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Building *Nunavut* Together
Nunavut liuqatigiingniq
Bâtir le *Nunavut* ensemble

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Government of Nunavut
Nunavut Kavamat
Gouvernement du Nunavut

July 2, 2021

Guillaume Daoust
Technical Advisor I
Nunavut Impact Review Board
P.O. Box 1360
Cambridge Bay, NU, X0B 0C0

Sent VIA Email: info@nirb.ca

**RE: Notice of Screening for Kivalliq Inuit Association's "Kivalliq Hydro-Fibre Link
Baseline Research" Project Proposal**

Dear Mr. Daoust,

The Government of Nunavut (GN) would like to thank the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) for the opportunity to provide comments on Kivalliq Inuit Association's "Kivalliq Hydro-Fibre Link Baseline Research" Project Proposal. The GN has reviewed the proposed project and has prepared the comments from Culture and Heritage for your consideration (see Appendix).

The GN looks forward to further information on this project from NIRB. Should there be any concerns or need for follow-up, please do not hesitate to contact me by phone at 867-975-7828 or by email at asimonfalvy@gov.nu.ca.

Qujannamiik,

[Original Signed By]

Agnes Simonfalvy
Avatilirinirq Coordinator
Government of Nunavut

Appendix

GN-01: Archaeological and Palaeontological sites	
Department	Culture and Heritage
Organization	Government of Nunavut
Subject/Topic	Kivalliq Hydro-Fibre Link Baseline Research
References	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NIRB Notice of Screening Notice of Screening for Kivalliq Inuit Association's "Kivalliq Hydro-Fibre Link Baseline Research" Project Proposal
CONCERNS	
<p>The Kivalliq Hydro-Fibre Link (KHFL) is a renewable energy and broadband internet infrastructure project led by the Kivalliq Inuit Association ("KIA") of Nunavut. The project will connect communities of the Kivalliq region of Nunavut (Arviat, Baker Lake, Chesterfield Inlet, Rankin Inlet and Whale Cove) to the Manitoba electricity and fibre-optic grids.</p> <p>The Nunavut portion of the development corridor extends for nearly 700km from the Manitoba border to slightly north of Baker Lake in addition to about 335 km of branch lines extending from the main line to Meadowbank mine, Meliadine mine, Baker Lake, Chesterfield Inlet, Rankin Inlet, Whale Cove, and Arviat.</p> <p>A search of the Nunavut Archaeological Site Database indicates that 1012 archaeological sites are recorded in the vicinity of the proposed development corridor. Of these 801 sites are clustered around current mining and exploration projects and the above-noted communities. The remaining 211 sites are located along the proposed KHFL linear corridor. This however does not preclude the presence of unidentified sites or cultural features as to this day no systematic archaeological reconnaissance has been conducted in this general area.</p> <p>The Project development corridor follows a path of high archaeological potential and is geographically located in an interconnecting system of rivers and lakes draining into the west coast of Hudson Bay. The area is also a prime caribou hunting ground (Qamanirjuaq herd) that has been traditionally used (Dene and Inuit) and continue to be used extensively by Inuit of the Kivalliq. The large number of archaeological sites recorded in this general area is attesting to the intensity of use over several millenia.</p>	
RECOMMENDATIONS	
<p>A Class 2 archaeology permit is required from the Department of Culture and Heritage.</p>	

On the basis that a large number of archaeological sites is recorded along the proposed KHFL development corridor and that large sections of the proposed corridor (including branch lines) have not been the object of archaeological surveys the Department of Culture and Heritage recommends that an archaeological program be initiated prior to any land disturbance activities in order to record archaeological/heritage sites and implement appropriate mitigation measures.

CH recommendations are the following:

1. A qualified archaeologist must apply for a Class 2 permit to conduct an archaeological field assessment and inventory along the proposed development corridor and any additional areas subject to ground disturbance activities (tower, temporary camps, associated components, airstrip).
2. No activities be conducted in the vicinity (50 m buffer zone) of any archaeological/historical sites. If archaeological sites or features are encountered, activities should immediately be interrupted and moved away from this location. Each site encountered needs to be recorded and reported to the Government of Nunavut Territorial Archaeology Office.

All archaeological and palaeontological sites in Nunavut are protected under the Nunavut Act. The Proponent must understand that it is their responsibility to ensure that no heritage resource sites are disturbed in the course of their activities. No person shall alter, or otherwise disturb an archaeological site, or remove any artifact from an archaeological site without the proper authorizations. Moreover, the building of inuksuit is not recommended.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

N/A