

1 January 2025  
NPC File No. 150581

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## Randall Scharien

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Dear Cassel Kapolak, Mosha Cote, Wynter Kuliktana, Jared Ottenhof, Luis Manzo, Carson Gillis, Randall Scharien:

RE: **NPC File No. 150581 [Sikunnguaq - the likeness or image of ice in maps]**

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

1. Scientific research project initiated by the SmartICE community management committee in Mittimatalik, the self-titled “Sikumiut” (people of the ice) consisting of elders, youth, council and HTO members, and other organizations have co-designed a Nunavut-based research plan to make better maps for identifying sea ice features related to safe travel from images and data collected by satellites. Recent changes in sea ice have led to more unpredictable conditions, leading to increased accidents and adverse effects on food security, health and wellbeing, economy, culture, and identity.
  - a. Ice roughness, slush, and ice thickness as priority sea ice features for monitoring with satellite images and data; Measurement of snow and sea ice properties travelling by snowmobile when conditions are safe; use of ice augers and electromagnetic (EM) sensors for ice thickness, ice core barrels for taking

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- ice cores, equipment for measuring snow properties in snow 'pits', battery operated temperature sensors for measuring snow and sea ice temperatures, and drones (LiDAR and EM sensors); Stationary thermistor-based sensors (SmartBUOYs)
- b. All EM and scanning (LiDAR) sensors are low power and do not make intrusive sound; All waste from daily sea ice activities will be transported back to the communities for proper disposal
  - c. Results will be shared with the participating communities as well as other communities across Nunavut where the Inuit-led, IQ-grounded, Sikumik Qaujimajuti ("tools to know how the ice is") system for community ice information sharing has been implemented
2. Location is Multi-Regional: Kitikmeot, Qikiqtani, Kivalliq Regions; [Ice areas outside the communities of Mittimatalik Iqaluktuuttiaq, Uqsuqtuuq, and Qikiqtarjuaq]

A complete description of the project proposal reviewed by the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC) can be accessed online using the link below.

The NPC has completed its review of the above-noted project proposal and has determined that 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 requires screening by the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) because it does not belong to a class of exempt works or activities set out in Schedule 12-1 of the *Nunavut Agreement*.

By way of this letter, the NPC is forwarding the project proposal with this determination to the NIRB for screening. Project materials, including the applicable conformity requirements, are available at the following address:  
<https://lupit.nunavut.ca/portal/registry/registry.aspx?appid=150581>.

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) 447-4563.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'SA', with a horizontal line extending from the 'A'.

Solomon Amuno, PhD  
Senior Planner  
Nunavut Planning Commission