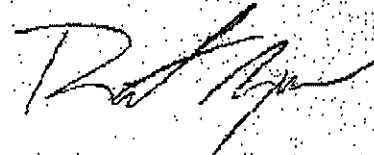
During the 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, and 2009 seasons, the six-person crew operated the station for 4 weeks, while a 14 week operation was done during 2007.

In addition to exploration operations research, the crews of the station engage in substantial public outreach activities, with articles appearing as a result in US and Canadian print, internet, radio, and television media. Prominent among such coverage have been broadcast or print pieces occurring in the CBC, BBC, CNN, Discovery Channel, and *The New York Times*.

For budgetary reasons, since 2005 we have been operating the station on an every-other-year basis. Thus no field operations were done during 2006 and 2008, and none are contemplated for 2010. We intend to resume active field operations in 2011. Between now and then we hope to complete the lease process. In the meantime we need to extend the land use permit so that no removal of our equipment will be required in the interim.

Thank you for your help on this matter.

Yours truly,



Robert Zubrin
President, Mars Society