Environment and Climate Change Canada | Environnement et Changement climatique Canada

Environmental Protection Operations Directorate
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March 17, 2016

ECCC File: 6920 000 008/001
NIRB File: 16DN004

Kelli Gillard
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Nunavut Impact Review Board
P.O. Box 1360
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Via email: info@nirb.ca

RE: 16DN004 – Joint Task Force North – Operation Nunalivut – Part 4 Screening

Attention: Kelli Gillard

Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) has reviewed the information submitted to the Nunavut Impact Review Board regarding the above-mentioned screening. ECCC's specialist advice is provided based on our mandate, in the context of the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act*, the pollution prevention provisions of the *Fisheries Act*, the *Migratory Birds Convention Act,* and the *Species at Risk Act*.

The following comments are provided:

Species at Risk

1. Subsection 79 (2) of the *Species at Risk Act* (SARA), states that during an assessment of the environmental effects of a project, the adverse effects of the project on listed wildlife species and its critical habitat must be identified. Measures are to be taken to avoid or lessen those effects, and that the effects need to be monitored. This subsection applies to all species listed on Schedule 1 of SARA. As a matter of best practice, ECCC suggests that species on other Schedules of SARA and under consideration for listing on SARA, including those designated as "at risk" by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC), be considered during a project assessment in a manner similar to listed species.

   Table 1 below lists species that may be encountered in the project area that have been designated as at risk by COSEWIC as well as their current listing on

Schedules 1, 2 and 3 of SARA (and designation if different from that of COSEWIC). This list may not include all species identified as at risk by the Territorial Government. Project effects could include species disturbance, attraction to operations, and destruction of habitat.

Table 1. Terrestrial species at risk potentially occurring within the project area.

Terrestrial Species at Risk potentially within project area[1]	COSEWIC Designation	SARA Status	Government Organization with Primary Management Responsibility [2]	Recovery Strategy, Action Plan or Management Plan posted on the Species at Risk Public Registry
Ivory Gull	Endangered	Schedule 1, Endangered	EC	Recovery Strategy - Final
Peary Caribou	Endangered	Schedule 1, Endangered	GN	
Ross's Gull	Threatened	Schedule 1, Threatened	EC	Recovery Strategy – Final
Porsild's Bryum	Threatened	Schedule 1, Threatened	GN	Recovery Strategy – Proposed
Red Knot (*islandica* subspecies)	Special Concern	Schedule 1, Special Concern	EC	
Polar Bear	Special Concern	Schedule 1, Special Concern	GN	
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	Special Concern	No Status	EC	
Wolverine	Special Concern	No Status	GN	

Notes:

[1]Fisheries and Oceans Canada has responsibility for aquatic species.

[2]ECCC has a national role to play in the conservation and recovery of Species at Risk in Canada, as well as responsibility for management of birds described in the Migratory Birds Convention Act (MBCA). Day-to-day management of terrestrial species not covered in the MBCA is the responsibility of the Government of Nunavut (GN). Populations that exist in National Parks are managed under the authority of the Parks Canada Agency.

Project impacts could include species disturbance, attraction to operations, and destruction of habitat.

- If species at risk are or could be encountered or affected by the project, the primary mitigation measure should be avoidance. The Proponent should

avoid contact with or disturbance to each species, its habitat and/or its residence. All direct, indirect, and cumulative effects should be considered.

- For any species at risk that could be encountered or affected by the project, the Proponent should note any potential adverse effects of the project to the species, its habitat, and/or its residence. All direct, indirect, and cumulative effects should be considered. Refer to species status reports and other information on the Species at Risk registry at https://www.registrelep-sararegistry.gc.ca/default.asp?lang=En&n=24F7211B-1 for information on specific species.
- Monitoring should be undertaken by the Proponent to determine the effectiveness of mitigation and/or identify where further mitigation is required. As a minimum, this monitoring should include recording the locations and dates of any observations of Species at Risk, behaviour or actions taken by the animals when project activities were encountered, and any actions taken by the Proponent to avoid contact or disturbance to the species, its habitat, and/or its residence. This information should be submitted to the appropriate regulators and organizations with management responsibility for that species, as requested.
- The Territorial Government should be consulted to identify other appropriate mitigation and/or monitoring measures to minimize project effects to species under their management responsibility.
- Mitigation and monitoring measures must be taken in a way that is consistent with applicable species at risk recovery strategies and action/management plans.

Should you require further information, please do not hesitate to contact me at (867) 669-4733 or Melissa.Pinto@canada.ca.

Sincerely,

Melissa Pinto

Melissa Pinto
Environmental Assessment Coordinator

cc: Wade Romanko, Head, Environmental Assessment North (NT and NU)