



Cassel Kapolak

Manager, Public Registry
Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB)
Cambridge Bay, NU
By email: ckapolak@nirb.ca; info@nirb.ca;
kmorrison@nirb.ca

Richard Dwyer

Manager, Licensing
Nunavut Water Board (NWB)
Gjoa Haven, NU
By email: richard.dwyer@nwb-oen.ca;
licensing@nwb-oen.ca

Mosha Cote

Manager, Research Liaison
Nunavut Research Institute (NRI)
Iqaluit, NU
By email: mosha.cote@arcticcollege.ca

Jared Ottenhof

Director, Qikiqtani Nunalirijikkut
Qikiqtani Inuit Association (QIA)
Iqaluit, NU
By email: jottenhof@gia.ca; jfortier@gia.ca;
jsimic@gia.ca

Carson Gillis

Director, Lands and Resources
Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. (NTI)
Cambridge Bay, NU
By email: cgillis@tunngavik.com

Brian J. Glass (Proponent)

NASA Ames Research Center
Moffett Field, CA, USA
By email: brian.glass@nasa.gov

Dear Cassel Kapolak, Richard Dwyer, Mosha Cote, Jared Ottenhof, Carson Gillis, and Brian J. Glass:

RE: NPC File No. 150680 [Mars Exploration through Analog-site Drilling (MEAD)]

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

1. Scientific research: The Houghton impact crater is a site used for research related to extra-terrestrial study methods.
 - a. Use of a low-power, shallow (<1m depth) drill to excite the local surface
 - b. Use of geophones to sense vibrations to create a shallow seismic map
 - c. Collection of small (~50 mg) samples for study of microbial population changes at different depths
2. Timing, Duration, & Personnel:
 - a. 11 days over period 1 to 15 August 2025
 - b. 6 personnel for a total of 66 person-days
3. Location: Qikiqtani Region; [North Baffin; Houghton River Valley (Houghton impact crater) on central Devon Island]

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=150680>.

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 of Planning & Implementation
Nunavut Planning Commission