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Director of Operations
Box 100
Iqaluit, NU
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July 23, 2008

Via email: lpayette@nirb.ca

Nunavut Impact Review Board
Box 1360
Cambridge Bay, NU
X0A 0H0

Dear Ms. Payette:

**Jurisdictional Question
Bear Island, Nunavut**

In response to the inquiry received from Stephanie Autut dated July 15, 2008, you requested comments on whether or not Article 12 applies to a proposed project on Bear Island, located in the central north end of James Bay.

We are of the opinion that NIRB does not have jurisdiction to screen a project on Bear Island. Section 12.12.2 of the Nunavut Land Claim Agreement says Article 12 applies to the both the land and marine areas within the Nunavut Settlement Area and to the outer land fast ice zone. Bear Island is outside this geographical area.

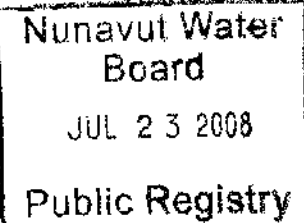
Bear Island is within the area covered by the Nunavik Marine Region as established under the Nunavik Inuit Land Claims Agreement. I have been informed that the Nunavik Marine Region Impact Review Board (NMRIRB) was established on July 10, 2008, however it is not yet operational. I can inform you that Bear Island is crown land and applications for projects should be submitted to our land administration office here in Iqaluit.

Upon receipt of any applications for development on Bear Island we will consult with the NMRIRB and the implementation team for the Nunavik Inuit Land Claims Agreement to ensure an appropriate environmental assessment screening is conducted. If you have further questions please feel free to give me a call at 867-975-4546 or via email at mclean@inac-ainc.gc.ca.

Sincerely,

Carl McLean
Director of Operations

Canada



Your file - Votre référence

Our file - Notre référence