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Nunavunmi Parnaiyiit
Nunavut Planning Commission
Commission d'Aménagement du Nunavut

February 6, 2023
NPC File No. 149952

Francis Emingak

Acting Manager, Technical Administration
Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB)
P.O. Box 1360, Cambridge Bay, NU X0B 0C0
By email: femingak@nirb.ca; info@nirb.ca;
kmorrison@nirb.ca

Tracey McCaie

Manager, Land Administration
Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada
(CIRNAC) P.O. Box 100, Iqaluit, NU X0A 0H0
By email: tracey.mccaie@canada.ca;
aadnc.landsmine.aandc@canada.ca;
isa.qamaniq-mason@canada.ca;
spencer.dewar@canada.ca; jeff.hart@canada.ca;
richard.bingley2@rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca

Brenda Pilakapsi

Lands Administrator
Kivalliq Inuit Association
P.O. Box 340, Rankin Inlet NU X0C 0G0
By email: bpilakapsi@kivalliqinuit.ca;
aburton@kivalliqinuit.ca; mserra@kivalliqinuit.ca;
dirLands@kivalliqinuit.ca; landsAdmin@kivalliqinuit.ca

Richard Dwyer

Manager of Licensing
Nunavut Water Board (NWB)
P.O. Box 119, Gjoa Haven, NU X0B 1J0
By email: richard.dwyer@nwb-oen.ca;
licensing@nwb-oen.ca

Mosha Cote

Manager-Research Liaison
Nunavut Research Institute
P.O. Box 1720
Iqaluit, NU X0A 0H0
By email: mosha.cote@arcticcollege.ca

Michele LeBlanc-Havard

Director
Department of Environment (GN-DOE)
P.O. Box 1000, Iqaluit, NU X0A 0H0
By email: mleblanc-havard1@gov.nu.ca;
wildlife_research@gov.nu.ca

Dr. Greg Oldenborger

Natural Resources Canada
183-601 Booth St.
Ottawa Ontario K1A 0E8 Canada
By email: greg.oldenborger@canada.ca

Dear Mr. Emingak, Mr. Dwyer, Ms. McCaie, Mr. Cote, Ms. Pilakapsi, Ms. LeBlanc-Havard, and Mr. Oldenborger:

RE: NPC File # 149952 [Western Hudson Bay geoscience for infrastructure project]

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

1. Natural Resource Canada (NRCAN) is proposing to amend the Western Hudson Bay geoscience for infrastructure project. The proposed modifications include:
 - Conduct geophysical surveys over lakes which will involve data collection supported by snow machine over lake ice. The surveys for this project will be designed and interpreted to understand the presence or absence of unfrozen ground beneath lakes.
 - Surveys will be conducted over 5–10 lakes, with some of the lakes being selected for multiple surveys, and some of the lakes being selected for single surveys.

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P.O. Box 2101
Cambridge Bay, NU X0B 0C0
867-983-4625
867-983-4626

P.O. Box 2101
Ikaluktutiak, NU X0B 0C0
867-983-4625
867-983-4626

- The geophysical surveys will be conducted by 2–3 people walking over the land to deploy instrumentation. Surveys are proposed to be non-invasive and involve no disturbance of the land, ice, or water.
 - All work will be conducted based out of Rankin Inlet with survey locations accessed daily by truck or snow machine.
2. Associated NPC File No.: 148271; Related NIRB File No. 16YN040.
 3. Location: Kivalliq Region [Lake ice near Rankin Inlet]

A complete description of the project proposal reviewed by the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC) can be accessed online using the link below.

The NPC has completed its review of the above noted project proposal. The activities associated with this proposal were previously reviewed by NPC, and conformity determination was issued on June 9, 2016 which still applies. In addition, the activities were previously screened by the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB File No.: 16YN040). It conforms to the Keewatin Regional Land Use Plan (KRLUP). The proponent has undertaken to comply with the applicable conformity requirements of Appendix C, G, and H of the KRLUP.

This project proposal is exempt from the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act* (NUPPAA) under section 235 of that Act. The above-noted project proposal does not require screening because the NPC is of the understanding the currently proposed activities does not change the general scope of the original or previously amended project activities, and the exceptions noted in Section 12.4.3 (a) and (b) of the Nunavut Agreement do not apply.

By way of this letter, the NPC is forwarding the project proposal to the regulatory authorities identified by the proponent. Project materials, including the applicable conformity requirements, are available at the following address:

<https://lupit.nunavut.ca/portal/project-dashboard.php?appid=149952 &sessionid=>

This conformity determination applies only to the above noted project proposal as submitted. The regulatory authorities to which this letter is addressed are responsible under the Nunavut Agreement to implement any of the applicable conformity requirements by incorporating the requirements directly, or otherwise ensuring that they must be met, in the terms and conditions of any authorizations issued.

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) 447-4563.

Sincerely,



Solomon Amuno, PhD
Senior Planner
Nunavut Planning Commission