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Brian J. Glass

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Dear Calvin Ehaloak, Richard Dwyer, Tracey McCaie, Mosha Cote, Jared Ottenhof and Brian J. Glass:

RE: NPC File No. 151103 [Mars Exploration through Analog-site Drilling (MEAD)]

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

1. **Primary Land Use:** Scientific Research
2. **Project summary description:** MEAD uses a low-power shallow drill and geophones to create seismic maps of near-surface ground before drilling and sampling. It will support future Mars and lunar missions by helping identify the best targets for exploration. The drill also retrieves small samples to test two prototype Mars life-detection instruments and to study microbial changes above and below the frozen boundary at Haughton Crater.
3. **Summary of modifications:** The project is tentatively scheduled for 14–24 July 2026, with an expected group size of 11 participants, up from 6 previously.
4. **Associated NPC File No.:** 150680; Associated NIRB File: 25YN017
5. **Location:** Qikiqtani Region; [North Baffin; Haughton River Valley (Haughton 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. The NPC previously reviewed works and activities associated with the current proposal (conformity determination issued March 20, 2025), which still applies. In addition, associated activities were previously screened by the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB File No.: 25YN017). It conforms to the North Baffin Regional Land Use Plan (NBRLUP). 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 is exempt from screening by the NIRB because the NPC is of the understanding that the currently proposed research activities does not change the general scope of the original or previously amended project activities, and the exceptions noted in Section 12.4.3 (a) and (b) of the Nunavut Agreement do not apply.

By way of this letter, the NPC is forwarding the project proposal to the regulatory authorities identified by the proponent. Project materials, including the applicable conformity requirements, are available at the following address: <https://lupit.nunavut.ca/portal/registry/registry.aspx?appid=151103>

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,



Solomon Amuno, PhD
Senior Planner
Nunavut Planning Commission

Jurisdictional Note:

This conformity determination applies only to the components of the proposed project located within the Nunavut Settlement Area and under the Nunavut Planning Commission's statutory jurisdiction as defined in the Nunavut Agreement and the Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act (NuPPAA). Activities outside the NPC's jurisdiction remain subject to the review and regulatory processes of the relevant authorities. Proponents are responsible for identifying, contacting, and obtaining all required approvals from the appropriate regulators in every applicable jurisdiction to ensure compliance with all legislation, policies, and licensing requirements.