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Dear Mr. Cote, Mr. Dwyer, Ms. McCaie, Ms. LeBlanc-Havard, Mr. Ottenhof, Ms. Kapolak, and Mr. Zerafa:

RE: NPC File No. 149741 [Ecological monitoring of terrestrial arthropods on Umingmat Nunaat (Axel Heiberg Island), Nunavut]

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

1. Scientific research: Amendment of this research project aimed to establish a new long-term ecological monitoring program that will use terrestrial arthropods as model organisms for studying how High Arctic

terrestrial ecosystems work. The McGill Arctic Research Station (MARS) will provide logistical support for the project. Transportation to and from the project site to the MARS will be done by a Twin Otter aircraft.

2. Summary of Modifications: Addition of a few opportunistic sampling sites around the study area, and use of a small quadrotor drone with a camera to map out the area.
3. Associated NPC File No: 14896, 149302 and 149553; Associated NIRB File No: 18YN013.
4. Location: North Qikiqtani Region; [Central Axel Heiberg Island; Approx. 325 km North-West of Grise Fiord]

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 was issued on March 2, 2018, April 21, 2020, and May 6, 2021, which still applies. In addition, associated activities were previously screened by the Nunavut Impact Review Board, including the installation of insect pans to collect samples of arthropods (NIRB FILE NO.: 18YN013). 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 a few opportunistic sampling sites around the study area, and the use of a small quadrotor drone with a camera to map out the area 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=149741&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
Manager of Planning and Implementation
Nunavut Planning Commission