NPC 150931: Aston Bay Property or Storm Project

Close

Proposal Status: Conformity Determination Issued

Overview Documents

Project Overview

Type of application: Amendment

Proponent name:

Thomas Ullrich

Proponent company:

Aston Bay Holdings

Project Description:

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 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 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 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 $CaCl_2$. As with previous programs,

all fuel and other hazardous materials will be stored within secondary containment. Additional equipment is also being permitted to facilitate camp and exploration, such as a reverse circulation drill, skid steer, and snowmobiles.

Project Schedule

Start Date:

2026-07-01

End Date:

2031-09-30

Project Map

List of project geometries:

Id

Geometry

Location Name

18982

polygon

Storm Mineral Tenure

18983

polygon

Storm Project Extents

18984

polygon

Storm Proposed Marine Landing Area

18980

point

Storm Camp

18981

point

Storm Camp Proposed Additional Water Source

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

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.

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

Fuel Use:

Type

Container

Capacity

Use

Aviation fuel

350

205

Fuel for aircraft

Diesel

350

205

Fuel for generators, equipment & heat

Gasoline

25

205

Fuel for equipment, ATVs & snowmobiles

Propane

50

100

Fuel for kitchen equipment & water heater

Hazardous Material and Chemical Use:

Type

Container

Capacity

Use

$CaCl_2$

4000

50

Drilling

Hydraulic Oil

15

5

Drilling equipment

Engine Oil

15

1

Drilling equipment, quads, generators, etc.

Grease

1

10

Vehicle & equipment lubrication

Various Cleaning Supplies

10

1

Cleaning chemicals such as Lysol, Clorox, Windex

Water Consumption:

Daily Amount (m^2)

Retrieval Method

Retrieval Location

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

Treatement 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)

40-65 people

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