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Dear Cassel Kapolak, Tracey McCaie, Mosha Cote, Natalie D'Souza, Jakub Garbarczyk, Luis Manzo, and Greg Oldenborger:

RE: NPC File # 150651 [Western Hudson Bay geoscience for infrastructure project]

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

1. Natural Resource Canada is proposing to amend the Western Hudson Bay geoscience for infrastructure project. The proposed modifications include:
 - a. Additional field research area in the vicinity of Arviat (Zone Arviat)
 - b. All proposed methods in this new field area are the same as the methods documented in the existing research license :
 - i. Shallow drillings (0-3 m) with light portable drilling tools and potentially taking advantage (if any on site) of an Air Track drill (10-20 m) typically used in arctic communities for construction work (pile installation);
 - ii. Permafrost coring (0-3 m);

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- iii. Instrumentation (ground temperature sensors) in those boreholes.
 - iv. Ground-based geophysical surveys (electrical and electromagnetics surveys).
 - v. Drone imagery.
 - vi. Site visits to validate remote sensing products
- 2. Associated NPC FILE No: 148271 and 149952. Associated NIRB FILE No: 16YN040
 - 3. Location: Kivalliq Region; [various locations including the vicinity of Rankin Inlet, Arviat, Baker Lake, Chesterfield Inlet and Whale Cove]

A complete description of the project proposal reviewed by the NPC can be accessed online using the link below.

The Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC) has completed its review of the above noted project proposal. The NPC previously reviewed works and activities associated with the current proposal, including permafrost coring, drone imagery and geophysical surveys (conformity determination issued February 6, 2023). This conformity determination still applies. In addition, associated activities were previously screened by the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB FILE NO.: 16YN040).

The NPC has determined that the above-noted project proposal is a significant modification to the project because of the research proposed expansion to include other communities of the Kivalliq (Arviat, and potentially Baker Lake, Chesterfield Inlet and Whale Cove). It conforms to the Keewatin Regional Land Use Plan (KRLUP). The proponent has undertaken to comply with the applicable conformity requirements of Appendix C, G, and H of the KRLUP.

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 or previously amended 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=150651>

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,



Goump Djalogue, MCIP, RPP
Manager Planning and Implementation
Nunavut Planning Commission