

SCREENING DECISION REPORT NIRB FILE NO.: 12UN019

NWB File No.: 1BR-NUN05111

May 14, 2012

Mr. Thomas Kabloona, Chairperson Nunavut Water Board Gjoa Haven, NU X0B 1J0

Via email: tomkabloona@netkaster.ca

Re: <u>Screening Decision for Nunatta Environmental Services Inc.'s "Land Farm" Project Proposal, North Baffin Region, 12UN019</u>

Dear Mr. Kabloona:

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. Nunatta Environmental Services Inc. (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 Nunavut Impact Review Board (Part 1 Form Project Proposal Information Requirements, June 7, 2011; Non-technical Summary, June 7, 2011) and to the Nunavut Water Board (Renewal Application for Type "B" Water Licence, June 6, 2011).
- 4. The Proponent shall operate the site in accordance with all applicable Acts, Regulations and Guidelines.

Fuel and Chemical Storage

- 5. The Proponent shall ensure that storage of fuel and hazardous materials and re-fuelling of project equipment is conducted at 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.
- 6. The Proponent shall store all fuel and chemicals in such a manner that they are inaccessible to wildlife
- 7. 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, as well as at fuel caches, vehicle-maintenance areas and drill sites. Spill kits and secondary containment structures must be able to accommodate 110% of the capacity of the largest fuel storage container within the cache.
- 8. 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.
- 9. The Proponent shall use drip pans or other equivalent device when refueling equipment onsite. The Proponent shall ensure that appropriate spill kit (e.g., shovels, absorbents, etc.) must be readily available during any transfer of fuel.

Ground Disturbance

- 10. 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.
- 11. The Proponent shall maintain an undisturbed buffer zone between the periphery of landfarm sites and the high water mark of any water body that is 31 metres or an adequate distance to ensure erosion control.

Landfarm Operation

- 12. The Proponent shall only treat petroleum and hydrocarbon contaminated soils using the landfarm facility. Materials contaminated with other substances such as glycol and heavy metals are not to be stored at the landfarm and shall only be disposed of at an authorized facility.
- 13. The Proponent shall ensure that the equipment used in the landfarm operation for aeration have been cleaned off within the landfarm facilities prior to exiting in order to prevent the accidental transfer of contaminated soil.
- 14. The Proponent shall take appropriate dust suppression measures when conducting soil turning and removal.
- 15. All operation personnel shall be adequately trained prior to commencement of any operation in the landfarm facility. Operational personnel shall also be trained in the operational guidelines and commitments made by the Proponent for this project.

Other

- 16. The Proponent should, to the extent possible, hire local people and consult with local residents regarding their activities in the region.
- 17. 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:

Fuel and Chemical Storage

1. The Proponent shall update its Spill Contingency Plan to include the up to date emergency contact numbers for the Government of Nunavut-Department of Environment (867-975-4644) and the Manager of Pollution Control and Air Quality (867-975-7748).

2. The Proponent shall implement the recommendations found in the 2003 CCME Guidance Document PN 1326 entitled "Environmental Code of Practice for Above Ground and Underground Storage Tank Systems containing Petroleum Product and Allied Petroleum Products".

Transport of Waste/Dangerous Goods

- 3. The Proponent shall ensure that a waste manifest accompanies the shipment of all waste oil/grease and is registered with the Government of Nunavut Department of Environment (GN-DoE). Contact the Manager of Pollution Control and Air Quality at (867) 975-7748 to obtain a manifest if hazardous waste will be generated during project activities.
- 4. The Proponent shall ensure that an export manifest or the appropriate transportation of dangerous goods (TDG) documentation accompany all potential hazardous samples and/or materials that are transported off site.

OTHER NIRB CONCERNS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

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

Nunavut Water Board

1. 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 *Species at Risk Act* (http://laws.justice.gc.ca/en/showtdm/cs/S-15.3). Attached in **Appendix B** is a list of Species at Risk in Nunavut.
- 4. The *Nunavut Act* (http://laws.justice.gc.ca/en/showtdm/cs/N-28.6). The Proponent must comply with the proposed terms and conditions listed in the attached **Appendix C**.
- 5. The Transportation of Dangerous Goods Regulations, Transportation of Dangerous Goods Act (http://www.tc.gc.ca/eng/tdg/safety-menu.htm), and the Canadian Environmental Protection Act (http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-15.31/). The Proponent must ensure that proper shipping documents accompany all movements of dangerous goods. The

Proponent must register with the GN-DOE Manager of Pollution Control and Air Quality at 867-975-7748.

6. The Federal Guidelines for Landfarming Petroleum Hydrocarbon Contaminated Soils, Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC Canada), March, 2006. Information in this document addresses design, operation, monitoring, sampling, analytical methods, decommissioning and closure, record keeping and reporting requirements for landfarming projects. It is recommended that the consultant refer to this document as it relates to the future operations of the landfarming project.

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 _____ May 14, 2012____ at Arviat, NU.

Elizabeth Copland, Acting 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 June 7, 2011 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received Nunatta Environmental Services Inc.'s (Nunatta or the Proponent) "Land Farm" project proposal directly from the Proponent. On March 27, 2012 the NIRB received correspondence from the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC) indicating that the project is located in an area without an approved land use plan in place and that no conformity determination would therefore be required for this file. A request to screen the project proposal was received from the Nunavut Water Board (NWB) on April 5, 2012 and the NIRB assigned this project proposal file number 12UN019.

This project proposal was distributed to community organizations in Iqaluit, 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 May 2, 2012 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 May 2, 2012 the NIRB received comments from the following interested parties:

■ Environment Canada (EC)

All comments provided to NIRB regarding this project proposal can be viewed on NIRB's ftp-site at: http://ftp.nirb.ca/01-SCREENINGS/COMPLETED%20SCREENINGS/

Project Activities

The proposed project is located within the Qikiqtani region, within the Municipality of Iqaluit. The Proponent is currently applying to renew its water licence for 10 years in order to continue remediating soils from various industrial undertakings and/or municipal works. The Proponent is required to renew its water licence 1BR-NUN0511 to continue ongoing landfarm operations for 10 years.

The activities/components associated with this proposal include:

- Remediation of hydrocarbon contaminated water, soil and aggregate;
- Approximately 3 to 20 cubic metres per year of water to be treated by clay/carbon filter followed by evaporation discharge; and
- Approximately 200-1300 cubic metres per year of soil to be treated using aeration and fertilizer for eventual use in gardens, as dump cover, and on roads.

Appendix BSpecies 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 periodically check the SARA registry (http://www.sararegistry.gc.ca/default_e.cfm) to get the current status of a species.

Updated: January 2012

Terrestrial Species at Risk ¹	COSEWIC Designation	Schedule of SARA	Government Organization with Primary Management Responsibility ²
Eskimo Curlew	Endangered	Schedule 1	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	GN
Felt-leaf Willow	Special Concern	Schedule 1	GN
Peregrine Falcon	Special Concern (anatum- tundrius complex ³)	Schedule 1 - Threatened (anatum) Schedule 3 - Special Concern (tundrius)	GN
Short-eared Owl	Special Concern	Schedule 3	GN
Peary Caribou	Endangered	Schedule 1	GN
			Government

Terrestrial Species at Risk ¹	COSEWIC Designation	Schedule of SARA	Organization with Primary Management Responsibility ²
Barren-ground Caribou	Special	Schedule 1	GN
(Dolphin and Union	Concern		
population)			
Polar Bear	Special	Schedule 1	GN
	Concern		
Red Knot (rufa subspecies)	Endangered	Pending	EC
Red Knot (islandica	Special	Pending	EC
subspecies)	Concern		
Porsild's Bryum	Threatened	Pending	GN
Horned Grebe (Western	Special	Pending	EC
population)	Concern		
Grizzly Bear	Special	Pending	GN
j i	Concern	8	
Wolverine (Western	Special	Pending	GN
population)	Concern		
Atlantic Cod, Arctic Lakes	Special	No schedule	DFO
,	Concern		
Atlantic Walrus	Special	Pending	DFO
	Concern		
Beluga Whale (Cumberland Sound population)	Threatened	Pending	DFO
Beluga Whale (Eastern Hudson Bay population)	Endangered	Pending	DFO
Beluga Whale (Western Hudson Bay population)	Special Concern	Pending	DFO
Beluga Whale	Special	Pending	DFO
(Eastern High Arctic –	Concern	Tollullig	
Baffin Bay population)			
Bowhead Whale	Special	Pending	DFO
(Eastern Canada – West	Concern	1 011011115	
Greenland population)			
Killer Whale (Northwest	Special	Pending	DFO
Atlantic / Eastern Arctic	Concern	2 011011115	
populations)			
Narwhal	Special Concern	Pending	DFO

¹ The Department of Fisheries and Oceans has responsibility for aquatic species.

² 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.

³ 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, Language, Elders and Youth (CLEY) routinely reviews land use applications sent to the Nunavut Water Board, Nunavut Impact Review Board and the Department of Indian 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:

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

Note that the above-mentioned functions require either a Nunavut Archaeologist Permit or a Nunavut Palaeontologist Permit. CLEY is authorized by way of the *Nunavut and Archaeological and Palaeontological Site Regulations*¹ to issue such permits.

¹ 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 CLEY 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 CLEY.
- 6) The permittee/proponent shall follow the direction of CLEY 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 INAC's directions will also be followed.
- 7) The permittee/proponent shall provide all information requested by CLEY 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 CLEY 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*², 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*₃, 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

² s. 51(1)

³ 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: http://gov.nu.ca/cley/english/arch.html)

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

CLEY 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 CLEY 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 Department of Indian and Northern Affairs, 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, Language, Elders and Youth. 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.