

SCREENING DECISION REPORT NIRB FILE NO.: 08EN001

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February 22, 2008

Honourable Chuck Strahl Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada Gatineau, OC

Via email: Strahl.C@parl.gc.ca

Re: <u>Screening Decision for Bayswater Uranium Corporation's North Thelon Uranium</u> Exploration Project Proposal

Dear Honourable Chuck Strahl:

The primary objectives of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement are set out in section 12.2.5 of the Land Claims Agreement. This section reads:

In carrying out its functions, the primary objectives of the 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 Nunavut Land Claim Agreement 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 12.4.4(a) of the NLCA

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

- 1. Bayswater Uranium Corporation (the Proponent) shall operate in accordance with all commitments stated in all documentation provided to the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board), namely:
 - a. NIRB Part 2 Form Project Specific Information Requirements (November 2007)
 - b. Indian and Northern Affairs Canada Application for Land Use Permit (November 2007)
 - c. Bayswater Uranium Project Description (November 2007)
 - d. Bayswater Uranium Corporation Abandonment and Restoration Plan (November 2007)
 - e. Bayswater Uranium Corporation Spill Contingency Plan (November 2007)
- 2. The Proponent shall maintain a copy of the Screening Decision issued by the NIRB at the site of operation at all times.
- 3. The Proponent shall forward copies of all permits required for this project to the NIRB prior to the commencement of the project.
- 4. The NIRB shall be notified of any changes in operating plans or conditions associated with this project prior to any such change.
- 5. The Proponent shall operate the project in accordance with all applicable Acts, Regulations and Guidelines.

Wildlife

- 6. The Proponent shall abide by all DIAND Caribou Protection Measures (CPM), in addition to any instances where the NIRB has recommended a term or condition distinctive from the CPM. In the case where the CPM and NIRB's recommended terms and conditions conflict, the NIRB term or condition shall prevail.
- 7. Should the Proponent be given any approvals to stay within the project area by a Land Use Inspector during the presence of caribou, the Proponent shall provide NIRB with written proof of this approval within ten (10) days of receipt of approval.
- 8. The Proponent shall not conduct any drilling activities between May 15 and July 15 within the designated calving area of the Beverly caribou herd. Furthermore, should the Proponent's Wildlife Monitoring Program indicate that caribou are in *any* area of activity or are approaching said area prior to May 15 or following July 15, the Proponent must immediately stop all disruptive activities (i.e. the use of ATV's and snowmobiles, the movement of equipment and flights) and must not resume operations until wildlife monitoring indicates that the caribou are a minimum of 10 km from the area in question.

- 9. During the period of May 15 to July 15, if caribou are observed calving in the project area, the Proponent must suspend all drilling operations until the caribou and their calves have moved 1 km away from project area. Furthermore, the Proponent shall ensure that no blasting takes place when caribou are observed within 1 km of the project area.
- 10. Prior to significant operational movements (i.e. moving drill rigs), the Proponent shall undertake high altitude (>300 m) aerial reconnaissance with the assistance of an independent wildlife monitor to determine whether caribou cows and calves are present within a 20 km radius of the camp or drill sites, or if caribou are migrating close by. If caribou are observed the Proponent shall suspend all drilling activity within 10 km of the sightings.
- 11. When caribou are within 1 km of any project activities, the Proponent shall suspend all blasting, aircraft take-offs and landings, over-flights of aircraft with an altitude of less than 610 metres above ground level and operation of ATVs and snowmobiles and any other ground based or water based mobile equipment.
- 12. The Proponent shall be expressly prohibited from conducting any low-level flights over herds of caribou, and shall ensure that all flight personnel associated with the project are aware of this condition
- 13. During migration of caribou, the Proponent shall not block or cause any diversion to caribou migration, and shall cease activities likely to interfere with migration such as airborne geophysics surveys or movement of equipment or personnel until such time as the caribou have passed.
- 14. The Proponent must not construct a camp, cache fuel, or operate ground, air or water based mobile equipment within 10 km of a 'designated caribou crossing'; and must not conduct blasting or drilling operations within 5 km of such crossings.
- 15. The Proponent shall not disturb nesting raptors (particularly during the period from April 15 to September 1), keeping at least 1.5 km away from known nests when in transit by aircraft and avoiding close approaches while on foot.
- 16. The Proponent shall not disturb or destroy the nests or eggs of raptors.
- 17. The Proponent shall treat all nest sites with equal precaution, regardless of the response of the
- 18. The Proponent shall avoid any and all activity within 100 m of nest sites during the latter part of the nesting stage (August 10-20 for peregrine falcons in this region).
- 19. Prior to commencing operations, the Proponent shall submit a Wildlife Monitoring and Response Plan to the NIRB, Environment Canada (EC), the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Board (BQCMB), and the Government of Nunavut's Department of the Environment (GN-DOE). At a minimum, the Plan must address *DIAND's Caribou Protection Measures*, and must also include:
 - a. The following requirements:
 - i. Any NIRB terms and conditions contained within this Screening Decision;
 - ii. Aircraft must maintain a flight altitude of at least 610 m at all times, particularly when there are observed groups of caribou, [and] maintain a vertical distance of 1000 m and minimum horizontal of 1500 m from any observed concentrations of birds;
 - iii. The employment of an independent caribou monitor while the project is in operation;
 - iv. The requirement to record, on a daily basis, results from caribou monitoring activities. At the end of each month of project operations, the Proponent must submit this information to GN-DOE;
 - v. The requirement to record all wildlife observations and map, using GPS coordinates, any sensitive wildlife sites, such as denning areas or nesting areas, and especially techniques for surveying caribou in the Proponent's Permit 2 area;

- b. Predicted impacts to wildlife from project activities, including any Species at Risk;
- c. Proposed site-specific measures to reduce anticipated impacts to wildlife;
- d. The proposed wildlife encounter minimization training plan for fixed wing and helicopter operators as referenced on Page 22 of the Proponent's *Project Description Report*.
- e. Proposed monitoring procedures including frequency, monitoring period(s), locations where monitoring will occur, recording and reporting protocols, and discussion regarding how the data collected in the wildlife monitoring program will be used to determine whether adaptive mitigation and management strategies for wildlife are required;
- f. Clear description of thresholds that will be used to determine the necessity for adaptive mitigation and management strategies; and
- g. Procedures for monitoring the effectiveness of mitigation measures;

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

- 20. The Proponent shall ensure that there is no hunting or fishing by employees of the company or any hired contractors unless the proper Nunavut authorizations have been obtained.
- 21. The Proponent shall take all possible measures to avoid wildlife encounters, specifically bears. The Proponent shall follow procedures outlined in the "Safety in Bear Country Manual," and should contact the Regional/Area Biologist or the Wildlife Manager indicated below for information and advice on measures which should be taken to minimize the possibility of bear-people conflicts.

GN-DOE Manager, Wildlife
Dan Shewchuck, (867) 857-2828, dshewchuck@gov.nu.ca
Biologist, Kivalliq Region
Mitch Campbell, (867) 857-2828, mcampbell@gov.nu.ca

Waste Disposal and Air Quality

- 22. The Proponent shall ensure that the disposal of combustible camp wastes comply with the Canadian Wide Standards for Dioxins and Furans, and the Canadian Wide Standards for Mercury.
- 23. The Proponent shall apply appropriate technologies to ensure the complete combustion of wastes. The use of a dual chamber, forced-air incinerator is recommended.
- 24. The Proponent shall not burn or incinerate hazardous wastes.
- 25. The Proponent shall incinerate all combustible and food wastes daily and shall store the ash in such a way that it is inaccessible to wildlife at all times.

Fuel Storage / Spill Contingency Plan

- 26. On or before March 14, 2008, the Proponent shall provide the GN-DOE with an updated Spill Contingency Plan which includes:
 - a. A list of local contractors and specialists whom may realistically be called upon in the event of a spill; and
 - b. The locations of disposal sites approved to accept those wastes which are to be transferred; and,
 - c. The correct contact information for the GN-DOE to appear as follows:

Robert Eno

Manager Pollution Control

Department of Environment

Government of Nunavut Tel (867) 975-7748

- 27. The Proponent shall inspect and document the condition of all fuel caches on a daily basis.
- 28. The Proponent is required to locate all fuel and other hazardous materials a minimum of thirty (30) metres away from the high water mark of any water body and in such a manner as to prevent their release into the environment.
- 29. The Proponent shall ensure all refuelling activities utilize drip pans and only occur at dedicated refuelling areas.
- 30. The Proponent shall ensure that appropriate spill kits are located at every fuel cache and drill site.

Drilling and Disposal of Related Radioactive Substances

- 31. The Canadian Environmental Protection Act lists CaCl as a toxic substance. The Proponent shall therefore ensure that if CaCl is used as a drill additive, all sumps containing CaCl are properly constructed and located in such a manner to ensure that the contents will not enter any water body.
- 32. All drill holes should be sealed by cementing the upper 30 metres of the bedrock or the entire depth of the holes; whichever is less. Drill holes that encounter uranium mineralization with a content greater than 1.0% over a length of 1 metre with a metre-percent concentration greater than 5% should be sealed by cementing over the entire mineralization zone; this should be at least 10 metres above and below each mineralization zone.
- 33. Drill cuttings with a uranium concentration greater than 0.05% should be disposed of down the drill hole and the hole subsequently sealed.
- 34. The Proponent shall ensure that core storage shacks/tents are well ventilated and remain open when employees or contractors are working within. Core storage areas should be located at least 100 metres from the high waterline of all water bodies.
- 35. Gamma radiation levels of a long-term core storage area should not be greater than 1.0 μ Sv, and should never exceed 2.5 μ Sv. Instruments that measure radiation in counts per second should be converted to μ S.
- 36. The Proponent shall conduct final inspections of the entire site with the lead authorizing agency to ensure that all areas of the site have been reclaimed as much as possible to its previous condition.

Abandonment and Restoration

- 37. The Proponent shall transport all waste oil and waste fuels from the site to an approved facility for disposal.
- 38. The Proponent shall remove and treat hydrocarbon contaminated soils on site or transport them to an approved disposal site. The Proponent shall recontour the area as closely as possible to its original state.
- 39. The Proponent is required to ensure the camp-site is clean and tidy. Furthermore, upon abandonment of the project activities, the Proponent shall ensure that the entire project area is clean and tidy, and no remnants of past exploration activities are left within the project area. The area should be left in a state as near as possible to pre-exploration conditions.

Other

40. The Proponent should be aware of the law regarding disturbance of archaeological and palaeontological sites and the removal of surface artifacts found. If a site is found it should

remain undisturbed and its location reported to the Government of Nunavut Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth.

Other NIRB Concerns and Recommendations

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

- 1. Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) impose mitigation measures and/or conditions pursuant to the Federal Land Use Permit, in regard to:
 - a. Location and area
 - b. Time
 - c. Equipment
 - d. Campsites
 - e. Methods and techniques
 - f. Control or prevention of flooding, erosion and subsidence of land
 - g. Use, storage, handling and disposal of chemical or toxic material
 - h. Wildlife and fisheries habitat
 - i. Objects and places of recreational, scenic and ecological value
 - j. Petroleum fuel storage
 - k. Matters not consistent with the regulation
- 2. Government of Nunavut Department of the Environment (GN-DOE) ensure conservation officers inspect the project area within the period of May 15 July 15 to monitor Proponent compliance and the effectiveness of terms and conditions related to terrestrial wildlife.

Regulatory Requirements

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

- 1. Section 36(3) of the *Fisheries Act* (http://laws.justice.gc.ca/en/showtdm/cs/F-14///en) which states that no person shall deposit or permit the deposit of a deleterious substance in any type in water frequented by fish or in any place under any conditions where the deleterious substance may enter such a water body.
- 2. The Proponent shall ensure compliance with the *Nunavut Waters and Nunavut Surface Rights Tribunal Act* which states that "no person shall use, or permit the use of, waters in Nunavut except in accordance with the conditions of a licence," and "no person shall deposit or permit the deposit of waste (a) in waters in Nunavut; or (b) in any other place in Nunavut under conditions in which the waste, or any other waste that results from the deposit of that waste, may enter waters in Nunavut" (http://www.canlii.org/ca/sta/n-28.8/whole.html).
- 3. The Migratory Birds Convention Act (http://laws.justice.gc.ca/en/showtdm/cs/M-7.01) which states that no person disturb or destroy the nests or eggs of migratory birds. If nests containing eggs or young are encountered, the Proponent shall avoid these areas until nesting is complete and the young have left the nest.
- 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. The Proponent should consult the Species at Risk Public Registry (http://www.sararegistry.gc.ca/) to identify any Species at Risk within the project location. Further, the Proponent shall develop monitoring plans for each relevant Species at Risk in accordance with any applicable status reports, recovery strategies, action plans, and management plans posted on the

Species at Risk Public Registry and in consultation with the Government Organization with Primary Management Responsibility. Monitoring plans should record the locations and frequency of observing species of special concern and note any actions taken to avoid contact or cause disturbance to the species, its residence, or its critical habitat.

- 5. The Nunavut Act (http://laws.justice.gc.ca/en/showtdm/cs/N-28.6) which requires that no person alter or disturb any archaeological or palaeontological sites in Nunavut unless permission is first granted through the permitting process. If any archaeological or palaeontological sites are found they should remain undisturbed and their location should be reported to the Government of Nunavut Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. The Proponent must comply with the proposed terms and conditions listed in the attached Appendix C.
- 6. The *Transportation of Dangerous Goods Regulations*, *Transportation of Dangerous Goods Act* (http://www.tc.gc.ca/tdg/menu.htm), and the *Environmental Protection Act* (http://laws.justice.gc.ca/en/C-15.31/text.html) which present the requirements for the handling, storing, managing and transportation of dangerous goods, including hazardous wastes, fuel and contaminated material. The Proponent must ensure that proper shipping documents accompany all movements of dangerous goods. The Proponent must register with GN-DOE by contacting Robert Eno at 867-975-7748 or reno@gov.nu.ca.

The Proponent will also be advised that:

- 1. All releases of harmful substances are immediately reportable where the release:
 - a. Is near or into a water body;
 - b. Is near or into a designated sensitive environment or sensitive wildlife habitat;
 - c. Poses an imminent threat to human health or safety; or
 - d. Poses an imminent threat to a listed species at risk or its critical habitat

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	February 22, 2008	at Sanikiluaq, NU.
W.		
Lucassie A	Arragutainaq, A/Chair	

Appendix A Procedural History and Project Activities

Procedural History

On January 8, 2008 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received a positive conformity determination from the Nunavut Planning Commission for Bayswater Uranium Corporation's (BUC's) North Thelon Uranium Exploration project proposal. Furthermore, on January 17, 2008 the NIRB received a Class A Land Use Permit application from Indian and Northern Affairs Canada for the proposed project. The NIRB has assigned this project proposal file number 08EN001.

The proposed project is a uranium exploration program, located in the Kivalliq region of Nunavut. The nearest community to BUC's proposed project is Baker Lake, located approximately 155 km southeast of the North Thelon project holdings.

The project proposal was distributed to the community of Baker Lake, the Kivalliq Inuit Association, and to interested Federal and Territorial Agencies. The NIRB requested that interested Parties review the proposal and provide the Board with comments by February 8, 2008 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 socioeconomic 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; and
- Any matter of importance to the Party related to the project proposal.

On or before February 8, 2008, the NIRB received comments from the following interested Parties:

- Government of Nunavut Department of Environment (GN-DOE)
- Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Board (BQCMB)
- Environment Canada (EC)
- Mianiqsijit Society (MS)

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

Project Activities

The proposed activities associated with the project occur on Crown Land and include the following:

- Use of an existing camp (Cameco Corporation's Sahara Camp NIRB Screening 07EN011)
- Use of an existing airstrip
- Helicopter support (daily transportation to site) and use of fixed wing aircraft
- On-land drilling uranium exploration program using a BBS 25 Surface (diamond) drill
- Ground geophysics exploration activities
- Fuel transportation and storage (diesel, Jet B, gasoline, propane)
- Chemical transportation and storage
- Consumption of water for use in camp and with drill program
- Production of wastes (human, solid, hazardous, chemical)
- Incineration of wastes (sewage, garbage, waste oil from drills)

- Backhauling and disposal of non-combustible wastes
- Abandonment and reclamation

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) to get the current status of a species.

Updated: January 3, 2007

	COSEWIC		Government Organization with Lead Management
Species at Risk	Designation	Schedule of SARA	Responsibility ¹
Eskimo Curlew	Endangered	Schedule 1	EC
Ivory Gull	Endangered ²	Schedule 1	EC
Peregrine Falcon (subspecies anatum)	Threatened	Schedule 1	Government of Nunavut
Ross's Gull	Threatened	Schedule 1	EC
Harlequin Duck (Eastern population)	Special Concern	Schedule 1	EC
Felt-leaf Willow	Special Concern	Schedule 1	Government of Nunavut
Peregrine Falcon (subspecies tundrius)	Special Concern	Schedule 3	Government of Nunavut
Short-eared Owl	Special Concern	Schedule 3	Government of Nunavut
Fourhorn Sculpin	Special Concern	Schedule 3	DFO
Peary Caribou	Endangered ³	Pending	Government of Nunavut
Beluga Whale (Eastern Hudson Bay population)	Endangered	Pending	DFO
Beluga Whale (Cumberland Sound population)	Threatened	Pending	DFO
Beluga Whale (Western Hudson Bay population)	Special Concern	Pending	DFO

Beluga Whale (Eastern High Arctic –	Special Concern	Pending	DFO
Baffin Bay population)			
Bowhead Whale	Threatened 4	Pending	DFO
(Hudson Bay-Foxe Basin population)			
Bowhead Whale	Threatened ⁴	Pending	DFO
(Davis Strait-Baffin Bay			
population)			
Porsild's Bryum	Threatened	Pending	Government of Nunavut
Atlantic Walrus	Special Concern	Pending	DFO
Narwhal	Special Concern	Pending	DFO
Rusty Blackbird	Special Concern	Pending	Government of Nunavut
Barren-ground Caribou (Dolphin and Union population)	Special Concern ³	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

¹ Environment Canada 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. EC = Environment Canada, DFO = Department of Fisheries and Oceans

² Designated as Endangered by COSEWIC in April 2006 and it is expected that the category of concern in SARA will also be changed from Special Concern to Endangered.

³ Peary Caribou was split into three separate populations in 1991: Banks Island (Endangered), High Arctic (Endangered) and Low Arctic (Threatened) populations. The Low Arctic population also included the Barren-ground Caribou - Dolphin and Union population. In May 2004 all three population designations were de-activated, and the Peary Caribou, Rangifer tarandus pearyi, was assessed separately from the Barren-ground Caribou (Dolphin and Union population), Rangifer tarandus groenlandicus. The subspecies pearyi is composed of a portion of the former "Low Arctic population" and all of the former "High Arctic" and "Banks Island" populations, and it was designated Endangered in May 2004. Although SARA lists Peary Caribou on Schedule 2 as three separate populations, the most current designation is the COSEWIC designation of the subspecies pearyi as Endangered.

⁴ The "Eastern and Western Arctic populations" of Bowhead Whale were given a single designation of Endangered in April 1980 by COSEWIC. These were split into two populations to allow separate designations in April 1986. The Eastern population was not re-evaluated in April 1986, but retained the Endangered status of the original "Eastern and Western Arctic populations". The Eastern Arctic population was further split into two populations (Hudson Bay-Foxe Basin population and Davis Strait-Baffin Bay population) in May 2005, and both these populations were designated as Threatened. Both these populations are under consideration for addition to Schedule 1. Although SARA lists the Eastern Arctic population as Endangered (Schedule 2), the most current designation is the COSEWIC designations of the Hudson Bay-Foxe Basin and Davis Strait-Baffin Bay populations as Threatened.

Appendix C

Archaeological and Palaeontological Resources Terms and Conditions for Land Use Permit Holders



BACKGROUND: Archaeology

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

The archaeological record of the Inuit of Nunavut is a record of Inuit use and occupancy of lands and resources through time. The evidence associated with their use and occupancy represents a cultural, historical and ethnographic heritage of Inuit society and, as such, Government recognizes that Inuit have a special relationship with such evidence, which shall be expressed in terms of special rights and responsibilities. [33.2.1]

The archaeological record of Nunavut is of spiritual, cultural, religious and educational importance to Inuit. Accordingly, the identification, protection and conservation of archaeological sites and specimens and the interpretation of the archaeological record is of primary importance to Inuit and their involvement is both desirable and necessary. [33.2.2]

In recognition of the cultural, spiritual and religious importance of certain areas in Nunavut to Inuit, Inuit have special rights and interests in these areas as defined by Article 33 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement. [33.2.5]

BACKGROUND: Palaeontology

Under the Nunavut Act1, the federal Government can make regulations for the protection, care and preservation of palaeontological sites and specimens in Nunavut. Under the *Nunavut Archaeological and Palaeontological Sites Regulations*2, it is illegal to alter or disturb any palaeontological site in Nunavut unless permission is first granted through the permitting process.

1 s. 51(1)

2 P.C. 2001-1111 14 June, 2001

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:

- (a) natural casts
- (b) preserved tracks, coprolites and plant remains; and
- (c) the preserved shells and exoskeletons of invertebrates and the eggs, teeth and bones of vertebrates.

Terms and Conditions

- 1) The permittee shall not operate any vehicle over a known or suspected archaeological or palaeontological site.
- 2) The permittee shall not remove, disturb, or displace any archaeological artifact or site, or any fossil or palaeontological site.
- 3) The permittee shall immediately contact the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth (867) 934-2046 or (867) 975-5500 or 1 (866) 934-2035 should an archaeological site or specimen, or a palaeontological site or fossil be encountered or disturbed by any land use activity.
- 4) The permittee 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 the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, Government of Nunavut.
- 5) The permittee shall follow the direction of the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth and DIAND in restoring disturbed archaeological or palaeontological sites to an acceptable condition.
- 6) The permittee shall provide all information requested by the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth concerning all archaeological sites or artifacts and all palaeontological sites and fossils encountered in the course of any land use activity.
- 7) The permittee shall make best efforts to ensure that all persons working under authority of the permit are aware of these conditions concerning archaeological sites and artifacts, and palaeontological sites and fossils.

- 8) The permittee shall avoid the known archaeological and/or palaeontological sites listed in Attachment 1.
- 9) The permittee shall have an archaeologist or palaeontologist perform the following functions, as required by the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth:
 - a. survey
 - b. inventory and documentation of the archaeological or palaeontological resources of the land use area
 - c. assessment of potential for damage to archaeological or palaeontological sites
 - d. mitigation
 - e. marking boundaries of archaeological or palaeontological sites
 - f. site restoration

The Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth shall authorize by way of a Nunavut Archaeologist Permit or a Nunavut Palaeontologist Permit, all procedures subsumed under the above operations.