

April 29, 2024

Francis Emingak
Screening Officer
Nunavut Impact Review Board
P.O Box 1360
Cambridge Bay, NU X0B 0C0

Sent VIA Email: info@nirb.ca

Re: Notice of Screening for Natural Resources Canada’s “Bedrock Mapping at Uvauk Bay” project proposal


Dear Francis Emingak,

The Government of Nunavut (GN) would like to thank the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) for the opportunity to provide comments regarding Natural Resources Canada's "Bedrock Mapping at Uvauk Bay" project proposal, NIRB File # 24YN018.

The GN has reviewed the proposed project and related documents and has provided one (1) comment, which is appended to this letter.

The GN appreciates participating in the screening of this project through the NIRB process. Should there be any concerns or need for follow-up, please do not hesitate to contact me at jbuller@gov.nu.ca.

Qujannamiik,


Justin Buller

Justin Buller
Interim Avatiliriniq Coordinator
Government of Nunavut

GN: Palaeontology and Archeology	
Department	Culture and Heritage
Organization	Government of Nunavut
Subject/Topic	Bedrock – Mapping Archaeology
References	NIRB Notice of Screening No 24YN018
CONCERNS	
<p>The Proponent plans to conduct bedrock mapping and collecting rock samples for laboratory analysis.</p> <p>The project is located within the Kivalliq region, approximately 110 kilometers (km) from Chesterfield Inlet.</p> <p>Fieldwork activities include: the collection of rocks and the establishment of a temporary camp of seven tents.</p> <p>A search of the Nunavut Archaeological Site Database indicates that there is only one archaeological site recorded within the proposed study area. This, however, does not preclude the presence of unidentified sites or cultural features as no systematic archaeological or palaeontological reconnaissance has been conducted in this area.</p> <p>The department of Culture and Heritage requires further information with regards to the nature of the rocks samples to be collected and whether these are fossiliferous in nature.</p>	
RECOMMENDATIONS	
<p>A Class 2 Paleontological Permit may be required, and the proponent needs to contact the Department of Culture and Heritage Territorial Archeology Office.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) The placement of the camp site should be visually inspected in order to avoid archaeological sites; (2) The research team shall exercise caution in their movements to avoid archaeological sites; (3) The Department of Culture and Heritage recommends that the applicant avoids conducting any sampling 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. <p>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 during the course of their activities. No person shall alter or otherwise disturb an</p>	

archaeological site or remove any artifact from an archaeological site. Moreover, the building of inuksuit is not recommended.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

The Department of Culture and Heritage requests that the proponent contact the Territorial Archaeology Office before further project planning occurs to determine if:

- 1) The bedrock being studied is, or is likely to be, fossiliferous, and
- 2) If a Class 2 Palaeontological or Archaeological Permit is required.