



**SCREENING DECISION REPORT
NIRB FILE No.: 25EN034**

*Related to NIRB File Nos.: 12MN043 & 12YA007
Commission File No.: 150635
Related to Commission File Nos.: 149985 & 149834*

August 25, 2025

Following the Nunavut Impact Review Board’s (NIRB or Board) assessment of all materials provided, the NIRB is recommending that a review of MMG Resources Inc.’s “Izok Corridor Exploration Project” is not required pursuant to Article 12, Section 12.4.4(a) of the *Agreement between the Inuit of the Nunavut Settlement Area and Her Majesty the Queen in right of Canada (Nunavut Agreement)* and s. 92(1)(a) of the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act, S.C. 2013, c. 14, s. 2 (NuPPAA)*.

Subject to the Proponent’s compliance with the terms and conditions as set out in below, issued in accordance with s. 92(2)(a) of *NuPPAA*, the NIRB is of the view that the project proposal is not likely to cause significant public concerns, and it is unlikely to result in significant adverse environmental and social impacts. The NIRB therefore recommends that the responsible Minister accepts this Screening Decision Report.

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REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

The primary objectives of the NIRB are set out in Article 12, Section 12.2.5 of the *Nunavut Agreement* and are confirmed by s. 23 of the *NuPPAA*. The purpose of screening is provided for under Article 12, Section 12.4.1 of the *Nunavut Agreement* and s. 88 of the *NuPPAA*.

As set out under Article 12, Section 12.4.4 of the *Nunavut Agreement* and s. 92(1) of the *NuPPAA*, upon conclusion of the screening process, the Board must provide its written report the Minister indicating one of three options:

- (a) a review of the project is not required.
- (b) a review of the project is required; or
- (c) the project should be modified or abandoned.

PROJECT OVERVIEW & THE NIRB ASSESSMENT PROCESS

On April 16, 2025 the NIRB received a referral to screen MMG Resources Inc.’s “Izok Corridor Exploration Project” project proposal (NIRB File No.: 25EN034) from the Nunavut Planning Commission (Commission), which noted that the project proposal is outside the area of an applicable regional land use plan. The Commission determined that the project proposal is a significant modification to the previously screened works and activities associated with NIRB File 12MN043 because of the increased geographical extent and intensity of mineral exploration activities.

All documents received and pertaining to this project proposal can be accessed from the NIRB’s Public Registry by using any of the following search criteria or www.nirb.ca/project/126178:

- Project Name: Izok Corridor Exploration Project
- NIRB File No.: 25EN034
- NIRB Application No.: 126178

1. Screening Process Timelines

The following key stages were completed for the screening process:

Table 1: NIRB’s Assessment Process

Date	Stage
April 16, 2025	Receipt of project proposal and referral from the Commission.
April 16, 2025	Request to complete public registry online and provide information pursuant to s. 144(1) of the <i>NuPPAA</i> .
May 9, 2025	Receipt of online application from Proponent
May 30, 2025	Scoping pursuant to s. 86(1) of the <i>NuPPAA</i>
June 25, 2025	NIRB conducted an inclusion or exclusion of scope
June 25, 2025	Public engagement and comment request (which included terms and conditions) was issued in English and translations were issued later to the communities of Cambridge Bay and Kugluktuk

Date	Stage
July 14, 2025	Pursuant to s. 92(4) of the <i>NuPPAA</i> , a ministerial extension was from the Minister of Northern and Arctic Affairs seeking an extension to the 45-day timeline for the provision of the Board's Report
July 15, 2025	Receipt of public comments
July 22, 2025	Proponent provided with an opportunity to address comments/concerns raised by public
July 22, 2025	Proponent responded to comments/concerns raised by public
August 25, 2025	Issuance of Screening Decision Report

2. Project Scope

Project:	Izok Corridor Exploration Project
Location:	Kitikmeot region, Izok Corridor: High Lake and Izok Lake areas; approximately 150 kilometres (km) east and 210 km southeast of Kugluktuk
Summary of Project Description:	The Proponent intends to amend the scope of previously approved activities to conduct mineral exploration in newly acquired mineral claim areas.
Project Proposed Timeline:	April 2025 to December 2028, with exploration occurring during summer, fall and/or winter seasons

As required under s. 86(1) of the *NuPPAA*, the Board accepts the scope of the project as set out by MMG Resources Inc. in the proposal. The scope of the project proposal includes the following undertakings, works, or activities:

- Conduct geophysical surveys which includes ground electromagnetic and induced polarization surveys;
- Conduct surface exploration and geotechnical drilling of approximately 28 drill holes in 2025 with the use of diamond drills and reverse circulation drills. Subsequent exploration would be based on results of the previous year;
- Conduct additional research activities including air or ground-based surveys, mapping, sampling, staking, environmental monitoring, and archaeological studies;
- Use and/or establishment of camps as follows:
 - Initial use of Bluestar Gold's Ulu Camp until the Izok and High Lake Camps are ready;
 - Use of High Lake camp with a maximum occupancy of 30 people;
 - Use of Izok Lake camp with a maximum occupancy of 30 people;
 - Establishment of smaller temporary camps to support remote seasonal exploration activities including archaeological surveys;
- Access camps via float plane and fixed-wing aircraft;
- Storage of fuel and chemicals at each camp site;
- Potential use of two (2) incinerators at each camp to incinerate suitable wastes and removal of all other wastes to Yellowknife for proper disposal;
- Use of water to support exploration activities and camp operations with total volume of water no exceeding 100 cubic metres per day;

- Management of drilling water and camp grey water as per the Nunavut Water Board water licence;
- Use of CAT Dozer to construct airstrip on frozen lake;
- Use of helicopter and/or fixed-wing aircraft to transport personnel and equipment between camp and exploration targets;
- Limited use of snowmachines in winter to transport personnel and equipment between camp and exploration targets;
- Use of all-terrain vehicles in summer and fall within camp areas to move equipment and supplies; and,
- Source Project personnel, materials and services from Kitikmeot communities with on-the-job training provided as required.

3. Inclusion or Exclusion to Scoping List

The NIRB has identified that the previously assessed development and operation of a base metal mining and milling project with an estimated operating life of twelve years (12MN043) and baseline field programs at the Izok Lake property, the High Lake property, and Gray’s Bay (12YA007) as separate activities to what is currently being proposed. Further information on the activities previously approved can be accessed from the NIRB’s online public registry at www.nirb.ca/project/124150 and www.nirb.ca/project/124163, respectively.

4. Public Comments and Concerns

Notices regarding the NIRB’s screening of this project proposal were distributed to community organizations (Table 1) as well as to relevant federal and territorial government agencies, Inuit organizations and other parties requesting they provide the Board with any comments or concerns 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 or socio-economic effects; and if so, why;
- Whether the project proposal is likely to cause significant adverse impacts on wildlife habitat or Inuit harvest activities; and if so, why;
- Whether the project proposal is of a type where the potential adverse effects are highly predictable and mitigable with known technology, (and providing any recommended mitigation measures); and
- Any matter of importance to the Party related to the project proposal.

On or before July 15, 2025 the NIRB received comments from the following interested parties:

Table 2: Comments Received

Commenting Party	NIRB Doc ID No.
Nunavut Tunngavik Inc.	356694
Kitikmeot Inuit Association	356468
Government of Nunavut	356696
Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada	356490
Environment and Climate Change Canada	356466 & 356467
Fisheries and Oceans Canada	356479

Commenting Party	NIRB Doc ID No.
Transport Canada	356276
Government of Northwest Territories	356504 & 356503

a. Summary of Comments and Concerns Received

The following provides a summary of the comments and concerns received by the NIRB in relation to “Izok Corridor Exploration Project”:

Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. (NTI):

- Summarized NTI’s roles in the NIRB process; NTI’s understanding of the context of the project proposal; the nature of the documents submitted by the Proponent; and responded to the questions posed by the NIRB.
- Noted management plans and contingency documents are outdated and need to be reviewed to reflect current environmental conditions or regulatory expectations, specifically the Wildlife Management Plan. The plan refers to a different project operator with different project components that do not exist, refers to out-of-date data regarding wildlife populations, contains outdated hyperlinks, identifies personnel who are not working for the organization, and do not mention the use of Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit, Indigenous knowledge or community knowledge.
- Recommended the Proponent fully rework the Wildlife Management Plan to reflect the proposed project with updated scientific information and mitigation measures, with information about the environment and wildlife populations gained from Inuit knowledge holders.
- NTI noted that at present does not believe the project as proposed raises significant public concern, assuming any adverse impacts on wildlife habitat or Inuit harvest activities can be properly mitigated.
- NTI noted that an appropriate wildlife management and mitigation strategy must be produced before being able to answer whether the project proposal is of a type where the adverse effects are highly predictable and mitigable with known technology.
- Recommended the NIRB impose a condition that work cannot begin until a new wildlife management study has been developed and approved by the NIRB, following review and opportunities for comments by the public and Inuit organizations.
- Recommended that the NIRB not simply impose the terms and conditions that were attached to previous approvals but instead review these terms and conditions in detail to ensure that they remain appropriate given the passage of time, the growing collection of Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit (IQ) from other projects in the past 15 years, developments in scientific knowledge, and intervening development activities.
- Recommended that a that a review be required of the project impacts take place after two years to ensure that there are no unanticipated adverse impacts on wildlife.

Kitikmeot Inuit Association (KIA):

- Noted concern that the proposed project in conjunction with other potential operations in the West Kitikmeot region has the potential to contribute to cumulative impacts; particularly on wildlife populations, habitat and Inuit land use.

- Noted that management plans and contingency documents are outdated and need to be reviewed and updated to reflect current environmental conditions, regulatory expectations and Inuit knowledge in order to effectively mitigate potential impacts.
- Emphasized the importance of meaningful and direct engagement with designated Inuit organizations should be conducted beyond the regulatory requirements to include detailed discussions around project design, potential effects on IQ, wildlife, ecosystem health and Inuit use of the land and waters.

Government of Nunavut (GN):

- Noted concerns regarding the contents of the Wildlife Management Plan related to caribou protection measures. The management plan is outdated, lacks clear thresholds (caribou numbers, group composition, etc.) that would trigger suspension of operations, does not adequately address the vulnerabilities of caribou during different seasons, and does not align with or exceed current caribou protection measures utilized by operating projects in Nunavut. Recommended updating materials to be consistent with other plans and include items referred to with respect to caribou.
- Noted concern that caribou herding procedures or deterring caribou would be used to allow for the purpose of the continuation of project activities. The GN does not support these actions unless they are undertaken in exceptional circumstances when there is a legitimate risk to the safety of caribou or people.

Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC):

- Recommended the Proponent store incompatible hazardous materials in separate, labelled, secured containment areas and submit an updated Waste Disposal Plan to the NIRB.
- Recommended the Closure and Reclamation Plan be updated to reflect the Proponent's commitment to carry out progressive reclamation of any components of the Project no longer required for operations. The plan should be submitted to the NIRB.
- Noted concerns that the proposed project in conjunction with other potential operations in the region has the potential to contribute to cumulative impacts and adversely affect the habitat of the Dolphin and Union, Bathurst and Beverly caribou herds. Recommended the Proponent assess the following: potential cumulative impacts of increasing mining and infrastructure development in the region, cumulative impacts on caribou herds; and transboundary issues. This could be provided as part of the annual report or as a standalone memo.
- Recommended the Proponent continue to consult with the communities, the Hunters and Trappers Associations, and any other relevant organizations on the proposed project. Recommended the Proponent consult on several issues including the following:
 - Incorporation of IQ;
 - Mitigation measures designed to prevent any disturbance to wildlife and the environment.
 - Mitigation measures designed to prevent disturbance to sites with cultural sites and/or environmental significance.
 - Experience of community members who practice traditional and recreational activities within or near the project area(s);
 - Training, employment opportunities, and local procurement opportunities; and,
 - Providing regular updates on the status of the project activities.

- Recommended the Proponent prioritize the employment and training of Nunavut Inuit throughout the implementation of project activities.

Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC):

- Recommended the Proponent ensures awareness of what species at risk are present in the project area and ensure compliance with the *Species at Risk Act* (SARA).
- Noted concerns with potential impacts to species at risk from the proposed project activities. Recommended the following:
 - Review Appendix I of the SARA for a list of species that are likely encountered in the Project area;
 - Identify adverse effects of the Project on the species at risk likely to be affected and their critical habitat;
 - Ensure that measures are taken to avoid or lessen those adverse effects and monitor them to inform adaptive management;
 - Mitigation and monitoring measures be consistent with applicable species at risk Recovery Strategies and Action Plans or Management Plans;
 - At a minimum, monitoring should include recording the timing and location of observed species at risk, their behavior when encountered, and actions taken by the Proponent to avoid disturbance to the species, its habitat, and/or its residence;
 - The Proponent submit monitoring reports to the appropriate regulators and organizations with management responsibility for that species
- Noted concern regarding potential impacts within migratory bird habitats during nesting season. Recommended the Proponent carry out all phases of the Project in a manner that reduces risk to migratory birds and to avoid harming, killing or disturbing migratory birds or destroying, disturbing or taking their nests and eggs
- Noted Management Plans should be updated to ensure proper agencies are contacted regarding specific responsibilities. Specifically, recommended:
 - ECCC be notified for instances involving interactions and incidents involving the potential disturbance of individuals or nests and any mortality events of these species; and
 - Wildlife management and monitoring plans be updated in relation to these species.
- Recommended the Spill Contingency Plan be updated to ensure spill kits are appropriately equipped and readily accessible at all work sites, including exploration operations away from the camp.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO):

- Noted the Proponent would be following DFO's Interim Code of Practice: End-of-pipe fish protection screens for small water intakes in Freshwater Intakes.

Transport Canada (TC):

- Noted works within navigable waterways are subject to the *Canadian Navigable Waters Act* (CNWA) and the Proponent would need to complete self-assessments of the navigability of all waterways where works would be occurring. If a waterway is navigable, the water intake that would be used for water withdrawal may be considered a "minor work" under the CNWA.

- Noted that shippers preparing dangerous goods for shipment via air transportation must have International Civil Aviation Organization training.

Government of Northwest Territories (GNWT):

- Noted management plans and contingency documents are outdated and need to be reviewed to reflect current environmental conditions or regulatory expectations, specifically the Wildlife Management Plan.
- Recommended the Wildlife Management Plan be updated to incorporate current wildlife mitigation practices, and include relevant recommendations from existing range plans for caribou herds with in the project area.
- Collaborate with the GNWT to implement an Information Release Agreement, ensuring access to regularly updated GPS caribou collar data

5. Comments and Concerns with respect to Inuit Qaujimaningit, Indigenous and Community Knowledge

No concerns or comments were received with respect to Inuit Qaujimaningit, Indigenous and Community Knowledge in relation to this project proposal. However, Inuit Qaujimaningit and Indigenous and community knowledge is incorporated into the terms and conditions recommended below based on information collected from prior and similar projects, data collected and mapped by the Commission, and other available sources.

6. Proponent’s Response to Public Comments and Concerns

Due to the comments, and questions received from parties, the NIRB provided an opportunity for the Proponent to respond. The following is a summary of the Proponent’s response to concerns:

- Proponent noted that it is actively evaluating and updating all existing management plans and developing additional plans and will submit these plans to the NIRB public registry on or before August 5, 2025.
- Committed to adhering to permit and licence conditions that are currently in place and conditions that may also be provided through the project screening process by the NIRB.
- In response to NTI’s comments, the Proponent noted the following:
 - Would like to take the opportunity to clarify that the scope of the current application is to modify the spatial extent of two existing CIRNAC land use permits (issued July 2024) and two existing Nunavut Water Board Water Licences (issued February 2023 and May 2023) for mineral exploration activities. While mine development is a potential future activity that may be undertaken by the company in the future, mine development (NIRB reference file no. 12MN043) or other intensive activities are not part of this NIRB screening.
 - Commits to a careful review and update of the Wildlife Management Plan to reflect current conditions, updated scientific information and wildlife mitigation measures.
 - Recognizes the importance of engagement with stakeholders and is currently organising engagement activities commencing this August with regular continuing consultation. Topics of engagement will include current and future exploration and mining plans, exploration activities and schedules, cumulative impacts on the environment including wildlife and especially caribou, wildlife mitigation measures and potential impacts, inclusion of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, Indigenous

knowledge and community knowledge in Wildlife Management Strategy and socioeconomic topics.

- In response to KIA’s comments; the Proponent noted the following:
 - Recognizes the importance of engagement with stakeholders and will be conducting engagement activities commencing this August with regular continuing consultation. Topics of engagement will include those as outlined above under the responses to NTI’s comments.
 - Commits to a careful review and update of the plans to reflect current conditions, updated scientific information and mitigation measures.
- In response to GN’s comments, the Proponent noted the following:
 - Commits to careful review and update of the Wildlife Management Plan to reflect current conditions for caribou herds, updating scientific information and wildlife mitigation measures, including addressing seasonal stages of caribou vulnerability, and identifying thresholds for suspensions of operations.
 - Currently working with GNWT to establish an Information Release Agreement that facilitates access to GPS caribou collar maps, and is also working on aligning with current caribou protection measures utilized in Nunavut, by other operators, which are acceptable to the GN.
- In response to CIRNAC’s comments, the Proponent noted the following:
 - Commits to providing a Waste Management Plan that also incorporates measurements to store incompatible hazardous materials in separate, labelled, secured containment areas.
 - The updated Closure and Reclamation Plan (2023) outlines three (3) site closure scenarios – long term care and maintenance, seasonal closure and final closure. This will be reviewed and revised to reflect the current exploration program and submitted to the NIRB.
 - Following 2024 CIRNAC inspections, the Proponent noted its commitment to closure and restoration of all drill holes and disturbed areas upon final closure of exploration tenements. Consistent with the ongoing reclamation and restoration, the Proponent will close new drill sites following the removal of each drill rig.
 - Recognizes the importance of engagement with stakeholders and will be conducting engagement activities commencing this August with regular continuing consultation. Topics of engagement will include those as outlined above under the responses to NTI’s comments.
 - Committed to sourcing Project personnel, materials and services from Kitikmeot communities and offers on-the-job training as required. Currently employing two local Inuit and supports local community initiatives, with plans to employ a local community relations person in the coming months, as well as temporary employment of wildlife monitors to support field mapping and archaeology programs.
- In response to ECCC’s comments, the Proponent noted the following:
 - Will update the Wildlife Management Plan to incorporate the most current information about species at risk and their critical habitat.
 - Will follow the *Migratory Birds and Convention Act* (MBCA) and the Migratory Birds Regulations and will also engage with the Government of Nunavut to

- collaborate on appropriate mitigation and monitoring measures with respect to species at risk.
- Commits to following applicable MBCA recommendations to avoid harming, killing, or disturbing migratory birds or destroying, disturbing, or taking the nests or eggs of migratory birds.
- Will include ECCC in the Wildlife Management Plan as a contact regarding interactions and incidents involving migratory birds or their nests.
- Will update spill response plans to reflect recommendations made by ECCC.
- In response to DFO’s comments, the Proponent noted the following that it appreciates DFOs review and comment.
- In response to TC’s comments, the Proponent noted the following:
 - Acknowledges the requirements to follow the applicable regulatory requirements regarding self-assessment of the navigability of all waterways. The requirements for water intakes to be minor works will be reviewed and the Project Review Tool will be employed as required.
 - Notes that the shipment of dangerous goods will be done in accordance with the Transportation of Dangerous Goods Regulations.
- In response to the GNWT’s comments, the Proponent noted the following:
 - Commits to a careful review and update of the Wildlife Management Plan to reflect current conditions for caribou herds, updated scientific information and wildlife mitigation measures.
 - Has begun engagement with the GNWT to establish an Information Release Agreement that facilitates access to GPS caribou collar maps and will incorporate this information into exploration program planning.

ASSESSMENT OF THE PROJECT PROPOSAL IN ACCORDANCE WITH PART 3 OF *NUPPAA*

In determining whether a review of the project is required, the Board considered whether the project proposal had potential to result in significant ecosystemic or socio-economic impacts. Table 3. The Board took particular care to consider Inuit Qaujimaningit, Indigenous and Community Knowledge in carrying out its assessment and determination of the significance of impacts.

The following is a summary of the Board’s assessment of the factors that are relevant to the determination of significant impacts with respect of this project proposal:

Table 3: Summary of the Board’s Assessment of Factors s. 90 *NuPPAA*

Factor	Comment
The size of the geographic area, including the size of wildlife habitats, likely to be affected by the impacts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The physical footprint of the proposed project components is located within 68 new mineral claims in the Izok Corridor Project Area. ▪ The proposed project would take place within habitats of far-ranging wildlife species such as migratory and non-migratory birds, fox, Arctic hare, wolf, wolverine, caribou, muskox and Species at Risk such as Polar Bears, Dolphin and Union

Factor	Comment
	caribou, Harris' sparrow, red-necked phalarope, short-eared owl, grizzly bear.
The ecosystemic sensitivity of that area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No specific areas of ecosystemic sensitivity have been identified by the Proponent within the physical footprint of the proposed project.
The historical, cultural and archaeological significance of that area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No specific areas of historical, cultural and archaeological significance have been identified by the Proponent within the physical footprint of the proposed project. However, the Proponent is proposing to conduct archaeological studies to support the exploration activities.
The size of the human and the animal populations likely to be affected by the impacts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The proposed project is unlikely to result in impacts to local human and animal populations.
The nature, magnitude and complexity of the impacts; the probability of the impacts occurring; the frequency and duration of the impacts; and the reversibility or irreversibility of the impacts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A zone of influence of up to 30 km from the most potentially-disruptive project activities was selected for the NIRB's assessment. ▪ With adherence to the relevant regulatory requirements and application of the mitigation measures recommended by the NIRB, no significant residual effects are expected to occur.
The cumulative impacts that could result from the impacts of the project combined with those of any other project that has been carried out, is being carried out or is likely to be carried out.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Board recognizes an extensive number of past, ongoing, and reasonably foreseeable projects may occur within the project's zone of influence. The Board has recommended mitigation measures designed with consideration for the potential for cumulative effects associated with this proposal.
Any other factor that the Board considers relevant to the assessment of the significance of impacts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No other relevant factors were identified; however, see below for Regulatory Requirements mandating mitigation and/or reporting.

Regulatory Requirements

The Proponent is also advised that the following legislation may apply to the Project:

Acts and Regulations

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://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/n-28.8/>).
3. The *Migratory Birds Convention Act* (<http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/M-7.01/>), the *Migratory Birds Regulations* (https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/regulations/C.R.C.,_c._1035/index.html) and the *Migratory Bird Sanctuary Regulations* (https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/regulations/C.R.C.,_c._1036/index.html).

4. The *Species at Risk Act* (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/s-15.3/>). Attached in **Appendix A** is a list of Species at Risk in Nunavut.
5. The *Wildlife Act (Nunavut)* and its corresponding regulations (<http://www.canlii.org/en/nu/laws/stat/snu-2003-c-26/latest/snu-2003-c-26.html>).
6. The *Nunavut Act* (<http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/N-28.6/>). The Proponent must comply with the proposed terms and conditions listed in the attached **Appendix B**.
7. The *Transportation of Dangerous Goods Act* (<http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/t-19.01/>) and the *Transportation of Dangerous Goods Regulations* (<http://www.tc.gc.ca/eng/tdg/clear-tofc-211.htm>).
8. The *Canadian Environmental Protection Act* (<http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-15.31/>).

The Proponent is advised that the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act* lists calcium chloride (CaCl) as a toxic substance. The Proponent should assess alternatives to the use of CaCl as a drill additive, including biodegradable and non-toxic additives.

9. The incineration of combustible camp wastes shall comply with the *Canadian Wide Standards for Dioxins and Furans* (https://www.ccme.ca/en/resources/air/dioxins_furans.html), and the *Canadian Wide Standards for Mercury* (<https://www.ccme.ca/en/resources/air/mercury.html>).
10. The *Aeronautics Act* (<http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/A-2/>) and the *Canadian Aviation Regulations* (<https://www.tc.gc.ca/eng/acts-regulations/regulations-sor96-433.html>).

Other Applicable Guidelines

11. Environmental Guideline for the Burning and Incineration of Solid Waste, Government of Nunavut, Revised January 2012 (https://www.gov.nu.ca/sites/default/files/guideline_-_burning_and_incineration_of_solid_waste_2012.pdf).

VIEWS OF THE BOARD

In considering the above factors, the Board has identified the following and respectfully provides its views regarding whether or not the proposed project has the potential to result in significant impacts. The NIRB has also proposed terms and conditions that would mitigate the potential adverse impacts identified.

Ecosystem, wildlife habitat and Inuit harvesting activities:

Valued Component	Migratory and non-migratory birds, terrestrial wildlife and Species at Risk
Potential effects:	Potential adverse effects to migratory and non-migratory birds, terrestrial wildlife, (such as caribou, foxes, wolves, wolverine) and Species at Risk (such as Polar Bears, Dolphin and Union caribou, Harris’ sparrow, red-necked phalarope, short-eared owl, grizzly bear), and their migratory routes from noise and visual disturbance generated from the

	exploration activities of the proposed project including development of temporary camp(s), transportation of personnel and equipment to exploration targets or research sites via helicopter and/or fixed-wing aircraft, and conducting research activities.
Nature of Impacts:	The potential for impact(s) is applicable to approximately 28 drill holes within 68 new mineral claims with subsequent exploration programs based on results of previous years and is considered to be likely and intensive during the project activities. The project area is within the home ranges of wildlife and migratory birds habituated to the project area. The potential for impacts are considered to be limited and temporary, and any resulting impacts would be expected to be reversible and temporary only once the exploration activities are complete.
Mitigating Factors:	<p>The Proponent proposes to minimize impacts to wildlife by following its Wildlife Management Plan which outlines mitigation methods to prevent or reduce impacts to caribou, other wildlife and the terrestrial environment during project activities. In addition, the Proponent committed to train personnel on wildlife-human interaction/encounters and conduct pre-drilling reconnaissance site visits to identify sensitive wildlife habitat.</p> <p>The Board is recommending seasonal restrictions which are expected to mitigate potential adverse impacts to terrestrial wildlife and migratory birds.</p>
Proposed Terms and Conditions:	<p>Waste Management – 9 Fuel and Chemical Storage – 19 Wildlife-General – 2 through 26 Migratory Birds and Raptors Disturbance – 27 and 30 Aircraft Flight Restrictions – 31 through 36 Caribou and Muskoxen Disturbance – 37 through 42</p>

Valued Component	Surface water quality, freshwater and aquatics, and fish and fish habitat
Potential effects:	Potential adverse impacts to freshwater quantity and quality, and fish and fish habitat are likely from the exploration and research activities including the use of temporary camp(s), withdrawal of water for drilling activities and domestic use, dust from the use of helicopter, fixed-wing aircraft and all-terrain vehicles, incineration of materials, and storage of fuel and chemicals.
Nature of Impacts:	The potential impacts are considered to be limited and temporary and any resulting potential adverse effects would be expected to be low in magnitude, and reversible in nature.
Mitigating Factors:	The Proponent proposes to use minimal amount of water in the drilling activities by using chilled brine, plug any artesian wells to reduce impacts to water quality, and use sumps for depositing settled fines a minimum 30 metres from surface waterbodies. Further, the Proponent committed to follow its Spill Contingency Plan in the event of any spills.

	The Board recommends that the Proponent follows regulatory authorities' guidance and engage community members to avoid, reduce, and off-set the harm to freshwater fish and fish habitat, including in the selection of exploration sites, temporary camps and sumps. In addition, the Board is recommending terms and conditions which are expected to mitigate potential adverse impacts to the aquatic environment.
Proposed Terms and Conditions:	Water Courses/Water Bodies – 6 through 8 Waste Management – 9 and 10 Fuel and Chemical Storage – 11 through 13, 17 and 20 Air Quality – 21 Road and Ground Disturbance – 44 and 45 Drilling-General – 46 and 47 Drilling on Land – 49, 50 and 52 Camps – 59

Valued Component	Land, terrestrial vegetation and ground stability
Potential effects:	Potential adverse impacts to the ground stability, vegetation quality, and terrain due to the development and use of temporary camps, exploration drilling activities, transportation of personnel, storage of fuel and chemicals, and incineration of materials.
Nature of Impacts:	The potential for impacts is considered to be limited and temporary if regulations and best practices for exploration and research activities are followed. The potential for impacts due to other activities is considered to be minimal due to the localized nature of the exploration and research activities.
Mitigating Factors:	The Proponent proposes to implement field protocols to ensure there is no brine spillage and using closed systems on drill water return. Further, drilling would be completed from a constructed temporary plank floor to prevent compaction and disturbance of vegetation. The Proponent also committed to follow its Spill Contingency Plan in the event of any spills. The Board is recommending terms and conditions to ensure that project activities do not negatively affect land, terrestrial vegetation, and ground stability.
Proposed Terms and Conditions:	Waste Management – 9 Fuel and Chemical Storage – 11 through 18 and 20 Air Quality – 21 Wildlife (General) – 23 Road and Ground Disturbance – 43 and 44 Drilling-General – 46 and 48 Drilling on Land – 50, 51 and 53 Land Use and Restoration of Disturbed Areas – 54 through 57 Camps – 58

Valued Component	Air quality
Potential effects:	Potential adverse effects to air quality from emissions and dust due to incineration activities of materials, and transportation of personnel to and from exploration and research sites.
Nature of Impacts:	The potential for adverse impacts are considered to be likely during the proposed activities as the incineration activities may increase emissions. In addition, the use of vehicles for camp activities and aircrafts for transportation of personnel between sites would increase dust in the area. The potential for impacts are considered to be limited and temporary and any resulting impacts would be expected to be reversible once the exploration activities are complete.
Mitigating Factors:	The Board is recommending terms and conditions to ensure the project activities do not negatively affect air quality.
Proposed Terms and Conditions:	Waste Management – 10 Air Quality – 21 and 22

Valued Component	Public and Traditional Land Use Activities
Potential effects:	No specific concerns or impacts to public and traditional land use activities in the area have been identified.
Nature of Impacts:	The potential for impacts is considered to be minimal due to the temporary and low-impact nature of the activities and any resulting impacts would be expected to be reversible.
Mitigating Factors:	It is possible that the area could be used for traditional activities; however, no comments were received from the nearest communities on this aspect. The Board is also recommending the Proponent engage with local residents if possible and practical, regarding planned activities in the area to ensure project activities are informed by available Inuit Qaujimaningit and that project activities do not interfere with Inuit wildlife harvesting or traditional land use activities, and to ensure safety to the public.
Proposed Terms and Conditions:	Waste Management – 9 Fuel and Chemical Storage – 11 and 19 Wildlife-General – 23 Road and Ground Disturbance – 43 Drilling-General – 48 Land Use and Restoration of Disturbed Areas – 54 and 55 Public Consultation – 63 Traditional Harvesting – 64

Socio-economic effects on northerners:

Valued Component	Historical, Cultural and Archaeological Sites
Potential effects:	No historical sites in the proposed project area were identified by the Proponent within the physical footprint of the proposed project.
Nature of Impacts:	The potential for impacts are considered minimal due to the nature of the activities.

Mitigating Factors:	<p>The Proponent committed to conducting archaeological studies in areas where the temporary camps would be set in order to protect any archaeological sites. In addition, personnel would be trained on archaeological resource identification and project activities would be stopped if any sites or specimen are found.</p> <p>The Board notes that the Proponent is required to contact the Culture and Heritage Department when encountering any historical sites. The Board is also recommending terms and conditions to ensure that project activities do not negatively affect historical or heritage sites.</p>
Proposed Terms and Conditions:	Heritage Sites – 60 through 62

Valued Component	Employment and economic opportunities
Potential effects:	Potential positive impacts as the proposed project would continue to provide employment and training for personnel from local communities.
Nature of Impacts:	Positive economic benefits as employment provides jobs, employment benefits and income to individuals and families in communities and contributes to the local economy.
Mitigating Factors:	The Board recommends terms and conditions to ensure the Proponent continues to inform the community of the proposed exploration activities, provides training and employment opportunities to the residents of local communities.
Proposed Terms and Conditions:	Public Consultation – 63 Local Hiring and Services – 65

Significant public concern:

Valued Component	Public Concerns
Potential effects:	No significant public concern was expressed during the public commenting period for this file.
Nature of Impacts:	The potential for impacts is considered to be minimal as long as the Proponent follows the recommended terms and conditions.
Mitigating Factors:	The Proponent noted that it held a community meeting in January 2025 in Resolute Bay to discuss the planned remediation at Isachsen. The Board is recommending terms and conditions to ensure that to the extent possible, the Proponent hire locally and access local services where possible, and to ensure planned activities in the area utilizes available Inuit Qaujimaningit.
Proposed Terms and Conditions:	Public Consultation – 63 Local Hiring and Access Local Services– 65

Technological innovations for which the effects are unknown:

- No specific issues have been identified associated with this project proposal.

Administrative Conditions:

To encourage compliance with applicable regulatory requirements and assist the Board and responsible authorities with compliance and effects monitoring for project activities, the following project-specific terms and conditions have been recommended: 1-5.

In considering the above factors and subject to the Proponent's compliance with regulatory requirements and the terms and conditions necessary to mitigate against the potential adverse environmental and social effects, the Board is of the view that the proposed project is unlikely to cause significant public concern and its adverse ecosystemic and socioeconomic impacts are unlikely to be significant, or are highly predictable and can be adequately mitigated by known technologies.

RECOMMENDED PROJECT-SPECIFIC TERMS AND CONDITIONS

The Board is recommending the following specific terms and conditions to apply in respect of the project:

General

1. MMG Resources Inc. (the Proponent) shall maintain a copy of the Project Terms and Conditions at the site of operation at all times and make it accessible to enforcement officers upon request.
2. The Proponent shall operate in accordance with all commitments stated in correspondence provided to the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC File No.: 150635), and the NIRB (Online Application Form, May 9, 2025). This information should be accessible to enforcement officers upon request.
3. The Proponent shall operate the site in accordance with all applicable Acts, Regulations and Guidelines.
4. The Proponent shall ensure that it meets the standards and/or limits as set out in the authorizing agencies' permits or licences as required for this project.
5. The Proponent shall ensure that all personnel, staff and contractors are adequately trained prior to commencement of all project activities, and shall be made aware of all operational plans, management plans, guidelines and Proponent commitments relating to the project.

Water courses/Water bodies (including fresh and marine waters)

6. 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 otherwise authorized by the appropriate authorizing agency.
7. The Proponent shall ensure that no disturbance of the stream bed, lakebed or the banks of any definable watercourse be permitted, except where deemed necessary for maintaining project-specific operational commitments or approved by a responsible authority in cases of spill management.
8. The Proponent shall not deposit, nor permit the deposit of any fuel, chemicals, wastes (including wastewater) or sediment into any water body. The Proponent should have in place

an Emergency Spill Response Plan that is approved by the appropriate authorizing agency(ies).

Waste Management

9. The Proponent shall manage all hazardous and non-hazardous waste including food, domestic wastes, debris and petroleum-based chemicals (e.g., greases, gasoline, glycol-based antifreeze) in such a manner to avoid release into the environment and access to wildlife at all times until disposed of appropriately or at an approved facility.
10. The Proponent shall incinerate all combustible wastes as needed and dispose of as required by the appropriate authorizing agencies. All non-combustible wastes from the project site shall be removed to an approved facility for disposal.

Fuel and Chemical Storage

11. The Proponent shall locate all fuel and other hazardous materials a minimum distance away from the high-water mark of any water body and environmentally sensitive areas as required by the appropriate authorizing agencies. The materials shall be stored in such a manner as to prevent their release into the environment.
12. The Proponent shall use adequate secondary containment or a surface liner (e.g., self-supporting insta-berms and fold-a-tanks) when storing barreled fuel and chemicals at all locations.
13. The Proponent shall ensure that re-fuelling of all equipment occurs a minimum distance away from the high-water mark of any water body as required by the appropriate authorizing agencies.
14. Fuel and hazardous material storage areas should be clearly marked with signs or flagging to avoid accidental breaks and punctures, and to ensure areas remain visible during the winter months.
15. All fuel and chemical storage containers must be clearly marked with the Proponent's name for ease of identification.
16. The Proponent shall routinely inspect and document the conditions of fuel and hazardous material storage containers and containment areas as required by the appropriate authorizing agencies. Fuel containment areas shall be kept clear of debris, water and snow to facilitate inspections for leaks.
17. The Proponent shall have a Spill Contingency Plan in place at all fuel storage or transfer locations and shall ensure that appropriate spill response equipment and clean-up materials (e.g., shovels, pumps, barrels, drip pans, and absorbents) are readily available.
18. The Proponent shall follow the authorizing agencies' direction for management and removal of hazardous materials and wastes (e.g., contaminated soils, sediment and waste oil).
19. The Proponent shall ensure that wildlife deterrent systems are utilized at the time of a spill incident in order to avoid wildlife (terrestrial or marine) and migratory birds from being contaminated.
20. The Proponent shall ensure that all spills of fuel or other deleterious materials of 100 litres or more must be reported immediately to the 24-hour Spill Line at (867) 920-8130.

Air Quality

21. The Proponent shall take appropriate dust suppression measures in conducting all activities for this Project including using approved dust suppression additives and techniques as necessary to maintain ambient air quality.
22. The Proponent shall eliminate unnecessary idling to reduce greenhouse gas emissions as much as possible.

Wildlife – General

23. The Proponent shall not substantially alter or damage or destroy any wildlife habitat in conducting this operation unless otherwise authorized by the appropriate authorizing agencies.
24. The Proponent shall not chase, weary, harass or molest wildlife. This includes persistently circling, chasing, hovering over, pursuing or in any other way harass wildlife, or disturbing large groups of animals.
25. The Proponent shall not hunt or fish, unless proper Nunavut authorizations have been acquired.
26. The Proponent shall ensure that all wildlife have the right-of-way on any roads or trails. Vehicles are required to slow down or stop and wait to permit the free and unrestricted movement of wildlife across roads or trails at any location.

Migratory Birds and Raptors Disturbance

27. The Proponent shall carry out all phases of the project in a manner that protects migratory birds and avoids harming, killing or disturbing migratory birds or destroying, disturbing or taking their nests or eggs. In this regard, the Proponent shall take into account Environment and Climate Change Canada's *Avoidance Guidelines*. The Proponent's actions in applying the *Avoidance Guidelines* shall be in compliance with the *Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994* and with the *Species at Risk Act*.
28. The Proponent shall not disturb or destroy the nests or eggs of any birds. If active nests of any birds are discovered or located (i.e., with eggs or young), the Proponent shall avoid these areas until nesting is complete and the young have naturally left the vicinity of the nest by establishing a protection buffer zone¹ appropriate for the species and the surrounding habitat.
29. The Proponent shall avoid the seaward site of seabird colonies and areas used by flocks of migrating waterfowl, a minimum distance away on the recommendation of the appropriate authorizing agencies.
30. The Proponent shall not pursue seabirds or waterbirds swimming on the water surface and shall avoid concentrations of these birds if encountered on the water.

Aircraft Flight Restrictions

31. The Proponent shall not alter flight paths to approach wildlife and avoid flying directly over animals.

¹ Recommended setback distances to define buffer zones have been established by Environment and Climate Change Canada for different bird groups nesting in tundra habitat and can be found at www.ec.gc.ca/paom-itmb.

32. The Proponent shall plan flight paths that minimize flights over known habitat likely to have birds or concentrations of wildlife. Aircraft should avoid critical and sensitive wildlife areas at all times by choosing alternate flight corridors.
33. The Proponent shall restrict aircraft/helicopter activity related to the project to a minimum flight altitude of 610 metres (2,100 ft) above ground level except during landing, take-off or if there is a specific requirement for low-level flying, which does not disturb wildlife or migratory birds.
34. The Proponent shall avoid known concentrations of birds (e.g., bird colonies, moulting areas) by a lateral distance of 1.5 kilometre. If avoidance is not possible maintain a minimum flight altitude of 1,100 metres (3,500 feet) over these areas.
35. The Proponent shall ensure that aircraft/helicopter do not, unless for emergency, touch-down in areas where wildlife are present.
36. 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 and Muskoxen Disturbance

37. The Proponent shall avoid interfering with any paths or crossings known to be frequented by caribou during periods of migration as identified by current land use plans in place and/or by Inuit Qaujimaningit.
38. The Proponent shall not locate any operation or undertake activities that could block or cause any diversion to migration of caribou or muskoxen.
39. The Proponent shall not construct or operate any camp, or cache any fuel within ten (10) kilometres, or conduct any drilling operation within five (5) kilometres of any designated caribou water crossings.
40. During the period of May 15 to July 15, the Proponent shall suspend all operations and activities outside the immediate vicinity of the camps. Restricted activities include, but are not limited to, air and vehicle traffic, loud or repetitive noise or vibration disturbances, low-level over flights, and use of mobile equipment including snowmobiles and all-terrain vehicles, and personnel walking within sight of the caribou group(s), until the caribou are no longer in the immediate area. Should the results of localized monitoring satisfy the land use inspector the project operations may resume without disturbing pregnant caribou cows or cows with young calves the suspension may be lifted for the periods specified.
41. Should pregnant caribou cows, cows with young calves, or groups of 50 or more caribou be observed within one (1) kilometer of project operations at any time, the Proponent shall suspend all operations in the vicinity, including low level overflights, drilling, and use of snowmobiles and all-terrain vehicles outside the immediate vicinity of the camp, until caribou are no longer in the immediate area.
42. During the period of April 14 to June 1 when muskoxen are present, the Proponent shall not approach muskoxen closer than one (1) kilometer. This includes all operations, including low-level over flights, and use of snowmobiles and all-terrain vehicles outside the immediate vicinity of the camps.

Road and Ground Disturbance

43. 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.
44. The Proponent shall select a winter route that maximizes the use of frozen water bodies.
45. The Proponent shall not move any equipment or vehicles without prior testing the thickness of the ice to ensure the lake, river or stream is in a state capable of fully supporting the equipment or vehicles.

Drilling – General

46. The Proponent shall not allow any drilling wastes to spread to the surrounding lands or water bodies.
47. The Proponent shall ensure that that any deleterious substances (as defined in the *Fisheries Act*) resulting from its activities do not enter into any water bodies frequented by fish.
48. The Proponent shall ensure that all drill areas are constructed to facilitate minimizing the environmental footprint of the project area.

Drilling on Land

49. The Proponent shall not conduct any land-based drilling or mechanized clearing activities a minimum distance of the normal high-water mark of any water body as required by an authorizing agency.
50. If an artesian flow is encountered, the Proponent shall ensure the drill hole is immediately plugged and permanently sealed.
51. The Proponent shall ensure that all sump/depression capacities are sufficient to accommodate the volume of wastewater and any fines that are produced. The sumps shall only be used for inert drilling fluids, and not any other materials or substances.
52. The Proponent shall not locate any sumps within a minimum distance of the normal high-water mark of any water body as required by an authorizing agency.
53. The Proponent shall ensure all drill holes are backfilled or capped prior to the end of each field season. All sumps must be backfilled and restored to original or stable profile prior to the end of each field season.

Land Use and Restoration of Disturbed Areas

54. The Proponent shall use existing trails where possible during project activities on the land.
55. The Proponent shall ensure that the land use area is kept clean and tidy at all times.
56. The Proponent shall remove all garbage, fuel and equipment at the end of each field season and/or upon completion of work and/or upon abandonment.
57. The Proponent shall ensure that all disturbed areas are restored to a stable or pre-disturbed state using Best Available Technology Economically Achievable (BATEA) upon completion of work and/or abandonment.

Camps

58. The Proponent shall ensure that all camps are located durable surfaces, such as gravel or sand that is consolidated and can withstand repeated, heavy use. Measures shall be put in place to prevent erosion, trail formation and damage to the ground.
59. The Proponent shall not erect camps or store materials on the surface ice of lakes or streams, except that which is for immediate use.

Heritage Sites

60. The Proponent shall ensure that archaeological and paleontological sites are not purposely or inadvertently disturbed by clients or staff as a result of project activities.
61. The Proponent shall ensure that all clients and staff are aware of the Proponent's responsibilities and requirements regarding archaeological or palaeontological sites that are encountered during land-based activities. This should include briefings explaining the prohibitions regarding removal of artifacts, and defacing or writing on rocks and infrastructure.
62. No activities shall be conducted in the vicinity (50 metres buffer zone) of any archaeological/historical sites. If archaeological sites or features are encountered, activities shall immediately be interrupted and moved away from this location. Each site encountered needs to be recorded and reported to the Government of Nunavut-Department of Culture and Heritage.

Other

63. The Proponent should consult with local residents regarding their activities in the area and solicit available Inuit Qaujimaningit and information that can inform project activities.
64. The Proponent shall ensure that project activities do not interfere with Inuit wildlife harvesting or traditional land use activities.
65. The Proponent should, to the extent possible, hire local people and access local services where possible.

MONITORING AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

In addition, the Board is recommending the following:

Wildlife Mitigation and Monitoring Plan

1. Prior to the start of project activities, the Proponent shall submit an updated Wildlife Mitigation and Monitoring Plan (WMMP) to the Nunavut Impact Review Board, Nunavut Tunngavik Inc., Kitikmeot Inuit Association, Government of Nunavut, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada, Environment and Climate Change Canada, and the Government of Northwest Territories. The Proponent is encouraged to consult with the agencies mentioned above during the revision of the WMMP, regarding project schedule and timelines so as to ensure adequate mitigation of potential wildlife impacts. At a minimum the plan should include the following:

- a) the proposed project with updated scientific information and mitigation measures, with information about the environment and wildlife populations gained from Inuit knowledge holders;
- b) clear thresholds (caribou numbers, group composition, etc.) that would trigger suspension of operations, should adequately address the vulnerabilities of caribou during different seasons, and should align with or exceed current caribou protection measures utilized by operating projects in Nunavut;
- c) updates in relation to the potential interactions with species at risk and mitigation measures in place; and,
- d) a proposed template for a wildlife log/record of observations and proposed mitigation measures for caribou, migratory birds, grizzly bear and other sensitive species that may be encountered within the project area.

Community Consultation Report

2. The Proponent shall submit a public consultation report prior to the commencement of project activities. The report shall include a copy of materials presented to community members, a description of issues and concerns raised, and advice offered to the company as well as any follow-up actions that were required or taken to resolve any concerns expressed about the project proposal.

Annual Report

3. The Proponent shall submit a comprehensive annual report with copies provided to the Nunavut Impact Review Board, Nunavut Tunngavik Inc., Kitikmeot Inuit Association, Government of Nunavut, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada, Environment and Climate Change Canada, and the Government of Northwest Territories, by March 31st of each year of permitted activities beginning March 31, 2026. The annual report must contain at least the following information:
 - a) A summary of activities undertaken for the year, including:
 - a map showing the approximate location of drill sites;
 - a map showing the location of the fuel cache;
 - a description of local hires, contracting opportunities and initiatives;
 - flight altitudes, frequency of flights and anticipated flight routes;
 - site photos;
 - b) A work plan for the following year, including any progressive reclamation work undertaken;
 - c) A summary of community consultations undertaken throughout the year, providing copy of materials presented to community members, a description of issues and concerns raised, discussions with community members and advice offered to the company as well as any follow-up actions that were required or taken to resolve any concerns expressed about the project proposal;

- d) A log of instances in which community residents occupy or transit through the project area for the purpose of traditional land use or harvesting. This log should include the location and number of people encountered, activity being undertaken (e.g., berry picking, fishing, hunting, camping, etc.), date and time; and any mitigation measures or adaptive management undertaken to prevent disturbance;
- e) A discussion of issues related to wildlife and environmental monitoring, including the number of cease-work orders required as a result of proximity to caribou and any other wildlife;
- f) A brief summary of Wildlife Monitoring and Mitigation Plan results as well as any mitigation actions that were undertaken. In addition, the Proponent shall maintain a record of wildlife observations while operating within the project area and include it as part of the summary report. The summary report based on wildlife observations should include the following:
 - 1. Locations (i.e., latitude and longitude), species, number of animals, a description of the animal activity, and a description of the gender and age of animals if possible.
 - 2. Prior to conducting project activities, the Proponent should map the location of any sensitive wildlife sites such as denning sites, calving areas, caribou crossing sites, and raptor nests in the project area, and identify the timing of critical life history events (i.e., calving, mating, denning and nesting).
 - 3. Additionally, the Proponent should indicate potential impacts from the project, and ensure that operational activities are managed and modified to avoid impacts on wildlife and sensitive sites.
- g) An analysis of the effectiveness of mitigation measures for wildlife;
- h) Summary of the potential cumulative impacts of increasing mining and infrastructure development in the region, cumulative impacts on caribou herds; and transboundary issues.
- i) Summary of any heritage sites encountered during the exploration activities, any follow-up action or reporting required as a result and how project activities were modified to mitigate impacts on the heritage sites;
- j) Summary of its knowledge of Inuit land use in/near the project area and explain how project activities were modified to mitigate impacts on Inuit land use; and
- k) A summary of how the Proponent has complied with conditions contained within this Screening Decision, and all conditions as required by other authorizations associated with the project proposal.

Contingency Plans

- 4. The Proponent shall provide the following contingency plans within 30 days of receipt of the Screening Decision Report:
 - a) An updated Waste Disposal Plan to ensure discussion on proper storage and handling of incompatible hazardous materials.

- b) An updated Spill Contingency Plan to ensure spill kits are appropriately equipped and readily accessible at all work sites, including exploration operations away from the camp. In addition, the plan should include up to date emergency contact numbers for the Government of Nunavut-Department of Environment, Manager of Environmental Protection (867-975-7748) and Environment and Climate Change Canada, Enforcement Branch (867-975-4644).
- c) An updated Closure and Reclamation Plan to reflect the Proponent's commitment to carry out progressive reclamation of any components of the Project no longer required for operations.

OTHER NIRB CONCERNS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

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

Change in Project Scope

1. Responsible authorities or Proponent shall notify the Nunavut Planning Commission and/or Parks Canada as appropriate, and the NIRB of any changes in operating plans or conditions, including phase advancement, associated with this project prior to any such change.

Copy of licences, etc. to the Board and Commission

2. The NIRB respectfully requests that responsible authorities submit a copy of each licence, permit or other authorization issued for the Project to the NIRB to assist in enabling possible project monitoring that may be required. Please forward a copy of the licences, permits and/or other authorizations to the NIRB directly at info@nirb.ca or upload a copy to the NIRB's online registry at www.nirb.ca.

Use of Inuit Qaujimaningit

3. The Proponent is encouraged to work with local communities and knowledge holders to inform project design, to carry out the project, and to confirm or validate the perspectives represented in publications, and reports produced as part of the project. Care should be taken to ensure that Inuit Qaujimaningit and local knowledge collected for the project is used with permission and is accurately represented.

Bear and Carnivore Safety

4. The Proponent should review the Government of Nunavut's booklet on Bear Safety, which can be downloaded from this link: http://gov.nu.ca/sites/default/files/bear_safety_-_reducing_bear-people_conflicts_in_nunavut.pdf. Further information on bear/carnivore detection and deterrent techniques can be found in the "*Safety in Grizzly and Black Bear Country*" pamphlet, which can be downloaded from this link: https://www.enr.gov.nt.ca/sites/enr/files/resources/safety_in_grizzly_and_black_bear_country_english.pdf.
5. There are polar bear and grizzly bear safety resources available from the Bear Smart Society with videos on polar bear safety available in English, French and Inuktitut at <http://www.bearsmart.com/play/safety-in-polar-bear-country/>. Information can also be obtained from Parks Canada's website on bear safety at the following link: <http://www.pc.gc.ca/eng/pn-np/nu/quttinirpaaq/visit/visit6/d.aspx> or in reviewing the

“Safety in Polar Bear Country” pamphlet, which can be downloaded from the following link: http://www.pc.gc.ca/eng/pn-np/nu/quttinirpaaq/visit/visit6/~-/media/pn-np/nu/auyuittuq/pdf/shared/PolarBearSafety_English.ashx.

6. Any problem wildlife or any interaction with carnivores should be reported immediately to the local Government of Nunavut, Department of Environment Conservation Office (Conservation Officer of Cambridge Bay, phone: 867-983-4167).

Species at Risk

7. The Proponent review Environment and Climate Change Canada’s “Environment Assessment Best Practice Guide for Wildlife at Risk in Canada”, available at the following link: http://www.sararegistry.gc.ca/virtual_sara/files/policies/EA%20Best%20Practices%202004.pdf. 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.

Migratory Birds

8. The Proponent review Canadian Wildlife Services’ “Key migratory bird terrestrial habitat sites in the Northwest Territories and Nunavut”, available at the following link: <http://publications.gc.ca/site/eng/317630/publication.html> and “Key marine habitat sites for migratory birds in Nunavut and the Northwest Territories”, available at the following link: <http://publications.gc.ca/site/eng/392824/publication.html>. The guide provides information to the Proponent on key terrestrial and marine habitat areas that are essential to the welfare of various migratory bird species in Canada.
9. For further information on how to protect migratory birds, their nests and eggs when planning or carrying out project activities, consult Environment and Climate Change Canada’s Incidental Take web page and the fact sheet “Planning Ahead to Reduce the Risk of Detrimental Effects to Migratory Birds, and their Nests and Eggs” available at: http://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2013/ec/CW66-324-2013-eng.pdf.

Heritage Resources

10. During the assessment, the NIRB has identified that no archaeology surveys have been conducted in the proposed project areas and that potential for the presence of archaeological resources is likely, therefore the Proponent shall contact the Department of Culture and Heritage to initiate a field archaeology assessment program prior to undertaking any land disturbance activities.

Incineration of Wastes

11. The Proponent review Environment and Climate Change 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.

Transport of Dangerous Goods and Waste Management

12. Environment and Climate Change Canada recommends that all hazardous wastes, including waste oil, receive proper treatment and disposal at an approved facility.

13. The Proponent shall ensure that proper shipping documents (waste manifests, transportation of dangerous goods, etc.) accompany all movements of dangerous goods. Further, the Proponent shall ensure that the shipment of all dangerous goods is registered with the Government of Nunavut Department of Environment, Department of Environment Manager. Contact the Manager (867) 975-7748 to obtain a manifest if dangerous goods including hazardous wastes will be transported.

Caribou Management

14. Territorial and federal government agencies in Nunavut should work together with Regional Inuit Associations, co-management boards and industry to develop an action plan to identify and mitigate potential cumulative effects of human land use activities, including mineral exploration, on barren-ground caribou. This assessment of cumulative effects should occur at a regional scale (i.e., larger than individual project areas).

15. As a result of expressed concerns regarding mineral exploration and the associated potential for cumulative effects on caribou and caribou habitat within the Kitikmeot region, the Nunavut Planning Commission, territorial and federal government agencies should work together with Regional Inuit Associations, co-management boards, the public, and industry to develop a plan that identifies appropriate land use in these areas prior to potential mineral exploration. The plan should identify and mitigate potential cumulative effects of human land use activities on barren-ground caribou on both localized and regional scales.

Crown Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada

16. Crown Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC) 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.

17. CIRNAC 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.

18. CIRNAC forward to the NIRB copies of any decisions by Inspectors which allow project activities to continue in areas of caribou presence between dates indicating work stoppages are necessary (exemptions from Caribou Protection Measures).

Nunavut Water Board

19. The Nunavut Water Board 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.

Crown Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada – Water Resources Division

20. CIRNAC – Water Resources Division should consider the importance of conducting regular inspections, pursuant to the authority of the *Nunavut Waters and Nunavut Surface Rights Tribunal Act*, while the project is in operation. Inspectors should focus on ensuring the Proponent is in compliance with the conditions imposed through the Water Licence.

CONCLUSION

The foregoing constitutes the Board’s screening decision with respect to the MMG Resources Inc.’s “Izok Corridor Exploration Project”. The NIRB remains available for consultation with the Minister regarding this report as necessary.

Dated August 25, 2025 at Iqaluit, NU.



Albert Ehloak, *Acting* Chairperson

Attachments: Appendix A: Species at Risk in Nunavut
Appendix B: Archaeological and Palaeontological Resources Terms and Conditions for Land Use Permit Holders

APPENDIX A: SPECIES AT RISK IN NUNAVUT

Due to the requirements of Section 79(2) of the *Species at Risk Act*, S.C. 2002, c. 29 (*SARA*), and the potential for project-specific adverse effects on listed wildlife species and its critical habitat, measures should be taken as appropriate to avoid or lessen those effects, and the effects need to be monitored. Project effects could include species disturbance, attraction to operations and destruction of habitat. This section applies to all species listed on Schedule 1 of *SARA*, as listed in the table below, or have been assessed by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC), which may be encountered in the project area. This list may not include all species identified as at risk by the Territorial Government. The following points provide clarification on the applicability of the species outlined in the table.

- 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.

If species at risk are encountered or affected, the primary mitigation measure should be avoidance. The Proponent should avoid contact with or disturbance to each species, its habitat and/or its residence. All direct, indirect, and cumulative effects should be considered. Refer to species status reports and other information on the Species at Risk Registry at <http://www.sararegistry.gc.ca> for information on specific species.

Monitoring should be undertaken by the Proponent to determine the effectiveness of mitigation and/or identify where further mitigation is required. As a minimum, this monitoring should include recording the locations and dates of any observations of Species at Risk, behaviour or actions taken by the animals when project activities were encountered, and any actions taken by the proponent to avoid contact or disturbance to the species, its habitat, and/or its residence. This information should be submitted to the appropriate regulators and organizations with management responsibility for that species, as requested.

For species primarily managed by the Territorial Government, the Territorial Government should be consulted to identify other appropriate mitigation and/or monitoring measures to minimize effects to these species from the project.

Mitigation and monitoring measures must be undertaken in a way that is consistent with applicable recovery strategies and action/management plans.

Schedules of *SARA* are amended on a regular basis, so it is important to check the *SARA* registry (www.sararegistry.gc.ca) to get the current status of a species.

Updated: September 2024

Terrestrial Species at Risk²	COSEWIC Designation	Schedule of SARA	Government Organization with Primary Management Responsibility³
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	Special Concern	Schedule 1	Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC)
Common Nighthawk	Threatened	Schedule 1	ECCC
Eskimo Curlew	Endangered	Schedule 1	ECCC
Harlequin Duck	Special Concern	Schedule 1	ECCC
Harris's Sparrow	Special Concern	Schedule 1	ECCC
Horned Grebe	Special Concern	Schedule 1	ECCC
Ivory Gull	Endangered	Schedule 1	ECCC
Olive-sided Flycatcher	Threatened	Schedule 1	ECCC
Peregrine Falcon	Special Concern	Schedule 1	ECCC
Red Knot Islandica Subspecies	Special Concern	Schedule 1	ECCC
Red-necked Phalarope	Special Concern	Schedule 1	ECCC
Ross's Gull	Threatened	Schedule 1	ECCC
Rusty Blackbird	Special Concern	Schedule 1	ECCC
Short-eared Owl	Special Concern	Schedule 1	ECCC
Porsild's Bryum	Threatened	Schedule 1	Government of Nunavut (GN)
Transverse Lady Beetle	Special Concern	No Schedule	GN
Caribou (Dolphin and Union Population)	Endangered	Schedule 1	GN
Caribou (Barren-ground Population)	Threatened	No Schedule	GN
Caribou (Torngat Mountains Population)	Endangered	No Schedule	GN
Grizzly Bear (Western Population)	Special Concern	Schedule 1	ECCC
Peary Caribou	Endangered	Schedule 1	GN
Polar Bear	Special Concern	Schedule 1	ECCC
Wolverine	Special Concern	Schedule 1	GN
Atlantic Walrus (High Arctic Population)	Special Concern	No Schedule	Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO)
Atlantic Walrus (Central/Low Arctic Population)	Special Concern	No Schedule	DFO
Beluga Whale (Cumberland Sound Population)	Threatened	Schedule 1	DFO
Beluga Whale (Eastern Hudson Bay Population)	Endangered	No Schedule	DFO
Beluga Whale (Eastern High Arctic-Baffin Bay Population)	Special Concern	No Schedule	DFO
Beluga Whale (Western Hudson Bay Population)	Special Concern	No Schedule	DFO
Atlantic Cod (Arctic Lakes Population)	Special Concern	No Schedule	DFO
Fourhorn Sculpin (Freshwater Form)	Data Deficient	Schedule 3	DFO
Lumpfish	Threatened	No Schedule	DFO
Thorny Skate	Special Concern	No Schedule	DFO

² The Department of Fisheries and Oceans has responsibility for aquatic species.

³ Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) 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.

**APPENDIX B: ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND PALAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES TERMS AND
CONDITIONS FOR LAND USE PERMIT HOLDERS**



INTRODUCTION

The Department of Culture and Heritage (CH) routinely reviews land use applications sent to the Nunavut Water Board, Nunavut Impact Review Board and the Indigenous 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 (See Guidelines below)	Function (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 Overview Assessment and/or Inventory and Documentation and/or Mitigation
c)	Construction of linear disturbances, Extractive disturbances, Impounding disturbances and other land disturbance activities	Archaeological/Palaeontological Overview Assessment and/or Inventory and Documentation and/or Mitigation

Note that the above-mentioned functions require either a Nunavut Archaeologist Permit or a Nunavut Palaeontologist Permit. CH is authorized by way of the *Nunavut and Archaeological and Palaeontological Site Regulations*⁴ to issue such permits.

⁴P.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 CH 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 CH.
- 6) The permittee/proponent shall follow the direction of CH 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 Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada directions will also be followed.
- 7) The permittee/proponent shall provide all information requested by CH 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 CH 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 *Agreement between the Inuit of the Nunavut Settlement Area and Her Majesty the Queen in right of Canada (Nunavut 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*⁵, 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*⁶, 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 Agreement between the Inuit of the Nunavut Settlement Area and Her Majesty the Queen in right of Canada (Nunavut 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.*

Guidelines for Developers for the Protection of Archaeological Resources in the Nunavut Territory

(**Note:** Partial document only, complete document at: www.ch.gov.nu.ca/en/Archaeology.aspx)

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

CH 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

⁵ s. 51(1)

⁶ P.C. 2001-1111 14 June, 2001

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 CH 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 *Agreement between the Inuit of the Nunavut Settlement Area and Her Majesty the Queen in right of Canada (Nunavut Agreement)*), and the Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada, 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 and Heritage. 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.