



Government of Nunavut
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Gouvernement du Nunavut

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GN-01: Archaeological and Paleontological Sites	
Department	Culture and Heritage
Organization	Government of Nunavut
Subject/Topic	Archaeological sites
References	NIRB Notice of Screening
CONCERNS	
<p>The Coral Harbour Solar and Energy Storage Project is a renewable energy project led in collaboration with the community of Coral Harbour. The project goal is to construct a utility-scale renewable energy and storage system that would allow to provide up to 31 of the community's existing energy demand.</p> <p>The project is located approximately 10km from Coral and includes the following activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Installation and operation of ten (1) rows of solar PV arrays; • Construction of an access road; • Installation of a transmission line corridor along the access road; • Installation of a microgrid controller platform; • Use of heavy equipment for the construction. <p>A search of the Nunavut Archaeological Site Database indicates that fifteen (15) archaeological sites are recorded in the vicinity of the proposed development footprint. 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 general area.</p> <p>The Department of Culture and Heritage considers that there are reasonable grounds to believe that there could be sites of archaeological/cultural significance on the lands affected by the current project (NA Article 33.5.12; 33.5.13).</p> <p>A Class 2 archaeology permit is <u>required</u> from the Department of Culture and Heritage.</p> <p>On the basis that the area proposed for development has not been the object of archaeological surveys the Department of Culture and Heritage recommends that an archaeological program be initiated prior to any land disturbance activities in order to record archaeological/heritage sites and implement appropriate mitigation measures.</p>	
RECOMMENDATIONS	

The GN recommends the following:

1. An Archaeological Impact Assessment be carried out in advance of proposed activities to determine if archaeological sites are in potential conflict and identify any necessary avoidance or mitigation measures.
2. A qualified archaeologist must apply for a Class 2 permit to conduct an archaeological field assessment and inventory along the access road, the proposed development corridor and any installation areas and/or additional project components subject to ground disturbance activities (Deadline for permit application is March 31).
3. 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.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

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 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 without the proper authorizations. Moreover, the building of inuksuit is not recommended.