



## **NIRB Application for Screening #125576**

### **1990s caribou camp and fuel cache clean-up (Ahiak Migratory Bird Sanctuary)**

**Application Type:** New

**Project Type:** Site Cleanup/Remediation

**Application Date:** 1/11/2021 4:34:17 PM

**Period of operation:** from 0001-01-01 to 0001-01-01

**Proposed Authorization:** from 0001-01-01 to 0001-01-01

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## DETAILS

### Non-technical project proposal description

English: In the 1990s, the territorial government (then Northwest Territories) had a caribou camp with a fuel cache for doing caribou surveys. It was abandoned at some point. The abandoned camp/cache is located within the Ahiak (Queen Maud Gulf) Migratory Bird Sanctuary (MBS). The Ahiak Area Co-Management Committee (ACMC) is responsible for the day to day management of the Ahiak MBS and provides advice to the federal minister of Environment. The ACMC has asked that it be cleaned up. Environment and Climate Change Canada's Canadian Wildlife Service (Northern Region) is considering the feasibility of cleaning this site up as part of the protected areas program's work because the abandoned site is within a MBS and this is an important protected area for not only migratory birds, but caribou, muskox and other wildlife important to Inuit. The abandoned site was last visited by Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC) inspectors in 2015. The site consists of at least 44 full drums of fuel, and 23 partial or empty drums with no containment scattered across the camp site. Most of the drums are sunken into the ground (frozen in the active layer of the soil until late summer). There are also the remains of 2 wooden tent frames, 1 oil stove, jerry cans and various lumber and stove pipes scattered around the site. The site is located on a narrow spit of land between two large lakes and is not accessible by twin otter during the summer. This project proposes a crew (size to be determined with the contaminated site specialist, between 2 and 5) visit the site via helicopter in August 2021 to do a risk assessment, take samples and remove some non-hazardous debris (the possibility to camp on site and the debris to be removed will be determined with the contaminated site specialist). The following year, a crew of 4 will visit the site via helicopter in August, camp on site for 5 days (1 day in, 3 working days, 1 day out), dig out all drums, and then sling all drums and wood and waste using a helicopter to a suitable location where it could be picked up by twin otter the same or the following year (depending on the weather and COVID). Drums and waste would then be taken to Cambridge Bay for disposal. The schedule is dependant on Polar Continental Shelf Program's (PCSP) flight plans between March and September and it is also possible that the drums and waste could be picked up by twin otter on skis on Brichta Lake, but currently we are unsure of the feasibility of getting the pile of stuff from the spit down onto the lake ice during winter.

French: Dans les années 90, le gouvernement territorial (alors Territoires du Nord-Ouest) effectuait des suivis des populations de Caribous depuis le Camp Caribou où une cache à essence était installée. Ce camp et la cache sont situés dans le Refuge d'Oiseaux Migrateurs (ROM) d'Ahiak (Golfe de la Reine Maude) et ont été abandonné. Le comité de cogestion de la région d'Ahiak est responsable de la gestion au jour le jour du ROM Ahiak et apporte des conseils au ministère fédéral de l'Environnement. Ce comité a demandé à ce que ce site soit nettoyé. Environnement et Changement Climatique Canada – Service Canadien de la Faune (Region du Nord) évalue la faisabilité du nettoyage du site comme faisant parti du travail relié au programme des aires protégées parceque le site est situé au sein d'un ROM. C'est une aire protégée importante non seulement pour les oiseaux migrateurs mais aussi pour les caribous, bœufs musqués et autres espèces sauvages d'importance pour les Inuit. Ce site abandonné a été visité pour la dernière fois en 2015 par des inspecteurs de Relations Couronne-Autochtones et Affaires du Nord Canada (RCAANC). Le site comprends 44 barils d'essence plein, et 23 partiellement ou complètement vide. Ces barils sont sans mesure de containment et éparpillés sur le site. La plupart des barils se sont enfoncés dans le sol (gelé jusqu'à tard dans l'été). Il y a également les restes des structures en bois de 2 tentes, 1 poêle à diesel, des jerry cans et autres morceaux de bois ou de cheminée repartis autour du site. Ce site est situé sur une bande de terre étroite entre deux grands lacs et n'est donc pas accessible par Twin Otter durant l'été. Nous proposons qu'une équipe (entre 2 et 5 personnes, nombre a deteminer avec le spécialiste des sites contaminés) visite le site en hélicoptère en août 2021 pour effectuer une évaluation environnementale de site, prélever des échantillons et retirer des débris non-dangereux (la possibilité de camper et la quantité de débris pouvant être retiré sera à eterminer avec le spécialiste des sites contaminés). L'année suivante, une équipe de 4 visitera le site en hélicoptère en août, campera sur le site 5 jours (1 jours pour rentrer, 3 jours de travail et 1 jour pour sortir), déterrera tous les barils et déplacera l'ensemble des débris et barils en hélicoptère jusqu'à une zone adapté pour qu'il soit récupéré en Twin Otter la même année ou la suivante (dépendament des conditions météorologiques et de la COVID). Les barils et autres débris seront alors transportés à Cambridge Bay pour y être traité. Le calendrier dépendra également des plans de vol du Programme du Plateau Continental Polaire (PPCP) de Mars à Septembre, il est aussi possible que les barils et débris soit récupérés en Twin Otter sur ski sur le Lac Brichta mais nous sommes présentement incertain quand à la faisabilité de déplacer l'ensemble des barils et débris jusqu'au lac en hiver.

[illegible]

Operations Phase: from 2021-08-01 to 2023-08-31

## Activities

Location	Activity Type	Land Status	Site history	Site archaeological or paleontological value	Proximity to the nearest communities and any protected areas
Caribou Camp	Site Cleanup/Remediation	Crown	In the 1990s, the territorial government (then Northwest Territories) had a caribou camp with a fuel cache for doing caribou surveys. It was abandoned at some point.	N/A	The abandoned camp/cache is located within the Ahiak (Queen Maud Gulf) Migratory Bird Sanctuary (MBS). The Ahiak Area Co-Management Committee (ACMC) is responsible for the day to day management of the Ahiak MBS and provides advice to the federal minister of Environment. The ACMC is based in Cambridge Bay and Gjoa Haven.

## Community Involvement & Regional Benefits

Community	Name	Organization	Date Contacted
Information is not available			

## Authorizations

Indicate the areas in which the project is located:

Kitikmeot

### Authorizations

Regulatory Authority	Authorization Description	Current Status	Date Issued / Applied	Expiry Date
Environment and Climate Change Canada	Migratory Bird Sanctuary Access permit from the Canadian Wildlife Service. This permit must be approved by the Area Co-Management Committee based in Cambridge Bay and Gjoa Haven.	Not Yet Applied		

### Project transportation types

Transportation Type	Proposed Use	Length of Use
Air	Helicopter and Twin Otter	

### Project accomodation types

Temporary Camp

Community

## Material Use

Equipment to be used (including drills, pumps, aircraft, vehicles, etc)

Equipment Type	Quantity	Size - Dimensions	Proposed Use
Camping Equipment	4	na	Camping equipment for 4 persons during 5 days and 3 nights.
Tools	10	na	Pickaxe and shovels will be used to dig out the barrels from the ground. Other tools (screwdrivers, hammer, axe, handsaw) might be used to disassemble the tent frames.
Twin Otter	1	15m	To remove waste from the land to Cambridge Bay for disposal.
Helicopter	1	18*4m	An helicopter will be used to get in and out the camp site from Cambridge Bay.
Tents	5	3*3	one per person plus a kitchen tent
Generator	1	1*0.5m	To generate electricity
Empty Drum or Drum Overpack	2	1*0.5m	To contain potential leaking drum

### Detail Fuel and Hazardous Material Use

Detail fuel material use:	Fuel Type	Number of containers	Container Capacity	Total Amount	Units	Proposed Use
Propane	fuel	2	20	40	Liters	For cooking
Gasoline	fuel	1	20	20	Liters	For a Generator/Electricity

### Water Consumption

Daily amount (m3)	Proposed water retrieval methods	Proposed water retrieval location
0		

# Waste

## Waste Management

Project Activity	Type of Waste	Projected Amount Generated	Method of Disposal	Additional treatment procedures
Information is not available				

### Environmental Impacts:

This will be a leave no trace camp and we will remove all waste with the exception of bodily waste and greywater. We expect the environmental impact to be negligible. Greywater will be buried in a small pit dug and then treated with lime. Bodily waste will be buried over.

# **Additional Information**

**SECTION A1: Project Info**

**SECTION A2: Allweather Road**

**SECTION A3: Winter Road**

**SECTION B1: Project Info**

**SECTION B2: Exploration Activity**

**SECTION B3: Geosciences**

**SECTION B4: Drilling**

**SECTION B5: Stripping**

**SECTION B6: Underground Activity**

**SECTION B7: Waste Rock**

**SECTION B8: Stockpiles**

**SECTION B9: Mine Development**

**SECTION B10: Geology**

**SECTION B11: Mine**

**SECTION B12: Mill**

**SECTION C1: Pits**

**SECTION D1: Facility**

**SECTION D2: Facility Construction**

**SECTION D3: Facility Operation**

**SECTION D4: Vessel Use**

**SECTION E1: Offshore Survey**

**SECTION E2: Nearshore Survey**

**SECTION E3: Vessel Use**



**SECTION F1: Site Cleanup**

**SECTION G1: Well Authorization**

**SECTION G2: Onland Exploration**

**SECTION G3: Offshore Exploration**

**SECTION G4: Rig**

**SECTION H1: Vessel Use**

**SECTION H2: Disposal At Sea**

**SECTION I1: Municipal Development**

**Description of Existing Environment: Physical Environment**

**Description of Existing Environment: Biological Environment**

**Description of Existing Environment: Socio-economic Environment**

**Miscellaneous Project Information**

**Identification of Impacts and Proposed Mitigation Measures**

**Cumulative Effects**

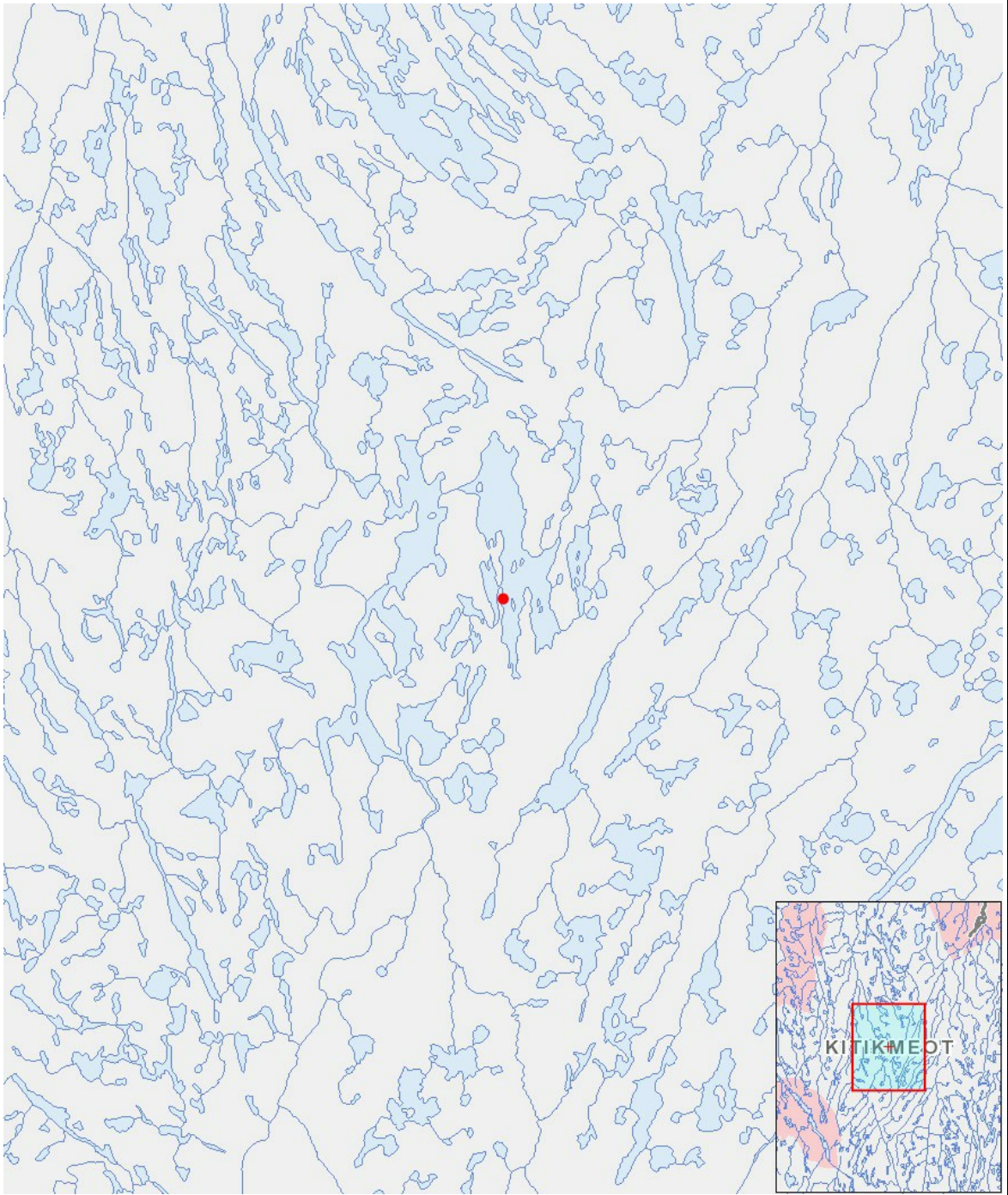
# Impacts

## Identification of Environmental Impacts

		PHYSICAL	Designated environmental areas	Ground stability	Permafrost	Hydrology / Limnology	Water quality	Climate conditions	Eskers and other unique or fragile landscapes	Surface and bedrock geology	Sediment and soil quality	Tidal processes and bathymetry	Air quality	Noise levels	BIOLOGICAL	Vegetation	Wildlife, including habitat and migration patterns	Birds, including habitat and migration patterns	Aquatic species, incl. habitat and migration/spawning	Wildlife protected areas	SOCIO-ECONOMIC	Archaeological and cultural historic sites	Employment	Community wellness	Community infrastructure	Human health
Construction																										
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Operation																										
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Decommissioning																										
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(P = Positive, N = Negative and non-mitigatable, M = Negative and mitigatable, U = Unknown)

Project Location



List of Project Geometries

1	point	Caribou Camp
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