

## **Brief Project Description**

The Pelly Lake Site (the Site) is a former airstrip and fuel cache site. It was reportedly used as a base and airstrip from 1954 to 1956 by Spartan Air Services, who was contracted by the Federal Government to take aerial photographs of the region. The Site is located approximately 6 km to the northeast of Pelly Lake, within the Kivalliq region of Nunavut (7327399 N and 407062 E) (Lat: 66.053538° Long: -101.052295° ) The nearest communities are Baker Lake (250 km southeast of Pelly Lake) and Gjoa Haven (350 km northeast of Pelly Lake). The Site is uninhabited and located on Crown land.

Throughout the years, various materials and structures were left at the Site, the Remedial Action Plan (RAP) indicates several dilapidated structures, 49 x 1,000-gallon fuel tanks, 710 barrels of petroleum products (including oil lubricants, aviation fuel, oil, tar, and soil contaminated with tar, and 101 cans of aviation oil), pieces of equipment, and the remains of a “Mosquito” aircraft. Investigations confirm that the site contains impacted sediment that poses a risk to human and ecological health, as well as hazardous and non-hazardous debris. A limited cleanup was reportedly conducted in 1996 but did not remove everything from the Site.

The project that is the subject of the environmental impact assessment (EIA) is the remediation of the Site (the “Project”). The Project will involve the demolition of buildings, removal of hazardous and non-hazardous debris, the excavation and packaging of lead impacted sediments exceeding the ecological component values (70 mg/kg) from the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME) Canadian Soil Quality Guidelines for the Protection of Environmental and Human Health for agricultural land use (CCME 1999).

Following the assessment of the site through scientific and traditional/local knowledge, the development of the Remedial Options Analysis, and the community engagement sessions, the recommended remediation option are excavation and southern off-site disposal of all impacted sediments, hazardous debris and non-hazardous debris with the exception of large non-hazardous debris that will be left on-site and unpainted wood debris that will be burned on-site. Due to challenging access to the site, equipment requirements will be kept to a minimum.

The proposed work is anticipated to be completed in two stages encompassing two summers and one winter. Phase 1 will occur over 8-12 weeks in Summer 2025 with the mobilization of the project team and equipment, execution of the remedial works and demobilization of equipment. Phase 2 will occur over 4-8 weeks in Winter 2026 with the demobilization of waste materials and extend into Summer 2026 with a final inspection and removal of any remaining items. Personnel and staff will be housed during Summer 2025 on Site in a temporary camp and water, wastewater and waste management will be required. It is anticipated that the site cleanup will require approximately 12 to 15 workers on Site completing the cleanup activities. Wildlife monitors, equipment operators and labourers will be sourced from local communities where possible.

In the short term, species and their habitats are expected to be impacted. The majority of this impact will be in the form of disturbance from the presence of humans and machinery and the accompanying noise, dust and activity. There is the possibility of more serious impacts from spills, fires, erosion and sedimentation and encounters with wildlife, however, these will be mitigated by the development of a comprehensive set of management plans developed, reviewed, and approved prior to commencing work. Ultimately, any short term negative impacts are anticipated to be offset

by an overall improved environment and habitat to support species in their medium and long-term future.

The execution of the remedial plan will be competitively procured, with the contractor making final decisions regarding the implementation strategy.