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Dear Cassel Kapolak, Mosha Cote, Wynter Kuliktana, Richard Dwyer, Natalie D'Souza, José Audet-Lecouffe and Tamzin Blewett:

RE: NPC File # 150563 [Assessing the ecological risk associated with critical mineral extraction and low-sulfur fuels in Northern ecosystems]

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

1. The proponent is proposing to investigate how Arctic sea-ice algae, copepods, and Daphnia respond to exposure to key metal contaminants (copper, zinc, cobalt, nickel, lithium) and oil-related chemicals (including PFAS and compounds from low-sulphur fuels) at environmentally relevant concentrations.
 - Field-collected organisms from the Cambridge Bay region will be exposed to these toxicants under controlled, Arctic-like conditions at the Canadian High Arctic Research Station (CHARS).
 - The study will identify which species are most sensitive, examine contaminant buildup, and evaluate long-term effects. All testing will use safe containment and advanced water treatment to prevent

environmental harm. The research will also feature ongoing engagement with local communities and Indigenous organizations to share findings and support local perspectives.

2. Location: Kitikmeot Region; [Cambridge Bay and surrounding areas].

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 determined that this project proposal is outside the area of an applicable regional land use plan. The 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 to the NIRB for screening. Project materials are available at the following address: <https://lupit.nunavut.ca/portal/registry/registry.aspx?appid=150563>

This decision 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.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (867) 447-4563.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'SA' with a horizontal line extending from the 'A'.

Solomon Amuno, PhD
Senior Planner
Nunavut Planning Commission