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11 February 2026

Richard Dwyer
Manager, Licensing
Nunavut Water Board

Dear Mr. Dwyer,

This letter is to introduce my application for the use of water or deposit of waste without a licence associated with a temporary camp at Anderson Bay (~40 km southeast of Cambridge Bay) to study the population dynamics of lesser snow geese and Ross's geese (i.e., light geese). The project title is "Assessment of population dynamics of waterfowl in the central Arctic". While light goose demography was studied nearly continuously since 1991 at Karrak Lake (Queen Maud Gulf [Ahiak] Migratory Bird Sanctuary) by Ray Alisauskas, the colony has declined rapidly and logistics are increasingly difficult. At the same time, the colony at Anderson Bay has increased rapidly over the last 10 years. Information about the population dynamics of light geese is required by the Canadian and US governments, the Arctic Goose Joint Venture and the four migratory bird flyways of North America for robust population management. Earlier this year, funders and I decided to move camp from Karrak to Anderson Bay and propose to begin a comprehensive program that links light goose population dynamics with ecosystem impacts (including on sea ducks such as king eiders) to continue to provide information to managers for decision-making. My hope is this becomes a long-term project (25 years) because of the importance of multi-decadal data to informing our understanding of waterfowl population biology.

Water associated with this project will be used for drinking by crew members (6 people in 2026) and gathered with buckets from melt rivers and nearby lakes.

My application is enclosed with this letter. Thank you for your consideration. Please let me know if I can provide additional information.

Sincerely,

Mitch D. Weegman, Ph.D.
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