Management Plan

Emergency Response Plan: Isachsen High Arctic Weather Station (HAWS), Nunavut (Kuukyoak, 2026)

KUUKYOAK

NUNAVUT IMPACT REVIEW BOARD (NIRB)

Emergency Response Plan: Isachsen High Arctic Weather Station (HAWS), Nunavut

Prepared on behalf of Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC)

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1.0 Introduction

This management plan applies to the operations as part of remediation work being carried out at the Isachsen High Arctic Weather Station (HAWS) Remediation Project (the Project) by Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC), and their contractors. This Emergency Response Plan (Plan) is being submitted to support the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) review process. The contracting authority for this project is Public Services and Procurement Canada (PSPC). This current version of the Plan is conceptual in nature, and a more comprehensive plan will be submitted by the successful Remediation Contractor with specific means and methods. This current plan is considered as the minimum standard that submittals will be measured against.

1.1 Purpose and Scope

The purpose of this Plan is to provide a plan of action for unforeseeable emergency events during the Project. The Plan identifies key response personnel and their roles and responsibilities in the event of an emergency, as well as the equipment and other resources available to respond. The Plan has been prepared to ensure quick access to information required in responding to an emergency. This document is considered to be the minimum standard for emergency response that Kuukyoak requires of itself and its contractors for the duration of the Project.

All personnel will be made familiar with the Plan through a formal orientation prior to accessing site. Knowledge of site-specific emergency response procedures will be enhanced by separate and regularly scheduled safety meetings. Training sessions will be provided by the Contractor to ensure employees understand the steps to be undertaken in the event of an emergency and how to make use of the available equipment and supplies.

The Contractor will be required to submit a Site-Specific Health and Safety Plan (SSHSP) to Kuukyoak for review following contract award. This Plan is considered a component of the SSHSP and is required to contain the following minimum information:

- A description of pre-emergency planning.
- Personnel roles, lines of authority and communication, emergency phone numbers.
- Emergency alerting and response procedures.
- Evacuation routes and procedures, safe distances and places of refuge.
- Directions/methods of getting to nearest medical facilities.
- Emergency decontamination procedures.
- Emergency medical treatment and First Aid.

- Emergency equipment and materials: Include and provide at minimum booms (sorbent and containment), sorbents for cleanup, fire extinguishers for A-B-C fires, overpacks for contaminated soils, pumps, hand shovels, picks and containment barriers, such as plastic sheeting.
- Emergency protective equipment: Include at minimum clothing, protective suits, respirators, etc. to comply with potential emergency conditions and in accordance with NIOSH guidelines.
- Procedures for reporting incidents.
- Spill response and containment plans for all materials that could potentially be spilled.

1.2 Site Description

The Isachsen HAWS property (Site) is within the Directory of Federal Real Property (DFRP) land reserve (DFRP # 075272) which has a total area of approximately 450 hectares (ha). The Site is centered at a latitude of 78 degrees 46 minutes 40 seconds N and longitude of 103 degrees 31 minutes 40 seconds W facing Louise Bay, on the west-facing side of Ellef Ringnes Island, NU. The Site is occupied by approximately 22 permanent structures with associated infrastructure, equipment, and supplies. Other features previously identified at the Site, in addition to the 22 structures, include a 1,500-metre-long runway, former water and sewage infrastructure, fuel storage and distribution facilities, power generation equipment, two on-site waste disposal areas (WDAs), fuels tanks, thousands of empty/partially empty drums, other abandoned equipment, and debris.

Originally established in 1947 as one of five joint Canadian–American High Arctic Weather Stations, the Site supported meteorological monitoring, including upper-atmosphere observations using weather balloons. Operations transitioned fully to Canada in 1972 and continued until the station was decommissioned in 1978. Since then, the site has operated as an automated weather station and has intermittently supported scientific research and training activities. Due to its extreme remoteness, access has been almost exclusively by air.

1.3 Project Description

The Project is expected to span until 2030. A summary of the Project related activities is provided in the below:

- Mobilization of personnel, equipment, materials and support facilities, including fuel;
- Collection of borrow material (aggregate) to produce airstrip upgrades, road upgrades, construct a new engineered on-site landfill, cap the existing waste disposal areas, construct a camp pad and temporary waste storage area, and general site re-grading.
- Construction of a temporary accommodations camp;
- Construction of a new engineered landfill designed to accommodate the existing waste on site.
- Demolition of structures and buildings including removal and management of hazardous materials;

- Collection, cleaning and crushing of barrels;
- Collection and sorting of debris;
- Segregation, consolidation, packaging and containerization of all equipment, materials and debris (hazardous and non-hazardous);
- Deconstruction of the temporary accommodations camp and packaging for removal;
- Demobilization of fuel, materials and equipment off-site including transportation of containerized soil and hazardous/non-hazardous waste and debris; and
- Disposal of waste materials in the on-site engineered landfill or off-site facilities.

2.0 Organization and Responsibilities

2.1 Emergency Response Coordinator (ERC)

The on-site Health and Safety Coordinator is appointed the ERC. The ERC is responsible for implementing the Plan, coordinating the response and communication. In the absence of the on-site Health and Safety Coordinator, the Site Superintendent assumes the role of the ERC.

2.2 Emergency Communications and Contact Information

If there is an emergency situation, the site radio will be used to inform the ERC, Site Superintendent and Wildlife Monitor. All other personnel are to stop work and wait for instructions. A team member other than the EMT will notify the Kuukyoak Project Manager and back-up Project Manager by satellite phone when an emergency incident has or is occurring. A copy of the emergency contact list will be with every satellite phone.

The on-site communication procedures for emergency situations are outlined below. Additional details will be provided by the Contractor.

Polar Bear:

Radio call – “Bear, Bear, Bear”

Wildlife Monitor will respond, assess the situation and provide further instruction to the work crew. Deterrents will be used to encourage the bear to leave the work area.

Medical Emergency:

Radio call – “Medical Emergency, Medical Emergency, Medical Emergency”

ERC will respond with Emergency Medical Technician (EMT). EMT will assess and determine if off-site medical attention is required. If it is required, an air ambulance will be called to transport the injured party to Resolute Bay, and then to the Qikiqtani General Hospital in Iqaluit, NU.

Hazardous Material Spill/Fire

Radio call – "Spill, Spill, Spill" or "Fire, Fire, Fire"

ERC will respond, assess the situation and provide further instructions. Initial response will include:

- Ensure safety of all personnel.
- Assess spill hazards and risks.
- Remove all sources of ignition.
- Stop the spill if safe to do so (e.g. shut of pump, replace cap, tip drum upward, patch leaking hole). Use the contents of the nearest spill kit to aid in stopping the spill. Tyvek suits and chemical master gloves will be located in the spill kit and should be worn immediately if there is any risk of chemical contact.
- Contain the spill – use contents of spill kits to place sorbent materials on the spill or use shovel to dig dike to contain spill. Methods will vary depending on the nature of the spill.
- Report spill immediately to Site Superintendent, who will determine if spill is to be reported to the NWT/NU 24-Hour Spill Line at 867-920-8130.

Table 1 provides a list of emergency contacts for this project. It will be updated by the Contractor.

Table 1. Emergency Contacts

Name	Contact Information
NWT/NU 24-Hour Spill Line	867-920-8130
GNU Fire Marshall Emergency	867-979-6262
Resolute Bay Health Centre	867-252-3844
Qikiqtani General Hospital (Iqaluit)	867-975-8600
RCMP – Resolute Bay	867-252-1111
PSPC Project Manager	Ryan Breivik – (403) 479-8933
Kuukyoak Project Manager	Michael Billowits – (613) 295-4665
Medi-Vac	Air Inuit – Air ambulance - 1 866 661-8456
Nearest Hospital	Qikiqtani General Hospital - (867) 975-8600

3.0 Emergency Response

3.1 Emergency Response Accident and Injury Procedures

In the event of personnel accident or injury at the site, the following general accident and emergency response procedures are to be followed by all personnel.

1) *Initial Notification and Response*
    a. Signal all crew members of the emergency (by Radio);
    b. Congregate at the Muster Station on-site if safe to do so; and,
    c. Contact Kuukyoak Project Manager / Back-up Project Manager Immediately
2) *Size-Up Situation*
    a. Determine what has happened and whether there have been any casualties;
    b. Locate and assess the condition of the casualties;
    c. Assist with stabilization/treatment of casualties, as needed; and,
    d. Assess methods for decreasing potential hazards to other personnel.
3) *Initiate Rescue Response*
    a. Assist in the removal of casualties from the incident area;
    b. Assist with the transport of victims to medical facilities; and,
    c. Bring the cause of the emergency situation under control.
4) *Follow-Up*
    a. Notify appropriate Kuukyoak and PSPC representative (listed on contact sheet);
    b. Notify the WSCC and,
    c. Review and revise Health and Safety Plan and Emergency Response Procedures accordingly.

3.2 Emergency Response Fire Procedures

In the event of a fire emergency at the site, the following general accident and emergency response procedures are to be followed by all personnel.

1) *Initial Notification and Response*
    a. Signal all crew members of the fire (by Radio);
    b. Congregate at the Muster Station on-site if safe to do so; and,
    c. Contact Kuukyoak Project Manager / Back-up Project Manager Immediately
2) *Size-Up Situation*
    a. Locate all crew members and whether there have been any casualties and assist with stabilization/treatment of casualties, as needed;
    b. Determine where the fire is occurring, whether it is approaching and what evacuation procedures or on-site shelter will be required;
    c. Determine safe zones for people and equipment;

3) *Evacuation Response*
    a. All employees will check-in via radio communication and assemble at the muster point, as soon as possible;
    b. Rescue and firefighting services will be contacted in the event of a newly detected fire (See Table 1 for contact information).
    c. ERC or alternate will perform a head count and assign fire evacuation positions;
    d. Escape routes will be determined and verified;
    e. Crews will be mobilized to camps as soon as all members have been accounted for, and if conditions are deemed safe;
    f. In the event that on-site shelter is required, the safest option will be determined and utilized until evacuation is possible;
4) *Follow-Up*
    a. Notify appropriate Kuukyoak and PSPC representative (listed on contact sheet);
    b. Review and revise Health and Safety Plan and Emergency Response Procedures accordingly.

3.3 Emergency Response Environmental Procedures

In the event of an uncontrolled release of a deleterious substance or controlled product, the procedures outlined in the Spill Contingency Plan shall be followed (included under a separate cover).

3.4 Emergency Medical Services

Standard first aid will be administered immediately on-site by the EMT. Additional medical care (if required) will be provided by mobilizing the injured party back to the Health Centre in Resolute Bay, NU. The Resolute Bay Health Centre will be contacted as the field team is mobilizing to the facility. If sufficient care cannot be provided at the Resolute Bay Health Centre, an air ambulance will be called to transport the injured party to the Qikiqtani General Hospital in Iqaluit, NU.

3.5 Accident Investigation Reporting

Following an emergency incident, a Kuukyoak standard Incident Report Investigation Form will be completed by the Project Manager. Personnel that witnessed the episode will be questioned as necessary. All incident reports will be retained by the Project Manager. The Kuukyoak Project Manager will forward the Incident Report Investigation Form to the PSPC Project Manager with 24-hours of occurrence, unless an alternative timeline is mutually agreed based on the circumstances of the incident.