



February 28, 2017

Jaida Ohokannoak
Manager, Technical Administration
Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB)
P.O. Box 1360, Cambridge Bay, NU X0B 0H0
By email: info@nirb.ca

Mosha Cote
Manager-Research Liaison
Nunavut Research Institute
P.O. Box 1720 Iqaluit, NU X0A 0H0
By email: mosha.cote@arcticcollege.ca

Mr. Robbie Bennett
NRCan
1 Challenger Drive
Dartmouth Nova Scotia B2Y4A2 Canada
By email: robbie.bennett@canada.ca

Dear Ms. Ohokannoak, Mr. Cote, and Mr. Bennett:

RE: NPC File # 148488-Geology Research in Baffin Bay

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

1. Marine Based Activity: the sailing expedition, proposed to take place in August and September 2017, is a collaborative venture, including research activities from the Canada-Nunavut Geoscience Office (CNGO), and the Geological Survey of Canada's programs Geomapping for Energy and Minerals (GEM), and Public Safety Geoscience (PSG). Information collected during this project will help support community and government decisions on use of offshore areas and provide communities with better knowledge for improving public safety
2. Scientific Research:
 - Geological studies to investigate the stability of the seabed in the region; to investigate natural leakage of buried oil and gas deposits at the seabed; and to learn more about what types of bedrock are exposed at the seabed
 - The proposed expedition would also house non-geological studies. The Department of Fisheries and Oceans proposes to look for the presence of unique seabed habitats that may be important for fish – particularly coldwater corals and sponges – through photography of the seabed. In addition, Environment Canada will have an observer on board to record observations of seabirds and marine mammals.

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 activities associated with this proposal were previously reviewed by NPC, and a conformity determination was issued on May 31, 2013, on July 21, 2014 and most recently on June 11, 2015 which still applies. In addition, the activities were previously screened by the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB FILE NO.: 13YN021 and 14YN032). The above-noted project proposal is exempt from 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 part of the original proposal and its inclusion is not a significant modification of the project.

By way of this letter, the NPC is forwarding the project proposal to the regulatory authorities identified by the proponent. Project materials, including the applicable conformity requirements, are available at the following address:

<http://npc.strata360.com/portal/project-dashboard.php?appid=148488&sessionid=>

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) 979-3444.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Goump Djalogue". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Goump" and last name "Djalogue" clearly distinguishable.

Goump Djalogue
Senior Planner, MCIP, RPP
Nunavut Planning Commission