



GN-01: Archaeological and Paleontological Sites	
<b>Department</b>	Culture and Heritage
<b>Organization</b>	Government of Nunavut
<b>Subject/Topic</b>	Nunavut Uranium Project
<b>References</b>	NIRB Notice of Screening <b>22EN032</b>
CONCERNS	
<p>The proponent intends to carry out a two-year (2022-2023) exploration program on various claims and leases in the vicinity of Aberdeen and Gerhard Lakes. The project is located approximately 90 km from Baker Lake. The proposed land use activities include drilling, the use of helicopters for daily activities, the use of snowcats for the overland transport of equipment, the building of a temporary camp and associated components (incinerator, fuel storage, ect.)..</p> <p><b>A search of the Nunavut Archaeological Site Database indicates that there are one hundred sixty-five (165) recorded archaeological sites within the boundaries of the proposed exploration areas.</b> Specifically, large concentrations of sites are found in the immediate vicinity of proposed Camp A, on the northern shore of Aberdeen Lake and throughout the Orano claim. 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 specific area. Several archaeological sites are reported on exploration properties nearby.</p> <p>The project area may potentially yield significant archaeological/cultural resources as it is geographically located at the intersection of both the Beverley and Ahiak and Qamanirjuaq caribou herd ranges. The vast interconnecting system of rivers and lakes also points out to the high potential for archaeological/cultural resources of the area. Thus, the Department of Culture and Heritage considers that there are reasonable grounds to believe that there could be sites of archaeological significance on the lands affected by the current project (NA 33.5.12).</p>	
SUGGESTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	
<p><b>A Class 2 Archaeology Permit is required from the Department of Culture and Heritage.</b></p> <p>On the basis that no systematic archaeological surveys have been conducted in the proposed exploration areas and that the potential for the presence of archaeological sites is high the Department of Culture and Heritage recommends that a field archaeological assessment program be initiated prior to any land disturbance activities.</p> <p>CH recommendations are the following:</p>	

- (1) A qualified archaeologist must apply for a Class 2 permit in order to conduct a field archaeological assessment of any areas subject to ground disturbance activities;
- (2) Assessment of any drilling locations (50 m radius) and water-hose route to the closest water intake;
- (3) Assessment of any proposed camp locations and associated components;
- (4) Assessment of the overland route to be used for the transportation of equipment;
- (5) The Department of Culture and Heritage recommends that the applicant avoids conducting activities in the vicinity (50 m buffer zone) of 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 our office.

All archaeological and palaeontological sites in Nunavut are protected by law. The applicant must understand that it is their responsibility to ensure that no heritage resource 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. Moreover, the building of inuksuit is not recommended.

**ADDITIONAL COMMENTS**

N/A