

**BLACK** – NIRB Questions

**GREEN** – NNC Responses

## NNC Responses to NIRB Queries on Iqaluit Nukkiksautiit Project Investigative Studies Application

May 10, 2025

**1. Non-technical summary in English, French and Inuktitut** - please provide a more succinct non-technical summary that describes what is being proposed? From the current non-technical summary, there is discussion on what occurred in 2023 and 2024; the non-technical summary should focus on what is being proposed for Phase 3 (2025 and future).

The non-technical summary included proposed activities for Phase 3 (2025) on pages 4 and 5 of the English version (Planned and Ongoing Work). For clarity's sake, non-technical summaries have been re-uploaded with only those pages included.

**2. Project Description** - Provide a more in-depth project description on the research to be conducted for Phase 3, including but not limited to

- a. How would the research be conducted? Please see relevant proposals.
- b. How will the field samples be collected? Please see relevant proposals.
- c. What equipment will be used for each research activity and for sampling purposes? There is mention of soil, surface water, groundwater, fish sampling, etc. but no details were provided on how, where, and when these activities would take place. Please see relevant proposals. Also relevant .kmz clarifying the general project area.
- d. What equipment will be installed, where and for how long (wildlife cameras)? Please see relevant proposals.
- e. How will the ecosystem specialist complete the habitat assessments? Please see relevant proposals.
- f. How many days will aerial surveys be conducted? What will be used (helicopter, twin otter)? Please see relevant proposals. Both helicopters and twin otters are planned to be used this field season.
- g. How personnel would be transported to each research location (walking, helicopter and/or twin otter). Please see relevant proposals. Walking, helicopters, twin otters, and boats are planned to be used this field season.
- h. Do the team members responsible for the archaeological assessment have archaeology backgrounds? Please see relevant proposals. This archaeologist has also completed other Archaeological Surveys for NNC in Sanikiluaq, Kinngait, Resolute, and Sanirajak.

i. What are the team members' backgrounds for each of the field baseline studies being proposed? Please see relevant proposals.

j. How will the test pitting for surface materials be conducted? Drilling? Surface level drilling with hand tools may take place, but no drill rigs are planned to be brought to site for use this field season.

k. Provide additional information on the LiDAR Data Collection technique. Please see relevant proposals.

Proposals from the preferred contractors for the environmental studies (Dillon Consulting), LiDAR Data Collection (Arctic UAV, Inuit-owned and Iqaluit-based contractor), and Archaeological Contractor (Kinickinick Heritage Consulting) all uploaded as additional documents.

**3. Project Map** – provide a map that notes the location of the temporary camp, research locations and locations of where any equipment would be installed.

Location of the general Project area has been uploaded as a .kmz. Temporary Camp estimated location has also been uploaded as a .kmz. Research activities will be taking place within the general Project area.

**4. Clarification on proposal –**

a. There is a note in the non-technical summary information that research activities would occur in Year 1; is this for 2025? Will additional research activities be conducted in future years? If yes, will the proponent be applying for those activities in the future?

Yes, Year 1 is 2025. Research activities will likely be conducted in the future so long as there is community consent to do so and funding has been secured to do so. NNC will apply for separate permits for those activities should they proceed. We are simply only seeking approval for the Year 1 (2025) activities only.

b. No information was provided on what would occur following the research activities proposed for 2025. Will there be a Phase 4? If yes, provide a brief description of what would occur and indicate that the Proponent will apply for permits, etc. to conduct those proposed activities in the future following the current proposed activities.

As noted above, research activities will likely be conducted in the future so long as there is community consent to do so and funding has been secured to do so. NNC will apply for separate permits for those activities should they proceed. We are simply only seeking approval for the Year 1 (2025) activities only. The results of Year 1 (2025) activities will inform the activities for future years and as such, we do not have exact information on future studies anticipated to be completed until Year 1 (2025) studies have been completed.

**5. Camp Description** – limited information was provided on the temporary camp proposed. Provide details on the temporary camp as follows:

a. Camp size? See below.

b. How many people will be at the camp? 18 persons at peak, 6-10 at most times.

c. How long will the camp be active? Mid-July to Mid-October, Depending on Weather

d. Location of camp? Included as a .kmz additional document.

e. Equipment to be used at camp? Utilities (diesel generators and solar systems, potable water containers, Smart Ash incinerator), Communications (Satellite phones, radios, starlink), Accommodations (ten sleeping tents, 3 single occupancy and 7 double-occupancy), Kitchen/Dining/Shower/Washroom Facilities (One large heated tent for kitchen/dining, fire extinguisher, propane or diesel stoves, shower tent, washroom tent).

f. How equipment and camp materials would be transported to the campsite? Air Transport (helicopter or twin otter).

g. What will happen at the end of the research activities? Temporary Camp will be demobilized and land will be returned to its previous state.

h. How will the fuel and chemicals be stored at the campsite? Secondary containment facilities? Deterrents against wildlife? Fuel will be stored according to safe practices including in double-walled containers to reduce risk of spills.

i. How will the camp be set up to ensure wildlife are not attracted? Bear Monitors will be present at all times and all waste/food will be stored according to locally-accepted health and safety regulations.

j. Approximately, how much water will the Proponent be using for camp activities? On-site potable water containers will be refilled as needed in coordination with weekly air transport.

Additional information on the temporary camp included in the Proposal from the Preferred Contractor (Polar Outfitting, Inuit-owned and Iqaluit-based contractor) which has been uploaded as an additional document, along with the .kmz of the approximate location of the camp.

**6. Traditional Areas** – Are the locations of the camp and the research sites within known traditional hunting/fishing areas? If yes, did the Proponent consult the community on the potential impacts on these activities from the proposed activities?

As noted in the Consultation Summary, the field season plans are to be shared with the Amaruq HTA and Panniqtuuq HTA for direct feedback on how to improve the plans to ensure environmental protection. Feedback will be incorporated into the plans before they are finalized to ensure local knowledge is driving the methods for Year 1 (2025) activities. The Archaeological Survey planned for this year will also help to confirm historical use of the area.

**7. Environmental Impacts** – Provide a description of the potential environmental impacts from the project activities including but not limited to:

a. Development and use of camp.

b. Use of equipment at camp and at research sites.

c. Noise activities from camp and research activities.

d. Impacts to the land, water and wildlife (terrestrial and migratory birds).

Updated in the Impacts section of the portal.

**8. Existing Environment** – Provide a description of the existing environment including physical, biological and socio-economic.

Updated in Additional Information section of the website.

**9. Hiring of local employees** – Will the Proponent hire any local personnel from Iqaluit to assist in the research?

NNC is planning on working with many local personnel from Iqaluit to assist in the research. Not only is the NNC team mostly based in Iqaluit themselves, but we have selected multiple Iqaluit-based contractors to support this work including Arctic UAV and Polar Outfitting. The selected Archaeologist has also confirmed Inuit participation in the Archaeological Survey. NNC plans to advertise any short-term employment opportunities to participate in the research planned for the summer locally once exact needs are determined with all contractors.

**10. Consultation record** – Provide a summary of the consultation completed to date (when, where and with whom), what the outcomes were from the consultation (did the Proponent change any of the proposed research locations?). Provide a summary of future consultation activities being proposed and with whom.

Included as an additional document.