

3.3.1 Background As noted in the Project General Information section, a haul road is required to transport the rock for construction from the quarry to the SCH. The route will either follow the existing roads through the Hamlet or an alternate haul route which bypasses the main part of the Hamlet. The haul road is intended to be used for the transport of rock materials using large off-road articulated rock trucks (See Equipment section for anticipated construction equipment). The Project is expected to require on the order of 200,000 tonnes of rock. Based on the assumed hauling equipment, this equates to approximately 6,000 truck trips. Truck frequency is expected to be four to six trucks per hour over a 12-hour day shift only. If the alternate haul road is required, the exact route will be left at the discretion of the Contractor. Therefore an alternate haul road corridor has been defined (see Haul Road Study Area in Figure 3 2). The Contractor will be limited to designing and building the alternate haul road within that Haul Road Study Area, if it is required. A desktop feasibility study for the alternate haul road (Advisian, 2017b) has been undertaken that included the following components: Review of potential haul routes between the quarry and the SCH. Regulatory requirements review. 3.3.2 Road Design and Construction If the alternate haul route is constructed, the road alignment, design, and construction methods will be at the discretion of the Contractor but will be accordance with INAC's Northern Land Use Guidelines – Access: Roads and Trails (INAC, 2010b). This includes guidelines for construction over permafrost. Based on similar projects and discussions with Contractors, it is anticipated that the final road alignment and design will: Be within the defined Haul Road Corridor. Be determined based on the following criteria: Minimize grade and maximize turning radii to increase operational efficiency and safety Minimize stream crossings Reduce fill volumes Reduce overall length Have a width of approximately 7 m and a driving surface to allow for two-way traffic of the anticipated haul trucks. Have a maximum grade of 15%. Are constructed using materials sourced from the quarry (See Section 3.2). Be constructed in the summer of 2018 as one of the first major construction operations. Require stripping of overburden material if present and required for the road design. Require some cut-fill operations where in-situ materials are used to build the road core from nearby cuts, depending on final alignment, topography, and overburden materials. Have a surface course(s) of crushed rock as a final driving surface. Have perimeter drainage ditches, culverts, diversion berms, and erosion control structures, as necessary to control surface water. As part of the design process for the alternate haul route and road, the Contractor will be required to complete the following: Undertake all necessary field investigations to determine the final route alignment and design requirements. Complete detailed design of all components of the road including base preparation, road structure, installation methods, and water and erosion control structures. Prepare detailed plans, sections, and details of the alternate haul road. 3.3.3 Road Operations and Transfer of Control To manage interactions with the public, the Contractor will be required to develop a traffic management plan, and meet requirements outlined in the CEMP. The road will primarily be used in the summer and fall of 2018 and 2019; the Contractor is not expected to be hauling rock during the winter months (November/December to April/May). The alternate haul road is intended to be primarily a non-public access road for the sole use of the Contractor during Construction of the SCH. However, the final alignment is expected to have some overlap with existing public roads, including some use of existing roads as well as road crossings. If the Project proceeds with the alternate haul route, the road will not be decommissioned and discussions are presently ongoing with the Hamlet regarding its future use and management.

ᐃᓕᓗᓴ C: ᐃᑎᓐᓴᐃᓕ ᐃᐱᓕᓐᓴᐃᓕᓗ

3.2.1 Quarry Activities The construction of the SCH will require the blasting of approximately 75,000 m3 of bedrock, over an area of approximately 10 ha. The proposed quarry area south east of the sewage lagoon and solid waste landfill is presented in Figure 3 1. The exact size and configuration of the area to be blasted may vary depending on final rock requirements, but will not exceed the plan area shown on Figure 3 1. Planned quarry activities are as follows: Vegetation clearing and overburden removal. Drilling and blasting. Sorting and stockpiling blasted rock to produce run of quarry and riprap. Crushing, screening and stockpiling of run of quarry to produce various crushed granular products. All quarry activities will be undertaken in accordance with Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission of the Northwest Territories (WSCC) and Nunavut Acts and Regulations. The Contractor will be required to develop a Quarry Development Plan prior to construction. The Quarry Development Plan will, as a minimum, include the following information: Drilling and blasting methodology and equipment. Explosive type(s), hazard class, volumes, uses, location of storage, and method of storage. Crushing methodology and equipment. Safety and security measures for the workforce and public. Flood and drainage control measures (water management). Erosion and sedimentation control measures. Spill prevention and response. Environmental monitoring and mitigation. Slump control measures. 3.2.2 Field Investigation As noted in Section 3.1.1.2, Advisian is currently undertaking a Geotechnical Field Investigation for the proposed Quarry (Advisian, In Progress). Upon completion, results of the field investigation will be provided to the appropriate regulators and will include the following components: Summary of field investigations and sample collection. Laboratory testing: Acid Rock Drainage and Metal Leaching Potential Identification of any carving stone deposits. A schematic design including footprint. Description of the type and volume of material to be extracted. Description of the depth of overburden. Description of existing and potential for thermokarst development and any thermokarst prevention measures. Description of existing or potential for flooding. Description of existing or potential for erosion. Description of existing or potential for sedimentation. Description of existing or potential for slumping. Description of the moisture content of the ground. Description of any evidence of ice lenses. Discussion of methods used to determine acid rock drainage (ARD) and metal leaching (ML) potential and results.

ᐃᓕᓗᓴ D: ᑕᓕᐃᑦ ᓴᓇᓃᐃᑦᐃᓴᓐᓴᓕᓕᓕᓐᓴᓐ

3.1.1.1 Site Selection Based on community input, the proposed location for the SCH was selected as the most favourable site, as it provides marine access adjacent to the community and has been used for decades for boat launching and sealift activities. Further detail on site selection is provided in the General Project Information section. The proposed SCH is located at the sealift Area, as identified by the Pond Inlet Community Plan and Zoning By-law, along the sandy beach in front of resident houses and the existing boat access ramp (Hamlet of Pond Inlet, 2014). The harbour currently extends from the existing small, infilled breakwater to the creek at the southern edge of the beach-front homes. As noted in the General Project Information section (1.1.3), the final arrangement of the SCH is not finalized and changes may occur during the design development phase of the Project. Specifically, if funding allows, the harbour may be expanded by lengthening the east breakwater. The length of the breakwaters is determined by the seabed elevation and related water depth. The seabed in the area of the SCH is generally gently sloping from the high water mark approximately 20 to 30 m offshore to elevation -1 m Chart Datum (CD). There is a horizontal shelf at elevation -1 m CD to around 150 m offshore of the high water mark. Further offshore the seabed begins to slope at approximately 4.5 to 5% for 85 m to elevation -5 m CD. Offshore of the -5 m CD contour the seabed slopes steeply at 15 to 20% into deeper water. The intertidal zone is generally a sandy beach with cobble and boulder, and bedrock outcroppings approximately 100 m and 170 m west of the existing breakwater. See Photo 3 1 to Photo 3 3 for images of the beach along the SCH area. Construction will require the supply of a significant volume of rock. The current rock production capability in the Hamlet is limited to reclamation of borrow pit sands and gravels, south east of the community. To produce the necessary rock for the Project, a new quarry development is proposed south of the landfill and sewage lagoon. The proposed quarry and SCH locations are presented in Figure 1 2. Options for the haul route for rock from the quarry to the SCH are currently being reviewed. During the schematic design, it was noted that an alternate haul road south of the community may be required to avoid driving large equipment through the Hamlet streets. Discussions with contractors with experience in Arctic communities have confirmed that the use of off-highway equipment through residential areas may not be permitted and would likely be less productive than building a temporary, dedicated haul road. Nevertheless, the Project is currently allowing for either using existing roads through the community to transport rock to the site or building a dedicated haul road south of the community (alternate haul route). 3.1.1.2 Studies and Field Investigations The following previous studies and field investigations have been completed for a SCH in the Hamlet: Government of Northwest Territories Proposed Development Plans, Late 1990's. Pond Inlet Breakwater – Feasibility Study (ADI Limited, 2004). Nunavut Small Craft Harbours Report (DFO, 2006). Pond Inlet Harbour Development

(WorleyParsons, 2010) Multi-Purpose Marine Facilities for Cambridge Bay, Pond Inlet, and Rankin Inlet (WorleyParsons/The Rankin Group, 2012). Pond Inlet – Small Boat Harbour – Drawing Package (PND Engineering Inc., 2015a). Pond Inlet Harbour – 2015 Field Studies, Memorandum October 14 2015 (PND Engineering Inc., 2015c). Pond Inlet Summer Field Studies, Progress Update, Memorandum August 25 2015 (PND Engineering Inc., 2015b). Pond Inlet Small Boat Harbour – Fall 2015 Field Studies, September 2016 (PND Engineering Inc., 2016a). Pond Inlet Small Boat Harbour – Temperature and Ice Analysis (PND Engineering Inc., 2016b). Bathymetric and topographic information is available as follows: Canadian Hydrographic Service (CHS) field sheets 1200526, 1200527, 1200528, and 1200529 (Latest update 2004). Supplemental bathymetry from PND Engineers Canada Inc., surveyed October 8, 2015. Topography as per ADI layouts dated 2004. Advisian has undertaken or is currently undertaking the following studies and field investigations in support of the design and permitting of the Project: Geotechnical Field Investigation, including assessments for acid rock drainage and metal leaching potential within quarry Baseline Investigations (completed); 2016/2017 Baseline Studies and Assessments (Advisian, 2017a, 2017d) • Marine field studies including sediment quality, water quality and fish habitat study (completed) • Vegetation (completed) • Wildlife and marine and migratory bird habitat assessment (completed) • Archaeology (in progress – summer 2017) Marine and Coastal Engineering: Pond Inlet – Marine Facilities Schematic Design (completed) (Advisian, 2017e) Marine field studies including metocean investigations (completed) (Advisian, 2017d) Wind, wave and current modelling and assessment sediment transport modelling to assess changes in shoreline due to SCH (completed) (Advisian, 2017g) 3.1.1.4 Facility Life The SCH is expected to be a permanent facility in the Hamlet with a realistic lifespan of 100 plus years. Therefore decommissioning is not assessed. Individual components of the facilities will generally be designed on the basis of a 50-year service life, with the exception of the float strings which are expected to have a lower design service life. It is important to note that service life does not imply that maintenance on the structure will not be required during that period. Due to the harsh conditions in the Arctic and the lack of experience with northern facilities and structures with an age approaching 50 years, considerable variability in the amount of maintenance required should be expected.

ᐃᓕᓴᓴ ᐃᓕᓴᓴ ᐃᓕᓴᓴ ᐃᓕᓴᓴ ᐃᓕᓴᓴ

3.1.2 Facility Construction The following section provides an overview of the design layout, anticipated construction methodologies, and operations of the various Project components. The design and construction methods presented are commonly used and industry standard. No new technologies have been proposed. 3.1.2.1 Breakwaters Layout The proposed east breakwater has two sections that are linked to provide increased protection to the harbour entrance. The main east breakwater protects the inner harbour from northerly and north easterly waves. The breakwater extends from the shore at the location of the existing infilled breakwater approximately 100 m offshore and then turns to the south west. It then runs approximately parallel with the shoreline for 140 m. A secondary east breakwater extends 65 m north east off of the main breakwater at the direction change. The secondary breakwater extends into deeper water and provides increased protection to the harbour entrance from north easterly waves. The main east breakwater has an estimated top elevation of 4.5 m CD and the secondary east breakwater is lower at 3.5 m CD. The east breakwater is not intended to be accessible to vehicle or pedestrian traffic. The proposed west breakwater extends from the offshore edge of the sealift laydown area to the north for 360 m to protect the harbour from westerly and south westerly waves. It has an estimated top elevation of 5.0 m CD. There is vehicle access to the fixed wharf along a 100 m section of the proposed west breakwater. Similar to the east breakwater; the remainder of the west breakwater is not intended for vehicle or pedestrian access. The vehicle access consists of a 4 m wide driving surface intended for one way traffic between the wharf and the sealift laydown area. The layout of the breakwaters has been designed to provide a protected harbour for the community but some wave action is still expected to penetrate into the harbour through the harbour entrance. In the event that the harbour entrance is very rough in a storm, the lee side of the harbour can be used as a safe harbour for vessels returning to the Hamlet which cannot make it through the harbour entrance. In addition, floating ice may from time to time enter the harbour during break-up and freeze-up. Overtopping on the east and west breakwaters will be assessed further during the design development phase of the Project to finalize the crest elevations. Construction The breakwaters will be constructed using fill and rock sourced from the proposed quarry. The breakwaters will comprise of a core of fill material surrounded by rock armour of various size and thickness depending on the exposure and therefore protection requirements along the breakwaters. This will be determined based on the water depth and exposure to waves. The portion of the west breakwater which is accessible to vehicles will be finished with a crushed granular road surface. All breakwater construction is expected to be completed using land-based equipment during the open water season as well as during the shoulder seasons when ice is forming and breaking up. Breakwater construction being undertaken during the shoulder seasons will require ice management and ice removal using land-based equipment in the area immediately adjacent to the work to ensure ice is not buried under the breakwater construction material. Sediment Transport Changes to the shoreline (longshore drift of sediments) due to the presence of the SCH is a long term concern due to the large sediment load supplied by the Salmon River, which is approximately 4.5 km south west of the Hamlet. A previous small breakwater at the site was completely infilled due to such sediment transport. The arrangement of the breakwaters is intended to minimize infilling of the harbour by directing sediment laden water beyond the harbour entrance into deeper water. A shoreline evolution modelling study was conducted to predict the sediment accumulation and erosion along the beach after five, 10, and 25 years. The model used was MIKE 21 FMHD, developed by DHI. The results of this study, are described in the Modelling Report (Advisian, 2017g) and summarized in Sections 4.1.10 and 5.1.7 of this document. 3.1.2.2 Fixed Wharf Layout The fixed wharf is located on the inshore side of the west breakwater, approximately 80 m offshore of the sealift laydown area. The fixed wharf will accommodate larger vessels, such as fishing trawlers. The proposed fixed wharf has the following configuration: Wharf Overall Length: 50 m Depth Alongside: Minimum 3.7 m Top of deck elevation: 5 m A dredged berth pocket and approach channel is necessary to provide access for larger vessels. The approach channel and berth pocket is 30 m wide and dredged down to an elevation of -3.5 m CD. The depth alongside at Low Low Water Level (LLWL) would be 3.7 m, which is sufficient to accommodate inland fishing vessels of up to 35 m in length with minimal working of the tides. The GN's Arctic research vessel, the RV Nulijjuk, would also be accommodated at the fixed wharf during all tide levels. Previous studies have considered a water depth alongside of between 5.5 m and 6 m at the fixed wharf but, based on preliminary cost estimating, this is not achievable within the construction budget. The wharf structure and layout will however be designed for a future dredge allowance to deepen the berth pocket and approach to elevation -6 m, for a depth alongside of 6.2 m at LLWL, if and when additional funds become available. Offshore trawlers with lengths in the 50 to 70 m range could be accommodated at this depth alongside but may need to work the tides depending on the specific vessel. Construction The wharf will be a sheet pile cell structure consisting of three 14 m diameter interconnected circular cells to create a continuous fixed wharf. The construction of the fixed wharf will require the installation of approximately 350 flat web sheet piles. All pile driving is expected to be undertaken using hydraulic vibratory pile driving hammers over a period of approximately 30 days. Following the installation of the piles, the cells and an area approximately 25 m wide behind the wharf will be backfilled with a coarse crushed quarry rock. The wharf and back-up area behind the wharf will be finished with a granular road surfacing. Wharf topsides include the following: Bullrail Mooring Cleats Access Ladders The wharf configuration and type will be evaluated further during the design development phase of the Project. 3.1.2.3 Inner Harbour The inner harbour is a protected area for the moorage of small local vessels. The inner harbour is bounded by the east breakwater on its north and north east sides and the sealift laydown area and ramp on the south west side. Total area of the inner harbour at low water is approximately 2.5 ha. The inner harbour will be swept for rocks and boulders but will not be dredged. To improve vehicle access along the shoreline in the inner harbour, the sandy beach will be topped with a crushed gravel road surfacing, graded and packed. Early consultations in the Hamlet included discussions with the HTO regarding in the capacity of the inner harbour. It was agreed with the HTO that an allowance for floating dock moorage of approximately 40 vessels (80 if double rafted) will be sufficient for the inner harbour. It is expected that vessels moored within the inner harbour will be a mixture of vessels tied up to the float strings, vessels on anchor inside the harbour, and vessels pulled ashore onto the beach. Therefore the capacity of the SCH is greater than 80 vessels. The existing steel grating boat ramp will be retained in the inner harbour for ongoing use. Sand that has accumulated on the ramp will be cleared down to the steel grating

will be confirmed during the intrusive geotechnical investigations planned for April 2017. Based on consultation information, there is no indication of carving stone occurring within the Study Areas. Testing for Acid Rock Drainage and Metal Leaching potential is ongoing. Two geotechnical boreholes were advanced within the footprint of the proposed quarry, ranging from 9.3 to 15.0 meters below existing ground surface. Select rock samples were chosen for ARD testing and processed in the field as per standard procedure (i.e. documented and photographed). The samples will be tested for their static geochemical compositions and properties. Analysis will include Acid Base Accounting (ABA), ultra-trace metal analysis, shake flask extraction (SFE) tests and X-Ray diffraction (XRD). At the time of this report, the samples are being shipped to Maxxam Analytics laboratory in Burnaby, BC and therefore results are still pending. Detailed methods and results will be available from the laboratory in June/July 2017. Based on visual observations of the rock samples during the survey, there appears to be little or no sulphide minerals, which indicates a very low risk of ARD.

4.1.3 Surface Features

The majority of the site of the SCH Study Area is underlain by gently sloping silty and sandy intertidal sediments. Regional information shows that in the shoreline areas of Eclipse Sound, the till is often silty and partly derived from marine sediments (Hodgson and Haselton, 1974). The shoreline at the SCH Study Area is comprised of a gently sloping beach with a small zone of exposed bedrock outcrop at the shoreline backed by shallow bluff slopes. Exposed rock and postglacial nearshore sediments are found at the SCH Study Area while, slightly inland, isolated quaternary till deposits were identified at the base of slopes. These mixed textured deposits may also be influenced by solifluction (gradual movement of wet soil on slopes relating to freeze-thaw activity) and cryoturbation (mixing of soil horizons due to freeze-thaw activity). Solifluction may occur on slopes as low as 3 degrees and surficial sediments are particularly mobile in permafrost regions as the active layer is saturated with moisture, due to the low permeability of the underlying ice-rich permafrost (Ferrians et al., 1970). Several channel and gully features occur in the parts of the Quarry Study Area which have steep blocky colluvial slopes. Of note was the prominent north east/south west trending gully that has measured slopes of up to 40 degrees; with an elevation at the base of this gully of 115 m. The slopes of this gully have small to large tabular to blocky boulders which also occur in random locations along the base. Areas of this gully appear to be poorly drained, with ice at the ground surface observed. Drainage features across the plateau of the Quarry Study Area are trending mainly north west/south east approximately perpendicular to the prominent gully identified. The drainage features within the Quarry Study Area are shallower than the larger gully, also with blocky boulders at the base and may be poorly drained. The ground surface across the Alternate Haul Road Study Area is characterized by a variable pitted and hummocky surface, with drainage features running generally north to south and northwest to southeast. In between these hummocky zones and ridges are lower lying zones that appear to be poorly drained. The hummocky ridges appear to be more granular and are towards the eastern side of the Alternate Haul Road Study Area. These areas have previously been used to supply construction material and appear to be small eskers and/or kames. In the lower lying poorly drained areas are some bodies of water which appear to be shallow thaw lakes. In addition there is a possibility that there may be layers of unfrozen ground underlying these waterbodies. A review of the available aerial imagery for the Hamlet did not identify any evidence of thermokarsts or standing water in the Quarry Study Area; no features were observed in the ground surface that may be associated with polygonal ground or ice lenses such as fractures. Within the Alternate Haul Road Study Area, cracks derived from ice lenses or frost heaves were also observed on aerial imagery. These are more obvious in areas with lower ground cover and where reworking of the ground has occurred.

4.1.4 Permafrost and Ground Stability

The Hamlet is located in the Continuous Cold Permafrost Zone. Permafrost is defined as ground that remains at or below 0°C for at least two consecutive years (Tarnocai and Bockheim, 2011). In general permafrost can be found at depth of several hundred meters in the Canadian Arctic. The surface layer does thaw during the short summer months (referred to as the active layer) and this layer can be highly variable ranging from <30 cm to > 1.5 m thick. The thickness of the active layer varies greatly due to various factors, including annual air temperature and the heat conductivity of the soil. In general, there is a much deeper pocket of unfrozen ground under water bodies as the temperature of water is greater and thaws permafrost. These unfrozen pockets of sediment or rock are called talik. It is assumed that areas under water to be used for the SCH does not contain ice near the seabed surface (<20 m below seabed surface) due to the warming effect and salinity of marine water. There is limited permafrost data for the Hamlet. Robert Taylor (Geological Survey of Canada) monitored coastal process at Pond Inlet as well as frost table depths along the shoreline from 1972-2005. Based on results, the active layer ranged from approximately 0.5 m to 0.9 m below ground surface. A permafrost monitoring location was established near the airport in 2008 by the Geological Survey of Canada which recorded temperature for 2008 to 2009 (Ednie and Smith, 2010). The mean annual ground temperature is -8.5°C at a depth of 15 m. The annual range of the ground temperature is 27.5°C (from approximately -22°C to 5°C) at a depth of 0.5 m and the estimated active layer thickness (top layer of soil that thaws during summer) for the Hamlet is 0.8 m (Ednie and Smith, 2010). The short summer season and cold winters support a thicker active layer in free-draining granular soils. These granular soils are characteristic of the beach deposits that will support access roads and foundations for berthing structures. The Quarry Study Area is bedrock with properties not directly affected by permafrost. Exposed rock and postglacial nearshore sediments are found at the shoreline. Isolated till deposits were identified at the base of the slope inland from the shoreline. These mixed textured deposits may also be influenced by solifluction (possible soil flow) and the stability of these slopes will be taken into consideration for the haul road design and construction. Solifluction may occur on slopes as low as 3 degrees. Surficial sediments are particularly mobile in permafrost regions as the active layer is saturated with moisture, due to the impermeability of the underlying permafrost (Ferrians et al., 1970). Anecdotal evidence from the community suggests that slope instability occurs along the slope of the existing road on the alternate haul route adjacent to the cemetery. Erosional features at these shoreline bluffs were identified in the aerial imagery and these may also contribute to its instability, with likely mechanisms being surface runoff and wave erosion.

4.1.5 Hydrology

The Project is located within the Eclipse Sound Watershed. This watershed is located in the northeastern tip of Baffin Island. There are a number of waterbodies drainages/creeks and small ponds surrounding the Hamlet. There are two drainages that occur within the Alternate Haul Road Study Area (Figure 4 1). Information obtained during desktop study and qualitative descriptions during field studies indicate the watercourses do have connectivity to small waterbodies in the vicinity of the Hamlet. Both watercourses are characterized as seasonal. No watercourses occur within the SCH Study Area. There is an ephemeral drainage located on the northwest portion of the Quarry Study Area, which is fed by snowmelt and precipitation (Figure 4 1). Salmon River and Salmon Creek are located 4.5 km and 3 km south west of the SCH respectively (Figure 4 3).

4.1.6 Air Quality

Air quality monitoring is sparse in the Hamlet but regional air quality monitoring was conducted for North Baffin Island as part of the Baffinland Project, Environmental Assessment (EA, (RWDI Air Inc., 2008b)). Ambient air quality was measured in July 2007 in Mary River (150 km south west of the Hamlet). Total Suspended Particles (TSP) measurements ranged from 3.5 to 7.0 µg/m³ (RWDI Air Inc., 2008b). This is much lower than the 24-hour standard of 120 µg/m³ and annual standard of 60 µg/m³ outlined in the Nunavut Ambient Air Quality Standard (Government of Nunavut, 2011a). Due to the short duration of the measurement, the results were compared to long-term monitoring data locations in remote, northern areas operated by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in Northwest Territories (NWT). The measured concentrations for the Baffinland Project were also lower than measurements from all comparison sites in the NWT (RWDI Air Inc., 2008b). Similarly, particulate matter 10 micrometers or less (PM₁₀) concentrations ranged from 1.5 to 3.8 µg/m³ which was comparable to the annual average concentrations measured in NWT (RWDI Air Inc., 2008b). Note that there is no PM₁₀ ambient air quality standard in Nunavut to compare with these measurements. The 30-day average sulphur dioxide (SO₂) (≤0.262 µg/m³), nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) (≤0.188 µg/m³), and ozone (O₃) (range from 44.0 to 52.8 µg/m³) concentrations were well below 1-hour, 24-hour, and annual standards ((RWDI Air Inc., 2008b). Therefore based on RWDI Air Inc. (2008b) analysis, the baseline air quality in Mary River is considered pristine and typical of remote Arctic environments. Air quality monitoring conducted in Resolute and Cape Dorset in 2013 determined that waste burn, airport operations and town activities such as vehicle traffic, residential combustion and power generators contributed to nitrogen oxide (NO_x) and PM_{2.5} pollution (Aliabadi et al., 2015). SO₂ pollution was affected by airport activities and ships anchoring in position (Aliabadi et al., 2015). Resolute is a coastal community in northern Nunavut, approximately 700 km northwest of the Hamlet and air quality is expected to be similar. In the absence of ships, the measured NO_x concentration was less than 1.3 µg/m³ (Aliabadi et al., 2015). This is much lower than the Nunavut standards: 400 µg/m³ (1-hour); 200 µg/m³ (24-hour); and 60 µg/m³ (annual). The maximum measured SO₂ concentration was 1.05 µg/m³, which is much lower than the Nunavut standards: 450 µg/m³ (1-hour); 150 µg/m³ (24-hour); and 30 µg/m³ (annual). The PM_{2.5} concentration was up to 10 µg/m³, which is lower than the 24-hour standard of 30 µg/m³.

4.1.7 Noise

Noise data specific to the Study Areas was not available. However, noise levels are presumed to be generally

throughout all the vegetation community types. During the field assessment a total of 62 vegetation species were observed, 36 of which were non-vascular species. Six plants identified as having traditional uses within the Hamlet area were identified during field studies. According to local Elders, an area used for food plant/berries harvesting is located within the Alternate Haul Road Study Area. However the Quarry Study Area has not been a traditional area used for harvesting (Figure 4 3).

4.2.2 Wildlife (including Habitat and Migratory Patterns)

In general, habitat near the SCH Study Area is of limited value for terrestrial wildlife. The beach is developed and has structures and boats along its length. The buildings along the beach may provide cover for small mammals and the intertidal zone likely provides foraging opportunities, at low tide. However, the value of these habitats is low given the frequent human and dog activity, which reduces its attractiveness. The Alternate Haul Road Study Area contains a mixture of upland shrub and bedrock outcrops and lowland and wetland habitats. These vegetation communities are likely the most attractive to wildlife. Habitat available for wildlife in the Quarry Study Area is similarly of low quality. The majority of the terrain is comprised of bedrock; therefore it provides security, escape, and thermal cover for some small mammals. However, the area has little value for denning given the lack of soil and the sparse and low vegetation cover which reduces the attractiveness for foraging or cover habitat for species that depend on dense or tall or dense vegetation. A habitat assessment and field reconnaissance survey was undertaken with the vegetation field surveys from September 16 to 18, 2016. The survey resulted in no confirmed observations of wildlife in the SCH or Quarry Study Areas, or the surveyed portions of the Alternate Haul Road Study Area. Surrounding these areas, lemmings (brown lemming: *Lemmus trimucronatus* and Peary land collared lemming: *Dicrostonyx groenlandicus*) are common around the Hamlet (Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation, 2010a). In the past, Peary land collared lemmings were the most abundant lemming species and three were noted under the Hudson's Bay Company building (Miller, 1955). Other species that inhabit the area surrounding the Hamlet include Arctic hare (*Lepus arctos*) and Arctic fox (*Alopex lagopus*); and dens of these species are often found to the west near Oliver Sound as well as the east coast of Baffin Island (Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation, 2010a). Red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*) appear to be common (Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation, 2010a).

4.2.3 Migratory and Marine Birds (including Habitat and Migratory Patterns)

4.2.3.1 Migratory Birds

In general, habitat in the SCH and Quarry Study Areas is of limited value to migratory and marine birds. Given its location within the Hamlet, human development occurs to the edge of Eclipse Sound. The beach is developed and has structures and boats throughout the SCH Study Area. During field surveys, it was noted that teams of dogs were tied up along the beach. According to LePage et al. (1998), nesting birds in town frequent the sewage and garbage dumps, in addition to the seepage slopes below houses. Although 47 birds are confirmed breeders, and this represents one of the most diverse bird communities in the Canadian Arctic archipelago, the value of nesting habitat in the SCH Study Area or Quarry Study Area is low. For species that nest on bare ground and gravelly areas (e.g. snow buntings [*Plectrophenax nivalis*]) or are relatively tolerant of human disturbance (e.g. common raven [*Corvus corax*]), there may be limited nesting habitat. However, human use and dogs likely discourage nesting and use of these areas. At low tide, the intertidal zone provides foraging opportunities but only for those species tolerant of human and canine activity. Consequently, the value of these habitats is likely low given the disturbance. In contrast, the Alternate Haul Road Study Area contains a mixture of upland shrub and bedrock outcrops and lowland and wetland habitats. The wet meadow dominated by sedges and grasses and wetlands provides habitat for the highest number of species (LePage et al., 1998). According to Renaud et al. (1981) who collated records and made observations about breeding habitat in the Pond Inlet Region, well-vegetated (vascular plants, bryophytes, and lichens) lowland tundra support a rich number of nesting birds including long-tailed jaeger (*Stercorarius longicaudus*), American golden plover (*Pluvialis dominica*), Baird's sandpiper (*Calidris bairdii*), and Lapland longspur (*Calcarius lapponicus*). Similarly species-rich habitats were tussocky, graminoid tundra within wetland complexes at the mouth of Salmon River where red-throated loons (*Gavia stellate*), snow goose (*Chen caerulescens*), long-tailed duck (*Clangula hyemalis*), and red phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicarius*) nest. Similar habitat is available within the Alternate Haul Road Study Area. Seepage areas on the lee sides of hills that create abundant graminoid communities are used by nesting white-rumped sandpiper (*Calidris fuscicollis*) and pectoral sandpipers (*C. melanotos*; Renaud et al. 1981). Slightly further afield, the Salmon River itself is used by Thayer's gull (*Larus thayeri*), glaucous gull (*Larus hyperboreus*), loons and mergansers (Renaud et al., 1981). Following breakup in August and September, shorebirds and American pipits (*Anthus rubescens*) use the Salmon Creek and Salmon River extensively (Renaud et al., 1981). These species are also likely to occur within the Alternate Haul Road Study Area. Bird presence was sparse during the field survey. However, given the assessment occurred in late September, at a time when most birds have initiated migration (Cornell Lab of Ornithology, 2016a), few observations were expected. Common ravens and unidentified gulls (*Larus* spp.) were observed during vegetation mapping and habitat assessment. During the field reconnaissance, one rough-legged hawk (*Buteo lagopus*) was observed perched under the pilings of a building near the beach adjacent to the proposed SCH Study Area. An American pipit (*Anthus rubescens*) was observed foraging along the beach. IQ interviews with HTO members and elders revealed that bird nests have not been seen in the SCH or Quarry Study Area but that ravens, Arctic tern (*Sterna paradisaea*), snow bunting, and other little birds occur. Typically birds nest in the rocky areas south west of the airport, about 2 km from the SCH Study Area.

4.2.3.2 Marine Birds Nesting habitat for marine birds is unsuitable in the SCH Study Area as many marine birds nest in large colonies on remote, precipitous cliffs and remote islands that are inaccessible to predators (Cornell Lab of Ornithology, 2016b, 2016a). Although not for breeding purposes, 28 species of marine birds could potentially use inter-tidal and nearshore habitats in the SCH Study Area for foraging (Advisian, 2017a). The use of this habitat tends to peak between mid-July and October (Renaud et al., 1981) after break-up when the onset of the open-water season creates a productive foraging area which contributes to high bird diversity (LePage et al., 1998). Species most likely to be encountered include thick-billed murres (*Uria lomvia*), northern fulmars (*Fulmarus glacialis*), and black-legged kittiwakes (*Rissa tridactyla*), black guillemots (*Cephus grylle*), and glaucous (*Larus hyperboreus*), Thayer's (*L. thayeri*), and ivory gulls (*Pagophila eburnea*) (Bradstreet, 1982).4.2.4 Freshwater Fish and Habitat A desktop study was conducted on freshwater fish and habitat for the Project. The study focussed on the Alternate Haul Road Study Area as no watercourses or water bodies occur within the Quarry or Small Craft Harbour Study Areas. Arctic char (*Salvelinus alpinus*) was chosen as the focal species, the importance of which is described in Section 4.2.5. There is no indication that other freshwater fish species are present. Based on the desktop study, it cannot be conclusively stated that the watercourses in the Alternate Haul Road Study Area do not contain Arctic char. However, based on the life history requirements for Arctic char, neither of the watercourses is likely to support viable populations as they do not provide connectivity to large waterbodies which would be suitable to allow Arctic char to complete their life cycle. Based on the approximated size of the watercourses (<5 m channel width) as well as the duration and severity of winter in the area, it is very likely that the watercourses would freeze to bed during winter making overwintering extremely unlikely. Given the high gradient, shallow flows and impassible culverts near their confluences, it is unlikely upstream migration would be possible. In addition, IQ obtained during consultation, there is no direct evidence supporting any use of the unnamed watercourses being utilized as a fishery resource. Residents of the Hamlet stated that the watercourses do not have fish populations and are not used for subsistence fishing (Brian Koonoo (local hunter) pers. comm. April 2017; George Koonoo (Wildlife Officer) pers. comm. April 2017).4.2.5 Marine Fish Habitat (including Marine Vegetation) Intertidal areas in the Hamlet, are characteristic of gently sloped soft sediment Arctic environments, exhibited by a barren intertidal (Ellis, 1955) that is predominantly sand, with intermixed cobble, gravel (Greenwood, 2016), and the occasional small boulder (Advisian, 2017d). This barren intertidal zone is driven by the presence of ice, which continually scours the substrate during freeze-up, iced, and break-up periods. Typically, the ice scour also influences the shallow subtidal waters, where the daily tidal fluctuations will similarly scour the substrate. A seabed survey which consisted of 15 transects within the SCH Study Area was undertaken in September 2016. The subtidal substrate was largely sand. However, areas of hard substrates (boulder beds) were observed (see Figure 4 2). In these areas, seaweed species were observed in moderate to abundant densities (30 to 100%) – most typically rockweed and kelp (broadleaf brown). The extent of the seaweed bed fronting the Hamlet is shown in Photo 4 1. The seaweed bed runs parallel to shore on the western and eastern portions of the SCH Study Area as shown in the habitat map (Figure 4 2) prepared based on the field survey. The extent of habitat that will be permanently destroyed due to construction of the SCH was calculated based on the maximum footprint of the proposed SCH. The area of moderate to abundant seaweed habitat in the SCH Study Area is estimated to be 2.286 ha. The extent to which seaweeds provide three dimensional habitat for marine organisms has not been well studied in the Arctic; however, it is an established concept in temperate and tropical environments (Cristie et al., 2003; Wikstrom and Kautsky, 2007; Warfe et al., 2008; Brown et al., 2011). Włodarska-Kowalczyk et al. (2009) hypothesize that holdfasts of larger kelps provide refuge for organisms, such as amphipods, from ice scour events. It is likely that established

seaweed beds are important for a variety of life stages of marine species occurring in the coastal waters of Eclipse Sound. Furthermore, seaweed beds are significant primary producers, and thus play an important role in a short open-water season (Glud et al., 2002). In a study near Cape Hatt (Eclipse Sound, south shore), 65 km west of the SCH Study Area, Kupper et al. (2016) observed the following: Barren intertidal area, with occasional rockweed (*Fucus* sp) observed on the occasional boulder. Subtidal seaweeds first occurred 3 m depth CD, and included (but were not limited to) rockweed and kelp species (*Laminaria solidungula*, *Saccharina latissima*, *Alaria esculenta*) to a depth of approximately 10 m CD. Below 10 m CD the dominant seaweed observed was colander kelp (*Agarum clathratum*). Seaweeds in this area were associated with shell debris, coralline algae, marine snails, and sponges. When hard substrates were present at Cape Hatt, they were typically occupied by seaweed, where the species distribution changed with depth. In the shallow areas, rockweed was the predominant species, transitioning to kelp species with depth. Kelp species observed included: sugar wrack kelp, sieve kelp, and ribbon kelp. There were no observations of coralline algae or sponges. Seaweeds are not harvested by residents of the Hamlet, however, it is collected incidentally when the 'long stemmed seaweeds' wash ashore (IQ Workshop: March 2017: Neevee Aksarjuk).

4.2.6 Marine Fish (including Migration/Spawning)

The coastal marine environment fronting the SCH Study Area is used by migratory species such as Arctic char and Arctic cod (*Boreogadus saida*). Arctic char are an important subsistence and commercial fishery species in Nunavut that have both a lacustrine and amphidromous life history. Amphidromous Arctic char live primarily in fresh water, and migrate to the ocean for a short summer migration (~20 to 45 days) (Klemetsen et al., 2003; Bégout Anras et al., 1999). Myers (1949) referred to this migration as amphidromous, as anadromous by definition refers to species who spend the majority of their lives in marine waters. For familiarity of terms, the term anadromous will be used, while recognizing this important distinction. The primary purpose of the seaward migration is to increase energy reserves, at which time they may double their body mass (Jørgensen et al., 1997), over a relatively short summer migration (~20 to 45 days) (Klemetsen et al., 2003; Bégout Anras et al., 1999). Stock structure of Arctic char in northern Baffin Island is poorly understood. However, it is generally accepted that anadromous Arctic char in the waters fronting the Hamlet primarily migrate from the Salmon River (approximately 4.5 km south west of the Hamlet) and to a lesser extent from Salmon Creek (approximately 3 km south west of the Hamlet). Results of a tagging study suggested that Salmon River Arctic char migrate seaward in early July and return in mid-August (Read and Roberge, 1991). Residents of the Hamlet fish for Arctic char along the southern coast of Eclipse Sound from the Salmon River to just east of the Hamlet, using up to 5 km of coastline (Figure 4 3). The majority of fishing occurs within the Salmon River estuary. The fishing gear used is primarily seine nets; however, there are several outcrops east of the Hamlet, where Arctic char fishing occurs with hook-and-line. The fishing community considers that Arctic char can be caught in numerous locations along the coast, and the fishing that occurs within the SCH Study Area is for convenience purposes, as opposed to being targeted to high density areas of Arctic char. Arctic char fisheries are managed by DFO on the assumption that each river system supports a discrete fish stock (Kristofferson et al., 1984), leading DFO to conclude there are vulnerabilities in assessing the sustainability of Arctic char in northern Baffin Island, as these stocks have not been defined. Read and Roberge (1991) conducted a tagging study and concluded that Salmon River Arctic char do not migrate far from their natal river. From other studies in Nunavut, Arctic char prefer migrating along coastlines as opposed to across water bodies (Moore, 1975; Moore et al., 2016), and are typically found within 30 km from natal rivers (Bégout Anras et al., 1999). The Arctic char fisheries to date in close proximity to the SCH Study Area are mainly for subsistence purposes based on community consultation. In 2013, an individual with the support of the HTO submitted a request to the NWMB for an exploratory commercial fishery license (NWMB, 2013), which was approved in July 2014 (NWMB, 2014a, 2014b). Exploratory fishing licenses are issued for a five year period, as this is considered the minimum time period over which DFO can make predictions on the viability of a fishery (DFO, 2017a). 2017 will be the fifth year of this exploratory fishery, after which time, DFO will assess the efficacy of the fishery from the data collected. 20 sites (NWMB, 2013) were requested in the initial application of which four have had samples collected over the past four years. The closest proposed fishing site is 20 km west of the SCH Study Area, while the locations actually fished are in and around Milne Inlet, approximately 80 km south west of the SCH Study Area (DFO, 2017b). Arctic cod (*Boreogadus saida*) are a pelagic marine species which are believed to be the single most important species in the trophic link between plankton, marine birds and marine mammals in the Arctic ecosystem (Welch et al., 1992). Arctic cod are harvested for subsistence purposes, although not to the same extent as Arctic char, and the degree of their importance is more variable between communities. It is not known if they are harvested for subsistence purposes in the Hamlet, as it was not mentioned in the IQ workshop, however, (Priest and Usher, 2004) indicate they are harvested in gillnets with Arctic char. This species is considered to be inferior to Arctic char as indicated by the following quote, "The cod's poor diet and high water content leads to poorer tasting meat and shorter preservation." (Hurubise, 2016; p43, pers comm July 13 2015). This species is exclusively marine, and the extent of their migratory behaviours are not fully understood, with the exception of a pre-spawning late summer migration to coastal waters (FAO, 2017). The abundance and distribution of Arctic cod in Eclipse Sound is not known, however, given their importance to diets of marine mammals that are known to occur in the area, it is likely that abundance is high. They are known to be concentrated at the floe edge to the east of the Hamlet prior to break-up (Bradstreet, 1982). Additionally, Lancaster Sound (north shore of Bylot Island) is known as an important area for Arctic cod in all stages of their life cycle (AMAP, 2013). Benthic species, such as the truncate soft shell clam (*Mya truncata*), also have the potential to be present in the SCH Study Area. Little is known about the presence of this species in waters fronting the Hamlet, however, it has been observed in the coastal waters of Cape Hatt (south Eclipse Sound) (Snow et al., 1987), and northeast Eclipse Sound (south east of Bylot Island) (Thomson, 1982). There is no commercial fishery for benthic species in the Hamlet, and this species is not currently harvested for subsistence purposes. However, at one time a Hamlet resident did SCUBA dive for bivalves, an occurrence which is confirmed in Priest and Usher (2004). Over the course of the five years (1996 to 2000) for which the Nunavut Wildlife Harvest Study was conducted, clams were only harvested by one individual in one of the years (Priest and Usher, 2004). Thus, subsistence fishing for this species may be more driven by access (as they are subtidal) rather than presence (or absence).

4.2.7 Marine Mammals (including Habitat and Migratory Patterns)

Eclipse Sound is within the range of 11 species of marine mammals, which have been categorized as Arctic residents, seasonal visitors, and occasional visitors. The species, as defined by these temporal categories are listed in Table 4 1. An Arctic resident is defined as a marine mammal species that resides in the Arctic year-round, however may migrate or disperse within Arctic waters. A seasonal visitor is defined as a species that predictably resides within the Arctic region for a portion of the year, and most typically during the open-water season. An occasional visitor is a marine mammal species that may have the northern limits of their distribution overlapping with the Arctic, but usually occupies other ecological habitats. This latter group encompasses species that are rarely encountered in the Arctic. The time of year that a species could occur in the SCH Study Area and the frequency of observation in Pond Inlet are provided in Table 4 1. A frequency rating of 1 is regularly and predictably present, 2 is likely to be present but the frequency is not predictable, 3 is occasionally present, and 4 is rarely observed. With the exception of two pinniped species (ringed and bearded seals) which are present year-round, marine mammals are present during the open-water season. None of the identified marine mammal species are currently listed under the Species at Risk Act (SARA). The conservation statuses designated by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) are provided in Section 4.2.7 and summarized in Table 4 2. Of the 11 marine mammal species described in the Marine Baseline Report (Advisian, 2017d), nine are considered to occur differentially as Arctic residents or seasonal visitors. Of these, narwhal, ringed seals, and bearded seals are common during the open-water season, with ringed seals being the most common seal species (IQ Workshop: March 2017). Eclipse Sound is also documented by multiple sources as being an important area for narwhal during the open-water season, with specific reference to its importance as a nursery habitat (DFO, 2015; Dietz et al., 2001; Doniol-Valcroze et al., 2015; Higdson, 2017). The Baffinland Project conducted aerial surveys during the open-water season in 2015 and determined that narwhal were most concentrated mid-August to early September, with highest concentrations in Milne Inlet, Koluktoo Bay, and Tremblay Sound (Thomas et al., 2016). Pond Inlet is the eastern entrance to Eclipse Sound, and is a necessary corridor to access these western parts of the Sound. It is one of two access points to Eclipse Sound; the second being Navy Board Inlet (to the north), which is also an important route out of Eclipse Sound prior to freeze-up. Beluga whales and bowhead whales, while occurring in lower numbers than narwhal, may also be present with cow-calf pairs and use Eclipse Sound via Pond Inlet as an access corridor to Lancaster Sound. Killer whales are also expected to be present throughout the open-water season, as they prey upon the other marine mammals of the region (e.g. narwhal and seals). The presence and detection of killer whales by prey species results in avoidance behaviours by

Canada, 2017). The total aboriginal population (self-declared Inuit) is approximately 96.1% of the total (Statistics Canada, 2012). Inuktitut is the prevalent language in the Hamlet, reported as the mother tongue for 90.6% of residents. While Inuit culture and language remain strong in the Hamlet, they are “increasingly under threat from southern cultural influences via modern communications technologies, reduced reliance on traditional foods and economic pursuits, the continued loss of Elders and traditional language speakers, and a growing disconnection between Elders and youth,” (Government of Nunavut, 2011b). Low levels of literacy and numeracy are a challenge for labour force development in the Hamlet and across Nunavut (Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation, 2012a). In 2011, of the total population aged 15 years and older, 12.9% (130 individuals) were high school graduates or equivalents; 6.9% (70 individuals) held apprenticeship or trades certificates; and, less than 4.5% (45 individuals) graduated from a University with a bachelor level degree or higher level of education (Statistics Canada, 2012). According to a GN report on adult learning in Nunavut, “the largest group of adult learners in Nunavut needs programming that focuses on literacy, life skills, completion of high school or high school equivalency, adult basic education and personal empowerment” (Government of Nunavut & Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, 2006). According to Statistics Canada’s 2011 Census (Statistics Canada, 2012), the unemployment rate in the Hamlet was reported as 22.2%. Median income reported for the total population (15 years and over with income) was \$17,189 in 2010 with 18.1% of total income attributed to Government Transfers. The largest employers in town are the Hamlet, the GN and the Co-op Store. More recently, the Baffinland Project has also had an impact on the local economy. The economy of the Hamlet is characterized by traditional subsistence activities (e.g. hunting, fishing, trapping and gathering) mixed with wage activities. The traditional economy continues to play a vital role in the Hamlet and is an important component of life and well-being because it provides in-kind income, country food, traditional medicines and opportunities for commercial arts and crafts activities (Government of Nunavut, 2011b; HTO Manager pers. comm. September 2016).

4.3.3 Land and Resource Use

4.3.3.1 Harvesting

Residents in the Hamlet obtain food resources from harvesting, purchasing at stores, and through sealift deliveries. Hunting remains essential to life in the Hamlet. In 2006, 66% of respondents from the Hamlet reported as being hunters, 69% fished, and 79% gathered wild plants in the 12 months prior to the census (Government of Nunavut & Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, 2006). The harvesting of ringed seal, Arctic char, narwhal, and caribou are of particular importance. The availability of traditionally harvested foods (country food) is crucial in that it lowers the demand for imported food which is very costly and most often less nutritious. Additionally, the harvesting, preparation, and distribution of meat and skins offer important opportunities to maintain and enhance Inuit culture. Harvesting activities (hunting, fishing, gathering, and trapping) are limited within the SCH and Quarry Study Areas. IQ obtained during the workshop indicated that in and around the SCH Study Area, residents fish mostly at Salmon Creek, near Salmon River and along the hamlet coast line. Fishing nets are also placed along the western and eastern shorelines of the Hamlet. Hunting of Ptarmigan and small game occurs around the coast line near the proposed Quarry Study Area and near the Salmon River. Current plant and berry picking areas identified during the elder interview and design workshops do not fall within the two Study Areas. An HTO member remarked during a design workshop that, “There are lots of plants in the proposed quarry area, but nobody collects there because it’s polluted now with the sewage lagoon,” (HTO Member Design Workshop, 2016). Identified harvesting locations in and around the Study Areas are provided in Figure 4 3.

4.3.3.2 Travel Routes and Access

There is only one ramp in the community to launch boats from during the open-water season. During sealift delivery, the shoreline neighbourhood becomes extremely congested and hunters are unable to access the ramp to go out to harvest. During the winter, ice access is considered very good: “We are not concerned with getting on the ice, access in the winter is easy for us, we can get on almost anywhere,” (HTO Member Design Workshop, 2016) and, “We have no concerns about accessing the ice during construction of the harbour,” (IQ Workshop: March 2017). There is a particularly busy travel route out of the Hamlet taken by many families in the communities, especially during the open-water season, for access to the Salmon River. The Salmon River area is an important gathering place for the community; where people come together to fish, camp, and hold special events for the community. Additionally, travel routes to access the campground and berry picking areas are also quite busy in the summer months. These identified access points and local travel routes are provided in Figure 4 3.

4.3.3.3 Tourism

The Hamlet is a popular destination for arctic tourists due to the following points of interest: wildlife at the floe edge (approximately 60 km east of the Hamlet); bird cliffs on nearby Bylot Island (a migratory bird sanctuary, approximately 20 km north of Hamlet on the other side of Eclipse Sound); ice caves; several dozen glaciers; and many picturesque inlets. Additionally, the wildlife and marine mammals observed in and around Eclipse Sound include: ringed seal, seabirds, Arctic foxes, narwhals, and polar bears. It is also the gateway to one of Canada’s newest and largest national parks, Sirmilik National Park. Three local outfitters operating out of the Hamlet provide tours and Inuit guides for a wide range of experiences, including: dog sledding, floe edge trips, kayaking, kite skiing, fishing, whale watching, bird watching and camping at nearby Tamaarvik Territorial Park, etc. Cruise ship visitation to the Hamlet has increased steadily since 2006 and research indicates it will continue to expand (Parks Canada, 2016b). In 2016, 12 cruise ship visitations were expected over the cruising season bringing an expected total of nearly 2,800 visitors to the Hamlet (Government of Nunavut, 2016). However, residents currently seem to have mixed feelings about cruise ships. Some welcome the economic potential from ships in to the community while it has been stated that cruise ships “do not support us financially” (NPC, 2013). The Hamlet is currently working on initiatives to provide residents and artisans with more opportunities to benefit from cruise ships.

4.3.4 Local and Regional Traffic Patterns

The roads in the Hamlet are gravel surfaced with no walkways. Pedestrians, all-terrain vehicles, snow machines, cars, and trucks all share the road. The roads are quite narrow and steep in areas and often require maintenance with gravel in the winter to keep them safe. Roads leading out to the campground and to Salmon River can get busy in the summer. The Hamlet is serviced daily by scheduled commercial flights provided by First Air and Canadian North through Iqaluit and Clyde River. Sauniq Inns North Hotel, as a member of Tununuiq Sauniq Co-op, offers free airport shuttle service and can arrange for vehicle rentals. The sealift is a vital link for all communities in Nunavut. Details on the sealift operations are provided in the Project General Information section.

4.3.5 Community Health and Wellness

Health services are provided at a health centre built in 2005. There are five nurses that work Monday to Friday from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm with a 24-hour on-call shift. The health team includes a mix of agency nurses and casual nurses that travel to the Hamlet for six week rotation. There are also specialist services that visit the Hamlet for a week at a time such as physiotherapists, occupational therapists, speech language therapists and dentists. Emergency cases are stabilized and flown out to Iqaluit (Sherry Parks pers. comm. November 2016). The health centre is currently considered to be under-resourced based on community feedback (Sherry Parks pers. comm. November 2016). Pond Inlet Health Clinic delivers public health programs with initiatives such as the Well Woman, Well Man and Well Child Programs, Chronic Disease Clinics and Pre-Natal Clinics. The Nunavut Department of Health provides outreach services for mental health, including programs such as Suicide Prevention, One Territory Connected, and One World Connected, with a community outreach worker assigned to the Hamlet (Government of Nunavut, 2017). Community wellness is not only supported by public health programs and the medical clinic, it is also intrinsically related to a sense of familial and cultural cohesion. Inuit traditional activities of hunting, fishing, trapping, gathering plus the associated activities of drying, fermenting and preserving food and preparing skins strongly contributes to the community’s sense of shared cultural values and beliefs. In addition, social activities such as sports, recreation (e.g. snowmobiling, Inuit games), storytelling, arts, crafts and the summer camp are important factors in promoting community health and personal well-being.

4.3.6 Community Infrastructure and Services

The Nunavut Housing Corporation’s Annual Report for 2015-2016 listed the Hamlet’s housing stock at 35 to 40% of requirements indicating a critical need for housing (Nunavut Housing Corporation, 2016). Temporary accommodation in the Hamlet is limited and is currently provided by the Sauniq Hotel (20 double rooms) and the Black Point Lodge (four single queen sized rooms). The Hamlet is responsible for water, sewage and solid waste collection. Water is collected in a reservoir lake, known locally as Water Lake, from the adjacent creek located approximately 3 km south east of the Hamlet. It is treated with chlorine as it is loaded into trucks for distribution. Currently, there are three water trucks that deliver water daily to residences and commercial operations. Presently, Water Lake has sufficient capacity to service the community’s water needs (Joansie Naqitarvik pers. comm. November 2016). Sewage and municipal wastewater is collected by three trucks daily, six days a week and by one truck on Sundays from residential and commercial locations. The Hamlet’s sewage treatment facility is located within the Waste Disposal zone close to the Quarry Study Area and approximately 2.2 km east of the centre of the Hamlet. Solid waste is collected by Community Works three times a week. As the Hamlet has only one garbage truck, the weekly solid waste collection and any special requests for pick up occurs over several days. Electricity is provided by the Qulliq Energy Corporation through diesel generators. Heating fuel for homes and buildings is managed and delivered by the Co-op’s Petroleum, Oil and Lubricants Centre (Louise England pers. comm. November 2016).

Project Map

