



Demande de la CNER faisant l'objet d'un examen préalable #126221

Aston Bay Property or Storm Project

Type de demande : New

Type de projet: Mineral Exploration

Date de la demande : Tuesday, August 5, 2025

Period of operation: from 2025-08-13 to 2030-08-12

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DÉTAILS

Description non technique de la proposition de projet

Anglais: Aston Bay Property (the Property or the Project), also known as the Storm Property or Storm Project, is located on northern Somerset Island, in the Qikiqtani Region of Nunavut. The nearest community to the Property is Resolute Bay, located 112 km to the north, across Parry Sound on the southern edge of Cornwallis Island. The Property includes the Seal Zinc deposit and multiple copper-silver showings, collectively known as the Storm Copper prospect. Mineral exploration activities at the Project are currently authorized by Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC) Class A Land Use Permit (LUP) N2021C004 and Nunavut Water Board (NWB) Type B water licence 2BE-STO2025. Aston Bay is applying to renew and amend water licence 2BE-STO2025 and amend LUP N2021C004 to include the following activities:

- Reduction in Project Extents to reflect the current mineral tenure: NW: Latitude: 73° 57' 10" N Longitude: 95° 20' 46" W NE: Latitude: 73° 57' 54" N Longitude: 93° 21' 13" W SE: Latitude: 73° 5' 14" N Longitude: 93° 21' 28" W SW: Latitude: 73° 4' 34" N Longitude: 95° 13' 28" W
- Additional Storm Camp water source (lake north of camp located at approximately 73°40'05" N Latitude and 94°27'17" W Longitude).
- Additional structures to the existing 40-person Storm Camp to accommodate 65 to 100 people.
- Increase fuel stored at the main Storm Camp fuel cache from 80,000 L (400 drums) to 512,500 L (2,500 drums).
- Marine landing area.
- Inland laydown area.
- Overland winter trail.
- Additional equipment, materials and fuel needed to facilitate potential future development, such as excavators, skid steer, cargo sled, end loader, bull dozer, ATV's and snowmobiles.

During spring exploration, when the Aston River is frozen, water for the Storm Camp (located at approximately 73°39'23" N latitude and 94°27'07" W longitude) will be sourced from a lake north of camp located at approximately 73°40'05" N and 94°27'17" W. No change to the quantity of water is requested. The current water allowance is 10 m³/day for camp use and 289 m³/day for drilling, for a total of 299 m³/day. Storm Camp, which supports exploration activities associated with the Storm Project, is currently permitted to accommodate up to 40 personnel. As project activities advance and additional staffing is required, the camp may need to expand its capacity to support between 65 and 100 personnel. It is not anticipated that the installation of additional structures to house the increased workforce will result in an expanded site footprint. Any new structures are expected to be situated within the existing camp boundaries. The proposed marine landing area location is approximately 73°41'06" N latitude and 94°43'50" W longitude, where a temporary fuel cache is currently staged. The proposed marine landing area is where the sealift landing occurs and will be utilized for staging of equipment, drilling materials and fuel caches prior to mobilization to camp and the laydown area inland. The proposed inland laydown area will be utilized for storing of equipment, materials, and fuel needed to facilitate drilling activities and potential future development. The exact location of the laydown area has yet to be determined, but will be an area up to 500 m by 250 m, located 31 meters from the ordinary high water mark of any water body. The laydown area will fall within the proposed laydown extent, and will ideally be a sand covered, consolidated, flat surface. The overland winter trail will be used to mobilize equipment, supplies and fuel from the marine landing area to the inland laydown area. The trail will only be used during frozen ground conditions and when there is sufficient snow cover to accommodate the weight of the transports. During the 2024 field program the proposed marine landing area was ground surveyed by a Qualified Professional Archaeologist. Additionally, the archaeologist completed an aerial survey of the western half of the overland winter trail and ground surveys over a portion of the inland laydown area. No archaeological sites or artifacts were discovered in these areas during the 2024 program. The remaining portions of the overland winter trail and inland laydown area will be surveyed during the 2025 field program. Annual exploration programs are expected to continue similar to previous years, with a slight increase in drilling meterage anticipated. Drilling programs are anticipated to increase to 15,000 to 25,000 m, utilizing one to two diamond drill rigs, and one reverse circulation drill rig. Similar to previous programs, all exploration activities will be helicopter supported and based out of the Storm Camp. The fuel cache, adjacent to camp is anticipated to increase to approximately 512,500 L (2,500 drums). The fuel and materials will be the same as previously cached, primarily diesel and jet fuel, with lesser quantities of gasoline and propane. An additional fuel cache will be established within the inland laydown area, and the location will be provided CIRNAC and the NWB once it has been determined. As with previous programs, all fuel and other hazardous materials will be stored within secondary containment. There are currently no plans to complete any exploration activities, drilling, water use, or waste disposal on Inuit Owned Land (IOL). If in the future activities are proposed on IOL, none will be conducted without first obtaining a licence issued by the Qikiqtani Inuit Association (QIA).

Français: N/A

[illegible]

Inuinnaqtun: N/A

Personnel

Personnel on site: 65
Days on site: 56
Total Person days: 3640
Operations Phase: from 2025-08-13 to 2030-08-12

Activités

Emplacement	Type d'activité	Statut des terres	Historique du site	Site à valeur archéologique ou paléontologique	Proximité des collectivités les plus proches et de toute zone protégée
Aston_Bay_Storm_Proposed_Laydown_Area_n83z15_20250512	Staging areas	Crown	The area of the Aston Bay Property has been explored by numerous companies since the 1960's for a variety of commodities including copper, zinc, and silver.	Prior to ground disturbance, a desktop study will be completed by a qualified professional archaeologist to identify any known archaeological sites and any areas with potential for unknown sites. Ground surveys will be completed as recommended by the archaeologist. If archaeological/paleontological sites are discovered, work in the area will cease and the NU Department of Culture and Heritage will be informed. Nothing will be removed or disturbed at any archaeological/paleontological site.	The Project is located on Somerset Island, approximately 112 kilometres south of Resolute Bay.
Aston_Bay_Storm_Proposed_Marine_Landing_Area_n83z15_20250512	Staging areas	Crown	The area of the Aston Bay Property has been explored by numerous companies since the 1960's for a variety of commodities including copper, zinc, and silver.	Prior to ground disturbance, a desktop study will be completed by a qualified professional archaeologist to identify any known archaeological sites and any areas with potential for unknown sites. Ground surveys will be completed as recommended by the archaeologist. If archaeological/paleontological sites are discovered, work in the area will cease and the NU Department of Culture and Heritage will be informed. Nothing will be removed or disturbed at any archaeological/paleontological site.	The Project is located on Somerset Island, approximately 112 kilometres south of Resolute Bay.
Aston_Bay_Storm_Proposed_Winter_Overland_Trail_n83z15_20250508	Other	Crown	The area of the Aston Bay Property has been explored by numerous companies since the 1960's for a variety of commodities including copper, zinc, and silver.	Prior to ground disturbance, a desktop study will be completed by a qualified professional archaeologist to identify any known archaeological sites and any areas with potential for unknown sites. Ground surveys will be completed as recommended by the archaeologist. If archaeological/paleontological sites are discovered, work in the area will cease and the NU Department of Culture and Heritage will be informed. Nothing will be removed or disturbed at any archaeological/paleontological site.	The Project is located on Somerset Island, approximately 112 kilometres south of Resolute Bay.
Aston_Bay_Storm_Project_Extents_n83z15_20250513	Mineral Exploration	Crown	The area of the Aston Bay Property has been explored by numerous companies since the 1960's for a variety of commodities including copper, zinc, and silver.	Prior to ground disturbance, a desktop study will be completed by a qualified professional archaeologist to identify any known archaeological sites and any areas with potential for unknown sites. Ground surveys will be completed as recommended by the archaeologist. If archaeological/paleontological sites are discovered, work in the area will cease and the NU Department of Culture and Heritage will be informed. Nothing will be removed or disturbed at any archaeological/paleontological site.	The Project is located on Somerset Island, approximately 112 kilometres south of Resolute Bay.

Aston_Bay_Property_Outline_n83z15_20250227	Mineral Exploration	Crown	The area of the Aston Bay Property has been explored by numerous companies since the 1960's for a variety of commodities including copper, zinc, and silver.	site. Prior to ground disturbance, a desktop study will be completed by a qualified professional archaeologist to identify any known archaeological sites and any areas with potential for unknown sites. Ground surveys will be completed as recommended by the archaeologist. If archaeological/paleontological sites are discovered, work in the area will cease and the NU Department of Culture and Heritage will be informed. Nothing will be removed or disturbed at any archaeological/paleontological site.	The Project is located on Somerset Island, approximately 112 kilometres south of Resolute Bay.
Aston_Bay_Storm_Mineral_Tenure_N83z15_20250129	Mineral Exploration	Crown	The area of the Aston Bay Property has been explored by numerous companies since the 1960's for a variety of commodities including copper, zinc, and silver.	Prior to ground disturbance, a desktop study will be completed by a qualified professional archaeologist to identify any known archaeological sites and any areas with potential for unknown sites. Ground surveys will be completed as recommended by the archaeologist. If archaeological/paleontological sites are discovered, work in the area will cease and the NU Department of Culture and Heritage will be informed. Nothing will be removed or disturbed at any archaeological/paleontological site.	The Project is located on Somerset Island, approximately 112 kilometres south of Resolute Bay.
Aston_Bay_Storm_Camp_n83z15_20200504	Camp	Crown	The Storm Camp has been used seasonally since 2016, after the originally permitted Aston Camp, located at approximately 73°42'30" N/ 94°43'15" W, was deemed to be unusable due to the limitations of the airstrip . A single wooden storage shack remains at Aston Camp for use as a survival shelter. Historical core also still remains at the old camp site.	Prior to ground disturbance, a desktop study will be completed by a qualified professional archaeologist to identify any known archaeological sites and any areas with potential for unknown sites. Ground surveys will be completed as recommended by the archaeologist. If archaeological/paleontological sites are discovered, work in the area will cease and the NU Department of Culture and Heritage will be informed. Nothing will be removed or disturbed at any archaeological/paleontological site.	The Storm Camp is located at approximately 73°39'23" N / 94°27'07" W, on Somerset Island and is approximately 112 kilometres south of Resolute Bay.
Aston_Bay_Storm_Camp_Proposed_Additional_Water_Source_n83z15_250523	Camp	Crown	The Storm Camp has been used seasonally since 2016, after the originally permitted Aston Camp, located at approximately 73°42'30" N/ 94°43'15" W, was deemed to be unusable due	Prior to ground disturbance, a desktop study will be completed by a qualified professional archaeologist to identify any known archaeological sites and any areas with potential for unknown sites. Ground surveys will be completed as recommended by the archaeologist. If archaeological/paleontological sites are discovered, work in the area will cease and the NU Department of Culture and Heritage will be informed.	The Storm Camp is located at approximately 73°39'23" N / 94°27'07" W, on Somerset Island and is approximately 112 kilometres south of Resolute Bay.

			to the limitations of the airstrip . A single wooden storage shack remains at Aston Camp for use as a survival shelter. Historical core also still remains at the old camp site.	Nothing will be removed or disturbed at any archaeological/paleontological site.	
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Engagement de la collectivité et avantages pour la région

Collectivité	Nom	Organisme	Date de la prise de contact
Resolute Bay	See Attached Consultation Log	Hamlet of Resolute Bay	2025-06-16

Autorisations

Indiquez les zones dans lesquelles le projet est situé:

Transboundary
North Baffin

Autorisations

Organisme de régulation	Description des autorisations	État actuel	Date de l'émission/de la demande	Date d'échéance
Crown Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada	N2021C0004	Active	2021-04-23	2026-04-22
Office des eaux du Nunavut	2BE-STO2025	Active	2020-08-18	2025-08-17
Qikiqtani Inuit Association	Application No 320573: for activities peripheral to the Storm Project:1. Helicopter landing site near Arctic Watch to facilitate the movement of personnel2. A small fuel cache near Creswell Bay to support helicopter transit between Taloyoak and the Property.	Applied, Decision Pending		

Project transportation types

Transportation Type	Utilisation proposée	Length of Use
Air	Fixed Wing aircraft to transport equipment and personnel into camp, Helicopter to transport equipment, supplies and personnel around Project.	
Land	The overland winter trail will be used to mobilize equipment, supplies and fuel from the marine landing area to the inland laydown area. The trail will only be used during frozen ground conditions and when there is sufficient snow cover to accommodate the weight of the transports.	

Project accomodation types

Temporary Camp

Utilisation de matériel

Équipement à utiliser (y compris les perceuses, les pompes, les aéronefs, les véhicules, etc.)

Type d'équipement	Quantité	Taille – Dimensions	Utilisation proposée
Dual Chamber Controlled Air Incinerator	1	Inciner8 I8-20S	Incinerate combustible waste.
Drill Generator	4-5	Honda 5 kW	Provide electricity to the drills
Excavators	2	Candig Excavator or similar	Support Camp and Drilling activities
Skid Steer	1	Cat Skid Steer	Support camp and drilling equipment
Cargo Sled	3	Cargo Sled	Transport drill over snow covered ground
End Loader	1	Cat 928 Front End Loader or similar	Support camp and drilling activities
Bull Dozer	1	D6 CAT Bull Dozer or similar	Support camp and drilling activities
Fixed Wing Aircraft	1-2	Twin Otter	Transport equipment, supplies & personnel to Project
Helicopter	1-3	AS350B3	Transport equipment, supplies & personnel around Project
Diesel Generator	1	14kVA	Backup power for camp
Water Pump	1-2	2.5 – 5 HP gas or electric pump	Provide water for camp
Reverse Circulation Drill	1-2	Heli-portable	Rock chip samples
Diamond Drill	1-3	Heli-portable	Rock core samples
Drill Water Pump	3-4	Kubota KF40	Supply water for drilling
ATV	3-4	Quad	Support camp activities
Snow Cat	1-2	Snow Cat	Winter Trail
Snowmobile	8-10	Snowmobile	Emergency crew transportation, wildlife monitoring
Diesel Drill Generator	1-3	20-40kVA	Power for Drills
Diesel Generator	2	40kVA	Power for camp

Décrivez l'utilisation du carburant et des marchandises dangereuses

Décrivez l'utilisation de carburant :	Type de carburant	Nombre de conteneurs	Capacité du conteneur	Quantité totale	Unités	Utilisation proposée
Aviation fuel	fuel	1000	205	205000	Liters	Fuel for aircraft
Gasoline	fuel	250	205	51250	Liters	Fuel for quads and generators
Propane	fuel	250	100	25000	Lbs	Fuel for stove and hot water heater
Grease	hazardous	35	5	175	Gallons	Gun Grease, Rod Grease. Used for lubrication
Bleach	hazardous	5	2	10	Liters	Cleaning
Various Cleaning Supplies	hazardous	10	1	10	Liters	Cleaning Sprays such as Lysol, Clorox, Windex
Diesel	fuel	1000	205	205000	Liters	Fuel for drills, heat, generators
CaCl ₂	hazardous	10000	50	500000	Lbs	Drilling
Oil	hazardous	50	1	50	Gallons	Quads, generators, drills
Hydraulic Oil	hazardous	50	5	250	Gallons	Drills

Consommation d'eau

Quantité quotidienne (m3)	Méthodes de récupération de l'eau proposées	Emplacement de récupération de l'eau proposé
299	The water intake for the camp and drills will use a 5.5HP gas powered pump with an intake hose equipped with a mesh screen.	Camp water source: Aston River or lake adjacent to camp during spring; Drill water source: water source proximal to drill site.

Déchets

Gestion des déchets

Activités du projet	Type des déchets	Quantité prévue	Méthode d'élimination	Procédures de traitement supplémentaires
Camp	Déchets combustibles	Variable	Combustible waste will be burned in a batch feed dual-chamber controlled air incinerator, in accordance with the Canada-Wide Standards (CWS) for Dioxins and Furans by the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment, the Technical Document for Batch Waste Incineration by Environment Canada and the Environmental Guideline for the Burning and Incineration of Solid Waste by the Nunavut Department of Environment. The incinerator model specifically designed to incinerate all types of inert combustible wastes produced at the Property, including sewage. The current incinerator model at the Storm Camp is the i8-20s Incinerator by Inciner8. These types of incinerators typically produce the highest quality burn, with the least amount of ash and airborne particles. Residual ash will be backhauled and disposed of appropriately.	See the Waste Management Plan for additional information.
Drilling	Eaux grises	≤289 m3/day	Recirculation and filtration equipment will be used to minimize the amount of water used and additives released into the environment. Secondary containment for additives will be placed around the hole. Any residual drill fluids will be contained in sumps or an equivalent natural depression, preventing the drill fluids from entering water bodies directly and allow for slow infiltration into the soil. Sumps will be positioned a minimum of 31 metres from the ordinary high-water mark of any water body. Sumps will be positioned down slope from the drill collar in such a manner that runoff flows into the sump. Sumps no longer required will be backfilled with sufficient material to accommodate future ground settlement, restoring the site as close as possible to its natural contour.	See the Waste Management Plan for additional information.
Camp	Eaux grises	≤10 m3/day	Greywater from the camp will be collected and treated in an excavated sump designed to allow for slow infiltration into the surrounding soil. The sump will be located at least 31 metres from the ordinary high-water mark of any water body. To prevent solid food waste from entering the system and attracting wildlife, kitchen drains will be equipped with filters and grease traps. The sump and associated piping will be inspected regularly for leaks or signs of potential to overflow. At the end of each operating season, the sumps will be securely covered with plywood for future reuse. When the sumps are no longer required, they will be decommissioned by backfilling with sufficient material to accommodate	See the Waste Management Plan for additional information.

			future ground settlement, restoring the site as close as possible to its natural contour.	
Camp	Déchet dangereux	negligible	All opportunities will be taken to reuse or recycle hazardous waste materials. All hazardous wastes will be placed in sealed containers, labeled and stored within "Arctic Insta-Berms", or similar, for secondary containment until they can be reused or backhauled for recycling or disposal. A hazardous waste storage area will be established adjacent to the main fuel cache. All properly stored hazardous waste will be sealed, labeled, documented and removed from site for proper disposal at a licensed disposal facility.	See the Waste Management Plan for additional information.
Camp	Déchets non combustibles	Variable	Labeled bins will be provided at various locations around camp and at drill sites for non-combustible waste. Effort will be taken to reuse or repurpose any materials before disposal is considered. Non-combustible wastes will be backhauled on an ongoing basis throughout the program and upon seasonal shutdown.	See the Waste Management Plan for additional information.
Camp	Eaux usées (matières de vidange)	40-100 personnel	Pacto toilets will be used at Storm Camp. Pacto bags will be incinerated in a batch feed dual-chamber controlled air incinerator specifically designed to be capable of incinerating this type of waste. Incineration of sewage will occur frequently and on a regular schedule.	See the Waste Management Plan for additional information.

Répercussions environnementales :

Aston Bay is firmly committed to the protection and conservation of the natural environment, and to ensure the health and safety of all employees, contractors, and people in surrounding communities. Potential environmental impacts of the Aston Bay Property are low to negligible and largely mitigatable. Effort will always be made to avoid disturbances to wildlife and the environment. Denning and nesting sites will be avoided and the locations recorded and provided to the regional wildlife authorities. Any archaeological sites identified will be respected and reported immediately. There will be no discharge of any kind into any water bodies. No drilling will be performed, or sump created, within thirty-one (31) metres of the ordinary high-water mark of any water body. Additionally, all hazardous materials will be placed in secondary containment and stored a minimum of 31 metres from the ordinary high-water mark of any water body. For further details, please see the Aston Bay Spill Prevention and Response Plan, Waste Management Plan, Abandonment and Restoration Plan, and Environmental Management Plan.

Additional Information

SECTION A1: Project Info

N/A

SECTION A2: Allweather Road

SECTION A3: Winter Road

An overland winter trail will be used to transport equipment, supplies, and fuel from the marine landing area to the inland laydown site. The trail will only be utilized under frozen ground conditions and when there is sufficient snow cover to support the weight of the transport vehicles. No surface preparation will be required. A scouting crew will travel ahead of the main equipment convoy to assess snow depth and ice thickness, ensuring safe and suitable conditions.

SECTION B1: Project Info

Commodities being explored for include copper, zinc and silver.

SECTION B2: Exploration Activity

Exploration activities will include: Exploration Land drilling (diamond and R/C), Geophysical work (ground and air), Soil sampling, Prospecting & rock sampling, Geological mapping and off site sample processing.

SECTION B3: Geosciences

Geophysical operation types include: Magnetic, Electromagnetic & Magnetotellurics.

SECTION B4: Drilling

Annual exploration programs are expected to continue similar to previous years with a slight increase in drilling meterage anticipated. Drilling programs of 15,000 to 25,000 metres (approximately 120 holes) annually is estimated, utilizing one to three diamond drills, and one to two reverse circulation drill rigs. The average hole depth is expected to be approximately 200 m, up to a maximum proposed depth of 700 m. The exact drill additives may vary. Aston Bay will ensure that the drilling contractor maximizes the use of non-toxic and biodegradable additives whenever possible. The Aston Bay Storm Project Spill Prevention and Response Plan will be updated with appropriate MSDS sheets once the additives have been determined. However, until confirmed, it is assumed that the following materials may potentially be present at the drill site: • drill fluid additive "550X polymer" (consists of copolyacrylamide / sodium acrylate; Non Toxic) • tube grease - Beacon 2, Z-50 pipe dope (Non Toxic) • circulation polymer - G-stop (Non Toxic) • rod grease - Big Bear diamond drill rod grease (Non Toxic) • motor oil - super plus SAE 10W30 and 15W-40 (Non Toxic) • hydraulic oil - Harmony AW 22, 32, 46, 68 (Non Toxic) • Linseed Soap - (Non Toxic) • Extreme Alkamer • Extreme Number One • Extreme Super-G Blue • Extreme Super-G Gold • Extreme Stop LCM/Jelly • Extreme Clay Seam • Extreme Enviro Cote • AMC K ION • AMC CR 650 polymer • CaCl₂ The drill waste, including water, cuttings and muds will be disposed of in a properly constructed sump or an appropriate natural depression; at least 31 m from the ordinary high water mark of any water body, where direct flow into a water body is not possible and no additional impacts are created. Drilling will utilize recirculation and filtration systems to minimize loss of water and drill additives. Non-toxic and bio-degradable drilling fluids will be used wherever possible. Drilling fluids will be directed into a properly constructed sump or an appropriate natural depression, at least 31 m from the ordinary high water mark of any adjacent water body, where direct flow into a water body is not possible and no additional impacts are created. If any artesian water flow is detected, the hole will be plugged immediately and cemented in bedrock to prevent continued flow. The drill, drilling equipment and accessories (pumps, hose, tanks, etc.) will be mobilized to the camp via small fixed wing aircraft. Additionally, with the newly proposed overland winter trail, equipment may be mobilized from the Marine Landing Area to the inland laydown area during frozen ground conditions for storage. The equipment will then be transported to and from the drill sites via helicopter based at the camp. If later reactivation of the hole is not required, casing will be removed whenever possible. Any remaining/fused casing will be cut off to ground level or below and capped. Any holes with flowing water will be permanently sealed unless written instruction from the relevant authority is received to indicate otherwise.

SECTION B5: Stripping

N/A

SECTION B6: Underground Activity

N/A

SECTION B7: Waste Rock

N/A

SECTION B8: Stockpiles

N/A

SECTION B9: Mine Development

SECTION B10: Geology

SECTION B11: Mine

SECTION B12: Mill

SECTION C1: Pits

SECTION D1: Facility

SECTION D2: Facility Construction

SECTION D3: Facility Operation

SECTION D4: Vessel Use

SECTION E1: Offshore Survey

SECTION E2: Nearshore Survey

SECTION E3: Vessel Use

SECTION F1: Site Cleanup

SECTION G1: Well Authorization

SECTION G2: Onland Exploration

SECTION G3: Offshore Exploration

SECTION G4: Rig

SECTION H1: Vessel Use

SECTION H2: Disposal At Sea

SECTION I1: Municipal Development

Description de l'environnement existant : Environnement physique

The region is characterized by rolling terrain with low relief. The topography initially rises abruptly from sea level to about 100 m, and then levels out eastward, to an average of roughly 200 to 300 m above sea level. Flat areas are dominated by felsenmeer and cryoturbated soils. Cryoturbation produces features such as frost boils, ice-wedge polygons, stone nets and stone stripes. The Aston River is the main watercourse in the area; it runs east-west through the Property draining into Aston Bay. The Aston River and other major drainages are characterized by steep incised canyons, typically exposing good outcrop along the canyon walls. To date, there has been no evidence of ground slope or rock instability, or seismicity in the Project area. Likewise, there is no evidence at this time of thermokarsts or ice lenses. The Aston Bay Property is underlain primarily by Cambrian to Devonian strata deposited on a rifted cratonic margin. Carbonates, evaporites and continentally-derived siliciclastics accumulated on a carbonate platform that passed southwards into cratonic sedimentary cover. The nearest National Parks are Polar Bear Pass National Wildlife Area located on Bathurst Island north of Somerset Island and Sirmilik National Park on northern Baffin Island, east of Somerset Island. The nearest Marine Protected Area surrounds the Prince Leopold Island Migratory Bird Sanctuary located to the northeast of Somerset Island. The Property is in the Northern Arctic Ecozone, consisting of plateaux and rocky hills. Coastal areas typically constitute wide plans 'fenced' by boulders carried onshore by sea ice, strong tidal currents and storm waves. The Northern Arctic Ecozone is characterized by low mean temperatures and minor precipitation, mainly falling as snow. January and February are the coldest months, with average temperatures below -30 degrees Celsius (oC). Summers are typically brief, cool, and damp with a mean temperature of under 3 oC through July and August. Snow cover during winter months may be as little as 30 cm; however, constant northwest winds can build-up more significant drift accumulations. The entire region is subject to continuous permafrost that extends to depths of 400 to 500 m. Aston Bay does not anticipate any impacts to the air and water quality or climate from this program. Noise levels in the arctic are very low, but can increase due to exploration activities. Noise can result from the use of planes, helicopters and drills and to a lesser degree from activities within the camp, which have the potential to disturb wildlife. Noise disturbance mitigation measures will include, but not be limited to: •Helicopters and fixed wing aircraft will avoid low altitude flights whenever possible. •When operations require low-altitude flights, such as during airborne geophysical surveys, the planned survey areas will be monitored in advance to identify any potential wildlife concerns. If necessary, alternate areas will be flown to avoid disturbance. •Pilots will be instructed not to land where wildlife is present, unless it is an emergency situation. •Drill sites will be stated away from any wildlife nests or dwellings. For additional disturbance mitigation measures see the Aston Bay Environmental Management Plan.

Description de l'environnement existant : Environnement biologique

Vegetation at the Storm Property consists mainly of moss, lichens, stunted plants and arctic grasses. The grasses are typically observed growing at lower elevations in the areas associated with river drainage basins. Muskoxen are occasionally observed grazing in these areas. Arctic fox, hare, and lemmings have also been noted at the Property. Polar bears are rarely observed and caribou have never been observed at the Project. Seals can also be observed lying on the ice along the coast of Aston Bay. Two important bird areas are identified on Somerset Island by Environment Canada: Batty Bay and Creswell Bay, but neither of them is in the vicinity of the Aston Bay Project as they are along the East Coast. Species of concern in the area, as identified under the Species at Risk Act, include Peary Caribou, Red-Necked Phalarope, Buff-Breasted Sandpiper, Ivory Gull, Red Know, Ross's Gull, Short-Eared Owl, Polar Bears and Wolverines. Polar bears and wolverines require large open spaces such as the arctic tundra to forage for food and have extensive ranges. Please refer to Aston Bay's Environmental Management Plan for disturbance mitigation measures. Atlantic walrus, beluga whale, killer whale and bowhead whale have the potential to be observed within the waters surrounding Somerset Island. To our knowledge, there is no known critical habitat, thus the impact should be very low, however to the best of Aston Bay's ability, sealift activity will be minimized during May 1 to August 31, annually to avoid impacts on cetacean calving windows.

Description de l'environnement existant : Environnement socio-économique

The closest community to the Aston Bay Property is Resolute Bay, approximately 112 k to the north. Tent rings and remains of camps from Thule culture (AD 1000 – 1400) can be found near the Arctic Watch Lodge, along the northern coast of Somerset Island. An Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) was conducted by WSP Canada Inc. (WSP), on behalf of Aston Bay Holdings Inc., in 2024 to identify potential archaeological conflicts with proposed work areas. The objectives of the 2024 AIA were to conduct field assessments of three proposed Marine Laydown Area (MLA) options, eight drill areas and the overland winter trail route. Assessment methods included a combination of low-level helicopter survey as well as pedestrian ground survey. Inclement weather prevented assessment of all Project components; however, the three MLA locations were successfully assessed, and two drill areas (Corona and Lightning Ridge) as well as the western portion of the overland winter trail were examined. As a result of the assessment, no archaeological sites were identified in conflict with the preferred MLA 1 option, which is the one currently being applied for use. No sites were identified along portions of the transportation corridor or drilling areas examined. The remaining areas of the overland winter trail and drilling areas were completed during the 2025 field program. Prior to any ground disturbance, desktop studies will be completed by a qualified professional archaeologist to identify any known archaeological sites and any areas with potential for unknown sites. Ground surveys will be completed as recommended by the archaeologist. If any archaeological/paleontological sites are discovered, work in the area will immediately cease and the Nunavut Department of Culture and Heritage will be informed. Nothing will be removed or disturbed at any archaeological/paleontological site. Aston Bay Holdings has regularly consulted with the hamlet of Resolute Bay since 2016. Ongoing consultation with the hamlet will continue and additional engagement is planned with other potential interested parties, including the Hunters and Trappers Organization and the general public.

Miscellaneous Project Information

Identification des répercussions et mesures d'atténuation proposées

Positive socio-economic impacts are anticipated through employment, as well as from local procurement of goods and services. Local community members will continue to be employed at the project in various essential positions, including wildlife monitoring, camp setup and maintenance, kitchen support, core cutting, and RC drill sampling. Wildlife monitors will keep records of the location and numbers of caribou, muskox, bears, and other wildlife. These wildlife monitors will also provide information to the helicopter pilots and field crews when wildlife are approaching the camp or work site. The information and advice provided by the wildlife monitors will help to determine times when operations need to be shut down to allow wildlife to move safely through the area with minimal disturbance. Waste generated by the camp will be managed in several ways. All combustible waste, including human waste, will be incinerated in a batch feed dual-chamber controlled air incinerator, specifically designed to be capable of incinerating this type of waste. Non-combustible solid waste and scrap metal will be sent off for recycling or proper disposal. Camp grey water will be collected in excavated sumps for settling before draining naturally into the surrounding soil. Drilling equipment will use recirculation and filtration to minimize the amount of water used and additives released into the environment. Any residual drill fluids will be collected in sumps or an equivalent natural depression, allowing for slow infiltration into the soil and preventing the drill fluids from entering water bodies. Empty fuel drums will be sent off site on a regular basis for refilling or proper disposal if warranted. Any other waste generated by the project will be disposed of in an approved manner. All fuel caches will use secondary containment with 110% containment capacity, and will be supplied with a complete spill kit, including highly absorbent pads and one empty drum, in the event of a fuel spill. Each fuel cache will also be equipped with a fire extinguisher. Small fuel caches in the field are placed in shallow natural depressions which are a minimum of 31 metres from the normal high-water mark of nearby bodies of water.

Répercussions cumulatives

Cumulative effects can occur from a number of developments concurrently occurring within a geographic area or of a number of developments occurring over time. All potential environmental effects associated with the proposed Aston Bay Property are minor, localized effects that can be mitigated. No significant residual impacts to the environment are expected to occur as a result of the implementation of this program. While individually no significant effects are anticipated, consideration should be made to the combination of all existing or known planned activities within the vicinity of Aston Bay project area. Aston Bay is committed to working collaboratively with local stakeholders, Inuit organizations and regulators to proactively evaluate and minimize any potential cumulative effects. Aston Bay will continue to conduct community consultation and work to address concerns and incorporate advice and knowledge shared into work practices. Aston Bay will conduct itself in a responsible manner both environmentally and socially. Whenever possible Aston Bay will hire locally and will provide training opportunities. A summary of activities, both past and present, within and around the Aston Bay property are described below.

Past Activities: From the last 1960's to 2007 a number of companies carried out small exploration programs in the area of the Aston Bay Property. These companies included Cominco Ltd. (Cominco), Noranda Inc. (now Glencore Xstrata plc) and later Teck-Cominco Ltd. (now known as Teck Resources Ltd.). From 2008 to 2011. Work completed on behalf of Commander Resources Ltd. included: 3,970 line-km of helicopter-borne Versatile Time-Domain Electromagnetic (VTEM) and aeromagnetic surveys, analysis of samples from 7 historic Cominco drill core, historical collar identification and examination and detailed geological mapping and mineral claim staking. Work on behalf of Aston Bay Holdings since 2012 has included: analysis samples from historic Cominco drill core, resurveying of historic drill collars, UTM and gravity ground geophysical surveys, exploratory RC and diamond core drilling, collection of rock samples, geological mapping and mineral claim staking.

Current Activities: There are no known permanent residents of Somerset Island. Arctic Watch Lodge, a wilderness adventure resort, is located 50 km to the northeast of the Property at Cumberland Sound. Activities by staff and visitors include hiking, ATV'ing, Kayaking with beluga whales, rafting the Cunningham River, exploring the Northwest Passage, "catch-and-release" fishing and Arctic safaris to watch muskox, polar bears, nesting peregrine falcons and other birds such as loons, snow bunting, sandpipers and rough-legged hawks. Tours of Thule archeological sites are conducted at Cape Anne, along the north coast of the Island. Icebreaker Cruise Ship Tours – tourists may disembark to explore the ancient Thule Ruins, but these are again located in the northern part of Somerset Island. The combination of small-scale grassroots exploration programs and tourism activities, both past and present, in and around the Aston Bay Property is considered to have a minor or negligible impact.

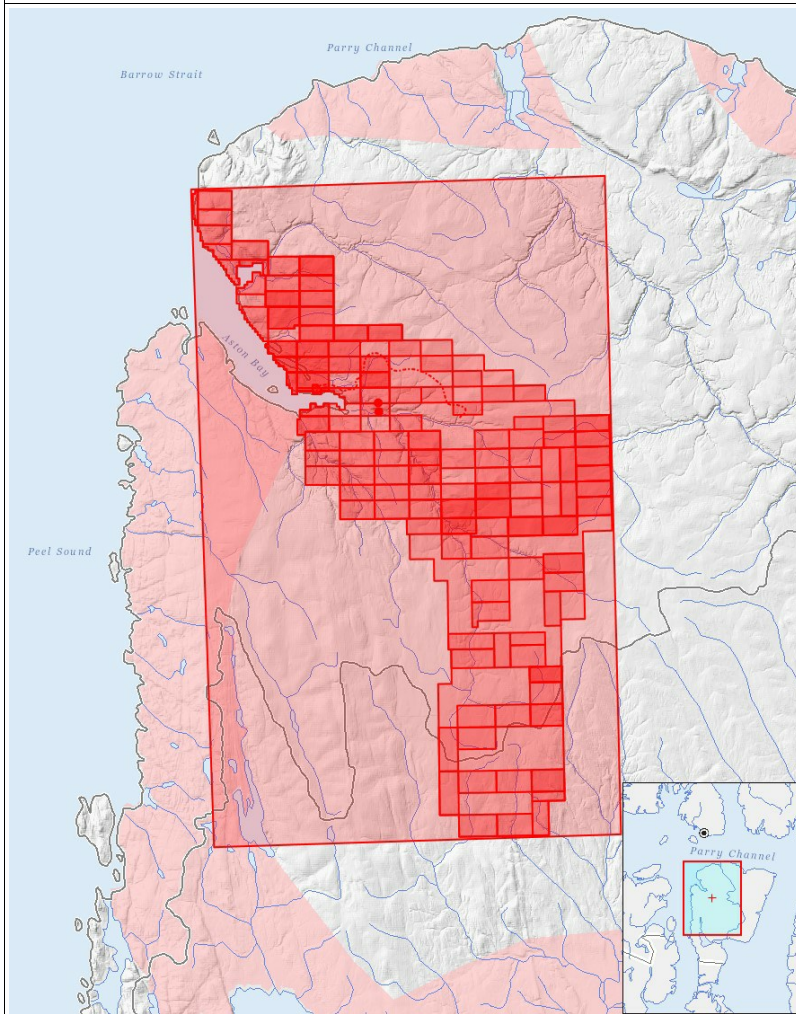
Impacts

Identification des répercussions environnementales

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(P = Positive, N = Négative et non gérable, M = Négative et gérable, U = Inconnue)

Site du projet



Liste des géométries de projet

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