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Nunavunmi Parnaiyiit
Nunavut Planning Commission
Commission d'Aménagement du Nunavut

May 25, 2022
NPC File No.: 149421

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Ik Icard

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Dear Talia Maksagak, Tracey McCaie, Daniel Haney, Veronique D'Amours-Gauthier, Jane Chisholm, Carson Gillis
Geoff Clark, Jared Ottenhof, and Ik Icard:

RE: NPC File # 149421 [Far North Fiber Marine Route Survey]

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

1. Marine based activities associated with the Far North Fiber cable project that will lay a 900 km fiber optic cable through the Arctic Ocean and the Northwest Passage connecting Asia and Northern Europe. The first phase of the project is to survey the proposed route. The Marine Survey will be performed along the cable route to ensure that the cable system is installed on the most benign seabed, avoiding any adverse impacts on sensitive living marine resources and clear of any features which could pose a threat to the design life of the cable system. The geophysical and geotechnical investigation of the route establishes a detailed profile of the seabed corridor where the cable is to be laid. The survey will include a Burial Assessment Survey (BAS) which consists of Cone Penetrometer Testing (CPT) and measurements to predict the soil type, its relative density and shear strength. The output of this activity enables production of a unique cable profile which is specifically adapted to the nature of the seabed to ensure long-term durability of the cable.
2. Location: Kitikmeot & Qikiqtani [along the waters of the Northwest Passage]

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=149421&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 Planning and Implementation
Nunavut Planning Commission