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Dear Mr. Cote, Ms. McCaie, Ms. Pirie-Dominix, Ms. Maksagak, and Ms. Brown:

RE: NPC File # 149176 [Lake Ice in the Canadian High Arctic]

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

1. Scientific Research: Multi-year renewal of the research project aiming to examine recent changes to the timing and thickness of the ice cover on Canadian lakes. This will be done through fieldwork, modeling and the use of satellite imagery, which will be validated using the data measured manually in the field in Resolute and the PBP. The team plans to maintain this study site as a long-term project, with recurring visits to the lakes each summer to download and reinstall the equipment. The activities involve set-up and maintaining ice sensor and digital cameras as well as a weather tower.
2. Modifications to the original/amended project proposal: addition of two more observation cameras.
3. Associated NPC File No: 148191; Associated NIRB File No: 16YN002.
4. Location: Qikiqtani Region; [Resolute Bay and Bathurst Island within Polar Bear Pass National Wildlife Area]

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 and a conformity determination issued on January 27, 2016, which still applies. In addition, associated activities were previously screened by the Nunavut Impact Review Board, including the set-up, operation, and decommissioning of ice sensors in lakes near Resolute Bay as well as in Hunting Camp Lake within the Polar Bear Pass National Wildlife Area (NIRB FILE NO.: 16YN002). 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 is exempt from screening by the NIRB because the NPC is of the understanding that the addition of two new digital cameras does not change the general scope of the original or previously amended project activities, and the exceptions noted in Section 12.4.3 (a) and (b) of the Nunavut Agreement do not apply.

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://lupit.nunavut.ca/portal/project-dashboard.php?appid=149176&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,



Goump Djalogue, MCIP, RPP
Senior Planner
Nunavut Planning Commission