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**Eric Bottos**

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Dear Calvin Ehaloak, Mosha Cote, Cory Baker, Jared Ottenhof, and Eric Bottos:

**RE: NPC File # 151157[Responses of Permafrost Microbial Communities to Climate-Driven Thaw]**

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

1. **Primary Land Use:** Scientific Research
2. **Project summary description:** This project investigates how permafrost thaw affects carbon release by studying microbial communities in permafrost and overlying soils across Arctic landscapes. In August, researcher Gwen Freeze will travel by ship with Adventure Canada in northern Nunavut, collecting soil and 30 cm permafrost cores at select landing sites. Samples will be DNA-sequenced and used in lab thaw experiments to see how soil-permafrost interactions shape microbial responses to warming. The work prioritizes minimal disturbance, community consultation, open data, and accessible reporting to Nunavut residents.
3. **Summary of modifications:** This year's work adds eight new sampling sites and repeats seven from last year, for a total of 15 locations, with operations running from 26 August to 27 September 2026. The team size and licensing approach remain unchanged. The sampling radius will expand from 50 km to 100 km, cores will be drilled electrically, and small bryophyte samples will be collected.
4. **Associated NPC File Nos.:**150822; **Associated NIRB File No.:**25YN051
5. **Location:** Kitikmeot and Qikiqtani Region; [several sampling points across the two regions]

A complete description of the project proposal reviewed by the NPC can be accessed online using the link below.

The Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC) has completed its review of the above noted project proposal. The NPC previously reviewed works and activities associated with the current proposal, (conformity determination issued June 9, 2025). This conformity determination still applies. In addition, associated activities were previously screened by the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB FILE NO.: 25YN051).

The NPC has determined that the above-noted project proposal is a significant modification because of the addition of new sampling sites including sites near the communities of Cambridge Bay, Gjoa Haven, and Pond Inlet. It conforms to the North Baffin Regional Land Use Plan (NBRLUP). The proponent has undertaken to comply with the applicable conformity requirements of Appendix C, H, and I of the NBRLUP.

The above-noted project proposal requires screening by the NIRB under section 12.4.3 of the *Nunavut Agreement* as amended because it is for a component or activity that was not part of the original or previously amended proposal and its inclusion is a significant modification of the project.

By way of this letter, the NPC is forwarding the project proposal with this determination to the NIRB for screening. Project materials, including the applicable conformity requirements, are available at the following address:  
<https://lupit.nunavut.ca/portal/registry/registry.aspx?appid=151157>

The regulatory authorities to which this letter is addressed are responsible under the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act (NuPPAA)* to implement any of the applicable requirements by incorporating the requirements directly, or otherwise ensuring that they must be met, in the terms and conditions of any authorizations issued.

This conformity determination applies only to the above noted project proposal as submitted. Proponents may not carry out projects and regulatory authorities may not issue licenses, permits and other authorizations in respect of projects if a review by the NPC is required. Regulatory authorities may consult with the NPC to obtain recommendations on their duties to implement the existing land use plans prior to issuing licenses, permits and other authorizations under subsection 69(6) of the *NuPPAA*.

My office would be pleased to discuss how best to implement the applicable requirements and to review any draft authorizations that regulatory authorities wish to provide for that purpose. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (867) 447-4563.

Sincerely,



Solomon Amuno, PhD  
Senior Planner  
Nunavut Planning Commission

**Jurisdictional Note:**

*This conformity determination applies only to the components of the proposed project located within the Nunavut Settlement Area and under the Nunavut Planning Commission's statutory jurisdiction as defined in the Nunavut Agreement and the Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act (NuPPAA). Activities outside the NPC's jurisdiction remain subject to the review and regulatory processes of the relevant authorities. Proponents are responsible for identifying, contacting, and obtaining all required approvals from the appropriate regulators in every applicable jurisdiction to ensure compliance with all legislation, policies, and licensing requirements.*