



**SCREENING DECISION REPORT**  
**NIRB FILE NO.: 11EN018**

INAC File No.: N2011C0012  
KivIA File No.: KVRW11F03

May 16, 2011

Honourable John Duncan  
Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada  
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada  
Ottawa, ON

Via email: [Duncan.J@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Duncan.J@parl.gc.ca) and [minister@inac-ainc.gc.ca](mailto:minister@inac-ainc.gc.ca)

**Re: Screening Decision for Uranium North Resources Corp.'s "Aura" project proposal (NIRB File No.: 11EN018)**

Dear Honourable John Duncan:

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. Uranium North Resources Corp. (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 NIRB (NIRB Part 1 & Part 2 Forms, March 11, 2011) and to the Kivalliq Inuit Association (Land Use Licence Application, March 8, 2011).
4. The Proponent shall operate the site in accordance with all applicable Acts, Regulations and Guidelines.

##### **Water Use**

5. The Proponent shall not extract water from any fish-bearing water body unless the water intake hose is equipped with a screen of appropriate mesh size to ensure that there is no entrapment of fish. Small lakes or streams should not be used for water withdrawal unless approved by the Nunavut Water Board.
6. The Proponent shall not use water, including constructing or disturbing any stream, lakebed or the banks of any definable water course unless approved by the Nunavut Water Board.

##### **Waste Disposal/Incineration**

7. The Proponent shall incinerate all combustible wastes daily, and remove the ash from incineration activities and non-combustible wastes from the project site to an approved facility for disposal.
8. The Proponent shall keep all garbage and debris in bags placed in a covered metal container or equivalent until disposed of at an approved facility. All such wastes shall be kept inaccessible to wildlife at all times.
9. The Proponent shall ensure that no waste oil/grease is incinerated on site.

### **Fuel and Chemical Storage**

10. The Proponent shall locate all fuel and other hazardous materials 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.
11. The Proponent shall ensure that re-fuelling of all equipment occur a minimum of thirty-one (31) metres away from the high water mark of any water body.
12. The Proponent shall store all fuel and chemicals in such a manner that they are inaccessible to wildlife.
13. The Proponent shall use adequate secondary containment or a surface liner (e.g. self-supporting insta-berms and fold-a-tanks) at all refuelling stations. 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 vehicle-maintenance areas.
14. The Proponent shall inspect and document the condition of all large fuel tanks and fuel caches immediately upon delivery and thereafter on a weekly basis. All fuel and chemical storage containers must be clearly marked with the Proponent's name and fuel caches flagged so they remain visible in the winter months.
15. The Proponent shall remove and treat hydrocarbon contaminated soils on site or transport them to an approved disposal site for treatment.
16. The Proponent shall ensure that all personnel are properly trained in fuel and hazardous waste handling procedures, as well as in 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.

### **Wildlife - General**

17. The Proponent shall ensure that there is no damage to wildlife habitat in conducting this operation.
18. The Proponent shall take all possible measures to avoid wildlife encounters. Any problem wildlife should be reported immediately to the Government of Nunavut, Department of Environment.
19. The Proponent shall not harass wildlife. This includes persistently worrying or chasing animals, or disturbing large groups of animals. The Proponent shall not hunt or fish, unless proper Nunavut authorizations have been acquired.
20. The Proponent shall ensure that all project personnel are made aware of the measures to protect wildlife and are provided with training and/or advice on how to implement these measures.

### **Migratory Birds and Raptors Disturbance**

21. The Proponent shall not disturb or destroy the nests or eggs of any birds. If nests are encountered and/or identified, the Proponent shall take precaution to avoid further interaction and or disturbance (e.g., a 100 metre buffer around the nests). If active nests of any birds are discovered (i.e. with eggs or young), the Proponent shall avoid these areas until nesting is complete and the young have left the nest.
22. The Proponent shall ensure that aircraft maintain a vertical distance of 1000 metres and a horizontal distance of 1500 metres from any observed groups (colonies) of migratory birds.

Aircraft should avoid critical and sensitive wildlife areas at all times by choosing alternate flight corridors.

23. The Proponent shall advise all pilots of relevant flight restrictions and enforce their application over the project area, including flight paths to/from the project area.

### **Caribou Disturbance**

24. If caribou cows are observed calving or are accompanied by caribou calves within the project area, the Proponent must suspend all drilling operations until the caribou and their calves have moved 1 km away from project area.
25. When caribou are within 1 km of any project activities, the Proponent shall suspend aircraft take-offs and landings, over-flights of aircraft with an altitude of less than 610 metres above ground level and operation of ATVs and snowmobiles and any other ground based or water based mobile equipment.
26. The Proponent shall be expressly prohibited from conducting any low-level flights over herds of caribou, and shall ensure that all flight personnel associated with the project are aware of this condition.
27. During migration of caribou, the Proponent shall not block or cause any diversion to caribou migration, and shall cease activities likely to interfere with migration such as airborne geophysics surveys or movement of equipment or personnel until such time as the caribou have passed.
28. The Proponent must not construct a camp, cache fuel, or operate ground, air or water based mobile equipment within 10 km of a 'designated caribou crossing'; and must not conduct drilling operations within 5 km of such crossings.

### **Ground Disturbance**

29. The Proponent shall not move any equipment or vehicles unless the ground surface is in a state capable of fully supporting the equipment or vehicles without rutting or gouging. Overland travel of equipment or vehicles must be suspended if rutting occurs.
30. The Proponent shall implement suitable erosion and sediment suppression measures on disturbed areas before, during and after construction and operation in order to prevent sediment from entering any water body.

### **Drilling on Land**

31. The Proponent shall not conduct any land based drilling or mechanized clearing within thirty-one (31) metres of the normal high water mark of a water body unless approved by the Nunavut Water Board.
32. If an artesian flow is encountered, the Proponent shall ensure the drill hole is immediately plugged and permanently sealed.
33. The Proponent shall ensure that all drill areas are constructed to facilitate minimizing the environmental footprint of the project area. Drill areas should be kept orderly with garbage removed daily to an approved disposal site.
34. The Proponent shall ensure that all sump/depression capacities are sufficient to accommodate the volume of waste water and any fines that are produced. The sumps shall only be used for inert drilling fluids, and not for any other materials or substances.
35. The Proponent shall not locate any sump within thirty-one (31) metres of the normal high water mark of any water body without approval of the Nunavut Water Board. Sumps and

areas designated for waste disposal shall be sufficiently bermed or otherwise contained to ensure that substances do not enter a waterway unless otherwise authorized.

36. The Proponent shall ensure all drill holes are backfilled or capped prior to the end of each field season. The Proponent shall ensure that all sumps are backfilled and restored to original and/or stable profile prior to the end of each field season.
37. The Proponent should assess alternatives (including biodegradable and non-toxic) to drill additives prior to the use of calcium chloride, as these salts in high concentrations are harmful to the environment. If calcium chloride is to be used, the Proponent should ensure that return water is contained in a properly constructed sump. The Proponent should not rely on permafrost integrity to contain and isolate drilling waste.

### **Temporary Camps**

38. The Proponent shall ensure that all camps are located on gravel, sand or other durable land.

### **Restoration of Disturbed Areas**

39. The Proponent shall ensure that all disturbed areas are restored to a stable or pre-disturbed state as practical as possible upon completion of field work.

### **Other**

40. The Proponent shall ensure that the land use area is kept clean and tidy at all times.
41. The Proponent should, to the extent possible, hire local people and to consult with local residents regarding their activities in the region.

## **MONITORING AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**

In addition, the Board is recommending the following:

### **1. Wildlife Log/Record of Observations**

Prior to commencing operations, the Proponent shall submit a Wildlife Monitoring and Mitigation Plan to the NIRB, Environment Canada (EC), and the Government of Nunavut's Department of the Environment (GN-DOE). At a minimum, the Plan must address the Proponent's plans for meeting with the requirements of *DIAND's Caribou Protection Measures*, and must also include:

- a. The following requirements:
  - i. Any NIRB terms and conditions contained within this Screening Decision;
  - ii. The employment of an independent caribou monitor while the project is in operation;
  - iii. The requirement to record, on a daily basis, results from caribou monitoring activities. At the end of each month of project operations, the Proponent must submit this information to GN-DOE;
  - iv. Record all wildlife observations and map, using GPS coordinates, any sensitive wildlife sites such as denning areas or nesting areas, and details of techniques for surveying caribou in the Proponent's proposed project area;
- b. Predicted impacts to wildlife from project activities, including any Species at Risk;

- c. Proposed site-specific measures to prevent or reduce anticipated impacts to wildlife;
- d. A wildlife encounter minimization training plan for fixed wing and helicopter operators.
- e. Proposed monitoring procedures including frequency, monitoring period(s), locations where monitoring will occur, recording and reporting protocols, and discussion regarding how the data collected in the wildlife monitoring program will be used to determine whether adaptive mitigation and management strategies for wildlife are required;
- f. Clear description of thresholds that will be used to determine the necessity for adaptive mitigation and management strategies; and
- g. Procedures for monitoring the effectiveness of mitigation measures;

Any subsequent direction provided by the GN-DOE regarding the Wildlife Monitoring and Mitigation Plan must be forwarded to the NIRB.

Government of Nunavut contacts:

- a. Manager, Wildlife, Dustin Fredlund, (867) 982 7441, [dfredlund@gov.nu.ca](mailto:dfredlund@gov.nu.ca)
- b. Conservation Office, Kivalliq Region, (867) 793 2944
- c. Regional Biologist, Mathieu Dumond (867) 982 7444, [mdumond@gov.nu.ca](mailto:mdumond@gov.nu.ca)

## 2. Transport of Waste/Dangerous Goods

The Proponent shall ensure that a waste manifest accompanies the shipment of all waste oil/grease and is registered with the GN-DOE. Contact the Manager of Pollution Control and Air Quality at (867) 975-7748 to obtain a manifest if hazardous waste will be transported during project activities.

The Proponent shall also ensure that an export manifest or the appropriate transportation of dangerous goods 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:

### **Bear and Carnivore Safety**

1. The Proponent review the bear/carnivore detection and deterrent techniques outlined in “Safety in Grizzly and Black Bear Country” which can be down-loaded from this link: [http://www.enr.gov.nt.ca/live/documents/content/Bear\\_Safety.pdf](http://www.enr.gov.nt.ca/live/documents/content/Bear_Safety.pdf). Note that some recommendations in this manual are also relevant to polar bears. There is a DVD about polar bears and safety available from Nunavut Parks at the following link <http://www.nunavutparks.com/english/visitor-information/suggested-resources.html> and a “Safety in Polar Bear Country” pamphlet from Parks Canada at the following link <http://www.pc.gc.ca/eng/pn-np/nu/auyuittuq/visit/visit6/d/i.aspx>.

2. Any problem wildlife or any interaction with carnivores should be reported immediately to the local Government of Nunavut, Department of Environment Conservation Office.

### **Incineration of Wastes**

3. The Proponent review Environment Canada's "Technical Document for Batch Waste Incineration", available at the following link: <http://www.ec.gc.ca/gdd-mw/default.asp?lang=En&n=F53EDE13-1>. The technical document provides information on appropriate incineration technologies, best management and operational practices, monitoring and reporting.

### **Species at Risk**

4. The Proponent review Environment Canada's "Environment Assessment Best Practice Guide for Wildlife at Risk in Canada", available at the following link: <http://www.ec.gc.ca/Publications/default.asp?lang=En&xml=5407909E-10F6-4AFE-ACDF-75B9E820B4A1>. The guide provides information to the Proponent on what is required when Wildlife at Risk, including *Species at Risk*, are encountered or affected by the project.

### **Change in Project Scope**

5. All Authorizing Agencies shall notify the NIRB of any changes in operating plans or conditions associated with this project prior to any such change.

### **Indian and Northern Affairs Canada**

1. Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) impose mitigation measures, conditions and monitoring requirements pursuant to the Federal Land Use Permit, which require the Proponent to respect the sensitivities and importance of the area. These mitigation measures, conditions and monitoring requirements should be in regard to the location and area; type, location, capacity and operation of facilities; use, storage, handling and disposal of chemical or toxic material; wildlife and fisheries habitat; and petroleum fuel storage.
2. INAC should also consider the importance of conducting regular Land Use Inspections, pursuant to the authority of the Federal Land Use Permit, while the project is in operation. The Land Use Inspections should be focused on ensuring the Proponent is in compliance with the conditions imposed through the Federal Land Use Permit.

### **Other**

6. The Proponent should consult with the Arviat Hunters and Trappers Organization regarding proposed project activities including timing and location of exploration activities, and developing a Wildlife Monitoring and Mitigation Plan.

## **REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS**

The Proponent is also advised that the following legislation, regulations or guidelines may apply to the project:

1. The *Fisheries Act* (<http://laws.justice.gc.ca/en/showtdm/cs/F-14///en>).

2. The *Nunavut Waters and Nunavut Surface Rights Tribunal Act* (<http://www.canlii.org/ca/sta/n-28.8/whole.html>).
3. The *DIAND Caribou Protection Measures*, as outlined in the Keewatin Regional Land Use Plan (<http://www.nunavut.ca/en/about-commission/important-information/approved-plans>), which contain guidelines to protect calving and post-calving of the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq herds of barren-ground caribou.
4. The *Migratory Birds Convention Act* and *Migratory Birds Regulations* (<http://laws.justice.gc.ca/en/showtdm/cs/M-7.01>).
5. 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.
6. The *Nunavut Wildlife Act* which contains provisions to protect and conserve wildlife and wildlife habitat, including specific protection measures for wildlife habitat and species at risk.
7. 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**.
8. The *Canada-wide Standards for Dioxins and Furans*, and the *Canada-wide Standards for Mercury*. The Proponent shall ensure that emissions from incineration of combustible camp wastes meet all applicable standards for dioxins, furans and mercury.
9. The *Transportation of Dangerous Goods Regulations, Transportation of Dangerous Goods Act* (<http://www.tc.gc.ca/tdg/menu.htm>), and the *Environmental Protection Act* (<http://laws.justice.gc.ca/en/C-15.31/text.html>). 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.
10. The *Aeronautics Act* (<http://laws.justice.gc.ca/en/A-2/>).



## **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 16, 2011 at Cambridge Bay, NU



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Henry Ohokannoak, Vice Chairperson for:  
Lucassie Arragutainaq, 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 March 11, 2011 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received Uranium North Resources Corp's "Aura" project proposal from the Kivalliq Inuit Association (KivIA). On April 1, 2011 the NIRB received a positive conformity determination (Keewatin Regional Land Use Plan) from the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC) for this file. The NIRB assigned this project proposal file number **11EN018**.

This project proposal was distributed to community organizations in Arviat, Baker Lake, Chesterfield Inlet, Rankin Inlet and Whale Cove, 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 6, 2011 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 6, 2011 the NIRB received comments from the following interested parties (see Comments and Concerns section below):

- **Athabasca Denesuliné Negotiation Team (ADNT)**
- **Government of Nunavut – Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth (GN-CLEY)**
- **Environment Canada (EC)**
- **Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Board (BQCMB)**

All information provided to NIRB regarding this project proposal can be viewed on NIRB's ftp-site, at the following location:

<http://ftp.nirb.ca/01-SCREENINGS/COMPLETED%20SCREENINGS/2011/>

#### ***Project Activities***

The objective of the proposed project is to conduct early stage exploration for gold and other base metals. The proposed project is located near Angikuni Lake approximately 335 kilometres (km) west of the community of Arviat in the Kivalliq Region. The program is proposed to take place from early spring to September 2011 and continue to 2016.

The proposed project activities would include:

- Prospecting, geological mapping, sampling, aerial and ground geophysical surveys;
- Exploration drilling (reverse circulation and diamond drilling);

- Helicopter supported drill program, including daily transportation of field crew to drill sites;
- Temporary tent camp facilities for a maximum of twenty (20) people near Angikuni Lake;
- Transporting supplies and fuel using cat train via 330 km overland route from Arviat to camp site;
- Using snowmobiles to evaluate and validate the overland route prior to cat train operations;
- Twin/single otter transport of supplies, fuel and personnel to camp site from Arviat or Baker Lake;
- Fuel storage at camp site (8,200 litres drill fuel, 6,150 litres generator fuel, 11,480 litres heating oil, 41,000 litres aviation fuel, 410 litres gasoline and 6000 pounds propane);
- Temporary storage of chemicals and hazardous materials on site;
- Water use for drilling purposes and camp activities;
- Disposal of sewage, greywater and waste generated from camp operations;
- Incineration of combustible waste; and
- Removal of non-combustible and hazardous waste to an approved disposal facility.

## Appendix B Species 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 ([www.sararegistry.gc.ca](http://www.sararegistry.gc.ca)) to get the current status of a species.

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Updated: August 4, 2009

| Species at Risk                                    | COSEWIC Designation | Schedule of SARA   | Government Organization with Lead Management Responsibility <sup>1</sup> |
|--|---------------------|--|--|
| 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   | Government of Nunavut  |
| Felt-leaf Willow                                   | Special Concern     | Schedule 1   | Government of Nunavut  |
| Peregrine Falcon ( <i>anatum-tundrius</i> complex) | Special Concern     | Schedule 1 ( <i>anatum</i> )<br>Schedule 3 ( <i>tundrius</i> ) | Government of Nunavut  |
| Short-eared Owl                                    | Special Concern     | Schedule 3   | Government of Nunavut  |
| Peary Caribou                                      | Endangered          | Pending  | Government of Nunavut  |
| Beluga Whale (Eastern Hudson Bay population)       | Endangered          | Pending  | DFO  |
| Red Knot ( <i>rufa</i> subspecies)                 | Endangered          | Pending  | EC   |

|  |                 |         |                       |
|--|-----------------|---------|-----------------------|
| Beluga Whale<br>(Cumberland Sound population)                  | Threatened      | Pending | DFO                   |
| Atlantic Cod (Arctic population)                               | Special Concern | Pending | DFO                   |
| Beluga Whale<br>(Western Hudson Bay population)                | Special Concern | Pending | DFO                   |
| Beluga Whale<br>(Eastern High Arctic – Baffin Bay population)  | Special Concern | Pending | DFO                   |
| Bowhead Whale<br>(Eastern Canada – West Greenland population)  | Special Concern | Pending | DFO                   |
| Killer Whale (Northwest Atlantic / Eastern Arctic populations) | Special Concern | Pending | DFO                   |
| Porsild's Bryum  | Threatened      | Pending | Government of Nunavut |
| Atlantic Walrus  | Special Concern | Pending | DFO                   |
| Narwhal  | Special Concern | Pending | DFO                   |
| Red Knot ( <i>islandica</i> subspecies)                        | Special Concern | Pending | EC                    |
| Horned Grebe (Western population)                              | Special Concern | Pending | EC                    |
| Barren-ground Caribou (Dolphin and Union population)           | Special Concern | Pending | Government of Nunavut |
| Grizzly Bear   | Special Concern | Pending | Government of Nunavut |
| Polar Bear   | Special Concern | Pending | Government of Nunavut |
| Wolverine (Western Population)                                 | Special Concern | Pending | Government of Nunavut |

<sup>1</sup> 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. The Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) has responsibility for management of aquatic species.



## 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:

|    | <b>Types of Development</b><br>(See Guidelines below)   | <b>Function</b><br>(See Guidelines below)                              |
|----|---|--|
| a) | Large scale prospecting   | Archaeological/Palaeontological 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*<sup>1</sup> to issue such permits.

- 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]*

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<sup>1</sup> P.C. 2001-1111 14 June, 2001

*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*<sup>2</sup>, 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*<sup>3</sup>, 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*

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<sup>2</sup> s. 51(1)

<sup>3</sup> 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.