

# SCREENING DECISION REPORT NIRB FILE NO.: 15UN042

NWB File No.: 1BH-SAN----

September 3, 2015

The Honourable Johnny Mike Minister of Community & Government Services Government of Nunavut P.O. Box 2410 Iqaluit, NU XOA 0H0

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Thomas Kabloona Chairperson of the Nunavut Water Board P.O. Box 119 Gjoa Haven, NU X0B 1J0

Sent via email: thomas.kabloona@nwb-oen.ca

Re: <u>Screening Decision for Nunavut Construction Limited's "Sanikiluaq Bulk Fuel Facility Upgrade" Project Proposal, Qikiqtani Region, NIRB File No.: 15UN042</u>

## Dear Parties:

The primary objectives of the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) are set out in Section 12.2.5 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA) as follows:

"In carrying out its functions, the primary objectives of NIRB shall be at all times to protect and promote the existing and future well-being of the residents and communities of the Nunavut Settlement Area, and to protect the ecosystemic integrity of the Nunavut Settlement Area. NIRB shall take into account the well-being of the residents of Canada outside the Nunavut Settlement Area."

## Section 12.4.4 of the NLCA states:

"Upon receipt of a project proposal, NIRB shall screen the proposal and indicate to the Minister in writing that:

- a) the proposal may be processed without a review under Part 5 or 6; NIRB may recommend specific terms and conditions to be attached to any approval, reflecting the primary objectives set out in Section 12.2.5;
- b) the proposal requires review under Part 5 or 6; NIRB shall identify particular issues or concerns which should be considered in such a review;
- c) the proposal is insufficiently developed to permit proper screening, and should be returned to the proponent for clarification; or
- d) the potential adverse impacts of the proposal are so unacceptable that it should be modified or abandoned."

#### NIRB ASSESSMENT AND DECISION

After a thorough assessment of all material provided to the Board (please see *Procedural History* and *Project Activities* in **Appendix A**), in accordance with the principles identified within Section 12.4.2 of the NLCA, the decision of the Board as per Section 12.4.4 of the NLCA is:

**12.4.4** (a): the proposal may be processed without a review under Part 5 or 6; NIRB may recommend specific terms and conditions to be attached to any approval, reflecting the primary objectives set out in Section 12.2.5.

# RECOMMENDED PROJECT-SPECIFIC TERMS AND CONDITIONS (pursuant to Section 12.4.4(a) of the NLCA)

The Board is recommending that the following or similar project-specific terms and conditions be imposed upon the Proponent through all relevant legislation:

#### General

- 1. Nunavut Construction Limited (the Proponent) shall maintain a copy of the Project Terms and Conditions at the site of operation at all times.
- 2. The Proponent shall forward copies of all permits obtained and required for this project to the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) prior to the commencement of the project.
- 3. The Proponent shall operate in accordance with all commitments stated in correspondence provided to the NIRB (Part 1 form, June 2014; Additional Information, May 2014; Amended Part 1 form, April & May 2015; Amended PSIR, April 2015).
- 4. The Proponent shall operate the site in accordance with all applicable Acts, Regulations and Guidelines.

# Water Use

- 5. The Proponent shall not extract water from any fish-bearing waterbody unless the water intake hose is equipped with a screen of appropriate mesh size to ensure that there is no entrapment of fish. Small lakes or streams should not be used for water withdrawal unless approved by the Nunavut Water Board.
- 6. The Proponent shall not use water, including constructing or disturbing any stream, lakebed or the banks of any definable water course unless approved by the Nunavut Water Board.

# **Waste Disposal**

7. The Proponent shall keep all garbage and debris in bags placed in a covered metal container or equivalent until disposed of at an approved facility. All such wastes shall be kept inaccessible to wildlife at all times.

## **Fuel and Chemical Storage**

- 8. Unless otherwise authorized by the Nunavut Water Board, the Proponent shall locate all fuel and other hazardous materials a minimum of thirty-one (31) metres away from the high water mark of any water body and in such a manner as to prevent their release into the environment.
- 9. The Proponent shall ensure that re-fueling of all equipment occurs a minimum of thirty-one (31) metres away from the high water mark of any water body, unless otherwise authorized by the Nunavut Water Board.
- 10. The Proponent shall store all fuel and chemicals in such a manner that they are inaccessible to wildlife.
- 11. The Proponent shall use adequate secondary containment or a surface liner (e.g., self-supporting insta-berms and fold-a-tanks) at all refueling stations. Appropriate spill response equipment and clean-up materials (e.g., shovels, pumps, barrels, drip pans, and absorbents) must be readily available during any transfer of fuel or hazardous substances.
- 12. The Proponent shall remove and treat hydrocarbon contaminated soils on site or transport them to an approved disposal site for treatment.
- 13. The Proponent shall ensure that all personnel are properly trained in fuel and hazardous waste handling procedures, as well as spill response procedures. All spills of fuel or other deleterious materials of any amount must be reported immediately to the 24 hour Spill Line at (867) 920-8130.

#### Wildlife - General

- 14. The Proponent shall ensure that there is no damage to wildlife habitat in conducting this operation.
- 15. The Proponent shall not harass wildlife. This includes persistently worrying or chasing animals, or disturbing large groups of animals. The Proponent shall not hunt or fish, unless proper Nunavut authorizations have been acquired.
- 16. The Proponent shall ensure that all project personnel are made aware of the measures to protect wildlife and are provided with training and/or advice on how to implement these measures.

## **Migratory Birds and Raptors Disturbance**

17. The Proponent shall not disturb or destroy the nests or eggs of any birds. If nests are encountered and/or identified, the Proponent shall take precaution to avoid further interaction and or disturbance (e.g., a 100 metre buffer around the nests). If active nests of any birds are discovered (i.e., with eggs or young), the Proponent shall avoid these areas until nesting is complete and the young have left the nest.

18. The Proponent shall minimize activities during periods when birds are particularly sensitive to disturbance such as migration, nesting and moulting.

## **Ground Disturbance**

- 19. The Proponent shall not move any equipment or vehicles unless the ground surface is in a state capable of fully supporting the equipment or vehicles without rutting or gouging. Overland travel of equipment or vehicles must be suspended if rutting occurs.
- 20. The Proponent shall implement suitable erosion and sediment suppression measures on disturbed areas before, during and after construction in order to prevent sediment from entering any waterbody.

## **Restoration of Disturbed Areas**

21. The Proponent shall remove all garbage, fuel and equipment upon abandonment.

#### Other

- 22. The Proponent should, to the extent possible, hire local people and consult with local residents regarding their activities in the area and available Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit that can inform project activities.
- 23. The Proponent shall ensure that project activities do not interfere with Inuit wildlife harvesting or traditional land use activities.
- 24. Any activity related to this application, and outside the original scope of the project as described in the application, will be considered a new project and should be submitted to the NIRB for Screening.

#### MONITORING AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

In addition, the Board is recommending the following:

# **Spill Contingency Plan**

1. The Proponent shall submit an updated Spill Contingency Plan with copies provided to the Nunavut Impact Review Board and Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada that is specific to the project and includes information differentiating between the response procedures for within the tank farm and for the fuel resupply pipeline. The plan should be provided prior to the commencement of upgrade activities.

#### OTHER NIRB CONCERNS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

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

#### Wildlife Safety

1. 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 Sanikiluaq, phone: (867) 266-8098).

## **Species at Risk**

2. The Proponent review Environment Canada's "Environment Assessment Best Practice Guide for Wildlife at Risk in Canada", available at the following link: <a href="http://epe.lac-bac.gc.ca/100/200/301/environment\_can/cws-scf/environmental\_assessment-ef/ea\_best\_practices\_2004\_e.pdf">http://epe.lac-bac.gc.ca/100/200/301/environment\_can/cws-scf/environmental\_assessment-ef/ea\_best\_practices\_2004\_e.pdf</a>. 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**

- 3. The Proponent review Canadian Wildlife Services' "Key migratory bird terrestrial habitat sites in the Northwest Territories and Nunavut", available at the following link: <a href="http://publications.gc.ca/site/eng/317630/publication.html">http://publications.gc.ca/site/eng/317630/publication.html</a> and "Key marine habitat sites for migratory birds in Nunavut and the Northwest Territories", available at the following link: <a href="http://publications.gc.ca/site/eng/392824/publication.html">http://publications.gc.ca/site/eng/392824/publication.html</a>. 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.
- 4. For further information on how to protect migratory birds, their nests and eggs when planning or carrying out project activities, consult Environment 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 <a href="http://www.ec.gc.ca/paom-itmb/">http://www.ec.gc.ca/paom-itmb/</a>.

## **Nunavut Water Board**

5. The Nunavut Water Board (NWB) impose mitigation measures, conditions and monitoring requirements pursuant to the Water Licence, which require the Proponent to respect the sensitivities and importance of water in the area. These mitigation measures, conditions and monitoring requirements should be in regard to use of water, snow and ice; waste disposal; access infrastructure and operation for camps; drilling operations; spill contingency planning; abandonment and restoration planning; and monitoring programs.

# REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS

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

- 1. The *Fisheries Act* (http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/F-14/index.html).
- 2. The *Nunavut Waters and Nunavut Surface Rights Tribunal Act* (http://www.canlii.org/ca/sta/n-28.8/whole.html).
- 3. The *Migratory Birds Convention Act* and *Migratory Birds Regulations* (<a href="http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/M-7.01/">http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/M-7.01/</a>).
- 4. The *Species at Risk Act* (<a href="http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/S-15.3/index.html">http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/S-15.3/index.html</a>). Attached in **Appendix B** is a list of Species at Risk in Nunavut.
- 5. The *Wildlife Act* (<a href="http://www.canlii.org/en/nu/laws/stat/snu-2003-c-26/latest/snu-2003-c-26.html">http://www.canlii.org/en/nu/laws/stat/snu-2003-c-26/latest/snu-2003-c-26.html</a>) which contains provisions to protect and conserve wildlife and wildlife habitat, including specific protection measures for wildlife habitat and species at risk.

- 6. The *Nunavut Act* (<a href="http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/N-28.6/">http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/N-28.6/</a>). The Proponent must comply with the proposed terms and conditions listed in the attached **Appendix C**.
- 7. The *Transportation of Dangerous Goods Regulations*, *Transportation of Dangerous Goods Act* (<a href="http://www.tc.gc.ca/eng/tdg/safety-menu.htm">http://www.tc.gc.ca/eng/tdg/safety-menu.htm</a>), and the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act* (<a href="http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-15.31/">http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-15.31/</a>). The Proponent must ensure that proper shipping documents accompany all movements of dangerous goods. The Proponent must register with the Government of Nunavut, Department of Environment Manager of Pollution Control and Air Quality at 867-975-7748.
- 8. The CEPA Storage Tank System for Petroleum Products and Allied Petroleum Products Regulations (www.ec.gc.ca/st-rs). The Proponent must identify their tank system to Environment Canada and installation of new systems must comply with the regulations' design requirements.

# **Validity of Land Claims Agreement**

# *Section 2.12.2*

Where there is any inconsistency or conflict between any federal, territorial and local government laws, and the Agreement, the Agreement shall prevail to the extent of the inconsistency or conflict.

Dated September 3, 2015 at Churchill, MB.

Elizabeth Copland, Chairperson

Attachments: Appendix A: Procedural History and Project Activities

Appendix B: Species at Risk in Nunavut

Appendix C: Archaeological and Palaeontological Resources Terms and Conditions for Land Use

Permit Holders

# Appendix A

# Procedural History and Project Activities

# **Procedural History**

On May 28, 2015 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received Nunavut Construction Limited's (the Proponent) "Sanikiluaq Bulk Fuel Facility Upgrade" project proposal from the Nunavut Water Board for a Type B water licence application. On July 8, 2015 the NIRB received a referral from the Government of Nunavut, Community and Government Services for this project proposal. The NIRB assigned this project proposal file number 15UN042.

This project proposal was distributed on July 20, 2015 to community organizations in Sanikiluaq, as well as to relevant federal and territorial government agencies, and Inuit organizations. The NIRB requested that interested parties review the proposal and provide the Board with any comments or concerns by August 10, 2015 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 and socio-economic effects; and if so, why;
- Whether the project is of a type where the potential adverse effects are highly predictable and mitigable with known technology, (providing any recommended mitigation measures); and
- Any matter of importance to the Party related to the project proposal.

On or before August 10, 2015 the NIRB received comments from the following interested parties:

- Government of Nunavut
- Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada
- Environment Canada

All comments provided to NIRB regarding this project proposal can be viewed on NIRB's public registry site, at the following location:

# http://ftp.nirb.ca/01-SCREENINGS/COMPLETED%20SCREENINGS/

On August 13, 2015 the NIRB provided an opportunity for the Proponent to respond to the concerns raised during the public commenting period. The Proponent provided a response to concerns on August 24, 2015 and on August 26, 2015.

On August 19, 2015 the NIRB requested an extension to the screening timeline from the Minister of Community & Government Services, Government of Nunavut, due to the requirement of additional time to allow the Proponent to address concerns prior to the Board making its decision.

# **Project Activities**

The proposed project is located in the community of Sanikiluaq at the community fuel tank farm facility. The project is proposed to take place from July to December 2015 and the Proponent intends to expand the Sanikiluaq Fuel Tank Farm with additional tank capacity to accommodate the increasing fuel requirements of the community.

The activities/components associated with this proposal include:

- Relocation of one diesel horizontal tank and repurpose it for Jet A-1 storage (86,500 L);
- Relocation of one diesel horizontal tank and repurpose it for extra storage as required (86,500 L);
- Relocation of one Jet A-1 horizontal tank (86,500 L);
- Relocation of the 2.4 million litres (ML) tank and increase volume to 3.0 ML and repurpose from Jet A-1 fuel to diesel storage;
- Relocation of one gasoline vertical tank (500,000 L);
- Relocation of dispenser buildings, operator's shelter and three containers, along with modifications to mechanical and electrical devices therein, concrete bases, bollards, fencing and access gates;
- Provisions for the following in the Fuel Tank Farm Facility:
  - New Jet A-1 fuel vertical tank (1.0 ML);
  - o New gasoline vertical tank (500,000 L);
  - New diesel tank (3.0 ML);
- Increase in size of the secondary containment, both in footprint and in height, along with relevant modifications to HDPE liner;
  - New berm height to be one (1) metre (m)
  - O New dimension to be 18 m x 101 m (original size 18 m x 96 m).
- Use of water from two possible sources to conduct hydrostatic testing of all tanks.
   Following hydrostatic testing, water would be processed through filter prior to disposal through a drainage channel towards ocean;
  - Water to be recycled in tanks until disposal
- Removal and disposal of four 86,500 litres (L) horizontal tanks at an approved facility in the south when new and modified tanks come into service;
- Use of accommodations and facilities in Sanikiluaq for construction staff (i.e., rental of house);
- Use of quarry material provided by the hamlet of Sanikiluag; and
- Use of heavy equipment for the expansion of the fuel tank farm.

# **Appendix B**Species at Risk in Nunavut

This list includes species listed on one of the Schedules of SARA (*Species at Risk Act*) and under consideration for listing on Schedule 1 of SARA. These species have been designated as at risk by COSEWIC (Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada). This list may not include all species identified as at risk by the Territorial Government.

- 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.

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

Updated: June 2015

Species at Risk <sup>1</sup>	COSEWIC Designation	Schedule of SARA	Government Organization with Primary Management Responsibility <sup>2</sup>
Eskimo Curlew	Endangered	Schedule 1	Environment Canada (EC)
Ivory Gull	Endangered	Schedule 1	EC
Ross's Gull	Threatened	Schedule 1	EC
Harlequin Duck (Eastern population)	Special Concern	Schedule 1	EC
Rusty Blackbird	Special Concern	Schedule 1	Government of Nunavut (GN)
Peregrine Falcon	Special Concern (anatum-tundrius complex <sup>3</sup> )	Schedule 1 - Threatened ( <i>anatum</i> ) Schedule 3 - Special Concern ( <i>tundrius</i> )	GN
Short-eared Owl	Special Concern	Schedule 3	GN
Red Knot (rufa subspecies)	Endangered	Schedule 1	EC
Red Knot (islandica subspecies)	Special Concern	Schedule 1	EC
Horned Grebe (Western population)	Special Concern	Pending	EC
Red-necked Phalarope	Special concern	Pending	EC
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	Special concern	Pending	EC
Felt-leaf Willow	Special Concern	Schedule 1	GN
Porsild's Bryum	Threatened	Schedule 1	GN
Peary Caribou	Endangered	Schedule 1	GN
Barren-ground Caribou	Special Concern	Schedule 1	GN

Species at Risk <sup>1</sup>	COSEWIC Designation	Schedule of SARA	Government Organization with Primary Management Responsibility <sup>2</sup>
(Dolphin and Union population)			
Polar Bear	Special Concern	Schedule 1	GN/Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO)
Grizzly Bear	Special Concern	Pending	GN
Wolverine	Special Concern	Pending	GN
Atlantic Cod, Arctic Lakes	Special Concern	Pending	DFO
Atlantic Walrus	Special Concern	Pending	DFO
Beluga Whale (Cumberland Sound population)	Threatened	Schedule 2	DFO
Beluga Whale (Eastern Hudson Bay population)	Endangered	Pending	DFO
Beluga Whale (Western Hudson Bay population)	Special Concern	Pending	DFO
Beluga Whale (Eastern High Arctic – Baffin Bay population)	Special Concern	Pending	DFO
Bowhead Whale (Eastern Canada – West Greenland population)	Special Concern	Pending	DFO
Bowhead Whale (Eastern Arctic population		Schedule 2	DFO
Killer Whale (Northwest Atlantic / Eastern Arctic populations)	Special Concern	Pending	DFO
Narwhal	Special Concern	Pending	DFO

The Department of Fisheries and Oceans has responsibility for aquatic species.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>Environment Canada (EC) 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.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> The *anatum* subspecies of Peregrine Falcon is listed on Schedule 1 of SARA as threatened. The *anatum* and *tundrius* subspecies of Peregrine Falcon were reassessed by COSEWIC in 2007 and combined into one subpopulation complex. This subpopulation complex was assessed by COSEWIC as Special Concern.

## Appendix C

Archaeological and Palaeontological 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 Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development 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:

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

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>1</sup> to issue such permits.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</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 Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development 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 *Nunavut Land Claims 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>2</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*<sub>3</sub>, 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 Nunavut Land Claims 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.

 $<sup>^{2}</sup>$  s. 51(1)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> P.C. 2001-1111 14 June, 2001

# 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)

#### 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, Language, Elders and Youth (CH), and the contract archaeologist(s) will ensure proper preservation of heritage resources in the Nunavut Territory. The roles of each are briefly described.

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 Nunavut Land Claims Agreement), and the Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development 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.