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Gouvernement du Nunavut

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GN-01: Archaeological Considerations	
Department	Culture and Heritage
Organization	Government of Nunavut
Subject/Topic	Proposed New Power Plant in Chesterfield Inlet QEC
References	NIRB Notice of Screening: File No. 22XN024
CONCERNS	
<p>Qulliq Energy Corporation (QEC) is proposing to construct and operate a new power plant in the Hamlet of Chesterfield Inlet. QEC is considering two sites (Options 1 and 3) for the construction of the new power plant. Both site options are approximately 0.6 ha in size and situated north of the current bulk fuel facility on the eastern edge of the hamlet. The proposed project will include the construction of two horizontal fuel tanks, fuel piping and pumping facilities, Quonset garage, storage facilities, a waste disposal area, a roadway and temporary staff accommodations. Upgrade to the existing distribution system will be required to connect to the new power plan which will include offices, electricity control room, mechanical room and garage workshop. Heavy construction equipment (excavator, backhoe, bulldozer, grader, lift, mixer) will be used for construction.</p> <p>A search of the Nunavut Site Data Base indicates that there are over twenty (20) archaeological sites recorded within the municipality boundary. <b>Six of these sites are graves located in the immediate vicinity of proposed Option 3 (two to the south and a cluster of four to the north).</b> This however does not preclude the presence of unidentified sites or cultural features as to this day no systematic archaeological reconnaissance has been conducted in this area.</p> <p>The proponent has been proactive and Archaeology Permit 2021-13A was issued by the Department of Culture and Heritage (CH) to carry out an Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) in advance of proposed construction to determine if archaeological sites are in potential conflict with the proposed option and identify any necessary avoidance or mitigation measures.</p>	
RECOMMENDATIONS	
<p><b>A Class 2 Archaeology Permit is required from the Department of Culture and Heritage.</b></p> <p>The Department of Culture and Heritage has no concern with the proposed project as the proponent's archaeologist has already filed for a Class 2 archaeological permit to conduct an Archaeological Impact Assessment.</p> <p>During construction activities CH recommends that:</p>	

No activities be conducted in the vicinity (50 m buffer zone) of any archaeological/historical sites. If archaeological sites or features are encountered, activities should immediately be interrupted and moved away from this location. Each site encountered needs to be recorded and reported to the Government of Nunavut Territorial Archaeology Office.

All archaeological and palaeontological sites in Nunavut are protected under the Nunavut Act. The Proponent must understand that it is their responsibility to ensure that no heritage sites are disturbed in the course of their activities. No person shall alter, or otherwise disturb an archaeological site, or remove any artifact from an archaeological site without the proper authorizations. Moreover, the building of inuksuit is not recommended.

#### **ADDITIONAL COMMENTS**

N/A