



January 19, 2021

Hamlet Council of Grise Fiord
General Delivery, PO Box 77
Grise Fiord, Nunavut
X0A 0J0
email: gfsao@qiniq.com

VIA EMAIL

Subject: Construction at the Eureka High Arctic Weather Station Notification Request

Hamlet Council of Grise Fiord,

Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) proposes to undertake various construction activities at the Eureka High Arctic Weather Station (HAWS) to upgrade existing, construct new, or decommission surplus infrastructure. The HAWS is located on the north side of Slidre Fjord, at the northwestern tip of Fosheim Peninsula, Ellesmere Island, Nunavut.

ECCC has retained Public Services and Procurement Canada (PSPC), and the consulting firm AECOM Canada LTD. to engage with interested groups who may

wish to receive project status updates or general information on upcoming project activities. Feedback



will help ECCC understand how these activities may impact your community. Feedback may also support ongoing operations and planning efforts of the proposed activities at the HAWS.

About the Eureka HAWS

Since 1947, ECCC has owned and managed the overall operations and maintenance of HAWS under Land Reserve #1021. The total area of the HAWS main operational site is approximately 2.23 hectares. There are presently 15 primary buildings and other facilities at the HAWS. The Eureka runway is located 1.5 km northeast of the HAWS main site and is the most common way by which the HAWS is accessed year-round.

The Eureka HAWS is an operational weather monitoring facility as well as a hub of activity for the Department of National Defence, the Polar Continental Shelf Project, and the Polar Environment Atmospheric Research Lab (PEARL).

Proposed Activities

The following activities are proposed to be completed between 2021 to 2025:

Replacement of new drinking water reservoir and upgrades to existing sewage treatment facility. A new packaged wastewater treatment plant will also be constructed. Work is expected to commence in summer 2022.

Completion of fuel tank inspections and minor repairs. There are 10 above-ground fuel storage tanks contained in an existing tank farm. To comply with regulatory requirements for storage tank systems under federal jurisdiction, the fuel storage tanks at the HAWS need to be inspected periodically and necessary repairs made. Inspections are expected to commence in summer 2021.

Decommissioning of 10 buildings. This will include the disposal of hazardous materials offsite, non-hazardous materials onsite and the burning of untreated and unpainted wood. Decommissioning is set to begin in summer 2021.

Construction of non-hazardous waste disposal facility for disposal of wastes from building decommissioning and other operations. Exact specifications and a start date of this activity is being determined.

Development of landfarm for treating contaminated soils. Hydrocarbon contaminated soils have been identified in locations within the operational vicinity of the HAWS. These soils will be moved to the newly constructed landfarm where hydrocarbons will be removed through a process of biodegradation. Exact specifications and start date of this activity is being determined.

Recapitalization of building infrastructure onsite. This would include interior and exterior renovations and upgrades to three buildings onsite. Work is planned to commence in summer 2022.

The Regulatory Process

The Eureka HAWS operations and site are currently regulated. Proposed activities will require amendments and/or renewal applications to be submitted to the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC) and the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB).

Should NPC determine that a screening is required by NIRB, input on components and activities will be solicited from several groups including, but not limited to: federal government regulatory groups, non-government organizations, stakeholders, Indigenous Communities and Regional Inuit Associations.

Potential project activity-related effects will be reviewed and assessed as part of the regulatory process. Several of these activities are associated or required as part of the original environmental impact assessment (2016) and amendment (2018).

How to Get Involved

Should you have an interest in learning more about the Eureka HAWS and/or the potential upcoming projects and activities, please contact:

<p>Robin Reese Project Manager, AECOM Canada</p> <p>Tel: 1-587-436-6058</p> <p>Email: robin.reese@aecom.com</p>	<p>Mélanie Pérés, ENG.,</p> <p>Director, Real Property Management Division</p> <p>Corporate Services and Finance Branch, Environment and Climate Change Canada</p> <p>351, boul. Saint-Joseph, Gatineau, QC, K1A 0H3</p> <p>Melanie.Peris@canada.ca</p>
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With the exception of personal information, all comments will become part of the public record.

Best Regards,

Mélanie Pérés