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November 16, 2020

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Dear Mr. Cote, Mr. Dwyer, Ms. Maksagak and Mr Killingbeck:

RE: NPC File # 149426 [Investigating the Devon Ice Cap subglacial lakes]

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

1. Scientific Research: Survey to collect data to further investigate the geological, hydrological and glaciological framework of the Devon hypersaline subglacial lakes.
2. Modifications to the original/amended project proposal: Use of non-invasive ground-based geophysical methods such as acoustics, time-domain electromagnetics and magnetotellurics.
3. Associated NPC FILE No: 148772 and 148995 ; Related NIRB FILE No.: 14YN006.

4. Location: Qikiqtani Region; Near the Communities of Arctic Bay and Grise Fiord; [Devon Island, Ellesmere and Axel Heiberg Islands]

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 (conformity determination issued on February 28, 2014, March 22, 2018 and most recently on December 13, 2018 which still applies. In addition, associated activities were previously screened by the Nunavut Impact Review Board, including data collection to investigate the geological, hydrological and glaciological framework of the Devon Ice Cap (NIRB FILE NO.: 14YN006). 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.

This project proposal is exempt from the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act* (NUPPAA) under section 235 of that Act. The above-noted project proposal is exempt from screening by the NIRB because the NPC is of the understanding that the inclusion of new ground based geophysical investigation methods 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:
https://lupit.nunavut.ca/portal/project-dashboard.php?appid=149426&sessionid=

This conformity determination applies only to the above noted project proposal as submitted. The regulatory authorities to which this letter is addressed are responsible under the Nunavut Agreement to implement any of the applicable conformity requirements by incorporating the requirements directly, or otherwise ensuring that they must be met, in the terms and conditions of any authorizations issued.

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
Senior Planner, MCIP, RPP
Nunavut Planning Commission