



Demande de la CNER faisant l'objet d'un examen préalable #126245

Aston Bay Property or Storm Project

Type de demande : New

Type de projet: Mineral Exploration

Date de la demande : Monday, October 27, 2025

Period of operation: from 2026-06-25 to 2031-09-24

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DÉTAILS

Description non technique de la proposition de projet

Anglais: 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, 2020 (File #149360) and 2025 (File #150931) 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 people,
- Increase fuel stored at the main Storm Camp fuel cache from 80,000 L (400 drums) to 148,625 L (725 drums).
- Increase chemicals and materials required for camp and exploration activities,
- Marine landing area,
- Additional equipment needed to facilitate camp and exploration, such as a reverse circulation drill, skid steer, 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 exploration activities advance and additional staffing is required, the camp may need to expand its capacity to support between up to 65 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. During the 2024 field program the proposed marine landing area was ground surveyed by a Qualified Professional Archaeologist. 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 148,625 L (725 drums). The fuel and materials will be the same as previously cached, primarily diesel and jet fuel, with lesser quantities of gasoline and propane. Chemicals and materials required for camp and exploration activities will also slightly increase, such as CaCl₂. As with previous programs, all

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
Storm Proposed Marine Landing Area	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.
Storm Project Extents	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.
Storm Camp	Camp	Crown	The Storm Camp has been used seasonally since 2016, after the originally permitted Aston Camp, located at approximately 73°42'30" N/	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	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.

			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.	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.	
Storm Camp Proposed Additional Water Source	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.
Storm Mineral Tenure	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	The Project is located on Somerset Island, approximately 112 kilometres south of Resolute Bay.

				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	2025-06-17

Autorisations

Indiquez les zones dans lesquelles le projet est situé:

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: 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.	
Water	Sealift will be used to mobilize equipment, drilling materials and fuel. 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.	

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
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.
Dual Chamber Controlled Air Incinerator	1	Inciner8 I8-20S	Incinerate combustible waste.
Diamond drill	1-2	Zinex A-5	Drilling for core rock samples.
Drill water pump	2-3	Kubota KF40	Supply water to the drill(s).
Reverse Circulation Drill	1	heli-portable Super Hornet	Drilling for chip rock samples
Drill Generator	4-5	Honda 5 kW	Provide electricity to the drills
All-terrain vehicles	2	Quad	Local transport around camp
Skid Steer	1	Cat Skid Steer	Support camp activities
Diesel Generator	2	40kVA	camp electricity
Diesel Generator	1	14 kVA	Back up camp electricity
Gas Generator	3	5 kW	Backup camp electricity
Snow Machine	4-8	Snowmobile	Crew transportation, safety, wildlife monitoring (only to be used when ground sufficiently snow covered).
Water Pump	2	2.5-5 HP gas pump	Camp water

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	350	205	71750	Liters	Fuel for aircraft
Diesel	fuel	350	205	71750	Liters	Fuel for generators, equipment & heat
Gasoline	fuel	25	205	5125	Liters	Fuel for equipment, ATVs & snowmobiles
Propane	fuel	50	100	5000	Lbs	Fuel for kitchen equipment & water heater
CaCl ₂	hazardous	4000	50	200000	Lbs	Drilling
Hydraulic Oil	hazardous	15	5	75	Gallons	Drilling equipment

Engine Oil	hazardous	15	1	15	Gallons	Drilling equipment, quads, generators, etc.
Grease	hazardous	1	10	10	Kg	Vehicle & equipment lubrication
Various Cleaning Supplies	hazardous	10	1	10	Liters	Cleaning chemicals such as Lysol, Clorox, Windex

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	The camp will utilize 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.	Incinerator ash will be will be backhauled and disposed at an authorized facility. See the Waste Management Plan for details on individual waste types.
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	See the Waste Management Plan for details on individual waste types.

			reuse. When the sumps are no longer required, they will be decommissioned by backfilling with sufficient material to accommodate future ground settlement, restoring the site as close as possible to its natural contour.	
Drilling	Eaux grises	≤289 m3/day	Recirculation and filtration equipment will be used to minimize the amount of water used and released into the environment. Any residual drill fluids will be contained in natural depression sumps, 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.	See the Waste Management Plan for details on individual waste types.
Mineral Exploration	Déchet dangereux	Negligible to low	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	See the Waste Management Plan for details on individual waste types.

			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.	
Camp	Déchets non combustibles	Variable	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 details on individual waste types.
Camp	Eaux usées (matières de vidange)	40-65 people	Pacto toilets will be utilized at 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.	Incinerator ash will be will be backhauled and disposed at an authorized facility. See the Waste Management Plan for details on individual waste types.

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

SECTION A2: Allweather Road

SECTION A3: Winter Road

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 in an appropriate natural depression sump; 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 Project either by barge or fixed wing aircraft. Drilling equipment, materials and fuel will be transported from the Marine Landing Area to the camp or drill sites via helicopter. 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. 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 felsensmeer 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 know 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 and eight drill areas. 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 potential MLA locations were successfully assessed as well as two drill areas (Corona and Lightning Ridge). 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 in the drilling areas examined. The remaining 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

N/A

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, utem 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.

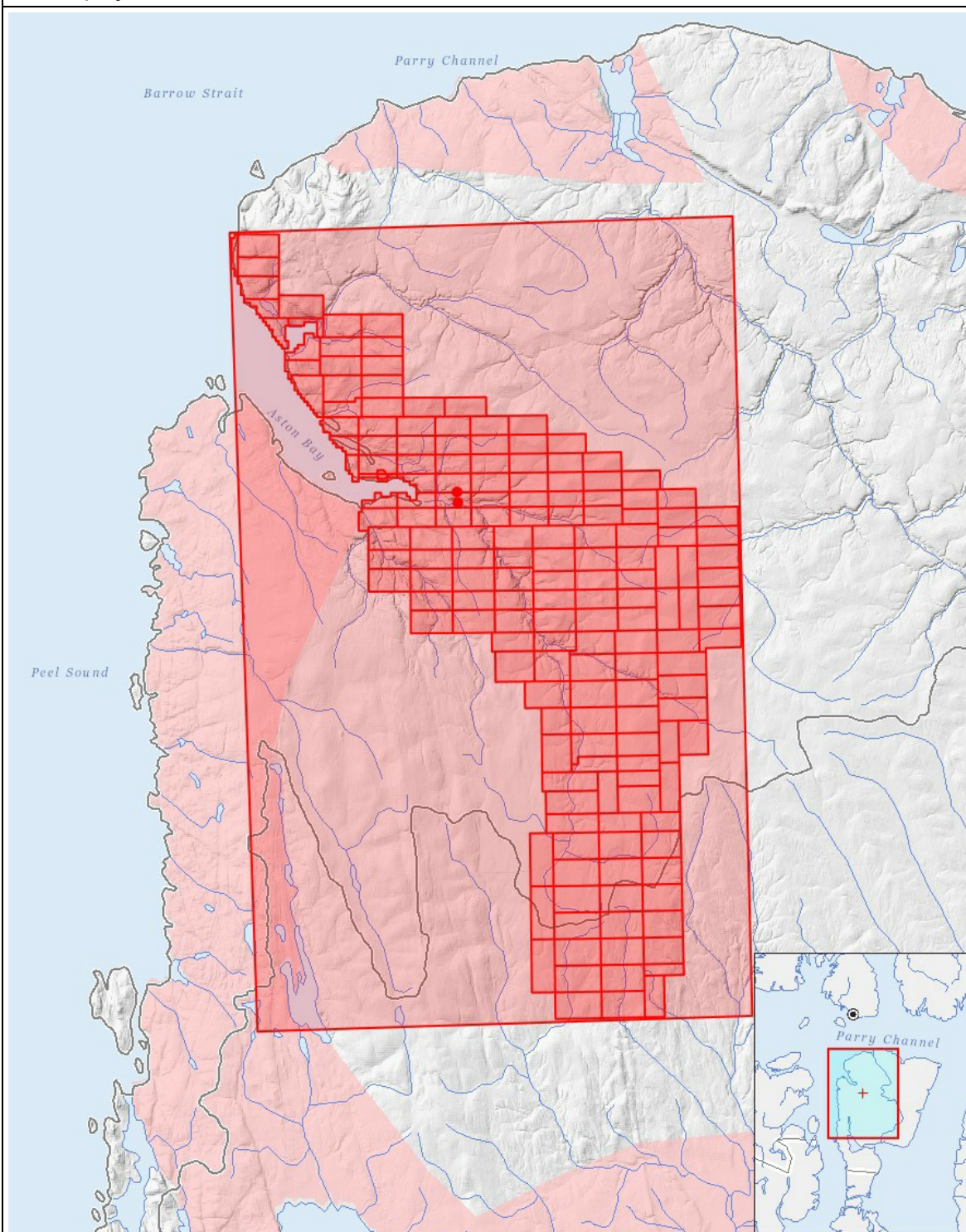
Impacts

Identification des répercussions environnementales

	PHYSICAL	Designated environmental areas	Ground stability	Permafrost	Hydrology / Limnology	Water quality	Climate conditions	Eskers and other unique or fragile landscapes	Surface and bedrock geology	Sediment and soil quality	Tidal processes and bathymetry	Air quality	Noise levels	BIOLOGICAL	Vegetation	Wildlife, including habitat and migration patterns	Birds, including habitat and migration patterns	Aquatic species, incl. habitat and migration/spawning	Wildlife protected areas	SOCIO-ECONOMIC	Archaeological and cultural historic sites	Employment	Community wellness	Community infrastructure	Human health
Construction																									
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Exploitation																									
Camp	-	-	M	-	-	-	-	P	M	-	M	M		M	M	M	-	-		P	P	-	-	-	-
Staging areas	-	-	M	-	-	-	-	-	M	-	M	M		M	M	M	-	-		M	P	-	-	-	-
Mineral Exploration	-	-	-	-	M	-	-	P	M	-	M	M		M	M	M	-	-		M	P	-	-	-	-
Désaffectation																									
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

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

Site du projet



Liste des géométries de projet

- | | | |
|---|----------|---|
| 1 | polygone | Storm Mineral Tenure |
| 2 | polygone | Storm Project Extents |
| 3 | polygone | Storm Proposed Marine Landing Area |
| 4 | point | Storm Camp |
| 5 | point | Storm Camp Proposed Additional Water Source |