

English Summary

Bathurst Island Remediation – Phase III Environmental Site Assessment Project (Project) includes several individual Areas of Potential Environmental Concern (APECs), grouped together in order to conduct one Phase III Environmental Site Assessment (ESA). The largest APEC is Bent Horn; the others are smaller satellite sites (Ile Vanier, Stokes Range, Young Inlet, Humphries Hill and two abandoned drill pads on southern Bathurst Island). Bent Horn, Cameron Island, Nunavut, is about 310 kilometres northwest of Resolute, Nunavut. The satellite sites are located between 20 to 150 kilometres from Bent Horn (Figures 1 and 2).

Contamination at the APECs is the result of oil and gas exploration and abandonment during the 1970s to 1990s. Phase III ESA activities will be conducted by Stantec on behalf of Public Works and Government Services Canada (PWGSC) and Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC), following standard procedures (e.g., INAC Abandoned Military Site Remediation Protocol). The objectives are as follows: identify, characterize and quantify hazardous and non-hazardous materials; identify and delineate contaminated soils; complete a detailed site survey, including documentation of plants and animals; identify borrow sources that may be used for the potential repair or construction of infrastructure; evaluate the condition of site access roads; and identify the logistical challenges of future site remediation activities. Applications are also being submitted to conduct archaeological impact assessments and traditional knowledge studies.

A field crew of approximately 15 people will be on site for about 30 days to conduct this work, with plans to set up camp at Ile Vanier or Cameron Island. Two all-terrain vehicles (ATVs), two helicopters and either a Twin Otter or Buffalo aircraft will be on site to assist with transportation logistics. This assessment is necessary for PWGSC to meet their commitments to clean up listed contaminated sites in Nunavut on behalf of AANDC, the only alternative being to leave the contamination as is, which is unacceptable.
