Public Registry - Project Proposals

NPC 150400: McConnell (Kuugaarjuk) Migratory Bird Sanctuary - Environmental Site Assessment

Close

Proposal Status: Conformity Determination Issued

Overview Documents Questionnaire

Project Overview

Type of application: Amendment

Proponent name:

Ryan Bernesky

Proponent company:

Stantec Consulting Ltd.

Project Description:

ECCC Contaminated Sites Assessment Program conducted an additional Environmental Site Assessment of a 3.17 hectare parcel of land located within the McConnell (Kuugaarjuk) Migratory Bird Sanctuary (MBS) regarding the former wildlife research facility and surrounding area in July 2023. The MBS is managed by the Nivvialik Area Co-Management Committee and ECCC. Nunami Stantec, an environmental consulting firm, conducted this assessment based on the following scope of work: - Interviews with community members and stakeholders regarding the historical land use and to assist in the identification of any related potential areas of environmental concern; - Site Inspection: to identify potential sources, or physical signs of impacts that could have contributed to environmental contamination including any related physical signs associated with the source; - Conduct sampling of soil, groundwater, surface water and sediment analytical program with the intent to confirm or refute potential chemical contaminants within the soil, groundwater, surface water and sediment and to delineate associated areas of environmental concern as identified or needed by the discretion of the environmental consulting firm; - Draft a report of findings along with any recommendations for future work as needed. This work implemented the general practices as laid out by the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) Standard Z768-01 Phase I Environmental Site Assessment and the CSA Standard Z769-00 (R2013) Phase II Environmental Site Assessment including the Federal Approach to Contaminated Sites (CSMWG 1999) and the PSPC Statement of Work along with other applicable guidelines, standards and permitting requirements. The next phase of the project includes the site decommissioning and clean-up of the site that will occur in 2024. Limited staff will be onsite and no fuel drums are anticipated. There will be no overnight stays at the McConnell Migratory Bird Sanctuary.

Project Schedule

Start Date:

2024-08-26

End Date:

2024-10-25

Project Map

List of project geometries:

Id

Geometry

Location Name

11903

point

11904

point

11905

point

11906

point

NPC Planning regions:

Keewatin

Project Land Use and Authorizations

Project Land Use:

Site Cleanup/Remediation

Licensing Agencies:

Government of Canada - Canadian Wildlife Service

Kivalliq Inuit Association

Government of Canada - Canadian Wildlife Service

Government of Nunavut - Department of Culture and Heritage

Material Use

Equipment:

Type

Quantity

Type

Use

Helicopter

1

42 ft.

Travel to site on a daily basis from Arviat

Mega Bags

100

1 cubic meter capacity

Used for containerization to facilitate transport.

Portable Hand Tools

N/A

N/A

To crush/consolidate waste metals and other materials to reduce the waste material volume to an estimated 100 cubic meters.

Mini Skid Steer

1

N/A

To support demolition, soil excavation (as required) and loading of Mega Bags.

Fuel Use:

Type

Container

Capacity

Use

Aviation fuel

0

0

Helicopter will be fueled up in Arviat and will not be fueled at the McConnell Migratory Bird Sanctuary.

Hazardous Material and Chemical Use:

Type

Container

Capacity

Use

No data found

Water Consumption:

Daily Amount (m^2)

Retrieval Method

Retrieval Location

0

Waste and Impacts

Environmental Impacts:

The general bird nesting period at the site is from mid-May to mid-August and the site is overlapped by the summer range and a portion of the winter range of the Qamamirjuaq barren-ground caribou herd. There are no known caribou calving grounds or key access corridors in the site. The work is scheduled for late August and early September, avoiding the general bird nesting period of mid-May to mid-August, and no active migratory bird nests are expected to be encountered. a search for raptor stick nests and mammal dens will be conducted immediately before decommissioning activities begin to identify areas or features that may require mitigation. A Nunami Stantec biologist will survey infrastructure and the surrounding area at the site to identify nests and mammal dens. If these features are identified, they will be marked with flagging and avoided. Seasonal activity restrictions and setbacks will be applied where appropriate. As part of the wildlife feature search, an aerial reconnaissance of the site and surrounding area will be conducted to identify concentrations of migratory birds. Seasonal activity restrictions and setbacks will be applied where appropriate and communicated to all project personnel. Helicopters flying to and from the Site must be a minimum of 1,500 m from concentrations of any migratory birds and 4,500 m from the seaward side of seabird colonies and flocks of coastal waterfowl and seaducks. In accordance with the aerial setbacks, overland helicopter flight paths are recommended where possible. Flights must be a minimum of 1,100 m above concentrations of migratory birds. Barren-ground caribou were observed near Drum Cache #1 during a site visit on July 10, 2023. The Recommended Nunavut Land Use Plan June 2023 lists caribou seasonal restrictions. For the Qamanirjuaq herd, activity must be avoided from June 23 to July 3 on the post-calving grounds (summer range), and helicopters and airplanes must maintain a minimum vertical distance of 300 m (except as required for the safe operation of the aircraft and for specified operational purposes, such as take offs and landings). Additionally, according to the KIA permit conditions, if one or more collared caribou or 25 or more caribou observed within 30 km of the site, then monitoring within a 5 km buffer zone shall

be conducted every second day (e.g. height of land surveys, road surveys, snow track counts, remove camera surveys) and If monitoring indicates that there are 25 or more caribou within 5 km of the boundary of the site, then Nunami Stantec shall conduct monitoring within a 5 km buffer zone on a daily basis, and shall immediately suspend any activities that have the potential to disturb caribou, including suspension of, non-essential ground movements and aircraft traffic below 300 m above ground level (except for emergency purposes) until caribou numbers are below the threshold within the buffer zone. Because work is scheduled for late August and September, no effect of caribou seasonal restrictions on decommissioning activities is anticipated, however, a Nunami Stantec monitor will be on site for the duration of the work activities. A potential mammal den was observed during a site visit in July 2023, near what appears to be Drum Cache #1. The Nunami Stantec biologist will investigate the area during the wildlife feature search. If a mammal den is identified, the appropriate setback will be applied if applicable for the work period. If a setback is not required, the den should be avoided to the extent possible. If an active den is encountered within the applicable minimum setback distance, work will be delayed until after the applicable sensitive period has ended and the den becomes inactive. A large stick nest was observed on the West Tower during a site visit in July 2023. The nesting species is unknown; if it is a raptor nest, it is protected under the Wildlife Act and must be relocated prior to decommissioning activities. Because some raptor species that could nest in the area may also nest on the ground in the treeless tundra (e.g., rough-legged hawk), the nest may be carefully placed on the ground in a nearby, undisturbed area with similar surroundings if no elevated areas are available. If the nest cannot be relocated intact, it should be reconstructed as best as possible with all of the original material. Because the nest will not be destroyed, it is not anticipated that the Wildlife Act will be contravened. However, consultation with the local Conservation Officer or Wildlife Biologist is recommended before the nest is relocated. At the Site, there is potential for hazardous encounters with wildlife, including polar bear and possibly grizzly bear. The Recommended Nunavut Land Use Plan June 2023 requires that any work completed during the September 15 to April 15 polar bear denning season have a polar bear monitor, selected in consultation with the local HTO, on site to mitigate any responses to bear presence.

Waste Management:

Waste Type

Quantity Generated

Treatement Method

Disposal Method

Combustible wastes

14.5 cubic meters

It is assumed that remaining metal deemed not suitable or not claimed for reuse in Arviat would be disposed of within appropriate metal recycling facilities at either Bécancour or St. Catherine, QC.

The combustible waste includes compressed gas cylinders.It is assumed that a large portion of the waste materials would be disposed of within appropriate waste facilities at either Bécancour or St. Catherine, QC.

Hazardous waste

2 cubic meters

It is assumed that a large portion of the waste materials would be disposed of within appropriate waste facilities at either Bécancour or St. Catherine, QC.

Hazardous materials will be placed in 0.25 cubic meter sealable drums with appropriate labelling for transportation of dangerous goods.

Non-Combustible wastes

99 cubic meters

It is assumed that remaining metal deemed not suitable or not claimed for reuse in Arviat would be disposed of within appropriate metal recycling facilities at either Bécancour or St. Catherine, QC.

The non-combustible waste includes drums, metal (ferrous and non-ferrous), non-treated wood, electronic parts, copper wiring and plastic. The waste will be sorted, broken down to appropriate sizes and placed within Mega Bags for transport. The Mega Bags will be transported by helicopter sling to a staging area in Arviat, NU, where they will be stored prior to shipment by Sealift to one of Becancour or St. Catherine, Quebec.