

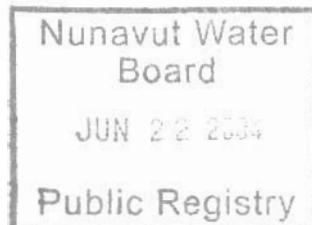


**Environment Environnement
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June 21, 2004

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Our file: 4703 003 / 4704 001

Via Facsimile

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RE: NWB2DAR / NIRB 04CN056 – Geological Mapping Project – Hamish Sanderman

On behalf of Environment Canada (EC), I have reviewed the information submitted with the above-mentioned application. The following specialist advice has been provided pursuant to Environment Canada's mandated responsibilities for the enforcement of the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act*, Section 36(3) of the *Fisheries Act*, the *Migratory Birds Convention Act*, and the *Species at Risk Act*.

Hamish Sanderman is proposing to set up a temporary camp to facilitate a geological mapping project on the Boothia Mainland area, immediately south of Taloyoak, NU. The project is designed to evaluate the economic potential of the region through framework bedrock mapping and upgrading of the surficial geoscience information. Foot traverses with helicopter drop-offs and pick-ups will be completed, based out of a 15 person camp.

The proposed work will be taking place near the Rasmussen Lowlands. The Rasmussen Lowlands is designated as a RAMSAR site (Wetland of International Importance) by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) and as a Key Migratory Bird Terrestrial Habitat Site by the Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) of Environment Canada. This area supports at least 35 nesting bird species and 5 of these species have 1% of their population using this area. Birds breeding in this area include: eastern arctic population of the Tundra Swan, King Eiders, Long-tailed Duck, Red Phalaropes, American Golden-Plover, Greater White-fronted Geese, Lesser Snow Geese, Sabine's Gulls, and many other migratory birds species. Also, Peregrine Falcons use the escarpments bordering the lowlands as an important breeding area. Please see the CWS Occasional Paper #101 "Assessment of bird populations in the Rasmussen Lowlands, Nunavut" (2000) for further information.

Environment Canada recommends that the following conditions be applied throughout all stages of the project:

- Drips pans, or other similar preventative measures, should be used when refueling equipment on site
- All sumps for the disposal of camp grey water and sewage shall be located above the high water mark of any waterbody and in such a manner as to prevent the contents from entering any waterbody frequented by fish. Further, all sumps shall be backfilled upon completion of the field season and recontoured to match the surrounding environment.



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- All fuel caches shall be located above the high water mark of any waterbody and in such a manner as to prevent the contents from entering any waterbody frequented by fish. Environment Canada also recommends the use of secondary containment, such as self-supporting insta-berms, when storing barreled fuel on location.
- In order to mitigate potential effects and minimize disturbance to migratory birds, the CWS strongly recommends that any aircraft used in conducting project activities should maintain a horizontal distance of 2 km and a vertical distance of 610 m from any observed groups (colonies) of birds.

If there are any changes in the proposed project, EC should be notified, as further review may be necessary. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or comments with regards to the foregoing at (867) 975-4639 or by email at colette.meloche@ec.gc.ca.

Yours truly,

Colette Meloche

Environmental Assessment / Contaminated Sites Specialist

cc: (Paula Pacholek, Northern Environmental Assessment Coordinator, Environment Canada, Yellowknife)