



GN-01: Archaeological permits	
Department	Culture and Heritage
Organization	Government of Nunavut
Subject/Topic	Archaeological permits
References	NIRB Notice of Screening; project location maps
CONCERNS	
<p>According to the intended and alternate itineraries provided in the application documents, visits to certain areas will overlap with known archaeological sites and subsequently require an application for an archaeological permit.</p> <p>Under the <i>Nunavut Archaeological and Palaeontology Site Regulations, Nunavut Act</i>, the Department of Culture and Heritage is the Government of Nunavut agency responsible for the management and protection of Nunavut's archaeological heritage. The management and protection of Nunavut's archaeological resources is achieved through legislation, policy and procedures, including the requirement to obtain authorization, in the form of a permit, from the Government of Nunavut. Since 2005, the Government of Nunavut has required that commercial tourism operators interested in visiting Nunavut archaeological or palaeontological sites obtain a Class 1 Permit.</p> <p>The permit process addresses to following concerns:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The landing of thousands of visitors each year at archaeological and historical sites in Nunavut without the knowledge of the Department of Culture and Heritage or Inuit Heritage Trust.</li> <li>• Concerns expressed by archaeologists, tourists and local residents about site protection arising from shipborne tourism.</li> <li>• Incidence of site disturbance.</li> <li>• The potential cumulative effects of large-scale and unregulated site visitations.</li> <li>• The need for accountability with respect to site disturbance arising from tourist activities.</li> </ul> <p>The permit process also provides the following benefits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provides a mechanism through which the Government of Nunavut can obtain information concerning current site conditions (monitoring and reporting) and,</li> <li>• Protects visitor groups from being held responsible for damages to a site that occurred before and after their visit.</li> </ul>	
SUGGESTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	
<p>As the Proponent has already applied for the required permits, the GN would like to take this opportunity to stress that they respect the requirements of the archaeological permits if/when they are</p>	

issued and to pay special attention to the concerns noted above during landings and exploration of the indicated coastlines.

#### **ADDITIONAL COMMENTS**

Permit applications must be submitted to the Department of Culture and Heritage by March 31 of each year. Permits are usually issued in late-May to early-June. Each permit application is also reviewed by Inuit Heritage Trust and forwarded to nearby communities. Article 33 of the Nunavut Land Claim Agreement and Article 20 of the Nunavik Land Claim Agreement provide the framework for decisions concerning approval or denial of permits. Government's decisions concerning the issuance or denial of permits are made in accordance with the provisions of the land claims agreements.