



**SCREENING DECISION REPORT**  
**NIRB FILE NO.: 12YA007**

GN-DoE File No.: WL 006891

NRI File No.: #0400708N-M

DFO File No.: S-07/08-1035-NU

NWB File No. 2BE-HIG0712, 2BE-IZO0712

AANDC File No.: N2011C0033, N2012C0005

KIA File No.: KTL310C001, KTL308C008, KTL306C019

March 29, 2012

The Honourable Dan Shewchuk  
Minister Responsible for Nunavut Arctic College  
Box 2410  
Iqaluit, NU  
X0A 0H0

Via email: [dshewchuk@gov.nu.ca](mailto:dshewchuk@gov.nu.ca) or [thughes@gov.nu.ca](mailto:thughes@gov.nu.ca)

**Re: Screening Decision for Minerals and Metals Group's (MMG) "Izok and High Lake Project 2012 Environmental Baseline Program" Project Proposal, NIRB File No. 12YA007**

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Dear Mr. Dan Shewchuk:

The primary objectives of the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) are set out in Section 12.2.5 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA) as follows:

*"In carrying out its functions, the primary objectives of NIRB shall be at all times to protect and promote the existing and future well-being of the residents and communities of the Nunavut Settlement Area, and to protect the ecosystemic integrity of the Nunavut Settlement Area. NIRB shall take into account the well-being of the residents of Canada outside the Nunavut Settlement Area."*

Section 12.4.4 of the NLCA states:

*"Upon receipt of a project proposal, NIRB shall screen the proposal and indicate to the Minister in writing that:*

- a) *the proposal may be processed without a review under Part 5 or 6; NIRB may recommend specific terms and conditions to be attached to any approval, reflecting the primary objectives set out in Section 12.2.5;*
- b) *the proposal requires review under Part 5 or 6; NIRB shall identify particular issues or concerns which should be considered in such a review;*
- c) *the proposal is insufficiently developed to permit proper screening, and should be returned to the proponent for clarification; or*
- d) *the potential adverse impacts of the proposal are so unacceptable that it should be modified or abandoned.”*

#### NIRB ASSESSMENT AND DECISION

After a thorough assessment of all material provided to the Board (please see *Procedural History* and *Project Activities* in **Appendix A**), in accordance with the principles identified within Section 12.4.2 of the NLCA, the decision of the Board as per Section 12.4.4 of the NLCA is:

**12.4.4 (a):** the proposal may be processed without a review under Part 5 or 6; NIRB may recommend specific terms and conditions to be attached to any approval, reflecting the primary objectives set out in Section 12.2.5.

#### RECOMMENDED PROJECT-SPECIFIC TERMS AND CONDITIONS (pursuant to Section 12.4.4(a) of the NLCA)

The Board is recommending that the following or similar project-specific terms and conditions be imposed upon the Proponent through all relevant legislation:

##### **General**

1. Minerals and Metals Group (the Proponent) shall maintain a copy of the Project Terms and Conditions at the site of operation at all times.
2. The Proponent shall forward copies of all permits obtained and required for this project to the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) prior to the commencement of the project.
3. The Proponent shall operate in accordance with all commitments stated in correspondence provided to the NIRB (Scientific Research Licence, February 9, 2012).
4. The Proponent shall operate the site in accordance with all applicable Acts, Regulations and Guidelines.

##### **Water Use**

5. The Proponent shall not extract water from any fish-bearing waterbody unless the water intake hose is equipped with a screen of appropriate mesh size to ensure that there is no entrapment of fish. Small lakes or streams should not be used for water withdrawal unless approved by the Nunavut Water Board.

## **Waste Disposal**

6. The Proponent shall keep all garbage and debris in bags placed in a covered metal container or equivalent until disposed of at an approved facility. All such wastes shall be kept inaccessible to wildlife at all times.

## **Wildlife - General**

7. The Proponent shall ensure that there is no damage to terrestrial or marine wildlife habitat in conducting this operation.
8. The Proponent shall not harass terrestrial or marine wildlife. This includes persistently worrying or chasing animals, or disturbing large groups of animals. The Proponent shall not hunt or fish, unless proper Nunavut authorizations have been acquired.
9. The Proponent shall ensure that all project personnel are made aware of the measures to protect wildlife and are provided with training and/or advice on how to implement these measures.

## **Migratory Bird and Raptor Disturbance**

10. The Proponent shall not disturb or destroy the nests or eggs of any birds. If nests are encountered and/or identified, the Proponent shall take precaution to avoid further interaction and or disturbance (e.g., a 100 metre buffer around the nests). If active nests of any birds are discovered (i.e. with eggs or young), the Proponent shall avoid these areas until nesting is complete and the young have left the nest.

## **Aircraft Flight Restrictions**

11. The Proponent shall restrict aircraft/helicopter activity related to the project to a minimum altitude of 610 metres above ground level unless there is a specific requirement for low-level flying, which does not disturb wildlife and migratory birds.
12. The Proponent shall ensure that aircraft maintain a vertical distance of 1000 metres and a horizontal distance of 1500 metres from any observed groups (colonies) of migratory birds. Aircraft should avoid critical and sensitive wildlife areas at all times by choosing alternate flight corridors.
13. The Proponent shall ensure that aircraft/helicopter do not, unless for emergency, touch-down in areas where wildlife are present.
14. 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**

15. The Proponent shall cease activities that may interfere with the migration or calving of caribou or muskox, until the caribou or muskox have passed or left the area.
16. The Proponent shall not block or cause any diversion to caribou migration, and shall cease activities likely to interfere with migration such as surveys or movement of equipment or personnel until such time as the caribou have passed.

## **Physical Environment**

17. The Proponent shall ensure that the land use area is kept clean and tidy at all times.

## **Restoration**

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

19. The Proponent shall remove all garbage, fuel and equipment upon abandonment.

20. The Proponent shall complete all clean-up and restoration of the lands used prior to the end of each field season and/or upon abandonment of site.

## **Other**

21. All field operations staff should be made aware of the proponents' commitments to the committed mitigation measures and be provided with appropriate training prior to commencement of the project.

22. The Proponent should, to the extent possible, hire local people and consult with local residents regarding their activities in the region.

## **MONITORING AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**

In addition, the Board is recommending the following:

## **Annual Report**

1. The Proponent shall submit a comprehensive annual report with copies provided to the Nunavut Impact Review Board by March 31 of each year of permitted activities. The annual report must contain, but not limited to, the following information:

- a) A summary of activities undertaken for the year, including:
  - i) a map showing the sampling locations;
  - ii) timing of sampling, and
  - iii) sampling methodology.
- b) A summary of the data collected;
- c) A wildlife summary monitoring report, including the following information:
  - i) Wildlife (including marine wildlife) species encountered and observed;
  - ii) Locations (i.e., latitude and longitude), number of animals, gender and age if possible to identify;
  - iii) Activity, including critical life events (i.e., feeding, mating, calving, migration, social gathering) within the project areas;
  - iv) Behaviour or actions of wildlife when encountered; and
  - v) 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;
- d) A summary of local hires and initiatives;
- e) A summary of community consultations undertaken and how the results of these meetings have informed project activities, mitigation measures, adaptive management, or future development plans; and,
- f) A work plan for the following year, if applicable.

## Wildlife Log/Record of Observations

2. The Proponent shall maintain a record of wildlife observations while operating within the project area. The reports should include 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. 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). 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.

A copy of this wildlife record or report should be submitted annually at the end of the operational season to the following Government of Nunavut contacts:

- a) Michael Mifflin, Manager of Land Use & Environmental Assessment Environmental Protection Service [mmifflin@gov.nu.ca](mailto:mmifflin@gov.nu.ca).
- b) Mathieu Dumond, Manager Wildlife, [mdumond@gov.nu.ca](mailto:mdumond@gov.nu.ca).

## OTHER NIRB CONCERNS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

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

### Bear and Carnivore Safety

1. The Proponent review the bear/carnivore detection and deterrent techniques outlined in “Safety in Grizzly and Black Bear Country” which can be down-loaded from this link: [http://www.enr.gov.nt.ca/live/documents/content/Bear\\_Safety.pdf](http://www.enr.gov.nt.ca/live/documents/content/Bear_Safety.pdf). Note that some recommendations in this manual are also relevant to polar bears. There is a DVD about polar bears and safety available from Nunavut Parks at the following link <http://www.nunavutparks.com/english/visitor-information/suggested-resources.html> and a “Safety in Polar Bear Country” pamphlet from Parks Canada at the following link <http://www.pc.gc.ca/eng/pn-np/nu/auyuittuq/visit/visit6/d/i.aspx>.
2. Any problem wildlife or any interaction with carnivores should be reported immediately to the local Government of Nunavut, Department of Environment Conservation Office (Conservation Officer of Kugluktuk, Monica Angohiatok, phone: 867-982-7450, email: [mangohiatok@gov.nu.ca](mailto:mangohiatok@gov.nu.ca)).

### Species at Risk

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

### **Change in Project Scope**

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

### **Previously Issued Terms and Conditions**

5. The is advised that all terms and conditions previously issued by the NIRB continue to apply to activities as previously screened within the scope of NIRB File Nos. 06EN048 and 06EN066.

## **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://www.canlii.org/ca/sta/n-28.8/whole.html>).
3. The *Migratory Birds Convention Act* and *Migratory Birds Regulations* (<http://laws.justice.gc.ca/en/showtdm/cs/M-7.01>).
4. The *Species at Risk Act* (<http://laws.justice.gc.ca/en/showtdm/cs/S-15.3>). Attached in **Appendix B** is a list of Species at Risk in Nunavut.
5. The *Wildlife Act* which contains provisions to protect and conserve wildlife and wildlife habitat, including specific protection measures for wildlife habitat and species at risk.
6. The *Nunavut Act* (<http://laws.justice.gc.ca/en/showtdm/cs/N-28.6>). The Proponent must comply with the proposed terms and conditions listed in the attached **Appendix C**.
7. The *Aeronautics Act* (<http://laws.justice.gc.ca/en/A-2/>).

## **Validity of Land Claims Agreement**

### *Section 2.12.2*

Where there is any inconsistency or conflict between any federal, territorial and local government laws, and the Agreement, the Agreement shall prevail to the extent of the inconsistency or conflict.

Dated March 29, 2012 at Arviat, NU.



Elizabeth Copland, Acting Chairperson

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

## **Appendix A**

### **Procedural History and Project Activities**

#### ***Procedural History***

On February 9, 2012 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received Minerals and Metals Group's (MMG) "Izok and High Lake Project 2012 Environmental Baseline Program" project proposal from the Nunavut Research Institute (NRI). This project proposal did not require a conformity determination from the Nunavut Planning Commission as the proposal would be located in a region with no approved land use plan (Kitikmeot region). The NIRB assigned this project proposal file number 12YA007.

This project proposal was distributed to community organizations in Bathurst Inlet, Kugluktuk and Cambridge Bay, as well as to relevant federal and territorial government agencies, and Inuit organizations. The NIRB requested that interested parties review the proposal and the NIRB's *proposed* project-specific terms and conditions and provide the Board with any comments or concerns by March 19, 2012 regarding:

- Whether the project proposal is likely to arouse significant public concern; and if so, why;
- Whether the project proposal is likely to cause significant adverse eco-systemic and socio-economic effects; and if so, why;
- Whether the project is of a type where the potential adverse effects are highly predictable and mitigable with known technology, (providing any recommended mitigation measures); and
- Any matter of importance to the Party related to the project proposal.

On or before March 19, 2012, the NIRB received comments from the following interested parties (see Comments and Concerns section below):

- **Environment Canada (EC)**
- **Kitikmeot Inuit Association (KIA)**

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

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

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

The proposed project is located within the Kitikmeot region, approximately 280 kilometres southeast of Kugluktuk. The Proponent intends to conduct baseline field programs in order to gather information for the preparation of a project proposal that would potentially include an open pit and underground mine at both the High Lake and Izok Lake sites. The information gathered would also help MMG understand and document the potential environmental effects of a future project. The baseline field programs are proposed to take place beginning in April 2012 and continue to September 2012.

The activities/components associated with this proposal include:

- Baseline field programs to occur at the present site of the Izok Lake property, the High Lake property, and at Gray's Bay, as well as along the proposed future site of an all season road between Izok Lake and Grays' Bay. The programs would include the following:
  - Water and sediment sampling in streams and lakes – up to four site visits to the project sites as well as other lakes, streams, and rivers downstream of the project are planned
  - Marine environment surveys, including characterization of the proposed port area
  - Snow surveys, including snow depth measurements during spring
  - Stream flow and water level measurements, including the set-up of data logger and gauging stations with subsequent site visits to collect water measurements
  - Soil surveying, including soil sampling with a shovel
  - Vegetation and habitat mapping, including the collection of plant specimen
  - Wildlife surveys
  - Archaeological surveys
  - Fish and aquatic organism sampling and fish habitat mapping
- Use of helicopters and small fixed wing aircraft to move field crew from site to site;
- Use of small boats to complete surveys;
- Use of existing accommodations and facilities at both Izok and High Lake sites (previously screened and allowed to proceed per NIRB File Nos. 06EN066 and 06EN048);
- Staff to be transported to camp sites in fixed wing aircraft from Yellowknife; and,
- Summary of data collected including sampling locations, times and methodology, to be submitted to the NRI at the completion of the field programs.

## Appendix B

### Species at Risk in Nunavut

This list includes species listed on one of the Schedules of SARA (*Species at Risk Act*) and under consideration for listing on Schedule 1 of SARA. These species have been designated as at risk by COSEWIC (Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada). This list may not include all species identified as at risk by the Territorial Government.

- Schedule 1 is the official legal list of Species at Risk for SARA. SARA applies to all species on Schedule 1. The term “listed” species refers to species on Schedule 1.
- Schedule 2 and 3 of SARA identify species that were designated at risk by the COSEWIC prior to October 1999 and must be reassessed using revised criteria before they can be considered for addition to Schedule 1.
- Some species identified at risk by COSEWIC are “pending” addition to Schedule 1 of SARA. These species are under consideration for addition to Schedule 1, subject to further consultation or assessment.

Schedules of SARA are amended on a regular basis so it is important to periodically check the SARA registry ([www.sararegistry.gc.ca](http://www.sararegistry.gc.ca)) to get the current status of a species.

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Updated: October 2010

| Species at Risk                                    | COSEWIC Designation | Schedule of SARA                                               | Government Organization with Lead Management Responsibility <sup>1</sup> |
|----------------------------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Eskimo Curlew                                      | Endangered          | Schedule 1                                                     | EC                                                                       |
| Ivory Gull                                         | Endangered          | Schedule 1                                                     | EC                                                                       |
| Ross's Gull                                        | Threatened          | Schedule 1                                                     | EC                                                                       |
| Harlequin Duck (Eastern population)                | Special Concern     | Schedule 1                                                     | EC                                                                       |
| Rusty Blackbird                                    | Special Concern     | Schedule 1                                                     | Government of Nunavut                                                    |
| Felt-leaf Willow                                   | Special Concern     | Schedule 1                                                     | Government of Nunavut                                                    |
| Peregrine Falcon ( <i>anatum-tundrius</i> complex) | Special Concern     | Schedule 1 ( <i>anatum</i> )<br>Schedule 3 ( <i>tundrius</i> ) | Government of Nunavut                                                    |
| Short-eared Owl                                    | Special Concern     | Schedule 3                                                     | Government of Nunavut                                                    |
| Peary Caribou                                      | Endangered          | Pending                                                        | Government of Nunavut                                                    |
| Beluga Whale (Eastern Hudson Bay population)       | Endangered          | Pending                                                        | DFO                                                                      |

| <b>Species at Risk cont.</b>                                   | <b>COSEWIC Designation cont.</b> | <b>Schedule of SARA cont.</b> | <b>Government Organization with Lead Management Responsibility cont. <sup>1</sup></b> |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Red Knot ( <i>rufa</i> subspecies)                             | Endangered                       | Pending                       | EC                                                                                    |
| Beluga Whale (Cumberland Sound population)                     | Threatened                       | Pending                       | DFO                                                                                   |
| Atlantic Cod (Arctic population)                               | Special Concern                  | Pending                       | DFO                                                                                   |
| Beluga Whale (Western Hudson Bay population)                   | Special Concern                  | Pending                       | DFO                                                                                   |
| Beluga Whale (Eastern High Arctic – Baffin Bay population)     | Special Concern                  | Pending                       | DFO                                                                                   |
| Bowhead Whale (Eastern Canada – West Greenland population)     | Special Concern                  | Pending                       | DFO                                                                                   |
| Killer Whale (Northwest Atlantic / Eastern Arctic populations) | Special Concern                  | Pending                       | DFO                                                                                   |
| Porsild's Bryum                                                | Threatened                       | Pending                       | Government of Nunavut                                                                 |
| Atlantic Walrus                                                | Special Concern                  | Pending                       | DFO                                                                                   |
| Narwhal                                                        | Special Concern                  | Pending                       | DFO                                                                                   |
| Red Knot ( <i>islandica</i> subspecies)                        | Special Concern                  | Pending                       | EC                                                                                    |
| Horned Grebe (Western population)                              | Special Concern                  | Pending                       | EC                                                                                    |
| Atlantic Cod, Arctic Lakes                                     | Special Concern                  | No schedule                   | EC                                                                                    |
| Barren-ground Caribou (Dolphin and Union population)           | Special Concern                  | Pending                       | Government of Nunavut                                                                 |
| Grizzly Bear                                                   | Special Concern                  | Pending                       | Government of Nunavut                                                                 |
| Polar Bear                                                     | Special Concern                  | Pending                       | Government of Nunavut                                                                 |
| Wolverine (Western Population)                                 | Special Concern                  | Pending                       | Government of Nunavut                                                                 |

<sup>1</sup> Environment Canada (EC) has a national role to play in the conservation and recovery of Species at Risk in Canada, as well as responsibility for management of birds described in the Migratory Birds Convention Act (MBCA). Day-to-day management of terrestrial species not covered in the MBCA is the responsibility of the Territorial Government. Populations that exist in National Parks are also managed under the authority of the Parks Canada Agency. The Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) has responsibility for management of aquatic species.

**Appendix C**  
Archaeological and Palaeontological Resources Terms and Conditions  
for Land Use Permit Holders



INTRODUCTION

The Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth (CLEY) routinely reviews land use applications sent to the Nunavut Water Board, Nunavut Impact Review Board and the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada. These terms and conditions provide general direction to the permittee/proponent regarding the appropriate actions to be taken to ensure the permittee/proponent carries out its role in the protection of Nunavut's archaeological and palaeontological resources.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- 1) The permittee/proponent shall have a professional archaeologist and/or palaeontologist perform the following **Functions** associated with the **Types of Development** listed below or similar development activities:

|    | <b>Types of Development</b><br>(See Guidelines below)                                                                       | <b>Function</b><br>(See Guidelines below)                              |
|----|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| a) | Large scale prospecting                                                                                                     | Archaeological/Palaeontological Overview Assessment                    |
| b) | Diamond drilling for exploration or geotechnical purpose or planning of linear disturbances                                 | Archaeological/ Palaeontological Inventory                             |
| c) | Construction of linear disturbances, Extractive disturbances, Impounding disturbances and other land disturbance activities | Archaeological/ Palaeontological Inventory or Assessment or Mitigation |

Note that the above-mentioned functions require either a Nunavut Archaeologist Permit or a Nunavut Palaeontologist Permit. CLEY is authorized by way of the *Nunavut and Archaeological and Palaeontological Site Regulations*<sup>1</sup> to issue such permits.

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<sup>1</sup> P.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 CLEY at (867) 934-2046 or (867) 975-5500 should an archaeological site or specimen, or a palaeontological site or fossil, be encountered or disturbed by any land use activity.
- 5) The permittee/proponent shall immediately cease any activity that disturbs an archaeological or palaeontological site encountered during the course of a land use operation until permitted to proceed with the authorization of CLEY.
- 6) The permittee/proponent shall follow the direction of CLEY in restoring disturbed archaeological or palaeontological sites to an acceptable condition. If these conditions are attached to either a Class A or B Permit under the Territorial Lands Act INAC's directions will also be followed.
- 7) The permittee/proponent shall provide all information requested by CLEY concerning all archaeological sites or artifacts and all palaeontological sites and fossils encountered in the course of any land use activity.
- 8) The permittee/proponent shall make best efforts to ensure that all persons working under its authority are aware of these conditions concerning archaeological sites and artifacts and palaeontological sites and fossils.
- 9) If a list of recorded archaeological and/or palaeontological sites is provided to the permittee/proponent by CLEY as part of the review of the land use application the permittee/proponent shall avoid the archaeological and/or palaeontological sites listed.
- 10) Should a list of recorded sites be provided to the permittee/proponent, the information is provided solely for the purpose of the proponent's land use activities as described in the land use application, and must otherwise be treated confidentially by the proponent.

#### LEGAL FRAMEWORK

As stated in Article 33 of the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement*:

*Where an application is made for a land use permit in the Nunavut Settlement Area, and there are reasonable grounds to believe that there could be sites of archaeological importance on the lands affected, no land use permit shall be issued without written consent of the Designated Agency. Such consent shall not be unreasonably withheld. [33.5.12]*

*Each land use permit referred to in Section 33.5.12 shall specify the plans and methods of archeological site protection and restoration to be followed by the permit holder, and any other conditions the Designated Agency may deem fit. [ 33.5.13]*

## Palaeontology and Archaeology

Under the *Nunavut Act*<sup>2</sup>, the federal government can make regulations for the protection, care and preservation of palaeontological and archaeological sites and specimens in Nunavut. Under the *Nunavut Archaeological and Palaeontological Sites Regulations*<sup>3</sup>, it is illegal to alter or disturb any palaeontological or archaeological site in Nunavut unless permission is first granted through the permitting process.

### Definitions

As defined in the *Nunavut Archaeological and Palaeontological Sites Regulations*, the following definitions apply:

*“archaeological site” means a place where an archaeological artifact is found.*

*“archaeological artifact” means any tangible evidence of human activity that is more than 50 years old and in respect of which an unbroken chain of possession or regular pattern of usage cannot be demonstrated, and includes a Denesuline archaeological specimen referred to in section 40.4.9 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement.*

*“palaeontological site” means a site where a fossil is found.*

*“fossil” includes:*

*Fossil means the hardened or preserved remains or impression of previously living organisms or vegetation and includes:*

*(a) natural casts;*

*(b) preserved tracks, coprolites and plant remains; and*

*(c) the preserved shells and exoskeletons of invertebrates and the preserved eggs, teeth and bones of vertebrates*

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

<sup>3</sup> P.C. 2001-1111 14 June, 2001

## **GUIDELINES FOR DEVELOPERS FOR THE PROTECTION OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES IN THE NUNAVUT TERRITORY**

(NOTE: Partial document only, complete document at: <http://gov.nu.ca/cley/english/arch.html>)

### **Introduction**

The following guidelines have been formulated to ensure that the impacts of proposed developments upon heritage resources are assessed and mitigated before ground surface altering activities occur. Heritage resources are defined as, but not limited to, archaeological and historical sites, burial grounds, palaeontological sites, historic buildings and cairns. Effective collaboration between the developer, the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth (CLEY), and the contract archaeologist(s) will ensure proper preservation of heritage resources in the Nunavut Territory. The roles of each are briefly described.

CLEY is the Nunavut Government agency which oversees the protection and management of heritage resources in Nunavut, in partnership with land claim authorities, regulatory agencies, and the federal government. Its role in mitigating impacts of developments on heritage resources is as follows: to identify the need for an impact assessment and make recommendations to the appropriate regulatory agency; set the terms of reference for the study depending upon the scope of the development; suggest the names of qualified individuals prepared to undertake the study to the developer; issue an archaeologist or palaeontologist permit authorizing field work; assess the completeness of the study and its recommendations; and ensure that the developer complies with the recommendations.

The primary regulatory agencies that CLEY provides information and assistance to are the Nunavut Impact Review Board, for development activities proposed for Inuit Owned Lands (as defined in Section 1.1.1 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement), and the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs, for development activities proposed for federal Crown Lands.

A developer is the initiator of a land use activity. It is the obligation of the developer to ensure that a qualified archaeologist or palaeontologist is hired to perform the required study and that provisions of the contract with the archaeologist or palaeontologist allow permit requirements to be met; i.e. fieldwork, collections management, artifact and specimen conservation, and report preparation. On the recommendation of the contract archaeologist or palaeontologist in the field and the Government of Nunavut, the developer shall implement avoidance or mitigative measures to protect heritage resources or to salvage the information they contain through excavation, analysis, and report writing. The developer assumes all costs associated with the study in its entirety.

Through his or her active participation and supervision of the study, the contract archaeologist or palaeontologist is accountable for the quality of work undertaken and the quality of the report produced. Facilities to conduct fieldwork, analysis, and report preparation should be available to this individual through institutional, agency, or company affiliations. Responsibility for the curation of objects recovered during field work while under study and for documents generated in the course of the study as well as remittance of artifacts, specimens and documents to the

repository specified on the permit accrue to the contract archaeologist or palaeontologist. This individual is also bound by the legal requirements of the *Nunavut Archaeological and Palaeontological Sites Regulations*.

## **Types of Development**

In general, those developments that cause concern for the safety of heritage resources will include one or more of the following kinds of surface disturbances. These categories, in combination, are comprehensive of the major kinds of developments commonly proposed in Nunavut. For any single development proposal, several kinds of these disturbances may be involved

- *Linear disturbances: including the construction of highways, roads, winter roads, transmission lines, and pipelines;*
- *Extractive disturbances: including mining, gravel removal, quarrying, and land filling;*
- *Impoundment disturbances: including dams, reservoirs, and tailings ponds;*
- *Intensive land use disturbances: including industrial, residential, commercial, recreational, and land reclamation work, and use of heritage resources as tourist developments.*
- *Mineral, oil and gas exploration: establishment of camps, temporary airstrips, access routes, well sites, or quarries all have potential for impacting heritage resources.*

## **Types of Studies Undertaken to Preserve Heritage Resources**

**Overview:** An overview study of heritage resources should be conducted at the same time as the development project is being designed or its feasibility addressed. They usually lack specificity with regard to the exact location(s) and form(s) of impact and involve limited, if any, field surveys. Their main aim is to accumulate, evaluate, and synthesize the existing knowledge of the heritage of the known area of impact. The overview study provides managers with baseline data from which recommendations for future research and forecasts of potential impacts can be made. A Class I Permit is required for this type of study if field surveys are undertaken.

**Reconnaissance:** This is done to provide a judgmental appraisal of a region sufficient to provide the developer, the consultant, and government managers with recommendations for further development planning. This study may be implemented as a preliminary step to inventory and assessment investigations except in cases where a reconnaissance may indicate a very low or negligible heritage resource potential. Alternately, in the case of small-scale or linear developments, an inventory study may be recommended and obviate the need for a reconnaissance.

The main goal of a reconnaissance study is to provide baseline data for the verification of the presence of potential heritage resources, the determination of impacts to these resources, the generation of terms of reference for further studies and, if required, the advancement of

preliminary mitigative and compensatory plans. The results of reconnaissance studies are primarily useful for the selection of alternatives and secondarily as a means of identifying impacts that must be mitigated after the final siting and design of the development project. Depending on the scope of the study, a Class 1 or Class 2 Permit is required for this type of investigation.

**Inventory:** A resource inventory is generally conducted at that stage in a project's development at which the geographical area(s) likely to sustain direct, indirect, and perceived impacts can be well defined. This requires systematic and intensive fieldwork to ascertain the effects of all possible and alternate construction components on heritage resources. All heritage sites must be recorded on Government of Nunavut Site Survey forms. Sufficient information must be amassed from field, library and archival components of the study to generate a predictive model of the heritage resource base that will:

- allow the identification of research and conservation opportunities;
- enable the developer to make planning decisions and recognize their likely effects on the known or predicted resources; and
- make the developer aware of the expenditures, which may be required for subsequent studies and mitigation. A Class 1 or 2 permit is required

**Assessment:** At this stage, sufficient information concerning the numbers and locations of heritage resources will be available, as well as data to predict the forms and magnitude of impacts. Assessments provide information on the size, volume, complexity and content of a heritage resource, which is used to rank the values of different sites or site types given current archaeological knowledge. As this information will shape subsequent mitigation program(s), great care is necessary during this phase.

**Mitigation:** This refers to the amelioration of adverse impacts to heritage resources and involves the avoidance of impact through the redesign or relocation of a development or its components; the protection of the resource by constructing physical facilities; or, the scientific investigation and recovery of information from the resource by excavation or other method. The type(s) of appropriate mitigative measures are dictated by their viability in the context of the development project. Mitigation strategies must be developed in consultation with, and approved by, the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. It is important to note that mitigation activities should be initiated as far in advance of the construction of the development as possible.

**Surveillance and monitoring:** These may be required as part of the mitigation program.

*Surveillance* may be conducted during the construction phase of a project to ensure that the developer has complied with the recommendations.

*Monitoring* involves identification and inspection of residual and long-term impacts of a development (i.e. shoreline stability of a reservoir); or the use of impacts to disclose the presence of heritage resources, for example, the uncovering of buried sites during the construction of a pipeline.