



SCREENING DECISION REPORT NIRB FILE No.: 21CN026

NIRB File No.: 21CN026
Parks Canada Referral

June 14, 2024

Following the Nunavut Impact Review Board's (NIRB or Board) assessment of all materials provided, the NIRB is recommending that a review of Parks Canada's (PC) "Dundee Bight Operational Camp – Qausuittuq National Park" is not required pursuant to Article 12, Section 12.4.4(a) of the *Agreement between the Inuit of the Nunavut Settlement Area and Her Majesty the Queen in right of Canada (Nunavut Agreement)* and s. 92(1)(a) of the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act*, S.C. 2013, c. 14, s. 2 (*NuPPAA*).

Subject to the Proponent's compliance with the terms and conditions as set out in below, the NIRB is of the view that the project proposal is not likely to cause significant public concerns, and it is unlikely to result in significant adverse environmental and social impacts. The NIRB therefore recommends that the responsible Minister accepts this Screening Decision Report.

OUTLINE OF SCREENING DECISION REPORT

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REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

The primary objectives of the NIRB are set out in Article 12, Section 12.2.5 of the *Nunavut Agreement* and are confirmed by s. 23 of the *NuPPAA*:

Nunavut Agreement, Article 12, Section 12.2.5: In carrying out its functions, the primary objectives of NIRB shall be at all times to protect and promote the existing and future well-being of the residents and communities of the Nunavut Settlement Area, and to protect the ecosystemic integrity of the Nunavut Settlement Area. NIRB shall take into account the well-being of the residents of Canada outside the Nunavut Settlement Area.

The purpose of screening is provided for under Article 12, Section 12.4.1 of the *Nunavut Agreement* and s. 88 of the *NuPPAA* which states:

NuPPAA, s. 88: The purpose of screening a project is to determine whether the project has the potential to result in significant ecosystemic or socio-economic impacts and, accordingly, whether it requires a review by the Board...

To determine whether a review of a project is required, the NIRB is guided by the considerations as set out under Article 12, Section 12.4.2(a) and (b) of the *Nunavut Agreement* and s. 89(1) of *NuPPAA* which states:

NuPPAA, s. 89(1): The Board must be guided by the following considerations when it is called on to determine, on the completion of a screening, whether a review of the project is required:

- (a) a review is required if, in the Board's opinion,
 - i. the project may have significant adverse ecosystemic or socio-economic impacts or significant adverse impacts on wildlife habitat or Inuit harvest activities,
 - ii. the project will cause significant public concern, or
 - iii. the project involves technological innovations, the effects of which are unknown; and
- (b) a review is not required if, in the Board's opinion,
 - i. the project is unlikely to cause significant public concern, and
 - ii. its adverse ecosystemic and socioeconomic impacts are unlikely to be significant, or are highly predictable and can be adequately mitigated by known technologies.

It is noted that under Article 12, Section 12.4.2(c) and s. 89(2) of the *NuPPAA* provides that the considerations set out in s.89(1)(a) prevail over the considerations set out in s. 89(1)(b) of the *NuPPAA*.

As set out under Article 12, Section 12.4.4 of the *Nunavut Agreement* and s. 92(1) of the *NuPPAA*, upon conclusion of the screening process, the Board must provide its written report the Minister. The contents of the NIRB's report are specified under *NuPPAA*:

NuPPAA, s. 92(1): The Board must submit a written report to the responsible Minister containing a description of the project that specifies its scope and indicating that:

- (a) a review of the project is not required;
- (b) a review of the project is required; or
- (c) the project should be modified or abandoned.

Where the NIRB determines that a project may be carried out without a review, the NIRB has the discretion to recommend specific terms and conditions to be attached to any approval of the project proposal pursuant to paragraph 92(2)(a) of *NuPPAA* as follows:

NuPPAA, s. 92(2) In its report, the Board may also

- (a) recommend specific terms and conditions to apply in respect of a project that it determines may be carried out without a review.

PROJECT REFERRAL

On March 4, 2024, the NIRB received a referral to screen Parks Canada's (PC) "Dundee Bight Operational Camp-Qausuittuq National Park" project proposal directly from Parks Canada pursuant to s. 167 of the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act (NuPPAA)*. The NIRB noted that the proposed project would be located within the Qausuittuq National Park and pursuant to s. 70(1) of the *NuPPAA*, the Nunavut Planning Commission conformity determination process does not apply.¹ Due to the proposal containing activities that are sufficiently related to previously assessed activities under NIRB file number **21CN026**, the NIRB views this project proposal as an amendment to the previously screened project and has assigned this proposal with this previous file number. Please reference this file number in all future related correspondence. A summary of the previously screened project activities can be found in [Appendix A](#).

PROJECT OVERVIEW & THE NIRB ASSESSMENT PROCESS

1. Screening Process Timelines

The following key stages were completed for the screening process:

| Date | Stage |
|---------------|---|
| March 4, 2024 | Receipt of amended project proposal from Parks Canada |
| March 8, 2024 | Request to complete public registry online and provide information pursuant to s. 144(1) of the <i>NuPPAA</i> |

¹ Subsection 70(1) states of the *NuPPAA*: This Part and the broad planning policies, priorities and objectives, the specific planning objectives and any land use plan, established under this Part, do not apply in respect of a park that has been established or to a historic place that has been designated under the *Historic Sites and Monuments Act* and is administered by the Parks Canada Agency.

| Date | Stage |
|---------------|---|
| March 8, 2024 | Receipt of online application from Proponent |
| May 1, 2024 | Proponent responded to information request(s) and provided additional information |
| May 1, 2024 | Scoping pursuant to s. 86(1) of the <i>NuPPAA</i> |
| May 10, 2024 | Public engagement and comment request |
| May 24, 2024 | Receipt of public comments |
| June 14, 2024 | Issuance of Screening Decision Report |

2. Project Scope

The following table provides a summary of the *original* project as previously screened by the NIRB and summary of the previously screened project activities can be found in [Appendix A](#). All documents received and pertaining to the original screening can be accessed from the NIRB's Public Registry at www.nirb.ca/project/125613:

| | | | | | |
|--|---|-------------------------------|--|------------------|-----------|
| Project: | New Temporary Operational Camp at Dundee Bight and Extension for Using Dome Camp as a Secondary Camp | | | | |
| Region: | Qikiqtani (North Baffin) | | | | |
| Location: | Qausuittuq National Park | | | | |
| Closest Community: | Resolute Bay | Distance (approximate) | Dundee Bight camp is 193 kilometers (km) Dome Camp – 220 km | Direction | Northwest |
| Summary of Project Description: | The Proponent intends to construct a new temporary operational camp at Dundee Bight with hard sided shelters and a bear fence to provide safe accommodation and or shelter for staff, visitors, and community members who are accessing the area for operational, visitation, cultural or emergency purposes. | | | | |
| Project Proposed Timeline: | April 2022 to August 2026 | | | | |

The following table provides a summary of the current *amended* project as proposed by Parks Canada:

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Amended Project: | Dundee Bight Operational Camp-Qausuittuq National Park |
| Region: | The project would be located in the same area as previously approved and would be located within the Qikiqtani region. |

| | | | | | |
|--|--|-------------------------------|---------------------|------------------|-----------|
| Location: | Qausuittuq National Park | | | | |
| Closest Community: | Resolute Bay | Distance (approximate) | 200 kilometers (km) | Direction | southeast |
| Summary of Project Description: | The Proponent intends to amend the scope of previously approved activities to make a permanent camp and visitor area by expanding the existing facilities and conducting annual maintenance for approximately the next 10 years. | | | | |
| Project Proposed Timeline: | July 2024 to June 2034 | | | | |

As required under s. 86(1) of the *NuPPAA*, the Board accepts the scope of the project as set out by Parks Canada in the proposal. The scope of the amended project proposal includes the following undertakings, works, or activities:

- The camp would continue to be used intermittently throughout the year for research and park meetings with Park Management Committee and community groups, and set up bases for other project such as clean-up, and training and development of staff;
- Construction and maintenance of the following permanent infrastructure for the safety and use of camp users:
 - Continuing usage of camp infrastructure from the temporary camp;
 - new platforms and hard sided shelters and kitchen, sheds, outhouse/garbage storage, change room/shower, and permanent grey water pit;
 - Permanent fuel containment area for approximately 50 drums of fuel year-round and a smaller berm near camp to re-fuel equipment both with spill kits;
 - Installation of a double walled fuel tank with appropriate containment;
 - Installation of water pump and tank to be filled seasonally;
 - Installation of a small portable solar power system;
 - Installation of a weather station; and
 - Upgrade of the electric Bear Fence
- Installation of signage at the camp;
- Maintain aircraft access for fixed wing and helicopters to bring personnel, supplies, and fuel to and from the camp;
- Waste would be flown to Resolute Bay for appropriate disposal; and
- If camp ever permanently closed, all structures would be removed, and area cleaned up to Parks Canada's standards.

3. Inclusion or Exclusion to Scoping List

The NIRB has identified no additional works or activities in relation to the project proposal. As a result, the NIRB proceeded with screening the project based on the scope as described above.

4. Public Comments and Concerns

Notice regarding the NIRB's screening of this project proposal was distributed on May 10, 2024, to community organizations in Resolute Bay, as well as to relevant federal and territorial government agencies, Inuit organizations and other parties. The NIRB requested that interested parties review the proposal and provide the Board with any comments or concerns by May 22, 2024, regarding:

- Whether the project proposal is likely to arouse significant public concern; and if so, why;
- Whether the project proposal is likely to cause significant adverse eco-systemic or socio-economic effects; and if so, why;
- Whether the project proposal is likely to cause significant adverse impacts on wildlife habitat or Inuit harvest activities; and if so, why;
- Whether the project proposal is of a type where the potential adverse effects are highly predictable and mitigable with known technology, (and providing any recommended mitigation measures); and
- Any matter of importance to the Party related to the project proposal.

On or before May 22, 2024, the NIRB received comments from the following interested parties:

- **Government of Nunavut**
- **Fisheries and Oceans Canada**

a. Summary of Public Comments and Concerns Received during the Public comment period of this file

The following provides a summary of the comments and concerns received by the NIRB:

Government of Nunavut

- Had no comments to share

Fisheries and Oceans Canada

- Noted that the Proponent did not discuss any measures to protect fish and recommended that the Proponent review and implement any relevant [Measures to protect fish and fish habitat \(dfo-mpo.gc.ca\)](#) and review the Interim Code of Practice for End-of-pipe fish screens (<http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/pnw-ppe/codes/screens-ecran-eng.html>) and determine if it can comply with the conditions and measures set out in the Interim Code of Practice to determine if a Request for Review of the project needs to be completed.

b. Comments and Concerns with respect to Inuit Qaujimaningit, Traditional, and Community Knowledge

No concerns or comments were received with respect to Inuit Qaujimaningit or traditional and community knowledge in relation to the proposed project.

ASSESSMENT OF THE PROJECT PROPOSAL IN ACCORDANCE WITH PART 3 OF THE *NuPPAA*

In determining whether a review of the project is required, the Board considered whether the project proposal had potential to result in significant ecosystemic or socio-economic impacts.

Accordingly, the assessment of impact significance was based on the analysis of those factors that are set out under s. 90 of the *NuPPAA*. The Board took particular care to take into account Inuit Qaujimaningit, traditional and community knowledge in carrying out its assessment and determination of the significance of impacts.

The following is a summary of the Board's assessment of the factors that are relevant to the determination of significant impacts with respect of this project proposal:

| Factor | Comment |
|--|---|
| The size of the geographic area, including the size of wildlife habitats, likely to be affected by the impacts. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The physical footprint of the proposed project components is within the Qausuittuq National Park at both the Dundee Bight camp and Dome Camp. ▪ The proposed project would take place within habitats of far-ranging wildlife species such as caribou, migratory and non-migratory birds, Arctic fox, Arctic hare and Species at Risk such as polar bears. |
| The ecosystemic sensitivity of that area. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No specific areas of ecosystemic sensitivity have been identified by the Proponent within the physical footprint of the proposed project. |
| The historical, cultural and archaeological significance of that area. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No specific areas of historical, cultural and archaeological significance have been identified by the Proponent within the physical footprint of the proposed project. |
| The size of the human and the animal populations likely to be affected by the impacts. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The proposed project is unlikely to result in impacts to local human and animal populations. ▪ Impact on animals is considered to be minimal due to the temporary nature of the activities occurring in an existing area of infrastructure. |
| The nature, magnitude and complexity of the impacts; the probability of the impacts occurring; the frequency and duration of the impacts; and the reversibility or irreversibility of the impacts. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A zone of influence of up to 10 km from the most potentially-disruptive project activities was selected for the NIRB's assessment. ▪ With adherence to the relevant regulatory requirements and application of the mitigation measures recommended by the NIRB, no significant residual effects are expected to occur. |
| The cumulative impacts that could result from the impacts of the project combined with those of any other | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The NIRB has not identified any past, present, and reasonably foreseeable projects at this time; however, the mitigation measures recommended |

| Factor | Comment |
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| project that has been carried out, is being carried out or is likely to be carried out. | by the NIRB have been designed to reduce cumulative effects should projects occur in the area in the future. |
| Any other factor that the Board considers relevant to the assessment of the significance of impacts. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Dundee Bight Camp will provide a safer and stronger shelter for staff, visitors and community members who are accessing the area. |

VIEWS OF THE BOARD

In considering the factors as set out above in the screening of the project proposal, the NIRB has identified a number of issues below and respectfully provide the following views regarding whether or not the proposed project has the potential to result in significant impacts. In addition, the NIRB has proposed terms and conditions that would mitigate the potential adverse impacts identified.

The NIRB has listed specific Acts and Regulations below that may be applicable to the project proposal but this list should not be considered as a complete list and the Proponent is responsible to ensure that it follows all Acts and Regulations that may be applicable to the project proposal.

Ecosystem, wildlife habitat and Inuit harvesting activities:

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| Valued Component | Terrestrial wildlife including caribou, migratory and non-migratory birds, Arctic fox, Arctic hare and Species at Risk such as polar bears. |
| Potential effects: | Potential adverse effects resulting from noise and visual disturbance generated from the transportation of personnel and equipment via aircraft and snowmobile to and from the camp site, associated camp activities, and construction of the new permanent shelter and bear fence. |
| Nature of Impacts: | The potential for impacts is applicable to a small geographic area within the Qausuittuq National Park and is limited due to the temporary and low-impact nature of the activities. |
| Mitigating Factors: | Waste would be stored in animal proof containers until it can be transported to Resolute Bay for proper disposal. The proposed activities are taking place at the existing Dome Camp, and thus additional impacts are expected to be minimal. |
| Previously Recommended Terms and Conditions: | Wildlife General – 13 through 15 Migratory Birds and Raptors Disturbance – 16 and 17 Caribou and Muskoxen Disturbance – 18 through 24 Road and Ground Disturbance – 25 Land Use and Restoration of Disturbed Areas – 26 through 29 |
| Proposed New Terms and Conditions: | N/A |

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| Related Acts and/or Regulations: | <p>The Board previously recommended in the July 21, 2021 Screening Decision Report(s) the following legislation, which continues to apply to the current proposal:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The <i>Migratory Birds Convention Act</i> and <i>Migratory Birds Regulations</i> (http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/M-7.01/). 2. The <i>Species at Risk Act</i> (http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/S-15.3/index.html). Attached in Appendix B is a list of Species at Risk in Nunavut. 3. The <i>Wildlife Act (Nunavut)</i> and its corresponding regulations (http://www.canlii.org/en/nu/laws/stat/snu-2003-c-26/latest/snu-2003-c-26.html). |
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| Valued Component | Land, terrestrial vegetation, and ground stability |
| Potential effects: | Potential adverse impacts to the ground stability, vegetation quality, and terrain due to camp operations, construction of a new camp, and moving of equipment. |
| Nature of Impacts: | The potential for impacts is considered to be limited if regulations and best practices for construction operations are followed. The potential for disturbance due to other activities is considered to be minimal due to the localized and temporary nature of the activities. |
| Mitigating Factors: | Combustible disturbance to the land would be minimal and waste generated by the project would be handled and disposed of properly. Noncombustible and hazardous waste would be taken for proper disposal. |
| Previously Recommended Terms and Conditions: | Waste Management – 6 Fuel and Chemical Storage – 7 through 12 Road and Ground Disturbance – 25 Land Use and Restoration of Disturbed Areas – 26 through 29 Camps - 30 |
| Proposed New Terms and Conditions: | N/A |
| Related Acts and/or Regulations: | N/A |

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|---------------------------|---|
| Valued Component | Surface water quality, fish and fish habitat, and the aquatic environment |
| Potential effects: | Potential adverse effects resulting from the storage and re-fuelling activities, use of the existing camp, and waste disposal as well as the with drawl of water. |
| Nature of Impacts: | The potential for impacts is applicable to a small geographic area within the Qausuittuq National Park and is limited due to the temporary and low-impact nature of the activities. |

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| Mitigating Factors: | Proposed project activities would include the use of a fuel berm at the Dundee Bight Camp, as well as disposing of all combustible and non-combustible wastes properly at an appropriate facility. |
| Previously Recommended Terms and Conditions: | Waste Management – 6 Fuel and Chemical Storage – 7 through 12 Road and Ground Disturbance – 25 Land Use and Restoration of Disturbed Areas – 26 through 29 Camps - 30 |
| Proposed New Terms and Conditions: | Water courses/Water bodies - 35 |
| Related Acts and/or Regulations: | The Board previously recommended in the July 21, 2021 Screening Decision Report(s) the following legislation, which continues to apply to the current proposal: 1. The <i>Fisheries Act</i> (http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/F-14/index.html). |

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| Valued Component | Inuit harvesting and traditional land use activities. |
| Potential effects: | No specific concerns or impacts to public and traditional land use activities in the area have been identified, however, the Board is recommending terms and conditions to ensure project activities are informed by available Inuit Qaujimaningit and that project activities do not interfere with Inuit wildlife harvesting or traditional land use activities. |
| Nature of Impacts: | The potential for impacts is applicable to a small geographic area within the Qausuittuq National Park and is limited due to the low-impact nature of the activities. |
| Mitigating Factors: | The Proponent has consulted with the Qausuittuq Park Management Committee. Recommended terms and conditions should mitigate the potential adverse impacts. |
| Previously Recommended Terms and Conditions: | Other – 31 and 32 |
| Proposed New Terms and Conditions: | N/A |
| Related Acts and/or Regulations: | The Board previously recommended in the July 21, 2021 Screening Decision Report(s) the following legislation, which continues to apply to the current proposal: 1. <i>The Canada National Parks Act</i> (http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/n-14.01/). |

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| Valued Component | Inuit harvesting and traditional land use activities. |
| Potential effects: | Potential adverse impacts to public and traditional land use activities in the area related to permanent fuel storage in the area, however, the Board is recommending terms and conditions to ensure project infrastructure is properly flagged and identified so it is not accidentally disturbed through the winter. |
| Nature of Impacts: | The potential for impacts is applicable to a small geographic area within the Qausuittuq National Park and is limited due to the low-impact nature of the activities. |
| Mitigating Factors: | The Proponent has consulted with the Qausuittuq Park Management Committee. Recommended terms and conditions should mitigate the potential adverse impacts. |
| Previously Recommended Terms and Conditions: | N/A |
| Proposed New Terms and Conditions: | Fuel and Chemical Storage – 36 through 39 |
| Related Acts and/or Regulations: | 1. The <i>Transportation of Dangerous Goods Act</i> (http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/t-19.01/) and the <i>Transportation of Dangerous Goods Regulations</i> (http://www.tc.gc.ca/eng/tdg/clear-tofc-211.htm). |

Socio-economic effects on northerners:

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| Valued Component | Archaeological and Historical Sites. |
| Potential effects: | No historical sites in the proposed project area were identified by the Proponent, however, the Board is recommending terms and conditions to ensure project activities are informed by available Inuit Qaujimaningit and that project activities do not negatively effect historical or heritage sites. |
| Nature of Impacts: | The potential for impacts is considered to be minimal due to the nature of the activities and due care of the Proponent to avoid disturbance of sites. |
| Mitigating Factors: | As noted, the Board is recommending terms and conditions to ensure that project activities do not negatively affect historical or heritage sites. |
| Previously Recommended Terms and Conditions: | Other - 32 |
| Proposed New Terms and Conditions: | N/A |

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|---|---|
| Related Acts and/or Regulations: | <p>The Board previously recommended in the July 21, 2021 Screening Decision Report(s) the following legislation, which continues to apply to the current proposal:</p> <p>1. The <i>Nunavut Act</i> (http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/N-28.6/). The Proponent must comply with the proposed terms and conditions listed in the attached Appendix B.</p> |
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| Valued Component | Local hiring, contracting and economic impacts. |
| Potential effects: | Establishment of the operational camp could encourage increased visitor access to the Qausuittuq National Park and local community, which could have economic benefits. The Proponent has also committed to hiring local community members for the life of the project. |
| Nature of Impacts: | Positive potential impacts to the community of Resolute Bay |
| Mitigating Factors: | The Board is also recommending terms and conditions to ensure that the Proponent to the extent possible hire local people and access local services where possible, and to ensure planned activities in the area utilize available Inuit Qaujimaningit. |
| Previously Recommended Terms and Conditions: | Other – 31 and 33 |
| Proposed New Terms and Conditions: | N/A |
| Related Acts and/or Regulations: | N/A |

Significant public concern:

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| Valued Component | Public concern. |
| Potential effects: | No significant public concern was expressed during the public commenting period for this file. |
| Nature of Impacts: | The potential for impacts is considered to be minimal as long as the Proponent follows the recommended terms and conditions. |
| Mitigating Factors: | The Board is recommending terms and conditions to ensure project activities do not interfere with Inuit wildlife harvesting or traditional land use activities, to the extent possible hire local people and access local services where possible, and to ensure planned activities in the area utilize available Inuit Qaujimaningit. |
| Previously Recommended Terms and Conditions: | Other – 31 through 33 |

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| Proposed <i>New</i> Terms and Conditions: | N/A |
| Related Acts and/or Regulations: | N/A |

Technological innovations for which the effects are unknown:

- No specific issues have been identified associated with this project proposal.

Administrative Conditions:

To encourage compliance with applicable regulatory requirements and assist the Board and responsible authorities with compliance and effects monitoring for project activities, the Board has previously recommended terms and conditions 1 through 5, which continue to apply to the current project proposal. The Board is also recommending term and condition 34 to ensure complete reference to applicable regulatory requirements.

In considering the above factors and subject to the Proponent's compliance with the terms and conditions necessary to mitigate against the potential adverse environmental and social effects, the Board is of the view that the proposed project is unlikely to cause significant public concern and its adverse ecosystemic and socioeconomic impacts are unlikely to be significant, or are highly predictable and can be adequately mitigated by known technologies.

RECOMMENDED PROJECT-SPECIFIC TERMS AND CONDITIONS

The following terms and conditions were previously issued by the NIRB in the July 21, 2021 Screening Decision Report for the original File No. **21CN026**, **and continue to apply to the “Dundee Bight Operational Camp – Qusuittuq National Park” project:**

General

1. Parks Canada (the Proponent) shall maintain a copy of the Project Terms and Conditions at the site of operation at all times and make it accessible to enforcement officers upon request.
2. The Proponent shall operate in accordance with all commitments stated in correspondence provided to the NIRB (Online Application Form, June 2, 2021). This information should be accessible to enforcement officers upon request.
3. The Proponent shall operate the site in accordance with all applicable Acts, Regulations and Guidelines.
4. The Proponent shall ensure that it meets the standards and/or limits as set out in the authorizing agencies' permits or licences as required for this project.
5. The Proponent shall ensure that all personnel, staff and contractors are adequately trained prior to commencement of all project activities, and shall be made aware of all operational plans, management plans, guidelines and Proponent commitments relating to the project.

Waste Management

6. The Proponent shall manage all hazardous and non-hazardous waste including food, domestic wastes, debris and petroleum-based chemicals (e.g., greases, gasoline, glycol-based antifreeze) in such a manner to avoid release into the environment and access to wildlife at all times until disposed of appropriately or at an approved facility.

Fuel and Chemical Storage

7. The Proponent shall locate all fuel and other hazardous materials a minimum distance away from the high-water mark of any water body and environmentally sensitive areas as required by the appropriate authorizing agencies. The materials shall be stored in such a manner as to prevent their release into the environment.
8. The Proponent shall use adequate secondary containment or a surface liner (e.g., self-supporting insta-berms and fold-a-tanks) when storing barreled fuel and chemicals at all locations.
9. The Proponent shall ensure that re-fuelling of all equipment occurs a minimum distance away from the high-water mark of any water body as required by the appropriate authorizing agencies.
10. The Proponent shall have a Spill Contingency Plan in place at all fuel storage or transfer locations and shall ensure that appropriate spill response equipment and clean-up materials (e.g., shovels, pumps, barrels, drip pans, and absorbents) are readily available.

11. The Proponent shall ensure that wildlife deterrent systems are utilized at the time of a spill incident in order to avoid wildlife (terrestrial or marine) and migratory birds from being contaminated.
12. The Proponent shall ensure that all spills of fuel or other deleterious materials of 100 litres or more must be reported immediately to the 24-hour Spill Line at (867) 920-8130.

Wildlife – General

13. The Proponent shall not substantially alter or damage or destroy any wildlife habitat in conducting this operation unless otherwise authorized by the appropriate authorizing agencies.
14. The Proponent shall not chase, weary, harass or molest wildlife. This includes persistently circling, chasing, hovering over, pursuing or in any other way harass wildlife, or disturbing large groups of animals.
15. The Proponent shall not hunt or fish, unless proper Nunavut authorizations have been acquired.

Migratory Birds and Raptors Disturbance

16. The Proponent shall carry out all phases of the project in a manner that protects migratory birds and avoids harming, killing or disturbing migratory birds or destroying, disturbing or taking their nests or eggs. In this regard, the Proponent shall take into account Environment and Climate Change Canada's *Avoidance Guidelines*. The Proponent's actions in applying the *Avoidance Guidelines* shall be in compliance with the *Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994* and with the *Species at Risk Act*.
17. The Proponent shall not disturb or destroy the nests or eggs of any birds. If active nests of any birds are discovered or located (i.e., with eggs or young), the Proponent shall avoid these areas until nesting is complete and the young have naturally left the vicinity of the nest by establishing a protection buffer zone² appropriate for the species and the surrounding habitat.

Caribou and Muskoxen Disturbance

18. The Proponent shall avoid interfering with any paths or crossings known to be frequented by caribou during periods of migration as identified by current land use plans in place and/or by Inuit Qaujimaningit.
19. The Proponent shall not locate any operation or undertake activities that could block or cause any diversion to migration of caribou or muskoxen.
20. The Proponent shall immediately cease activities likely to interfere with the migration or calving of caribou or muskoxen until such time as the caribou or muskox have passed.
21. The Proponent shall not construct or operate any camp, cache any fuel within five (5) kilometres of any designated caribou water crossings.
22. During the period of May 15 to July 15, the Proponent shall suspend all project operations, the Proponent shall suspend all operations and activities outside the immediate vicinity of

² Recommended setback distances to define buffer zones have been established by Environment and Climate Change Canada for different bird groups nesting in tundra habitat and can be found at www.ec.gc.ca/paom-itmb.

the camps. Restricted activities include, but are not limited to, air and vehicle traffic, loud or repetitive noise or vibration disturbances, low-level over flights, blasting, and use of mobile equipment including snowmobiles and all terrain vehicles, and personnel walking within sight of the caribou group(s), until the caribou are no longer in the immediate area. Should the results of localized monitoring satisfy the land use inspector the project operations may resume without disturbing pregnant caribou cows or cows with young calves the suspension may be lifted for the periods specified.

23. Should pregnant caribou cows, cows with young calves, or groups of 50 or more caribou be observed within one (1) kilometer of project operations at any time, the Proponent shall suspend all operations in the vicinity, including low level overflights, drilling, blasting/trenching, and use of snowmobiles and all terrain vehicles outside the immediate vicinity of the camp, until caribou are no longer in the immediate area.
24. During the period of April 14 to June 1 when muskoxen are present, the Proponent shall not approach muskoxen closer than one (1) kilometer. This includes all operations, including low-level over flights, blasting, and use of snowmobiles and all-terrain vehicles outside the immediate vicinity of the camps.

Road and Ground Disturbance

25. The Proponent shall not move any equipment or vehicles unless the ground surface is in a state capable of fully supporting the equipment or vehicles without rutting or gouging. Overland travel of equipment or vehicles must be suspended if rutting occurs.

Land Use and Restoration of Disturbed Areas

26. The Proponent shall use existing trails where possible during project activities on the land.
27. The Proponent shall ensure that the land use area is kept clean and tidy at all times.
28. The Proponent shall avoid disturbance on slopes prone to natural erosion, and alternative locations shall be utilized.
29. The Proponent shall remove all garbage, fuel and equipment at the end of each field season and/or upon completion of work and/or upon abandonment.

Camps

30. The Proponent shall ensure that all camps are located durable surfaces, such as gravel or sand that is consolidated and can withstand repeated, heavy use. Measures shall be put in place to prevent erosion, trail formation and damage to the ground.

Other

31. The Proponent should consult with local residents regarding their activities in the area and solicit available Inuit Qaujimaningit and information that can inform project activities.
32. The Proponent shall ensure that project activities do not interfere with Inuit wildlife harvesting or traditional land use activities.
33. The Proponent should, to the extent possible, hire local people and access local services where possible.

In addition to the previously issued terms and conditions, the Board recommends the following project-specific terms and conditions:

General

34. The Proponent shall operate in accordance with all commitments stated in correspondence provided to Parks Canada (March 5, 2024) and the NIRB (Online Application Form, April 17, 2024). This information should be accessible to enforcement officers upon request.

Water courses/Water bodies (including fresh and marine waters)

35. The Proponent shall not extract water from any fish-bearing water body unless the water intake hose is equipped with a screen of appropriate mesh size to ensure that there is no entrapment of fish. Small lakes or streams should not be used for water withdrawal unless otherwise authorized by the appropriate authorizing agency.

Fuel and Chemical Storage

36. Fuel and hazardous material storage areas and fuel lines should be clearly marked with signs or flagging to avoid accidental breaks and punctures, and to ensure areas remain visible during the winter months.
37. All fuel and chemical storage containers must be clearly marked with the Proponent's name for ease of identification.
38. The Proponent shall routinely inspect and document the conditions of fuel and hazardous material storage containers and containment areas as required by the appropriate authorizing agencies. Fuel containment areas shall be kept clear of debris, water and snow to facilitate inspections for leaks.
39. The Proponent shall follow the authorizing agencies' direction for management and removal of hazardous materials and wastes (e.g., contaminated soils, sediment and waste oil).

OTHER NIRB CONCERNS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In addition to the project-specific terms and conditions, the Board has previously recommended the following on July 21, 2021:

Change in Project Scope

1. Responsible authorities or Proponent shall notify the Nunavut Planning Commission and/or Parks Canada as appropriate, and the NIRB of any changes in operating plans or conditions, including phase advancement, associated with this project prior to any such change.

Copy of licences, etc. to the Board and Commission

2. The NIRB respectfully requests that responsible authorities submit a copy of each licence, permit or other authorization issued for the Project to the NIRB to assist in enabling possible project monitoring that may be required. Please forward a copy of the licences, permits and/or other authorizations to the NIRB directly at info@nirb.ca or upload a copy to the NIRB's online registry at www.nirb.ca.

Use of Inuit Qaujimaningit

3. The Proponent is encouraged to work with local communities and knowledge holders to inform project design, to carry out the project, and to confirm or validate the perspectives represented in publications produced as part of the project. Care should be taken to ensure that Inuit Qaujimaningit and local knowledge collected for the project is used with permission and is accurately represented.

Bear and Carnivore Safety

4. The Proponent should review the Government of Nunavut's booklet on Bear Safety, which can be downloaded from this link: http://gov.nu.ca/sites/default/files/bear_safety_-_reducing_bear-people_conflicts_in_nunavut.pdf. Further information on bear/carnivore detection and deterrent techniques can be found in the "*Safety in Grizzly and Black Bear Country*" pamphlet, which can be downloaded from this link: https://www.enr.gov.nt.ca/sites/enr/files/resources/safety_in_grizzly_and_black_bear_country_english.pdf.
5. There are Polar Bear and grizzly bear safety resources available from the Bear Smart Society with videos on Polar Bear safety available in English, French and Inuktitut at <http://www.bearsmart.com/play/safety-in-polar-bear-country/>. Information can also be obtained from Parks Canada's website on bear safety at the following link: <http://www.pc.gc.ca/eng/pn-np/nu/quttinirpaaq/visit/visit6/d.aspx> or in reviewing the "*Safety in Polar Bear Country*" pamphlet, which can be downloaded from the following link: http://www.pc.gc.ca/eng/pn-np/nu/quttinirpaaq/visit/visit6/~media/pn-np/nu/auyuittuq/pdf/shared/PolarBearSafety_English.ashx.
6. Any problem wildlife or any interaction with carnivores should be reported immediately to the local Government of Nunavut, Department of Environment Conservation Office (Conservation Officer of Resolute Bay, phone: (867) 252-3879).

Species at Risk

7. The Proponent review Environment and Climate Change Canada's "Environment Assessment Best Practice Guide for Wildlife at Risk in Canada", available at the following link: http://www.sararegistry.gc.ca/virtual_sara/files/policies/EA%20Best%20Practices%202004.pdf. The guide provides information to the Proponent on what is required when Wildlife at Risk, including *Species at Risk*, are encountered or affected by the project.

Migratory Birds

8. The Proponent review Canadian Wildlife Services' "Key migratory bird terrestrial habitat sites in the Northwest Territories and Nunavut", available at the following link: <http://publications.gc.ca/site/eng/317630/publication.html> and "Key marine habitat sites for migratory birds in Nunavut and the Northwest Territories", available at the following link: <http://publications.gc.ca/site/eng/392824/publication.html>. The guide provides information to the Proponent on key terrestrial and marine habitat areas that are essential to the welfare of various migratory bird species in Canada.
9. For further information on how to protect migratory birds, their nests and eggs when planning or carrying out project activities, consult Environment and Climate Change

Canada's Incidental Take web page and the fact sheet "Planning Ahead to Reduce the Risk of Detrimental Effects to Migratory Birds, and their Nests and Eggs" available at: http://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2013/ec/CW66-324-2013-eng.pdf.

The Board is currently also recommending the following:

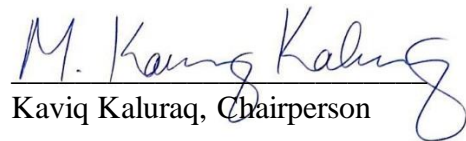
Transport of Dangerous Goods and Waste Management

10. Environment and Climate Change Canada recommends that all hazardous wastes, including waste oil, receive proper treatment and disposal at an approved facility
11. The Proponent shall ensure that proper shipping documents (waste manifests, transportation of dangerous goods, etc.) accompany all movements of dangerous goods. Further, the Proponent shall ensure that the shipment of all dangerous goods is registered with the Government of Nunavut Department of Environment, Department of Environment Manager. Contact the Manager (867) 975-7748 to obtain a manifest if dangerous goods including hazardous wastes will be transported.
12. The Proponent shall provide an authorization or letter of conformation of disposal be obtained from the owner/operator of the landfill to be used for disposal of project-related wastes.

CONCLUSION

The foregoing constitutes the Board's screening decision with respect to the Parks Canada's "Dundee Bight Operational Camp – Qausittuq National Park". The NIRB remains available for consultation with the Minister regarding this report as necessary.

Dated June 14, 2024 at Baker Lake, NU.


Kaviq Kaluraq, Chairperson

Attachments: Appendix A: Previously Screened Project Proposals
Appendix B: Species at Risk in Nunavut
Appendix C: Archaeological and Palaeontological Resources Terms and Conditions for Land Use Permit Holders

APPENDIX A: PREVIOUSLY-SCREENED PROJECT PROPOSALS

The original project proposal (NIRB File No.: 21CN026; Public Registry Dashboard www.nirb.ca/project/125613), was received by the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) from Parks Canada on June 2, 2021 after it received a referral from Parks Canada on April 26, 2021.

Parks Canada's original "New Temporary Operational Camp at Dundee Bight and Extension for Using Dome Camp as a Secondary Camp" project is located in the Qikiqtani region.

According to the previously screened project proposal, the scope of the project included the following undertakings, works or activities:

- Construction of two (2) 16'x18' hard shelters at Dundee Bight camp;
- Construction of a 50'x50' electric bear fence at Dundee Bight camp;
- Construction of an airstrip in an area suitable to land safely at Dundee Bight;
- Use of both camps for exploratory hiking, day/multi-day trips, overnight-exploratory camping, holding in park meetings, and stakeholder meetings;
- Use of an aircraft to access both camp sites in summer;
- Use of snowmobiles to access both camp sites in winter;
- Use and storage of fuel within a fuel berm during the months of April, May, June, July, and August.
- Greywater and human waste to be disposed of in a sump;
- After 4 operating seasons, Parks Canada will determine if the area is suitable for a permanent operational base camp.

APPENDIX B: SPECIES AT RISK IN NUNAVUT

Due to the requirements of Section 79(2) of the Species at Risk Act (SARA), and the potential for project-specific adverse effects on listed wildlife species and its critical habitat, measures should be taken as appropriate to avoid or lessen those effects, and the effects need to be monitored. Project effects could include species disturbance, attraction to operations and destruction of habitat. This section applies to all species listed on Schedule 1 of SARA, as listed in the table below, or have been assessed by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC), which may be encountered in the project area. This list may not include all species identified as at risk by the Territorial Government. The following points provide clarification on the applicability of the species outlined in the table.

- Schedule 1 is the official legal list of Species at Risk for SARA. SARA applies to all species on Schedule 1. The term “listed” species refers to species on Schedule 1.
- Schedule 2 and 3 of SARA identify species that were designated at risk by the COSEWIC prior to October 1999 and must be reassessed using revised criteria before they can be considered for addition to Schedule 1.
- Some species identified at risk by COSEWIC are “pending” addition to Schedule 1 of SARA. These species are under consideration for addition to Schedule 1, subject to further consultation or assessment.

If species at risk are encountered or affected, the primary mitigation measure should be avoidance. The Proponent should avoid contact with or disturbance to each species, its habitat and/or its residence. All direct, indirect, and cumulative effects should be considered. Refer to species status reports and other information on the species at risk Registry at <http://www.sararegistry.gc.ca> for information on specific species.

Monitoring should be undertaken by the Proponent to determine the effectiveness of mitigation and/or identify where further mitigation is required. As a minimum, this monitoring should include recording the locations and dates of any observations of species at risk, behaviour or actions taken by the animals when project activities were encountered, and any actions taken by the proponent to avoid contact or disturbance to the species, its habitat, and/or its residence. This information should be submitted to the appropriate regulators and organizations with management responsibility for that species, as requested.

For species primarily managed by the Territorial Government, the Territorial Government should be consulted to identify other appropriate mitigation and/or monitoring measures to minimize effects to these species from the project.

Mitigation and monitoring measures must be undertaken in a way that is consistent with applicable recovery strategies and action/management plans.

Schedules of SARA are amended on a regular basis so it is important to check the SARA registry (www.sararegistry.gc.ca) to get the current status of a species.

Updated: September 2019

| Terrestrial Species at Risk³ | COSEWIC Designation | Schedule of SARA | Government Organization with Primary Management Responsibility⁴ |
|---|----------------------------|-------------------------|---|
| Migratory Birds | | | |
| Buff-breasted Sandpiper | Special Concern | Schedule 1 | Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) |
| Common Nighthawk | Threatened | Schedule 1 | ECCC |
| Eskimo Curlew | Endangered | Schedule 1 | ECCC |
| Harlequin Duck | Special Concern | Schedule 1 | ECCC |
| Harris's Sparrow | Special Concern | Schedule 1 | ECCC |
| Horned Grebe | Special Concern | Schedule 1 | ECCC |
| Ivory Gull | Endangered | Schedule 1 | ECCC |
| Olive-sided Flycatcher | Threatened | Schedule 1 | ECCC |
| Peregrine Falcon | Special Concern | Schedule 1 | ECCC |
| Red Knot Islandica Subspecies | Special Concern | Schedule 1 | ECCC |
| Red-necked Phalarope | Special Concern | Schedule 1 | ECCC |
| Ross's Gull | Threatened | Schedule 1 | ECCC |
| Rusty Blackbird | Special Concern | Schedule 1 | ECCC |
| Short-eared Owl | Special Concern | Schedule 1 | ECCC |
| Vegetation | | | |
| Porsild's Bryum | Threatened | Schedule 1 | Government of Nunavut (GN) |
| Arthropods | | | |
| Transverse Lady Beetle | Special Concern | No Schedule | GN |
| Terrestrial Wildlife | | | |
| Caribou (Dolphin and Union Population) | Endangered | Schedule 1 | GN |
| Caribou (Barren-ground Population) | Threatened | No Schedule | GN |
| Caribou (Torngat Mountains Population) | Endangered | No Schedule | GN |
| Grizzly Bear (Western Population) | Special Concern | Schedule 1 | ECCC |
| Peary Caribou | Endangered | Schedule 1 | GN |
| Polar Bear | Special Concern | Schedule 1 | ECCC |
| Wolverine | Special Concern | Schedule 1 | GN |
| Marine Wildlife | | | |
| Atlantic Walrus (High Arctic Population) | Special Concern | No Schedule | Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) |
| Atlantic Walrus (Central/Low Arctic Population) | Special Concern | No Schedule | DFO |
| Beluga Whale (Cumberland Sound Population) | Threatened | Schedule 1 | DFO |
| Beluga Whale (Eastern Hudson Bay Population) | Endangered | No Schedule | DFO |

3 The Department of Fisheries and Oceans has responsibility for aquatic species.

4 Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) has a national role to play in the conservation and recovery of Species at Risk in Canada, as well as responsibility for management of birds described in the Migratory Birds Convention Act (MBCA). Day-to-day management of terrestrial species not covered in the MBCA is the responsibility of the Territorial Government. Populations that exist in National Parks are also managed under the authority of the Parks Canada Agency.

| Terrestrial Species at Risk³ | COSEWIC Designation | Schedule of SARA | Government Organization with Primary Management Responsibility⁴ |
|--|----------------------------|-------------------------|---|
| Beluga Whale (Eastern High Arctic-Baffin Bay Population) | Special Concern | No Schedule | DFO |
| Beluga Whale (Western Hudson Bay Population) | Special Concern | No Schedule | DFO |
| Fish | | | |
| Atlantic Cod (Arctic Lakes Population) | Special Concern | No Schedule | DFO |
| Fourhorn Sculpin (Freshwater Form) | Data Deficient | Schedule 3 | DFO |
| Lumpfish | Threatened | No Schedule | DFO |
| Thorny Skate | Special Concern | No Schedule | DFO |