



## SCREENING DECISION REPORT NIRB FILE No.: 26YN036

NPC File No.: 151165

August 4, 2026

Following the Nunavut Impact Review Board's (NIRB or Board) assessment of all materials provided, the NIRB is recommending that a review of Kugluktuk Angoniatit Association's "Water quality and fish health near Kugluktuk" is not required pursuant to Article 12, Section 12.4.4(a) of the *Agreement between the Inuit of the Nunavut Settlement Area and Her Majesty the Queen in right of Canada (Nunavut Agreement)* and s. 92(1)(a) of the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act*, S.C. 2013, c. 14, s. 2 (*NuPPAA*).

Subject to the Proponent's compliance with the terms and conditions as set out in below, issued in accordance with s. 92(2)(a) of *NuPPAA*, the NIRB is of the view that the project proposal is not likely to cause significant public concerns, and it is unlikely to result in significant adverse environmental and social impacts. The NIRB therefore recommends that the responsible Minister accepts this Screening Decision Report.

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## REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

The primary objectives of the NIRB are set out in Article 12, Section 12.2.5 of the *Nunavut Agreement* and are confirmed by s. 23 of the *NuPPAA*. The purpose of screening is provided for under Article 12, Section 12.4.1 of the *Nunavut Agreement* and s. 88 of the *NuPPAA*.

As set out under Article 12, Section 12.4.4 of the *Nunavut Agreement* and s. 92(1) of the *NuPPAA*, upon conclusion of the screening process, the Board must provide its written report the Minister indicating one of three options:

- (a) a review of the project is not required;
- (b) a review of the project is required; or
- (c) the project should be modified or abandoned.

## PROJECT OVERVIEW & THE NIRB ASSESSMENT PROCESS

On May 4, 2026, the NIRB received a referral to screen Kugluktuk Angoniatit Association's "Water quality and fish health near Kugluktuk" project proposal (NIRB File No: 126463) from the Nunavut Planning Commission (Commission), which noted that the project proposal is outside the area of an applicable land use plan. All documents received and pertaining to this project proposal can be accessed from the NIRB's Public Registry by using any of the following search criteria or [www.nirb.ca/project/126463](http://www.nirb.ca/project/126463).

- Project Name: Water quality and fish health near Kugluktuk
- NIRB File No.: 26YN036
- NIRB Application No.: 126463

**Table 1: NIRB's Assessment Process**

| Date           | Stage                                                                                                                                                         |
|----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| May 4, 2026    | Receipt of project proposal                                                                                                                                   |
| May 4, 2026    | Pursuant to s. 144(1) of the <i>NuPPAA</i> the NIRB requested the Proponent complete an online application to address information required for Screening      |
| June 15, 2026  | Receipt of online application from Proponent                                                                                                                  |
| June 19, 2026  | Scoping pursuant to s. 86(1) of the <i>NuPPAA</i>                                                                                                             |
| June 19, 2026  | NIRB conducted an inclusion or exclusion of scope                                                                                                             |
| June 23, 2026  | Public engagement and comment request (which included draft terms and conditions) was issued in English with Inuinnaqtun translations provided once available |
| July 14, 2026  | Receipt of public comments (later extended to July 15, 2026)                                                                                                  |
| July 16, 2026  | Proponent provided with an opportunity to address comments/concerns raised by public                                                                          |
| July 16, 2026  | Proponent responded to comments/concerns raised by public                                                                                                     |
| August 4, 2026 | Issuance of Screening Decision Report                                                                                                                         |

## 1. Project Scope

|                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Location</b>  | Kitikmeot region, including the Coppermine River and its tributaries, nearby freshwater lakes and rivers, and marine areas used by Kugluktuk harvesters.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Objective</b> | The Proponent intends to conduct long-term monitoring of water quality and fish health in and around the Coppermine River watershed and other freshwater and marine systems used by Kugluktuk residents. The program would collect information on water quality, water temperature, water levels, and fish health to support local stewardship, monitor environmental change, and inform community decision-making. |
| <b>Timeline</b>  | June 9, 2026, to March 31, 2037 (multi-year monitoring program).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |

As required under s. 86(1) of the *NuPPAA*, the Board accepted the scope of the project as set out by KAA in the proposal. The scope of the project proposal includes the following undertakings, works, or activities:

### ▪ Undertakings, Works and Activities

- Water sampling, installation and monitoring of water level and temperature loggers, and collection of biological samples and measurements from subsistence-harvested fish;
- Installation of metal housings for temperature loggers by drilling into bedrock
- Field activities at existing sampling locations, with possible expansion to other freshwater systems in the Coppermine River watershed, subject to funding and community interest.

### ▪ Equipment and Fuel

- Field activities would be conducted by boat, ATVs, snowmobiles, with helicopter support where required.
- Gasoline would be used for equipment refueling and wh would be used for cooking and heating equipment. Fuel would not be cached, and any unused fuel would be returned to Kugluktuk.

### ▪ Camps

- Intermittent establishment and operation of temporary camps of approximately one (1) to three (3) tents containing two (2) to four (4) personnel to support field activities at remote locations.
- Water would be collected with reusable water jugs from nearby freshwater systems for consumption and camp use.

### ▪ Waste

- Food particles would be filtered out of greywater, and the greywater would then be disposed of in a shallow pit further than 50 meters away from water.
- Human waste would be contained, transported back to Kugluktuk, and disposed of at the local Hamlet facility.

## 2. Inclusion or Exclusion to Scoping List

The NIRB has identified no additional works or activities in relation to the project proposal; as a result, the NIRB will proceed with screening the project based on the scope as described above

### 3. Public Comments and Concerns

As outlined in Table 1 above, notices regarding the NIRB's screening of this project proposal were distributed to community organizations as well as to relevant federal and territorial government agencies, Inuit organizations and other parties with a request for interested parties to provide the Board with any comments or concerns regarding:

- Whether the project proposal is likely to arouse significant public concern; and if so, why;
- Whether the project proposal is likely to cause significant adverse eco-systemic or socio-economic effects; and if so, why;
- Whether the project proposal is likely to cause significant adverse impacts on wildlife habitat or Inuit harvest activities; and if so, why;
- Whether the project proposal is of a type where the potential adverse effects are highly predictable and mitigable with known technology, (and providing any recommended mitigation measures); and

Any matter of importance to the Party related to the project proposal.

On or before July 14, 2026, the NIRB received comments from the following interested parties:

**Table 2: Comments Received**

| Commenting Party                                       | NIRB Doc ID No. |
|--------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Kitikmeot Inuit Association                            | 362109          |
| Government of Nunavut                                  | 362283          |
| Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada | 362288          |

#### *a. Summary of Comments and Concerns Received*

The following provides a summary of the comments and concerns received by the NIRB in relation to the Water quality and fish health near Kugluktuk project proposal:

#### **Kitikmeot Inuit Association**

- Remain mindful of local wildlife within the project locations including caribou, muskox, moose, wolves, and wolverines. Maintain a safe distance, avoid disturbing wildlife and to not approach wildlife.
- Wildlife monitoring and consideration of a bear monitor during summer operations.
- Proper management and removal of all waste, fuel containers, and temporary infrastructure following field activities.
- Implementation of “leave-no-trace” practices, including secure storage of food and waste to minimize wildlife interactions.
- Incorporation of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit into research planning and data interpretation.

#### **Government of Nunavut**

- No comments received during the commenting period.

#### **Crown- Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada**

- Additional details regarding fuel management, secondary containment, and spill contingency measures.
- Measures to prevent potential water quality impacts from bedrock drilling, anchor materials, and equipment corrosion.
- Mitigation measures to protect terrain and permafrost from vehicle and helicopter activities.
- Continue consultation with the Hamlet of Kugluktuk, Kitikmeot Inuit Association, and other interested parties.
- Incorporate Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit (IQ), community knowledge, and traditional land use considerations into project planning.
- Describe mitigation measures to protect wildlife, culturally and archaeologically significant sites, and the environment.
- Outline opportunities for Inuit employment, training, local procurement, and provide regular project updates to communities.

#### **4. b. Comments and Concerns with respect to Inuit Qaujimaningit, Indigenous and Community Knowledge**

No concerns or comments were received with respect to Inuit Qaujimaningit or Indigenous and Community knowledge in relation to the proposed project. However, Inuit Qaujimaningit and Indigenous and community knowledge is incorporated into the terms and conditions recommended below based on information collected from prior and similar projects, data collected and mapped by the Commission, and other available sources.

#### **5. Proponent's Response to Public Comments and Concerns**

Due to the comments, and questions received from parties, the NIRB provided an opportunity for the Proponent to respond. The following is a summary of the Proponent's response to concerns:

##### **▪ Kitikmeot Inuit Association**

- **Timing and wildlife:** Sampling will be conducted by experience local community members, scheduled to avoid sensitive wildlife periods and areas. Wildlife will be respected, traditional practices followed, and bear measures (bear monitor, firearm, bear spray) implemented during land-based activities.
- **Operations:** Waste, fuel containers, and temporary infrastructure will be removed following leave-no-trace principles. Food and waste will be securely stored to avoid attracting wildlife. Secondary containment (portable berms) and spill kits will be used during overnight and refuelling activities.
- **Inclusion of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit (IQ):** Although Inuit knowledge will not be formally documented, Inuit community members will lead and participate in all stages of the research. Youth and Elders will be involved where possible, and research priorities will be guided by the HTO and community input.

##### **▪ Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada**

- **Fuel management, secondary containment, and spill contingency plan:** Fuel will be stored at least 40 m from water, portable secondary containment will be used for temporary fuel storage, and spill kits with emergency instructions will accompany refuelling activities.
- **Bedrock drilling, anchor materials, and potential water quality risks:** Bedrock drilling will be minimal and conducted above the high-water mark to reduce leaching risks. Marine-grade stainless steel or other non-corrosive anchor materials will be used where possible to minimize environmental impacts.
- **Terrain degradation and permafrost protection:** ATV travel on wet or sensitive tundra will be avoided. Existing trails will be used whenever possible, and helicopter landings will occur on bedrock or rock outcrops where safe.
- **Consultation with interested parties:** The Proponent will continue consulting the Hamlet, KIA, GN throughout the project. Community updates and results will be shared publicly. Local Inuit will participate in sampling, receive training and employment opportunities, and local procurement will be prioritized where feasible.

#### ASSESSMENT OF THE PROJECT PROPOSAL IN ACCORDANCE WITH PART 3 OF *NuPPAA*

In determining whether a review of the project is required, the Board considered whether the project proposal had potential to result in significant ecosystemic or socio-economic impacts. Table 3. The Board took particular care to consider Inuit Qaujimaningit, Indigenous and Community Knowledge in carrying out its assessment and determination of the significance of impacts.

**Table 3: Summary of the Board's Assessment of Factors s. 90 *NuPPAA***

| Factor                                                                                                          | Comment                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| The size of the geographic area, including the size of wildlife habitats, likely to be affected by the impacts. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The geographic area potentially affected by the Project includes freshwater, terrestrial environments and marine environments surrounding Kugluktuk.</li> <li>▪ Potential effects on wildlife and wildlife habitat are expected to be localized and temporary, with disturbances limited to sampling locations, temporary camps, transportation routes, and areas where monitoring equipment would be installed and maintained.</li> </ul> |
| The ecosystemic sensitivity of that area.                                                                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Project is located within freshwater, marine and terrestrial environments that support fish, wildlife and habitats important to Inuit harvesting. While the Project occurs in environmentally sensitive northern ecosystems, the proposed activities are temporary, localized, and limited in scope.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                        |
| The historical, cultural and archaeological significance of that area.                                          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Project area includes areas of historical, cultural and archaeological significance to Inuit, including traditional harvesting and travel areas. While Project activities are temporary and localized, there remains</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                        |

| Factor                                                                                                                                                                                             | Comment                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                                                                                    | the potential for previously unidentified archaeological or cultural resources to be encountered during field activities.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| The size of the human and the animal populations likely to be affected by the impacts.                                                                                                             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The number of human likely to be affected by the Project is expected to be limited due to the temporary and localized nature of Project activities.</li> <li>▪ Wildlife populations likely to be affected by the Project is expected to be limited due to the temporary and localized nature of Project activities.</li> </ul>                                                                      |
| The nature, magnitude and complexity of the impacts; the probability of the impacts occurring; the frequency and duration of the impacts; and the reversibility or irreversibility of the impacts. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The nature of impacts is primarily related to temporary, localized disturbance associated with water quality sampling, fish sampling, installation of water level and temperature loggers, and temporary camp activities. The magnitude and complexity of these impacts are expected to be low and fully reversible.</li> </ul>                                                                     |
| The cumulative impacts that could result from the impacts of the project combined with those of any other project that has been carried out, is being carried out or is likely to be carried out.  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Table 4 is a list of past, present and reasonably foreseeable projects. Potential cumulative impacts are expected to be limited due to the temporary, localized, and limited scope of the Project activities. The Board recommended terms and conditions along with mitigation measures designed with consideration for the potential for cumulative effects in the Board Views section.</li> </ul> |
| Any other factor that the Board considers relevant to the assessment of the significance of impacts.                                                                                               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ No other relevant factors were identified; however, see below for Regulatory Requirements mandating mitigation and/or reporting.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |

## Regulatory Requirements

*The Proponent is also advised that the following legislation may apply to the Project:*

### Acts and Regulations

1. The *Fisheries Act* (<http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/F-14/index.html>).
2. The *Species at Risk Act* (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/s-15.3/>). Attached in **Appendix A** is a list of Species at Risk in Nunavut.
3. The *Wildlife Act* (Nunavut) and its corresponding regulations (<http://www.canlii.org/en/nu/laws/stat/snu-2003-c-26/latest/snu-2003-c-26.html>).
4. The *Canadian Environmental Protection Act* (<http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-15.31/>).
5. The *Aeronautics Act* (<http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/A-2/>) and the *Canadian Aviation Regulations* (<https://www.tc.gc.ca/eng/acts-regulations/regulations-sor96-433.html>).

**Table 4: Past, Present, and Reasonably Foreseeable Projects Considered**

| <b>NIRB Project Number</b>                                | <b>Project Title</b>                                                   | <b>Project Type</b>             |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b><i>Present Projects – approved or in operation</i></b> |                                                                        |                                 |
| 25TN071                                                   | Adventure Canada 2026 Expeditions – Ocean Victory                      | Tourism                         |
| 24KN042                                                   | Bernard Harbour PIN-C Contaminated Site Remediation Project            | Site Cleanup/Remediation        |
| 25YN088                                                   | Coastal dynamics in Kugluktuk and Grise Fiord (Ajuittuq), Nunavut      | Scientific Research             |
| 25EN075                                                   | Coppermine Project                                                     | Mineral Exploration             |
| 25EA086                                                   | Coppermine River Drilling Program                                      | Mineral Exploration             |
| 23EN073                                                   | Epworth                                                                | Mineral Exploration             |
| 24YN049                                                   | Field Research Program for the Grays Bay Road and Port Project         | Scientific Research             |
| 26YN020                                                   | Geological Study of the Coppermine River Group volcanic rocks, Nunavut | Scientific Research             |
| 26EN002                                                   | Hornby Basin Project                                                   | Mineral Exploration             |
| 25EN034                                                   | Izok Corridor Project                                                  | Mineral Exploration             |
| 21QN011                                                   | Kugluktuk Quarry Sites (Lot 572 and South of Airport)                  | Pits and Quarries               |
| 26TN024                                                   | MY Maverick Northwest Passage Transit 2026                             | Tourism                         |
| 24EN047                                                   | Rae Copper Exploration Project                                         | Mineral Exploration             |
| 25YN051                                                   | Responses of Permafrost Microbial Communities to Climate-Driven thaw   | Scientific Research             |
| 25KN089                                                   | Speers Lake Bundle Remediation                                         | Site Cleanup/Remediation        |
| 24XN038                                                   | Grays Bay Road and Port                                                | All-Weather Road / Access Trail |
| <b><i>Past Projects</i></b>                               |                                                                        |                                 |
| 19EA019                                                   | Blue Star Gold Corp.                                                   | Mineral Exploration             |
| 23KN072                                                   | Cape Krusenstein Remediation Project                                   | Site Cleanup/Remediation        |
| 21YN037                                                   | Char Habitat Restoration near Kugluktuk, Nunavut                       | Site Cleanup/Remediation        |

#### Views of the Board

In considering the above factors, the Board has identified the following and respectfully provides its views regarding whether or not the proposed project has the potential to result in significant impacts. The NIRB has also proposed terms and conditions that would mitigate the potential adverse impacts identified.

#### **Ecosystem, wildlife habitat and Inuit harvesting activities:**

|                         |                                                                  |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Valued Component</b> | Wildlife, Migratory and non-migratory birds, and Species at Risk |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|

|                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Potential effects:</b>             | The potential for impacts includes temporary disturbance to migratory and non-migratory birds, terrestrial wildlife, and Species at Risk resulting from helicopter operations, boat, ATV, and snowmobile use, temporary camp establishment, and increased human presence during sampling activities. Noise, aircraft overflights, and movement of personnel may result in short-term avoidance of localized areas and temporary disruption of normal behaviours such as feeding, resting, breeding, or movement.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Nature of Impacts:</b>             | Impacts are expected to be low in magnitude, localized to sampling locations and travel routes, and limited to the duration of field activities. Disturbance is anticipated to be temporary and reversible, with wildlife expected to return to normal use of affected areas following completion of project activities. No long-term habitat loss or widespread adverse effects are anticipated.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>Mitigating Factors:</b>            | The Proponent has committed to minimizing disturbance to wildlife by maintaining minimum helicopter flight altitudes where feasible, using existing access routes where practicable, limiting the duration and footprint of temporary camps, removing all equipment and camp materials following field activities, and avoiding unnecessary disturbance to wildlife encountered during project activities. The Proponent indicated that sampling activities would be conducted by experienced local community members and scheduled to avoid times and locations with high wildlife use, where practicable. The Proponent also indicated that a bear monitor would be designated during extended on-shore sampling periods or overnight camping trips. |
| <b>Proposed Terms and Conditions:</b> | Migratory Birds and Raptors Disturbance – 15 and 16<br>Aircraft Flight Restrictions – 17 through 22<br>Caribou and Muskoxen Disturbance - 23                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |

|                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Valued Component</b>    | Marine Environment, Fish and Fish Habitat                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Potential effects:</b>  | The potential for impacts includes temporary disturbance to marine mammals, fish, and marine aquatic species from boat operations, water quality sampling, and increased human presence in coastal and marine environments. Vessel movement and sampling activities may result in short-term behavioural disturbance, localized avoidance of active work areas, and temporary disruption to normal movement or foraging activities.                      |
| <b>Nature of Impacts:</b>  | Impacts are expected to be low in magnitude, localized to marine sampling locations, and travel routes, and limited to the duration of field activities. Disturbance is anticipated to be temporary and reversible, with marine mammals and marine aquatic species expected to resume normal use of affected areas following completion of project activities. No long-term degradation of marine habitat or widespread adverse effects are anticipated. |
| <b>Mitigating Factors:</b> | The Proponent has committed to minimizing disturbance by limiting boat activities to the minimum required for sampling, conducting field                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |

|                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                       | activities over a limited footprint, avoiding unnecessary interactions with marine wildlife, and ensuring fuels and wastes are properly managed to prevent releases into the marine environment. Temporary camps, equipment, waste, and fuel containers would be removed following completion of field activities. |
| <b>Proposed Terms and Conditions:</b> | Fuel and Chemical Storage – 9<br>Marine-Based Activities – 30                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |

|                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Valued Component</b>               | Surface water quality                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>Potential effects:</b>             | The potential for impacts includes localized changes to surface water quality resulting from temporary camp operations, boat use, water sampling activities, installation of water level and temperature loggers, and the storage and handling of fuels associated with field activities. Accidental fuel or hazardous material releases, improper waste or greywater disposal, and localized disturbance during installation activities could adversely affect surface water quality.                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>Nature of Impacts:</b>             | Impacts are expected to be low in magnitude, localized to sampling locations and temporary camp areas, and limited to the duration of field activities. Any effects are anticipated to be temporary and reversible, with no long-term degradation of surface water quality expected. Given the limited project footprint and the nature of the proposed activities, significant adverse effects are not anticipated.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>Mitigating Factors:</b>            | The Proponent has committed to minimizing potential effects on surface water quality by refuelling equipment in Kugluktuk where practicable, transporting only the fuel required for field activities, storing fuel at least 40 metres from water, using portable berms for temporary fuel storage, and providing spill kits during overnight or long-distance trips requiring refuelling. Filtering food particles from greywater prior to disposal, locating greywater disposal pits away from waterbodies, containing and transporting human waste back to Kugluktuk for disposal, and removing all equipment and camp materials following completion of field activities. |
| <b>Proposed Terms and Conditions:</b> | Water courses/Water bodies – 6 and 7                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |

|                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|---------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Valued Component</b>   | Vegetation, land, soils, terrain stability                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Potential effects:</b> | The potential for impacts includes localized disturbance to vegetation, land, soils, and terrain stability resulting from temporary camp establishment, foot traffic, helicopter landings, ATV and snowmobile use, installation of water level temperature loggers, and drilling into bedrock to secure monitoring equipment. These activities may result in minor surface disturbance, soil compaction, localized vegetation damage, and temporary alteration of ground conditions at sampling locations. |
| <b>Nature of Impacts:</b> | Impacts are expected to be low in magnitude, localized to sampling locations, temporary camp sites, and travel routes, and limited to the                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |

|                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
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|                                       | duration of field activities. Disturbance is anticipated to be temporary and reversible, with no long-term changes to vegetation communities, landforms, soil stability, permafrost, or terrain expected following completion of project activities and removal of monitoring equipment where applicable.                                                                                                 |
| <b>Mitigating Factors:</b>            | The Proponent has committed to minimizing disturbance by using existing access routes where practicable, limiting the footprint and duration of temporary camps, drilling only the minimum area required to install monitoring equipment, removing all equipment and camp materials following completion of field activities, and avoiding unnecessary disturbance to surrounding vegetation and terrain. |
| <b>Proposed Terms and Conditions:</b> | Waste Management – 8<br>Fuel and Chemical Storage – 10 through 12<br>Land Use and Restoration of Disturbed Areas – 24 through 27<br>Camps – 28 and 29                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |

|                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Valued Component</b>               | Air quality                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Potential effects:</b>             | The potential for impacts includes temporary changes to local air quality resulting from emissions generated by helicopters, boats, ATVs, snowmobiles, and other equipment used during field activities. Dust may also be generated from vehicle travel and movement of personnel at temporary camp locations and sampling sites.          |
| <b>Nature of Impacts:</b>             | Impacts are expected to be low in magnitude, localized to temporary camp locations, sampling sites, and travel routes, and limited to the duration of field activities. Effects are anticipated to be temporary and reversible, with no long-term degradation of regional air quality expected following completion of project activities. |
| <b>Mitigating Factors:</b>            | The Proponent has committed to limiting the duration and footprint of field activities, using equipment only as required to complete project activities, maintaining temporary camps for short durations, and removing all equipment and camp materials following completion of field activities.                                          |
| <b>Proposed Terms and Conditions:</b> | Air Quality – 13                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |

|                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Valued Component</b>   | Public and traditional land use                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>Potential effects:</b> | The potential for impacts includes temporary interference with public access and traditional land use resulting from helicopter operations, boat travel, ATV and snowmobile use, temporary camp establishment, and increased human presence during field activities. Project activities may temporarily disturb harvesting activities or access to localized areas used for fishing, hunting, travel, and other traditional land use activities. |
| <b>Nature of Impacts:</b> | Impacts are expected to be low in magnitude, localized to sampling locations and travel routes, and limited to the duration of field activities. Effects are anticipated to be temporary and reversible, with public access                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |

|                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                       | and traditional land use activities expected to resume without long-term disruption following completion of project activities.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Mitigating Factors:</b>            | The Proponent has committed to conducting field activities over a limited footprint, maintaining temporary camps for short durations, removing all equipment and camp materials following completion of field activities, and continuing engagement with the Hamlet of Kugluktuk, KitIA, GN, and community members throughout the monitoring program. Project updates and results would be shared through community updates, workshops, open houses, and/or results booklets, where applicable. |
| <b>Proposed Terms and Conditions:</b> | Other – 33 and 34                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |

### **Socio-economic effects on northerners:**

|                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Valued Component</b>               | Historical, archaeological, and palaeontological resources                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Potential effects:</b>             | The potential for impacts includes accidental disturbance or damage to historical, archaeological, or palaeontological resources resulting from temporary camp establishment, foot traffic, helicopter landings, ATV and snowmobile use, and installation of water and level temperature loggers. Ground disturbance associated with drilling into bedrock and other field activities may adversely affect previously unidentified heritage resources if encountered. |
| <b>Nature of Impacts:</b>             | Impacts are expected to be low in magnitude, localized to sampling locations and temporary camp sites, and limited to the duration of field activities. Given the limited footprint of project activities, significant adverse effects on historical, archaeological, or palaeontological resources are not anticipated.                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Mitigating Factors:</b>            | The Proponent has committed to limiting the footprint of field activities and temporary camps, removing all equipment and camp materials following completion of project activities, and avoiding unnecessary ground disturbance. Should previously unidentified historical, archaeological, or palaeontological resources be encountered, work in the immediate area would cease and the appropriate authorities would be notified.                                  |
| <b>Proposed Terms and Conditions:</b> | Heritage Sites – 31 and 32                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |

|                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|---------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Valued Component</b>   | Employment and hiring                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>Potential effects:</b> | The proposed project may result in temporary employment and contracting opportunities for residents through the use of local guides, boat operators, field assistants, accommodation providers, and other local services. The project may also contribute to local capacity building through community participation in monitoring activities. |
| <b>Nature of Impacts:</b> | Impacts are expected to be positive, low in magnitude, localized to the Kugluktuk region, and limited to the duration of field activities.                                                                                                                                                                                                     |

|                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                       | Employment and contracting opportunities are anticipated to be temporary and intermittent, with no long-term adverse effects on employment or hiring expected.                                                                                                     |
| <b>Mitigating Factors:</b>            | The Proponent has committed to hiring local guides and boat operators where practicable, engaging with the Kugluktuk Hunters and Trappers Organization and community members, and utilizing local goods and services where feasible to support project activities. |
| <b>Proposed Terms and Conditions:</b> | Other – 35                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |

**Technological innovations for which the effects are unknown:**

- No specific issues have been identified associated with this project proposal.

**Administrative Conditions:**

To encourage compliance with applicable regulatory requirements and assist the Board and responsible authorities with compliance and effects monitoring for project activities, the following project-specific terms and conditions have been recommended: 1-5.

In considering the above factors and subject to the Proponent's compliance with regulatory requirements and the terms and conditions necessary to mitigate against the potential adverse environmental and social effects, the Board is of the view that the proposed project is unlikely to cause significant public concern and its adverse ecosystemic and socioeconomic impacts are unlikely to be significant or are highly predictable and can be adequately mitigated by known technologies.

RECOMMENDED PROJECT-SPECIFIC TERMS AND CONDITIONS

The Board is recommending the following specific terms and conditions to apply in respect of the project:

**General**

1. Kugluktuk Angoniatit Association (the Proponent) shall maintain a copy of the Project Terms and Conditions at the site of operation at all times and make it accessible to enforcement officers upon request.
2. The Proponent shall operate in accordance with all commitments stated in correspondence provided to the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC File No.: 151165) and the NIRB (Online Application Form, June 15, 2026). This information should be accessible to enforcement officers upon request.
3. The Proponent shall operate the site in accordance with all applicable Acts, Regulations and Guidelines.
4. The Proponent shall ensure that it meets the standards and/or limits as set out in the authorizing agencies' permits or licences as required for this project.

5. The Proponent shall ensure that all personnel, staff and contractors are adequately trained prior to commencement of all project activities, and shall be made aware of all operational plans, management plans, guidelines and Proponent commitments relating to the project.

#### **Water courses/Water bodies (including fresh and marine waters)**

6. The Proponent shall ensure that no disturbance of the stream bed, lakebed or the banks of any definable watercourse be permitted, except where deemed necessary for maintaining project-specific operational commitments or approved by a responsible authority in cases of spill management.
7. The Proponent shall not deposit, nor permit the deposit of any fuel, chemicals, wastes (including wastewater) or sediment into any water body. The Proponent should have in place an Emergency Spill Response Plan that is approved by the appropriate authorizing agency(ies).

#### **Waste Management**

8. The Proponent shall manage all hazardous and non-hazardous waste including food, domestic wastes, debris and petroleum-based chemicals (e.g., greases, gasoline, glycol-based antifreeze) in such a manner to avoid release into the environment and access to wildlife at all times until disposed of appropriately or at an approved facility.

#### **Fuel and Chemical Storage**

9. The Proponent shall ensure that re-fuelling of all equipment occurs a minimum distance away from the high-water mark of any water body as required by the appropriate authorizing agencies.
10. All fuel and chemical storage containers must be clearly marked with the Proponent's name for ease of identification.
11. The Proponent shall have a Spill Contingency Plan in place at all fuel storage or transfer locations and shall ensure that appropriate spill response equipment and clean-up materials (e.g., shovels, pumps, barrels, drip pans, and absorbents) are readily available.
12. The Proponent shall follow the authorizing agencies' direction for management and removal of hazardous materials and wastes (e.g., contaminated soils, sediment and waste oil).

#### **Air Quality**

13. The Proponent shall eliminate unnecessary idling to reduce greenhouse gas emissions as much as possible.

#### **Wildlife – General**

14. The Proponent shall not substantially alter or damage or destroy any wildlife habitat in conducting this operation unless otherwise authorized by the appropriate authorizing agencies.

#### **Migratory Birds and Raptors Disturbance**

15. The Proponent shall carry out all phases of the project in a manner that protects migratory birds and avoids harming, killing or disturbing migratory birds or destroying, disturbing or taking their nests or eggs. In this regard, the Proponent shall take into account Environment and Climate Change Canada's *Avoidance Guidelines*. The Proponent's actions in applying

the *Avoidance Guidelines* shall be in compliance with the *Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994* and with the *Species at Risk Act*.

16. The Proponent shall not disturb or destroy the nests or eggs of any birds. If active nests of any birds are discovered or located (i.e., with eggs or young), the Proponent shall avoid these areas until nesting is complete and the young have naturally left the vicinity of the nest by establishing a protection buffer zone<sup>1</sup> appropriate for the species and the surrounding habitat.

### **Aircraft Flight Restrictions**

17. The Proponent shall not alter flight paths to approach wildlife and avoid flying directly over animals.
18. The Proponent shall plan flight paths that minimize flights over known habitat likely to have birds or concentrations of wildlife. Aircraft should avoid critical and sensitive wildlife areas at all times by choosing alternate flight corridors.
19. The Proponent shall restrict aircraft/helicopter activity related to the project to a minimum flight altitude of 610 metres (2,100 ft) above ground level except during landing, take-off or if there is a specific requirement for low-level flying, which does not disturb wildlife or migratory birds.
20. The Proponent shall avoid known concentrations of birds (e.g., bird colonies, moulting areas) by a lateral distance of 1.5 kilometre. If avoidance is not possible maintain a minimum flight altitude of 1,100 metres (3,500 feet) over these areas.
21. The Proponent shall ensure that aircraft/helicopter do not, unless for emergency, touch-down in areas where wildlife are present.
22. The Proponent shall advise all pilots of relevant flight restrictions and enforce their application over the project area, including flight paths to/from the project area.

### **Caribou and Muskoxen Disturbance**

23. The Proponent shall avoid interfering with any paths or crossings known to be frequented by caribou during periods of migration as identified by current land use plans in place and/or by Inuit Qaujimaningit.

### **Land Use and Restoration of Disturbed Areas**

24. The Proponent shall use existing trails where possible during project activities on the land.
25. The Proponent shall ensure that the land use area is kept clean and tidy at all times.
26. The Proponent shall remove all garbage, fuel and equipment at the end of each field season and/or upon completion of work and/or upon abandonment.
27. The Proponent shall ensure that all disturbed areas are restored to a stable or pre-disturbed state using Best Available Technology Economically Achievable (BATEA) upon completion of work and/or abandonment.

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<sup>1</sup> Recommended setback distances to define buffer zones have been established by Environment and Climate Change Canada for different bird groups nesting in tundra habitat and can be found at [www.ec.gc.ca/paom-itmb](http://www.ec.gc.ca/paom-itmb).

## **Camps**

28. The Proponent shall ensure that all camps are located durable surfaces, such as gravel or sand that is consolidated and can withstand repeated, heavy use. Measures shall be put in place to prevent erosion, trail formation and damage to the ground.
29. The Proponent shall not erect camps or store materials on the surface ice of lakes or streams, except that which is for immediate use.

## **Marine-Based Activities**

30. The Proponent shall maintain a distance of 100 metres if a Polar Bear is encountered on land or ice while conducting activities from a zodiac or other small craft; all interaction with Polar Bears should be avoided if possible.

## **Heritage Sites**

31. The Proponent shall ensure that archaeological and paleontological sites are not purposely or inadvertently disturbed by clients or staff as a result of project activities.
32. The Proponent shall ensure that all clients and staff are aware of the Proponent's responsibilities and requirements regarding archaeological or palaeontological sites that are encountered during land-based activities. This should include briefings explaining the prohibitions regarding removal of artifacts, and defacing or writing on rocks and infrastructure.

## **Other**

33. The Proponent should consult with local residents regarding their activities in the area and solicit available Inuit Qaujimaningit and information that can inform project activities.
34. The Proponent shall ensure that project activities do not interfere with Inuit wildlife harvesting or traditional land use activities.
35. The Proponent should, to the extent possible, hire local people and access local services where possible.

## **OTHER NIRB CONCERNS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

In addition to the project-specific terms and conditions, the Board is recommending the following:

### **Change in Project Scope**

1. Responsible authorities or Proponent shall notify the Nunavut Planning Commission and/or Parks Canada as appropriate, and the NIRB of any changes in operating plans or conditions, including phase advancement, associated with this project prior to any such change.

### **Copy of licences, etc. to the Board and Commission**

2. The NIRB respectfully requests that responsible authorities submit a copy of each licence, permit or other authorization issued for the Project to the NIRB to assist in enabling possible project monitoring that may be required. Please forward a copy of the licences, permits and/or other authorizations to the NIRB directly at [info@nirb.ca](mailto:info@nirb.ca) or upload a copy to the NIRB's online registry at [www.nirb.ca](http://www.nirb.ca).

### Use of Inuit Qaujimaningit

3. The Proponent is encouraged to work with local communities and knowledge holders to inform project design, to carry out the project, and to confirm or validate the perspectives represented in publications, and reports as part of the project. Care should be taken to ensure that Inuit Qaujimaningit and local knowledge collected for the project is used with permission and is accurately represented.

### Bear and Carnivore Safety

4. The Proponent should review the Government of Nunavut's booklet on Bear Safety, which can be downloaded from this link: [http://gov.nu.ca/sites/default/files/bear\\_safety\\_-\\_reducing\\_bear-people\\_conflicts\\_in\\_nunavut.pdf](http://gov.nu.ca/sites/default/files/bear_safety_-_reducing_bear-people_conflicts_in_nunavut.pdf). Further information on bear/carnivore detection and deterrent techniques can be found in the "Safety in Grizzly and Black Bear Country" pamphlet, which can be downloaded from this link: [https://www.enr.gov.nt.ca/sites/enr/files/resources/safety\\_in\\_grizzly\\_and\\_black\\_bear\\_country\\_english.pdf](https://www.enr.gov.nt.ca/sites/enr/files/resources/safety_in_grizzly_and_black_bear_country_english.pdf).
5. There are polar bear and grizzly bear safety resources available from the Bear Smart Society with videos on polar bear safety available in English, French and Inuktitut at <http://www.bearsmart.com/play/safety-in-polar-bear-country/>. Information can also be obtained from Parks Canada's website on bear safety at the following link: <http://www.pc.gc.ca/eng/pn-np/nu/quttinirpaaq/visit/visit6/d.aspx> or in reviewing the "Safety in Polar Bear Country" pamphlet, which can be downloaded from the following link: [http://www.pc.gc.ca/eng/pn-np/nu/quttinirpaaq/visit/visit6/~media/pn-np/nu/auyuittuq/pdf/shared/PolarBearSafety\\_English.ashx](http://www.pc.gc.ca/eng/pn-np/nu/quttinirpaaq/visit/visit6/~media/pn-np/nu/auyuittuq/pdf/shared/PolarBearSafety_English.ashx).
6. Any problem wildlife or any interaction with carnivores should be reported immediately to the local Government of Nunavut, Department of Environment Conservation Office (Conservation Officer of Kugluktuk, phone: (867) 982-7440)

### Species at Risk

7. The Proponent review Environment and Climate Change Canada's "Environment Assessment Best Practice Guide for Wildlife at Risk in Canada", available at the following link: [http://www.sararegistry.gc.ca/virtual\\_sara/files/policies/EA%20Best%20Practices%202004.pdf](http://www.sararegistry.gc.ca/virtual_sara/files/policies/EA%20Best%20Practices%202004.pdf). The guide provides information to the Proponent on what is required when Wildlife at Risk, including *Species at Risk*, are encountered or affected by the project.

### Migratory Birds

8. The Proponent review Canadian Wildlife Services' "Key migratory bird terrestrial habitat sites in the Northwest Territories and Nunavut", available at the following link: <http://publications.gc.ca/site/eng/317630/publication.html> and "Key marine habitat sites for migratory birds in Nunavut and the Northwest Territories", available at the following link: <http://publications.gc.ca/site/eng/392824/publication.html>. The guide provides information to the Proponent on key terrestrial and marine habitat areas that are essential to the welfare of various migratory bird species in Canada.
9. For further information on how to protect migratory birds, their nests and eggs when planning or carrying out project activities, consult Environment and Climate Change Canada's Incidental Take web page and the fact sheet "Planning Ahead to Reduce the Risk of Detrimental Effects to Migratory Birds, and their Nests and Eggs" available at: [http://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection\\_2013/ec/CW66-324-2013-eng.pdf](http://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2013/ec/CW66-324-2013-eng.pdf).

## Heritage Resources

10. During the assessment, the NIRB has identified that no archaeology surveys have been conducted in the proposed project areas and that potential for the presence of archaeological resources is likely, therefore the Proponent shall contact the Department of Culture and Heritage to initiate a field archaeology assessment program prior to undertaking any land disturbance activities.

## Aircraft Identification

11. The Proponent shall provide the community of Kugluktuk the planned helicopter activities, including photo(s) of the helicopter to be used, approximate flight paths, plans and times as available prior to commencement of activities to ensure community members are aware of the planned activities.

## Caribou Management

12. Territorial and federal government agencies in Nunavut should work together with Regional Inuit Associations, co-management boards and industry to develop an action plan to identify and mitigate potential cumulative effects of human land use activities, including mineral exploration, on barren-ground caribou. This assessment of cumulative effects should occur at a regional scale (i.e., larger than individual project areas).

## CONCLUSION

The foregoing constitutes the Board’s screening decision with respect to the Kugluktuk Angoniatit Association’s “Water quality and fish health near Kugluktuk”. The NIRB remains available for consultation with the Minister regarding this report as necessary.

Dated August 4, 2026 at Iqaluit, NU.

Amr Elshk

Albert Ehaloak, *Acting* Chairperson

Attachments: Appendix A: Species at Risk in Nunavut  
Appendix B: Archaeological and Palaeontological Resources Terms and Conditions for Land Use  
Permit Holders

## APPENDIX A: SPECIES AT RISK IN NUNAVUT

Due to the requirements of Section 79(2) of the *Species at Risk Act*, S.C. 2002, c. 29 (*SARA*), and the potential for project-specific adverse effects on listed wildlife species and its critical habitat, measures should be taken as appropriate to avoid or lessen those effects, and the effects need to be monitored. Project effects could include species disturbance, attraction to operations and destruction of habitat. This section applies to all species listed on Schedule 1 of *SARA*, as listed in the table below, or have been assessed by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC), which may be encountered in the project area. This list may not include all species identified as at risk by the Territorial Government. The following points provide clarification on the applicability of the species outlined in the table.

- Schedule 1 is the official legal list of Species at Risk for *SARA*. *SARA* applies to all species on Schedule 1. The term “listed” species refers to species on Schedule 1.
- Schedule 2 and 3 of *SARA* identify species that were designated at risk by the COSEWIC prior to October 1999 and must be reassessed using revised criteria before they can be considered for addition to Schedule 1.
- Some species identified at risk by COSEWIC are “pending” addition to Schedule 1 of *SARA*. These species are under consideration for addition to Schedule 1, subject to further consultation or assessment.

If species at risk are encountered or affected, the primary mitigation measure should be avoidance. The Proponent should avoid contact with or disturbance to each species, its habitat and/or its residence. All direct, indirect, and cumulative effects should be considered. Refer to species status reports and other information on the Species at Risk Registry at <http://www.sararegistry.gc.ca> for information on specific species.

Monitoring should be undertaken by the Proponent to determine the effectiveness of mitigation and/or identify where further mitigation is required. As a minimum, this monitoring should include recording the locations and dates of any observations of Species at Risk, behaviour or actions taken by the animals when project activities were encountered, and any actions taken by the proponent to avoid contact or disturbance to the species, its habitat, and/or its residence. This information should be submitted to the appropriate regulators and organizations with management responsibility for that species, as requested.

For species primarily managed by the Territorial Government, the Territorial Government should be consulted to identify other appropriate mitigation and/or monitoring measures to minimize effects to these species from the project.

Mitigation and monitoring measures must be undertaken in a way that is consistent with applicable recovery strategies and action/management plans.

Schedules of *SARA* are amended on a regular basis, so it is important to check the *SARA* registry ([www.sararegistry.gc.ca](http://www.sararegistry.gc.ca)) to get the current status of a species.

Updated: September 2024

| <b>Terrestrial Species at Risk<sup>2</sup></b>           | <b>COSEWIC Designation</b> | <b>Schedule of SARA</b> | <b>Government Organization with Primary Management Responsibility<sup>3</sup></b> |
|----------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Buff-breasted Sandpiper                                  | Special Concern            | Schedule 1              | Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC)                                      |
| Common Nighthawk                                         | Threatened                 | Schedule 1              | ECCC                                                                              |
| Eskimo Curlew                                            | Endangered                 | Schedule 1              | ECCC                                                                              |
| Harlequin Duck                                           | Special Concern            | Schedule 1              | ECCC                                                                              |
| Harris's Sparrow                                         | Special Concern            | Schedule 1              | ECCC                                                                              |
| Horned Grebe                                             | Special Concern            | Schedule 1              | ECCC                                                                              |
| Ivory Gull                                               | Endangered                 | Schedule 1              | ECCC                                                                              |
| Olive-sided Flycatcher                                   | Threatened                 | Schedule 1              | ECCC                                                                              |
| Peregrine Falcon                                         | Special Concern            | Schedule 1              | ECCC                                                                              |
| Red Knot Islandica Subspecies                            | Special Concern            | Schedule 1              | ECCC                                                                              |
| Red-necked Phalarope                                     | Special Concern            | Schedule 1              | ECCC                                                                              |
| Ross's Gull                                              | Threatened                 | Schedule 1              | ECCC                                                                              |
| Rusty Blackbird                                          | Special Concern            | Schedule 1              | ECCC                                                                              |
| Short-eared Owl                                          | Special Concern            | Schedule 1              | ECCC                                                                              |
| Porsild's Bryum                                          | Threatened                 | Schedule 1              | Government of Nunavut (GN)                                                        |
| Transverse Lady Beetle                                   | Special Concern            | No Schedule             | GN                                                                                |
| Caribou (Dolphin and Union Population)                   | Endangered                 | Schedule 1              | GN                                                                                |
| Caribou (Barren-ground Population)                       | Threatened                 | No Schedule             | GN                                                                                |
| Caribou (Torngat Mountains Population)                   | Endangered                 | No Schedule             | GN                                                                                |
| Grizzly Bear (Western Population)                        | Special Concern            | Schedule 1              | ECCC                                                                              |
| Peary Caribou                                            | Endangered                 | Schedule 1              | GN                                                                                |
| Polar Bear                                               | Special Concern            | Schedule 1              | ECCC                                                                              |
| Wolverine                                                | Special Concern            | Schedule 1              | GN                                                                                |
| Atlantic Walrus (High Arctic Population)                 | Special Concern            | No Schedule             | Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO)                                                 |
| Atlantic Walrus (Central/Low Arctic Population)          | Special Concern            | No Schedule             | DFO                                                                               |
| Beluga Whale (Cumberland Sound Population)               | Threatened                 | Schedule 1              | DFO                                                                               |
| Beluga Whale (Eastern Hudson Bay Population)             | Endangered                 | No Schedule             | DFO                                                                               |
| Beluga Whale (Eastern High Arctic-Baffin Bay Population) | Special Concern            | No Schedule             | DFO                                                                               |
| Beluga Whale (Western Hudson Bay Population)             | Special Concern            | No Schedule             | DFO                                                                               |
| Atlantic Cod (Arctic Lakes Population)                   | Special Concern            | No Schedule             | DFO                                                                               |
| Fourhorn Sculpin (Freshwater Form)                       | Data Deficient             | Schedule 3              | DFO                                                                               |
| Lumpfish                                                 | Threatened                 | No Schedule             | DFO                                                                               |
| Thorny Skate                                             | Special Concern            | No Schedule             | DFO                                                                               |

<sup>2</sup> The Department of Fisheries and Oceans has responsibility for aquatic species.

<sup>3</sup> Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) has a national role to play in the conservation and recovery of Species at Risk in Canada, as well as responsibility for management of birds described in the Migratory Birds Convention Act (MBCA). Day-to-day management of terrestrial species not covered in the MBCA is the responsibility of the Territorial Government. Populations that exist in National Parks are also managed under the authority of the Parks Canada Agency.

## APPENDIX B: ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND PALAEOONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR LAND USE PERMIT HOLDERS



### INTRODUCTION

The Department of Culture and Heritage (CH) routinely reviews land use applications sent to the Nunavut Water Board, Nunavut Impact Review Board and the Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada. These terms and conditions provide general direction to the permittee/proponent regarding the appropriate actions to be taken to ensure the permittee/proponent carries out its role in the protection of Nunavut's archaeological and palaeontological resources.

### TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- 1) The permittee/proponent shall have a professional archaeologist and/or palaeontologist perform the following **Functions** associated with the **Types of Development** listed below or similar development activities:

|    | <b>Types of Development</b><br>(See Guidelines below)                                                                       | <b>Function</b><br>(See Guidelines below)                                                                |
|----|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| a) | Large scale prospecting                                                                                                     | Archaeological/Palaeontological Overview Assessment                                                      |
| b) | Diamond drilling for exploration or geotechnical purpose or planning of linear disturbances                                 | Archaeological/Palaeontological Overview Assessment and/or Inventory and Documentation and/or Mitigation |
| c) | Construction of linear disturbances, Extractive disturbances, Impounding disturbances and other land disturbance activities | Archaeological/Palaeontological Overview Assessment and/or Inventory and Documentation and/or Mitigation |

Note that the above-mentioned functions require either a Nunavut Archaeologist Permit or a Nunavut Palaeontologist Permit. CH is authorized by way of the *Nunavut and Archaeological and Palaeontological Site Regulations*<sup>4</sup> to issue such permits.

<sup>4</sup>P.C. 2001-1111 14 June, 2001

- 2) The permittee/proponent shall not operate any vehicle over a known or suspected archaeological or palaeontological site.
- 3) The permittee/proponent shall not remove, disturb, or displace any archaeological artifact or site, or any fossil or palaeontological site.
- 4) The permittee/proponent shall immediately contact CH at (867) 934-2046 or (867) 975-5500 should an archaeological site or specimen, or a palaeontological site or fossil, be encountered or disturbed by any land use activity.
- 5) The permittee/proponent shall immediately cease any activity that disturbs an archaeological or palaeontological site encountered during the course of a land use operation until permitted to proceed with the authorization of CH.
- 6) The permittee/proponent shall follow the direction of CH in restoring disturbed archaeological or palaeontological sites to an acceptable condition. If these conditions are attached to either a Class A or B Permit under the Territorial Lands Act Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada directions will also be followed.
- 7) The permittee/proponent shall provide all information requested by CH concerning all archaeological sites or artifacts and all palaeontological sites and fossils encountered in the course of any land use activity.
- 8) The permittee/proponent shall make best efforts to ensure that all persons working under its authority are aware of these conditions concerning archaeological sites and artifacts and palaeontological sites and fossils.
- 9) If a list of recorded archaeological and/or palaeontological sites is provided to the permittee/proponent by CH as part of the review of the land use application the permittee/proponent shall avoid the archaeological and/or palaeontological sites listed.
- 10) Should a list of recorded sites be provided to the permittee/proponent, the information is provided solely for the purpose of the proponent's land use activities as described in the land use application, and must otherwise be treated confidentially by the proponent.

### **Legal Framework**

As stated in Article 33 of the *Agreement between the Inuit of the Nunavut Settlement Area and Her Majesty the Queen in right of Canada (Nunavut Agreement)*:

*Where an application is made for a land use permit in the Nunavut Settlement Area, and there are reasonable grounds to believe that there could be sites of archaeological importance on the lands affected, no land use permit shall be issued without written consent of the Designated Agency. Such consent shall not be unreasonably withheld. [33.5.12]*

*Each land use permit referred to in Section 33.5.12 shall specify the plans and methods of archeological site protection and restoration to be followed by the permit holder, and any other conditions the Designated Agency may deem fit. [33.5.13]*

## Palaeontology and Archaeology

Under the *Nunavut Act*<sup>5</sup>, the federal government can make regulations for the protection, care and preservation of palaeontological and archaeological sites and specimens in Nunavut. Under the *Nunavut Archaeological and Palaeontological Sites Regulations*<sup>6</sup>, it is illegal to alter or disturb any palaeontological or archaeological site in Nunavut unless permission is first granted through the permitting process.

## Definitions

As defined in the *Nunavut Archaeological and Palaeontological Sites Regulations*, the following definitions apply:

*“archaeological site” means a place where an archaeological artifact is found.*

*“archaeological artifact” means any tangible evidence of human activity that is more than 50 years old and in respect of which an unbroken chain of possession or regular pattern of usage cannot be demonstrated, and includes a Denesuline archaeological specimen referred to in section 40.4.9 of the Agreement between the Inuit of the Nunavut Settlement Area and Her Majesty the Queen in right of Canada (Nunavut Agreement).*

*“palaeontological site” means a site where a fossil is found.*

*“fossil” includes:*

*Fossil means the hardened or preserved remains or impression of previously living organisms or vegetation and includes:*

- (a) natural casts;*
- (b) preserved tracks, coprolites and plant remains; and*
- (c) the preserved shells and exoskeletons of invertebrates and the preserved eggs, teeth and bones of vertebrates.*

## *Guidelines for Developers for the Protection of Archaeological Resources in the Nunavut Territory*

(Note: Partial document only, complete document at: [www.ch.gov.nu.ca/en/Archaeology.aspx](http://www.ch.gov.nu.ca/en/Archaeology.aspx))

## Introduction

The following guidelines have been formulated to ensure that the impacts of proposed developments upon heritage resources are assessed and mitigated before ground surface altering activities occur. Heritage resources are defined as, but not limited to, archaeological and historical sites, burial grounds, palaeontological sites, historic buildings and cairns. Effective collaboration between the developer, the Department of Culture, and Heritage (CH), and the contract archaeologist(s) will ensure proper preservation of heritage resources in the Nunavut Territory. The roles of each are briefly described.

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<sup>5</sup> s. 51(1)

<sup>6</sup> P.C. 2001-1111 14 June, 2001

CH is the Nunavut Government agency which oversees the protection and management of heritage resources in Nunavut, in partnership with land claim authorities, regulatory agencies, and the federal government. Its role in mitigating impacts of developments on heritage resources is as follows: to identify the need for an impact assessment and make recommendations to the appropriate regulatory agency; set the terms of reference for the study depending upon the scope of the development; suggest the names of qualified individuals prepared to undertake the study to the developer; issue an archaeologist or palaeontologist permit authorizing field work; assess the completeness of the study and its recommendations; and ensure that the developer complies with the recommendations.

The primary regulatory agencies that CH provides information and assistance to are the Nunavut Impact Review Board, for development activities proposed for Inuit Owned Lands (as defined in Section 1.1.1 of the *Agreement between the Inuit of the Nunavut Settlement Area and Her Majesty the Queen in right of Canada (Nunavut Agreement)*), and the Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada, for development activities proposed for federal Crown Lands.

A developer is the initiator of a land use activity. It is the obligation of the developer to ensure that a qualified archaeologist or palaeontologist is hired to perform the required study and that provisions of the contract with the archaeologist or palaeontologist allow permit requirements to be met; i.e. fieldwork, collections management, artifact and specimen conservation, and report preparation. On the recommendation of the contract archaeologist or palaeontologist in the field and the Government of Nunavut, the developer shall implement avoidance or mitigative measures to protect heritage resources or to salvage the information they contain through excavation, analysis, and report writing. The developer assumes all costs associated with the study in its entirety.

Through his or her active participation and supervision of the study, the contract archaeologist or palaeontologist is accountable for the quality of work undertaken and the quality of the report produced. Facilities to conduct fieldwork, analysis, and report preparation should be available to this individual through institutional, agency, or company affiliations. Responsibility for the curation of objects recovered during field work while under study and for documents generated in the course of the study as well as remittance of artifacts, specimens and documents to the repository specified on the permit accrue to the contract archaeologist or palaeontologist. This individual is also bound by the legal requirements of the *Nunavut Archaeological and Palaeontological Sites Regulations*.

### **Types of Development**

In general, those developments that cause concern for the safety of heritage resources will include one or more of the following kinds of surface disturbances. These categories, in combination, are comprehensive of the major kinds of developments commonly proposed in Nunavut. For any single development proposal, several kinds of these disturbances may be involved

- *Linear disturbances: including the construction of highways, roads, winter roads, transmission lines, and pipelines;*
- *Extractive disturbances: including mining, gravel removal, quarrying, and land filling;*

- *Impoundment disturbances: including dams, reservoirs, and tailings ponds;*
- *Intensive land use disturbances: including industrial, residential, commercial, recreational, and land reclamation work, and use of heritage resources as tourist developments.*
- *Mineral, oil and gas exploration: establishment of camps, temporary airstrips, access routes, well sites, or quarries all have potential for impacting heritage resources.*

## **Types of Studies Undertaken to Preserve Heritage Resources**

**Overview:** An overview study of heritage resources should be conducted at the same time as the development project is being designed or its feasibility addressed. They usually lack specificity with regard to the exact location(s) and form(s) of impact and involve limited, if any, field surveys. Their main aim is to accumulate, evaluate, and synthesize the existing knowledge of the heritage of the known area of impact. The overview study provides managers with baseline data from which recommendations for future research and forecasts of potential impacts can be made. A Class I Permit is required for this type of study if field surveys are undertaken.

**Reconnaissance:** This is done to provide a judgmental appraisal of a region sufficient to provide the developer, the consultant, and government managers with recommendations for further development planning. This study may be implemented as a preliminary step to inventory and assessment investigations except in cases where a reconnaissance may indicate a very low or negligible heritage resource potential. Alternately, in the case of small-scale or linear developments, an inventory study may be recommended and obviate the need for a reconnaissance.

The main goal of a reconnaissance study is to provide baseline data for the verification of the presence of potential heritage resources, the determination of impacts to these resources, the generation of terms of reference for further studies and, if required, the advancement of preliminary mitigative and compensatory plans. The results of reconnaissance studies are primarily useful for the selection of alternatives and secondarily as a means of identifying impacts that must be mitigated after the final siting and design of the development project. Depending on the scope of the study, a Class 1 or Class 2 Permit is required for this type of investigation.

**Inventory:** A resource inventory is generally conducted at that stage in a project's development at which the geographical area(s) likely to sustain direct, indirect, and perceived impacts can be well defined. This requires systematic and intensive fieldwork to ascertain the effects of all possible and alternate construction components on heritage resources. All heritage sites must be recorded on Government of Nunavut Site Survey forms. Sufficient information must be amassed from field, library and archival components of the study to generate a predictive model of the heritage resource base that will:

- allow the identification of research and conservation opportunities;
- enable the developer to make planning decisions and recognize their likely effects on the known or predicted resources; and

- make the developer aware of the expenditures, which may be required for subsequent studies and mitigation. A Class 1 or 2 permit is required.

**Assessment:** At this stage, sufficient information concerning the numbers and locations of heritage resources will be available, as well as data to predict the forms and magnitude of impacts. Assessments provide information on the size, volume, complexity and content of a heritage resource, which is used to rank the values of different sites or site types given current archaeological knowledge. As this information will shape subsequent mitigation program(s), great care is necessary during this phase.

**Mitigation:** This refers to the amelioration of adverse impacts to heritage resources and involves the avoidance of impact through the redesign or relocation of a development or its components; the protection of the resource by constructing physical facilities; or, the scientific investigation and recovery of information from the resource by excavation or other method. The type(s) of appropriate mitigative measures are dictated by their viability in the context of the development project. Mitigation strategies must be developed in consultation with, and approved by, the Department of Culture and Heritage. It is important to note that mitigation activities should be initiated as far in advance of the construction of the development as possible.

**Surveillance and monitoring:** These may be required as part of the mitigation program.

*Surveillance* may be conducted during the construction phase of a project to ensure that the developer has complied with the recommendations.

*Monitoring* involves identification and inspection of residual and long-term impacts of a development (i.e. shoreline stability of a reservoir); or the use of impacts to disclose the presence of heritage resources, for example, the uncovering of buried sites during the construction of a pipeline.