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Remediation of the Former Isachsen High Arctic Weather Station (HAWS)

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ᓄᓇᓂᓪ ᓄᓇᓂᓪᓃᓪᓂᓪᓃᓪᓂᓪ: Thursday, July 16, 2026

Period of operation: from 2026-11-01 to 2031-10-31

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Who: Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) as owner of the Isachsen High Arctic Weather Station (HAWS), through Public Services and Procurement Canada as contracting managers, have retained an experienced and qualified team of consultants and will be tendering for contractors for the proposed undertaking. What: The proposed undertaking is the full-scale remediation of the Isachsen High Arctic Weather Station (HAWS). The Isachsen HAWS is a former weather station and is occupied by 22 permanent structures, an airstrip, former water and sewage infrastructure, fuel storage and distribution facilities, power generation equipment, two on-site waste disposal areas, fuel tanks, thousands of empty/partially empty drums, other abandoned equipment, and debris. The remediation scope involves the demolition of on-site buildings, off-site removal and disposal of hazardous materials, borrow development, construction of an on-site landfill, collection and disposal of all non-hazardous waste in the on-site landfill, and placing aggregate to cap the existing waste disposal areas. Why: The Isachsen HAWS site is being remediated because it has been abandoned after being not needed for program requirements once weather reporting was automated and the site was de-staffed in 1978. The buildings are in an advanced state of decay and there are thousands of empty fuel drums, 30 old fuel tanks, old construction equipment, unstable and eroding landfills and other waste materials. Previous investigations have identified several site elements which would pose an unacceptable risk to human health and the environment if left without proper decommissioning. On-site disposal of non-hazardous waste has been identified as the safest and most efficient means of remediation. Non-hazardous wastes will be disposed of in an engineered landfill to be constructed at Isachsen of a similar design to other approved arctic non-hazardous landfills. Hazardous wastes will be abated and removed from the site for safe disposal at facilities outside of the territory. Removal of non-hazardous waste from Isachsen would require air transportation since there is no other means of access, and is not practical or safe. Where: The remediation activities will take place at each respective site, located on Ellef Ringnes Island. Temporary camp facilities will be installed at the Isachsen HAWS site to support the clean up efforts at the site. When: The remediation program is planned to start during the summer of 2027 and be completed in the fall of 2030.

Quoi: Environnement et Changement climatique Canada (ECCC), en tant que propriétaire de la Station météorologique du Haut-Arctique Isachsen (HAWS), par l'entremise de Services publics et Approvisionnement Canada en tant que gestionnaires de contrats, ont retenu une équipe de consultants expérimentés et qualifiés et feront appel d'offres pour des entrepreneurs pour l'entreprise proposée. Quoi: L'entreprise proposée est la réhabilitation à grande échelle de la station météorologique du haut arctique Isachsen (HAWS). Le HAWS Isachsen est une ancienne station météorologique occupée par 22 structures permanentes, une piste d'atterrissage, d'anciennes infrastructures d'eau et d'égouts, des installations de stockage et de distribution de carburant, des équipements de production d'énergie, deux zones d'élimination des déchets sur place, des réservoirs de carburant, des milliers de fûts vides ou partiellement vides, d'autres équipements abandonnés et des débris. Le champ d'action de la réhabilitation comprend la démolition des bâtiments sur place, le retrait et l'élimination hors site de matières dangereuses, le développement emprunté, la construction d'un site d'enfouissement, la collecte et l'élimination de tous les déchets non dangereux dans la décharge sur place, ainsi que la pose d'agrégats pour plafonner les zones existantes d'élimination des déchets. Pourquoi: Le site HAWS d'Isachsen est en cours de réhabilitation parce qu'il a été abandonné après avoir été inutilisé pour les exigences du programme une fois les rapports météorologiques automatisés et le site dédoté en 1978. Les bâtiments sont dans un état avancé de délabrement et il y a des milliers de barils de carburant vides, 30 vieux réservoirs de carburant, de vieux équipements de construction, des sites d'enfouissement instables et en dégradation ainsi que d'autres déchets. Des enquêtes antérieures ont identifié plusieurs éléments du site qui représenteraient un risque inacceptable pour la santé humaine et l'environnement s'ils n'étaient laissés sans un désarmement approprié. L'élimination sur place des déchets non dangereux a été identifiée comme le moyen de remédiation le plus sûr et le plus efficace. Les déchets non dangereux seront éliminés dans un site d'enfouissement conçu pour être construit à Isachsen, d'un design similaire à d'autres sites d'enfouissement non dangereux approuvés dans l'Arctique. Les déchets dangereux seront éliminés et retirés du site pour une élimination sécuritaire dans des installations situées à l'extérieur du territoire. L'élimination des déchets non dangereux d'Isachsen nécessiterait un transport aérien puisqu'il n'y a pas d'autre moyen d'accès et n'est ni pratique ni sécuritaire. Où: Les activités de réhabilitation auront lieu à chaque site respectif, situé sur l'île Ellef Ringnes. Des installations temporaires de camp seront installées sur le site du HAWS d'Isachsen pour soutenir les efforts de nettoyage sur le site. Quand: Le programme de remise en état est prévu pour commencer à l'été 2027 et se terminer à l'automne 2030.

[illegible]

Personnel on site: 20
Days on site: 600
Total Person days: 12000
Operations Phase: from 2027-04-15 to 2031-05-30
Operations Phase: from 2026-11-01 to 2031-10-31
Post-Closure Phase: from to

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LUP(2026)_IsachsenHAWVS.02	Site Cleanup/Remediation	Crown	The site is a former high arctic weather station which closed in 1978.	An archeological impact assessment found no archeological value at the site.	Approximately 500km

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የጥበቃ ስራው ስራ	Community members and Elders from Resolute and Grise Fiord	Held community meeting to discuss planned remediation at Isachsen	2026-01-28
የጥበቃ ስራው ስራ	Community members and Elders from Resolute and Grise Fiord	Held community meeting to discuss planned remediation at Isachsen	2025-01-29

North Baffin

[illegible]

Transportation Type	Activity	Length of Use
Air	Transport to site via various aircraft	

Temporary Camp

[illegible][illegible]

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[illegible]

$$\Delta^b C d r n \sigma \Delta^c \sigma^c$$

$\triangleleft \nabla \cap \Gamma \triangleright C \dot{\sigma}^C \supset^C \triangleleft^b \supset^{cb} C \triangleright \gamma L \dot{\gamma}^C$

Given that the Project will have a positive impact on many of the valued ecological components and valued socio-economic components upon completion, the short duration of Project activities, and the absence of other projects in the region that could interact with the Project in a cumulative manner, no cumulative environmental effects are anticipated to result from completion of the Project activities. An emergency response plan, erosion and sediment control plan, spill prevention plan, waste management plan, and wildlife management plan will be in place for the project.

Additional Information

SECTION A1: Project Info

SECTION A2: Allweather Road

SECTION A3: Winter Road

SECTION B1: Project Info

SECTION B2: Exploration Activity

SECTION B3: Geosciences

SECTION B4: Drilling

SECTION B5: Stripping

SECTION B6: Underground Activity

SECTION B7: Waste Rock

SECTION B8: Stockpiles

SECTION B9: Mine Development

SECTION B10: Geology

SECTION B11: Mine

SECTION B12: Mill

SECTION C1: Pits

See attached remedial action plan summary.

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

See attached remedial action plan summary.

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

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See attached remedial action plan summary.

[illegible]

See attached remedial action plan summary.

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The nearest community is 500km away and the site is not near any protected areas. An archeological impact assessment was conducted and no archeologically significant site were found at Isachsen.

Miscellaneous Project Information

See attached remedial action plan summary.

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See attached remedial action plan summary.

Cumulative Effects

None expected with proper mitigation measures.

Impacts

$\mathbb{A}^1_{\mathbb{A}^1} \xrightarrow{\sigma} \mathbb{A}^1_{\mathbb{A}^1} \xrightarrow{\tau} \mathbb{A}^1_{\mathbb{A}^1} \xrightarrow{\rho} \mathbb{A}^1_{\mathbb{A}^1}$

[illegible]
$$(P = \langle b \rangle \dot{a} \cap \dot{r} \dot{a}^{\dot{c}b} \dot{c}, N = \langle b \rangle \dot{r} \dot{r} \dot{c} \dot{r} \dot{a}^{\dot{c}b} \dot{c} \dot{c} \dot{c} \dot{r} \dot{r} \dot{c} \dot{b} \dot{c} \dot{r} \dot{a}^{\dot{c}b} \dot{r} \dot{c} \dot{c}, M = \langle b \rangle \dot{r} \dot{r} \dot{r} \dot{c} \dot{r} \dot{a}^{\dot{c}b} \dot{c} \dot{c} \dot{c} \dot{r} \dot{r} \dot{c} \dot{b} \dot{c} \dot{r} \dot{a}^{\dot{c}b} \dot{r} \dot{c} \dot{c}, U = \dot{r} \dot{b} \dot{r} \dot{r} \dot{a}^{\dot{c}b} \dot{r} \dot{c} \dot{c} \dot{b})$$

The map displays the study area in Alaska, with Deer Bay and Station Bay labeled. A red dashed line outlines the study area. An inset map in the bottom right corner shows the location of the study area within the state of Alaska.

1	polyline	LUP(2026)_IsachsenHAWs V.02
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