

NPC 150871: Aston Bay Property or Storm Project

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Proposal Status: Conformity Determination Issued

[Overview Documents](#)

[Project Overview](#)

Type of application: Amendment

Proponent name:

Thomas Ullrich

Proponent company:

Aston Bay Holdings

Project Description:

Storm Project The 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. Aston Bay is currently applying to renew and amend Nunavut Water Board (NWB) Type B Water Licence 2BE-STO2025 and amend CIRNAC Class A Land Use Permit (LUP) N2021C0004. The project has been reviewed by NPC in 2010, 2012, 2013, 2015 and 2020 (File #149360) and NIRB in 2010 (File #10EN013). The currently authorized activities are: •Project Extents NW: Latitude: 74° 01' 02" N Longitude: 95° 20' 12" W NE: Latitude: 74° 00' 59" N Longitude: 93° 20' 02" W SE: Latitude: 72° 45' 36" N Longitude: 93° 19' 36" W SW: Latitude: 72° 44' 53" N Longitude: 95° 19' 28" W •General exploration activities (geological mapping, prospecting, geochemical sampling (rock, soil, till), airborne and ground geophysical surveys on the project mineral tenure on Crown land within Project Extents, •40-person Storm Camp with fuel cache, located at 73° 39' 23" N Latitude, 94° 27' 10" W Longitude, •Previous camp site (Aston Camp, historic Cameco camp site), used to support exploration in 2014 and 2015, located at 73°42'30" N latitude and 94°43'15" W longitude. Now only site for storage of historical drill core and one 14'x16' wooden shack containing survival equipment. •Water use of 299 m3/day (10 m3/day for camp use and 289 m3/day for drilling). •Water for camp to be drawn from the Aston River, •Drilling (and water to be drawn for drilling) within Project Extents on active Project mineral tenure (Crown land only), •Remote fuel caches to support exploration, •Incineration of combustible solid waste and sewage (by incinerator designed for the waste type), •Disposal of grey water from camp and drilling activities into excavated sumps or natural depressions, •Transportation of personnel, materials, equipment and fuel via fixed wing aircraft equipped with tundra tires and helicopters. Requested amendments to the current authorizations: •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, and •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 source 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.

[Project Schedule](#)

Start Date:

2025-08-16

End Date:

2025-10-11

[Project Map](#)

List of project geometries:

Id

Geometry

Location Name

[18320](#)

polygon

Aston_Bay_Storm_Mineral_Tenure_N83z15_20250129

[18321](#)

polygon

Aston_Bay_Storm_Project_Extents_n83z15_20250513

[18322](#)

polygon

Aston_Bay_Storm_Proposed_Laydown_Area_n83z15_20250512

[18323](#)

polygon

Aston_Bay_Storm_Proposed_Marine_Landing_Area_n83z15_20250512

[18324](#)

polyline

Aston_Bay_Storm_Proposed_Winter_Overland_Trail_n83z15_20250508

[18318](#)

point

Aston_Bay_Storm_Camp_n83z15_20200504

[18319](#)

point

Aston_Bay_Storm_Camp_Proposed_Additional_Water_Source_n83z15_250523

NPC Planning regions:

North Baffin

Project Land Use and Authorizations

Project Land Use:

Mineral Exploration

Mineral Exploration

Licensing Agencies:

Nunavut Impact Review Board

Nunavut Impact Review Board

Nunavut Impact Review Board

Nunavut Impact Review Board

Nunavut Impact Review Board

Nunavut Impact Review Board

Nunavut Impact Review Board

Nunavut Impact Review Board

Government of Canada - Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada

Nunavut Water Board

Material Use

Equipment:

Type

Quantity

Type

Use

Fixed Wing aircraft

1

Twin Otter

Transport equipment and personnel into camp.

Helicopter

1-2

AS350B3

1-2 helicopters to transport equipment, supplies and personnel.

Diesel generator

1

Powerline KS1400-T3 (14 kVA)

Provide electricity to camp.

Water pump

1-2

2.5-5 HP gas pump

Provide water to camp.

Dual Chamber Controlled Air Incinerator

1

Inciner8 I8-20S

Incinerate combustible waste.

Reverse Circulation Drill

1

heli-portable Super Hornet

Drilling for chip rock samples

Drill water pump

2-3

Kubota KF40

Supply water to the drills

Drill Generator

4-5

Honda 5 kW

Provide electricity to the drills

All-terrain vehicles

2

Quad

Local transport around camp

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

Snow Machine

4

Snowmobile

Crew Transportation, safety, wildlife monitors, when ground sufficiently snow covered

Fuel Use:

Type

Container

Capacity

Use

Aviation fuel

1000

205

Fuel for aircraft

Diesel

1000

205

Fuel for generators & heat

Gasoline

250

205

Fuel for quads and generators

Propane

250

100

Fuel for stove and hot water heater

Hazardous Material and Chemical Use:

Type

Container

Capacity

Use

CaCl₂

4000

50

Drilling

Hydraulic Oil

15

5

Drilling. Majority of oil is on site in the event of unforeseen mechanical failure

Oil

15

1

Oil for quads, generators, and drills

Grease

35

5

Gun Grease, Rod Grease. Used for lubrication

Bleach

5

2

Cleaning

Various Cleaning Supplies

10

1

Cleaning Sprays such as Lysol, Clorox, Windex

Water Consumption:

Daily Amount (m²)

Retrieval Method

Retrieval Location

299

Camp water source: Aston River or lake adjacent to camp during spring; Drill water source: water source proximal to drill site.

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.

Waste and Impacts

Environmental Impacts:

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 have been negligible and are anticipated to continue to have insignificant impacts on the environment. Effort will 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. All archaeological sites 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.

Waste Management:

Waste Type

Quantity Generated

Treatment Method

Disposal Method

Combustible wastes

Negligible to low

See attached Waste Management Plan for details on individual waste types.

The Aston Bay Property will use a batch feed dual-chamber controlled air incinerator to dispose of combustible solid wastes. All combustible wastes will be burned in accordance with applicable federal and territorial regulations and the Nunavut Department of Environment Guideline for the Burning and Incineration of Solid Waste.

Greywater

10 m³/day

Disposed of in dry pits located adjacent to camp; allowed to percolate into overburden; minimum distance of 31 m from nearby water sources

Sumps.

Hazardous waste

5 L

See attached Waste Management Plan for details on individual waste types.

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 proper recycling or disposal. A hazardous waste storage area will be established adjacent to the main fuel cache.

Non-Combustible wastes

Negligible

See attached Waste Management Plan for details on individual waste types.

Back-hauled and recycled or disposed of properly.

Sewage (human waste)

40-100 personnel

See attached Waste Management Plan for details on individual waste types.

Incineration



