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DCC on behalf of RPON (Amber Vidal)

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Dear Mosha Cote, Richard Dwyer, Tracey McCaie, Christopher Gerlach, Jared Ottenhof, Gizella Hejjas, and Amber Vidal:

RE: NPC File No: 150837 [DRDC - CCG/Commercial Vessel Supported Research Trials (NWTD)]

The following works and activities have been proposed in the above-noted project proposal:

- 1. Marine-based scientific research:** Renewal of Multiyear DND research application with activities focused on surveillance in maritime Arctic locations. Activities supported by the Canadian Coast Guard and Commercial vessels.
- 2. Modifications to the original/amended project proposal:**
 - Removal of Oceans Canada Network Ocean Observatory Upgrade, and Slocum Glider Trial
 - Recovery of Northern Watch Array
 - CCG on-ship echo sounder Bathymetry Survey
 - Sonobuoys Deployment

- Acoustic projector deployment
- 3. **Associated NPC File No:** 148552, 148823, 149525, 149788, 150057, 150292, and 150448; **Associated NIRB File No:** 08DN056.
- 4. **Location:** Qikiqtani Region; [in and around Gascoyne Inlet, Barrow Strait and Tallurutiup Imanga; approx. 95 Km east of Resolute Bay]

A complete description of the project proposal reviewed by the NPC can be accessed online using the link below.

The Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC) has completed its review of the above-noted project proposal. The NPC previously reviewed works and activities associated with the current proposal, and conformity determinations issued (latest conformity determination issued on June 7, 2024), which still apply. In addition, associated activities were previously screened by the Nunavut Impact Review Board, including the deployment of combinations of underwater and land-based sensor systems and connecting submarine cable for effective surveillance of the high arctic marine environment (NIRB File No.: 08DN056). It conforms to the North Baffin Regional Land Use Plan (NBRLUP). The proponent has undertaken to comply with the applicable conformity requirements of Appendices C, H, and I of the NBRLUP.

The above-noted project proposal is exempt from screening by the NIRB because the NPC is of the understanding that the proposed removal of some sensors and addition of new surveillance equipment does not change the general scope of the original or previously amended project activities, and the exceptions noted in Section 12.4.3 (a) and (b) of the Nunavut Agreement do not apply.

By way of this letter, the NPC is forwarding the project proposal to the regulatory authorities identified by the proponent. Project materials, including the applicable conformity requirements, are available at the following address:

<https://lupit.nunavut.ca/portal/registry/registry.aspx?appid=150837>.

The regulatory authorities to which this letter is addressed are responsible under the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act (NuPPAA)* to implement any of the applicable requirements by incorporating the requirements directly, or otherwise ensuring that they must be met, in the terms and conditions of any authorizations issued.

This conformity determination applies only to the above noted project proposal as submitted. Proponents may not carry out projects and regulatory authorities may not issue licenses, permits and other authorizations in respect of projects if a review by the NPC is required. Regulatory authorities may consult with the NPC to obtain recommendations on their duties to implement the existing land use plans prior to issuing licenses, permits and other authorizations under subsection 69(6) of the *NuPPAA*.

My office would be pleased to discuss how best to implement the applicable requirements and to review any draft authorizations that regulatory authorities wish to provide for that purpose. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (867) 979-3444.

Sincerely,



Goump Djalogue, MCIP, RPP
Manager of Planning and Implementation
Nunavut Planning Commission