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Nunavunmi Parnaiyiit
Nunavut Planning Commission
Commission d'Aménagement du Nunavut

March 11, 2024
NPC File No.: 150281

Cassel Kapolak

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Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB)
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Jared Ottenhof

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Dear Cassel Kapolak, Tracie McCaie, Mosha Cote, Jared Ottenhof, and Christopher Omelon:

RE: NPC File # 150281 [Impacts of Climate Change on Permafrost, Ice, and Hydrology in the Canadian high Arctic]

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

1. Scientific Research: Ongoing research project. Study the impact of climate change on polar landscapes with a focus on permafrost, ground ice, glaciers, and groundwater.
2. Summary of Modifications: To extend the project schedule and include updated license applications, either in review or to be applied for at a future date.
3. Associated NPC File No: 148330, 148555; 148822 and 149686; NIRB File No.: 07YN019.
4. Location: North Baffin Region [Axel Heiberg Island, North of the community of Grise Fiord]

A complete description of the project proposal reviewed by the NPC can be accessed online using the link below.

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The Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC) has completed its review of the above-noted project proposal. The NPC previously reviewed works and activities associated with the current proposal (conformity determination issued January 18, 2013, July 21, 2016, April 24, 2017, April 20, 2018, and March 8, 2022, which still applies. In addition, associated activities were previously screened by the Nunavut Impact Review Board, including observation, topographic GPS surveys, shallow permafrost GPR surveys, ground and air temperature measurements, as well as assessments of ground ice, vegetation, glacier ice, and groundwater activity (NIRB File No.: 07YN019). 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.

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 is exempt from screening by the NIRB because the NPC is of the understanding that the extension of the project schedule does not change the general scope of the original and 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/registry/registry.aspx?appid=150281>

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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'SA' with a stylized flourish.

Solomon Amuno, PhD
Senior Planner
Nunavut Planning Commission