



24 May 2024

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Samuel Robb

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Dear Cassel Kapolak, Richard Dwyer, Caroline Whittle, Tracey McCaie, Jared Ottenhof, Wynter Kuliktana, Carson Gillis, and Samuel Robb:

RE: NPC File No. 150418 [Somerset Trough Project]

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

1. Early-stage mineral exploration: Airborne and ground-based geophysics surveys, prospecting, sampling, and geological mapping.
 - a. Use of ATV, snowmachine, and helicopter for transportation and surveying
2. Temporary Structures:
 - a. Establishment of a camp on Crown land
 - b. Fuel caching of up to 102,500 L on Crown land
3. Timing, Duration, & Personnel:
 - a. 600 days over period 3 March 2024 to 24 April 2029
 - b. Seasonal activities taking place between March and September of each year:
 - i. 20 personnel for 120 days per season for a total of 2,400 person-days annually
 - ii. 12,000 person-days over course of entire project
4. Associated NPC File No.: 150217; Associated NIRB File No.: 24EN005; Associated NWB File No.: 2WLC-STP 2425
5. Summary of modifications:
 - a. Increase in project timeline by 5 years to 2029
 - b. Addition of diamond drilling to project scope (between 5,000 and 15,000 m annually)
 - c. Increase in water use and waste deposition in year 2025 and beyond (up to 299 m³)
 - d. Increase in hazardous materials use and storage (calcium chloride)
 - e. Increase in hazardous waste generation (used hydraulic oil)
6. Location: Kitikmeot and Qikiqtani Regions; [Somerset Island, camp 315 km north of Taloyoak]

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. The NPC previously reviewed works and activities associated with the current proposal, including airborne and ground-based geophysics surveys, prospecting, sampling, and geological mapping (conformity determination issued 30 January 2024). This conformity determination still applies. In addition, associated activities were previously screened by the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB File No.: 24EN005).

The NPC has determined that the above-noted project proposal is a significant modification to the project because of the increased project timeline, addition of diamond drilling, increase in water consumption and waste deposition, and increase in hazardous material use. It conforms to the North Baffin Regional Land Use Plan (NBRLUP) and the proponent has undertaken to comply with the applicable conformity requirements of Appendix C, H, and I of the NBRLUP.

The above-noted project proposal requires screening by the NIRB under section 12.4.3 of the *Nunavut Agreement* as amended because it is for a component or activity that was not part of the original proposal, and its inclusion is a significant modification of the project.

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=150418>.

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) 979-3444.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Goump Djalogue". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Goump" and last name "Djalogue" clearly distinguishable.

Goump Djalogue
Manager of Planning & Implementation, MCIP, RPP
Nunavut Planning Commission