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DORIS NORTH AMENDMENTS 2011

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SUPPORTING MEMO

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This document will only discuss those portions of the proposed amendments that could cause surface ground disturbance.

TIA Water Management

The primary concern regarding proposed changes in TIA water management from an archaeological perspective relates to potential changes to possible impacts to ground surface. The understanding is that the only change is to the discharge location and system. Discharging treated water to Roberts Bay from the TIA will use a pipeline that will follow existing roads between the north end of the TIA through the Doris camp complex, along the airstrip and existing road to Roberts Bay. As long as the pipeline is built immediately adjacent to this existing road network, there are no archaeological concerns since this area was previously thoroughly investigated prior to construction of the existing developments, and no archaeological resources were found. It is expected that treatment facilities will be built within the current Doris camp footprint which was also previously examined, thus, there are no archaeological concerns.

Doris Central Vent Raise Pad and Road

A low and slow helicopter overflight was completed of the proposed Doris Central developments, which appear to be within the same locale as Quarry I. A narrow band of the upper edge of the bedrock along the west side of Doris Lake was examined by pedestrian transects in 2005. There are no recorded archaeological sites in these localities, and no archaeological features were observed during the aerial overflight. The access road is largely on flat tundra as is the overburden storage area, and potential for archaeological resources is rated generally low; however, there is an archaeological site (NaNh-49) a short distance south of the point where the road will leave the Doris Windy road as shown on the proposed plan. This diverging point should not be moved any further south in order to ensure avoidance of the site. Archaeological potential is certainly higher for the bedrock outcrop forming Quarry I and Doris Central facilities. It is recommended that a final intensive ground survey of all proposed Doris Central developments be completed prior to any ground disturbance.

Expanded Doris Camp

The area within and immediately adjacent to the existing camp footprint was carefully surveyed for archaeological remains several times prior to construction of the camp. No archaeological evidence was found. Assuming the camp expansion remains within and in close proximity to the existing camp footprint, no archaeological conflicts are anticipated.

Expanded Pad U

Pad U is located along the northwest side of Doris Lake. This area was carefully surveyed several times for archaeological resources and no archaeological evidence was found. Therefore, no archaeological conflicts are anticipated.

Expanded Pad T

Pad T is located north of the existing Doris camp footprint. This area was carefully surveyed several times for archaeological resources and no archaeological evidence was found. Therefore, no archaeological conflicts are anticipated.

Potential Relocation of Waste Management Facilities

This is proposed to be placed within Quarry A, on the west side of the Doris to Windy Road directly opposite site NaNh-49 which is east of the road. Although this site has been mitigated by detailed mapping and excavation, it would be advantageous to preserve it as a possible interpretive site for camp residents and visitors. While the chances of direct impacts are reduced by the waste management facilities being on the other side of the road, the degree of ongoing activity related to this facility and landfill so close to this site will significantly increase chances for indirect effects. This could be mitigated by installation of fencing along the east side of the road.

Moving Potable Water to Windy Lake

If the revised potable water source is situated at the same location as the original Windy camp intake, there should be no archaeological concerns with the intake per se. However, if any new ground surface disturbance is required for associated facilities, further assessment will have to determine if any recorded archaeological sites are close or if field surveys are required.

Roberts Bay Laydown Expansion

Three new laydown areas are proposed in Roberts Bay. Those designated Southwest and Southeast are adjacent to the Roberts Bay end of the road to Doris camp. The Southwest area is at the base of a large bedrock outcrop. This area was previously surveyed and no archaeological remains were found. One site is recorded on the upper bedrock outcrop but that is a considerable distance west of this laydown area. Therefore, no archaeological conflicts are anticipated. The Southeast laydown area is on low lying ground that was previously surveyed and was judged low potential for archaeological remains. This area is also well away from any known archaeological sites which occur well to the east; therefore, archaeological conflicts are not anticipated. The West laydown area appears to extend over the location of a previously recorded site (NbNh-23) that has been fully mitigated by detailed mapping and excavation; therefore, this site is no longer a concern. A newly recorded site, NbNh-46, is 200m directly south of the shoreline of the Bay on an elevated section of bedrock. This should be sufficiently distant that this site should be avoidable, consequently, there are unlikely to be any archaeological conflicts.
