



June 15, 2026
NPC File No. 151206

Calvin Ehaloak

A/Manager, Public Registry
Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB)
Cambridge Bay, Nunavut
By email: cehaloak@nirb.ca; info@nirb.ca;
kgillard@nirb.ca

Richard Dwyer

Manager, Licensing
Nunavut Water Board (NWB)
Gjoa Haven, Nunavut
By email: richard.dwyer@nwb-oen.ca;
licensing@nwb-oen.ca

Tracey McCaie

Manager, Land Administration
Crown Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs
Canada (CIRNAC)
Iqaluit, Nunavut
By email: tracey.mccaie@canada.ca;
aadnc.landmining.aandc@canada.ca; isa.qamanig-mason@canada.ca;
spencer.dewar@canada.ca;
jeff.hart@canada.ca; richard.bingley2@rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca

Mosha Cote

Manager-Research Liaison
Nunavut Research Institute
Iqaluit, NU X0A 3H0
By email: mosha.cote@arcticcollege.ca

Caroline Whittle

Director, Heritage
Department of Culture and Heritage (GN-CH)
Iqaluit, NU
By email: cwhittle@gov.nu.ca;
apollock2@gov.nu.ca

Jared Ottenhof

Director, Qikiqtani Nunalirijikkut (Lands and Resource Management)
Qikiqtani Inuit Association (QIA)
Iqaluit, Nunavut
By email: jottenhof@qia.ca; jnakoolak@qia.ca;
JSimic@qia.ca ; akubeisinova@qia.ca

Terry Trevino

The Mars Society
San Francisco, California
By email: terryt@marssociety.org

Dear Calvin Ehaloak, Richard Dwyer, Tracey McCaie, Mosha Cote, Caroline Whittle, Jared Ottenhof and Terry Trevino:

RE: NPC File # 151206 [FMARS Arctic Environmental & Astrobiological Field Study 2026]

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

1. **Primary Land Use:** Scientific Research
2. **Project summary description:** Building on findings from the 2017 MARS160 mission and the 2023,2024, 2025 research campaigns, the 2026 season continues the environmental, astrobiological, and operational field research program in the unique Arctic Mars analogue environment. The project includes biological, geological, hydrological, and radiation studies, with new attention given to meltwater runoff and metallic signatures within the central crater zone.

3. **Associated NPC File Nos.:** 148522, 150130, 150428, and 150787 / **Associated NIRB File No.:** 05YN077 and 07LN014
4. **Location:** Qikiqtani Region; [Tallurutit (Devon Island), at the Flashline Mars Arctic Research Station (FMARS) near the Haughton Impact Crater; approx. 210 km southwest of Grise-Fiord, and approx. 155 km Northeast of Resolute Bay]

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

The Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC) has completed its review of the above noted project proposal. The activities associated with this proposal were previously reviewed by NPC, and a conformity determination was most recently issued on June 11, 2025, which still applies. In addition, the activities were previously screened by the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB FILE NO.:05YN077 and 07LN014).

The above-noted project proposal is exempt from screening by the NIRB because the NPC is of the understanding that it 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/registry/registry.aspx?appid=151206> .

The regulatory authorities to which this letter is addressed are responsible under the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act (NuPPAA)* to implement any of the applicable requirements by incorporating the requirements directly, or otherwise ensuring that they must be met, in the terms and conditions of any authorizations issued.

This conformity determination applies only to the above noted project proposal as submitted. Proponents may not carry out projects and regulatory authorities may not issue licenses, permits and other authorizations in respect of projects if a review by the NPC is required. Regulatory authorities may consult with the NPC to obtain recommendations on their duties to implement the existing land use plans prior to issuing licenses, permits and other authorizations under subsection 69(6) of the *NuPPAA*.

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) 979-3444.

Sincerely,



Goump Djalogue, MCIP, RPP
Manager of Planning and Implementation

Jurisdictional Note:

This conformity determination applies only to the components of the proposed project located within the Nunavut Settlement Area and under the Nunavut Planning Commission's statutory jurisdiction as defined in the Nunavut Agreement and the Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act (NuPPAA). Activities outside the NPC's jurisdiction remain subject to the review and regulatory processes of the relevant authorities. Proponents are responsible for identifying, contacting, and obtaining all required approvals from the appropriate regulators in every applicable jurisdiction to ensure compliance with all legislation, policies, and licensing requirements.