

Non-Technical Project Summary: Cape Weld & Paquet Bay Radio Repeaters for Sirmilik National Park

Proponent

Parks Canada Agency

Project scope

Parks Canada is proposing to install a new radio repeater station at Cape Weld and operate it for 10 years and also proposing to continue operating an existing repeater at Paquet Bay for 10 more years. Repeater stations include antennae, solar panels, metal supports, and a weatherproof box containing batteries and the repeater device; concrete foundations help secure the bases of the structural supports. This equipment is installed on geographic high points to help extend radio coverage across the largest area possible. To install or service radio repeaters, a helicopter is used to move personnel and equipment to remote, high elevation sites. Installing a new repeater takes about half a day, while conducting routine annual servicing of an existing repeater normally takes around 2 hours. Annual visits allow equipment to be tested and any damaged parts to be replaced; any broken parts or spent batteries are removed to Pond Inlet for disposal. Repeater equipment can be entirely dismantled and removed from the site, by helicopter, when a site is decommissioned, so that only a small amount of concrete foundation remains.

Objective

To facilitate and improve radio communications in and around Sirmilik National Park in order to support public safety and emergency response activities, occupational health and safety for Parks Canada staff, and routine park operations over the next decade. These objectives help meet targets within Sirmilik National Park's Management Plan (2016), particularly to fostering public safety within the park.

Project locations (2)

The existing repeater at Paquet Bay is located at 680 m elevation and is approximately 85 km south from Pond Inlet (coordinates: 71° 55.794' N, 78° 12.715' W). This location is about 5 km from the nearest boundary of Sirmilik National Park.

The proposed repeater at Cape Weld is located at 800 m elevation and is approximately 75 km east from Pond Inlet (coordinates: 72° 33.351' N, 75° 48.8742' W). This location is about 38 km from the nearest boundary of Sirmilik National Park.

Timeline

Project work will take place in mid-July 2022 and will include the installation of the proposed Cape Weld repeater as well as routine annual servicing visits to the Paquet Bay repeater and the three repeaters located within Sirmilik National Park. From then until March 31, 2032, annual servicing visits will occur at repeater sites each summer to maintain equipment and keep it in working order. In 2032, the future scope of the project and the repeater network will be re-evaluated, and any further licences, permits, and/or leases will be sought as appropriate.