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Nunavunmi Parnaiyiit
Nunavut Planning Commission
Commission d'Aménagement du Nunavut

May 27, 2022
NPC File No. 149756

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Dear Talia Maksagak, Richard Dwyer, Mosha Cote, Daniel Haney, Patrick Graillon, Carson Gillis, Jared Ottenhof, and Lyle Whyte:

RE: NPC File # 149756 [Developing new technologies to access and investigate the hypersaline, subzero Devon Island Subglacial Lake System, a unique Mars and icy moon analogue]

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

1. Scientific geological research to access and investigate the hypersaline, subzero Devon Island Subglacial Lake System. Proposed project activities include:

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- a. Summer 2022 field season: perform local reconnaissance of the Devon Island Ice Cap surface on top of the subglacial lakes to determine optimal sites for future drilling and sample collection for future field seasons in 2023 and 2024.
 - b. 2023 and 2024 field season: camp on the ice cap for 3 - 4 days, perform coring operations to collect ice samples and test a prototype SLUSH drill system to drill into ice on future space missions.
2. Location: Qikiqtani Region; [Devon Island Ice Cap]

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. 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 project proposal requires screening by the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) because it does not belong to a class of exempt works or activities set out in Schedule 12-1 of the Nunavut Agreement.

By way of this letter, the NPC is forwarding the project proposal with this determination to the NIRB for screening. Project materials, including the applicable conformity requirements, are available at the following address:

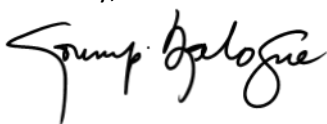
<https://lupit.nunavut.ca/portal/project-dashboard.php?appid=149756&sessionid=>

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
Manager Planning and Implementation
Nunavut Planning Commission