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NWB File: 7BL-NNL----

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Via email: [licensingadmin@nunavutwaterboard.org](mailto:licensingadmin@nunavutwaterboard.org)

**RE: 7BL-NNL---- Northern Networks Ltd. new water license application**

Environment Canada (EC) has reviewed the above-mentioned application submitted to the Nunavut Water Board (NWB). The following specialist advice has been provided pursuant to the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act*, Section 36(3) of the *Fisheries Act*, the *Migratory Birds Convention Act*, and the *Species at Risk Act*.

Northern Networks Ltd. is applying for a new 'Type B' water license for an existing camp at Henik Lake, 120 miles west of Arviat. The camp accommodates 20 people, and will be used between four to eight weeks per year, between June and September on an annual basis. The camp will be used for tourism purposes, exploration support, and company recreational use and has been used for exploration support since 2003 and was used for recreational purposes in the 1970s and 1980s.

Upon review of the application, EC provides the following comments and recommendations for the NWB's consideration:

**General**

- The proponent shall not deposit, nor permit the deposit of chemicals, sediment, wastes, or fuels associated with the project into any water body. According to the *Fisheries Act*, Section 36 (3), the deposition of deleterious substances of any type in water frequented by fish, or in any place under any conditions where the deleterious substance, or any deleterious substance that results from the deposit of the deleterious substance, may enter any such water, is prohibited.

**Spill Contingency Plan**

- EC recommends that a map of the camp with marked locations of fuel storage sites and spill kits should be attached to the Spill Contingency Plan and be posted in an area visible and accessible to camp occupants. EC recommends that a Spill Contingency Plan be in place for any fuel storage or transfer location, outlining a clear path of response in the event of a spill and address the key areas of prevention, preparedness, response and recovery.

- A spill kit, including shovels, barrels, absorbents, etc. should be readily available at all locations where fuel is being stored or transferred in order to provide immediate response in the event of a spill.
- The Plan should include the following statement, “all spills of oil, fuel, or other deleterious materials, regardless of size, are to be reported to the NWT-NU 24hr Spill Line (867) 920-8130.
- EC recommends the use of secondary containment, such as self-supporting insta-berms, for storage of all barrelled fuel rather than relying on natural depressions to contain spills.
- Refueling shall not take place below the high water mark of any water body and shall be done in such a manner as to prevent any hydrocarbons from entering any water body frequented by fish.
- A section should be included in the Plan that provides direction regarding response action for spills on various types of terrain (e.g. spills on land, water, snow/ice, muskeg, etc.)
- EC recommends that the proponent include a provision that drip pans be used when refueling equipment on site in order to help prevent spills from occurring.
- EC recommends that a 24 Hour NWT/NU Spill Response Form be attached to the Plan.
- Under Section 3.2 Additional Contacts, the Environment Canada contact should be updated to read ‘Environment Canada (Iqaluit)-Enforcement Officer (867)945-4644.

### **Waste Disposal**

- The proponent states that garbage and sewage waste will be incinerated. Raw sewage should only be burned in incineration equipment designed for this type of waste. If Northern Networks Ltd. decides to pursue sewage sludge incineration, it should provide the Board with the design specifications of the incinerator and a letter from the manufacturer stating that this equipment is suitable for burning this type of waste.
- EC recommends the use of an approved incinerator for the disposal of combustible camp wastes. EC has developed a Technical Document for Batch Waste Incineration, and is available at the following web 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. This information should be incorporated into an incineration management plan for the camp. EC would like the opportunity to review this plan prior to implementation.
- If the proponent does ship garbage and sewage waste off-site for disposal, EC suggests that confirmation and authorization be obtained from the intended community landfill (i.e., Arviat) prior to shipment.

### **Wildlife and Species at Risk**

- Section 6 (a) of the *Migratory Birds Regulations* states that no one shall disturb or destroy the nests or eggs of migratory birds. If active nests are encountered during project activities, the nesting area should be avoided until nesting is complete (i.e., the young have left the nest).
- Environment Canada recommends that food, domestic wastes, and petroleum-based chemicals (e.g., greases, gasoline, glycol-based antifreeze) be made inaccessible to wildlife at all times. Such items can attract predators of migratory birds such as foxes, ravens, gulls, and bears. Although these animals may initially be attracted to the novel food sources, they often will also eat eggs and young birds in the area. These predators can have significant negative effects on the local bird populations.
- Section 5.1 of the *Migratory Birds Convention Act* prohibits persons from depositing substances harmful to migratory birds in waters or areas frequented by migratory birds or in a place from which the substance may enter such waters or such an area.

- The following comments are pursuant to the *Species at Risk Act* (SARA), which came into full effect on June 1, 2004. Section 79 (2) of SARA, states that during an assessment of effects of a project, the adverse effects of the project on listed wildlife species and its critical habitat must be identified, that measures are taken to avoid or lessen those effects, and that the effects need to be monitored. This section applies to all species listed on Schedule 1 of SARA. However, as a matter of best practice, Environment Canada suggests that species on other Schedules of SARA and under consideration for listing on SARA, including those designated as at risk by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC), be considered during an environmental assessment in a similar manner. The Table below lists species that may be encountered in the project area that have been assessed by COSEWIC as well as their current listing on Schedules 1-3 of SARA (and designation if different from that of COSEWIC). Project impacts could include species disturbance, attraction to operations, and destruction of habitat.

Terrestrial Species at Risk potentially within project area <sup>1</sup>	COSEWIC Designation	Schedule of SARA	Government Organization with Primary Management Responsibility <sup>2</sup>
Peregrine Falcon	Special Concern ( <i>anatum-tundrius</i> complex <sup>3</sup> )	Schedule 3 – Special Concern ( <i>tundrius</i> )	Government of Nunavut
Short-eared Owl	Special Concern	Schedule 3	Government of Nunavut
Polar Bear	Special Concern	Pending	Government of Nunavut
Grizzly Bear	Special Concern	Pending	Government of Nunavut
Wolverine (Western population)	Special Concern	Pending	Government of Nunavut

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

<sup>2</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.

<sup>3</sup> The *anatum* subspecies of Peregrine Falcon is listed on Schedule 1 of SARA as threatened. The *anatum* and *tundrius* subspecies of Peregrine Falcon were reassessed by COSEWIC in 2007 and combined into one subpopulation complex. This subpopulation complex was listed by COSEWIC as Special Concern.

- For any Species at Risk that could be encountered or affected by the project, the proponent should note any potential adverse effects of the project to the 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 [www.sararegistry.gc.ca](http://www.sararegistry.gc.ca) for information on specific species.
- 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.
- 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 taken in a way that is consistent with applicable recovery strategies and action/management plans.
- All mitigation measures identified by the proponent, and the additional measures suggested herein, should be strictly adhered to in conducting project activities. This will require awareness on the part of the proponents' representatives (including contractors) conducting operations in the field. Environment Canada recommends that all field operations staff be made aware of the proponents' commitments to these mitigation measures and provided with appropriate advice / training on how to implement these measures.
- Implementation of these measures may help to reduce or eliminate some effects of the project on migratory birds and Species at Risk, but will not necessarily ensure that the proponent remains in compliance with the *Migratory Birds Convention Act*, *Migratory Birds Regulations*, and the *Species at Risk Act*. The proponent must ensure they remain in compliance during all phases and in all undertakings related to the project.

If there are any changes in the project EC should be notified as further review may be necessary. Please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned with any questions or comments with regards to the foregoing at (867) 975-4631 or by email at [Paula.C.Smith@ec.gc.ca](mailto:Paula.C.Smith@ec.gc.ca)

Yours truly,



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