

May 24, 2017

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By email: info@nirb.ca

Dear Mr. Kharatyan, Mr. Cote, Mr. Shoo, Ms. Ohokannoak, Ms. Hodgskiss:

RE: NPC File # 148589 [The Beginning of an Era Characterizing the Depositional Environment of Earth's Earliest Eukaryotic Life]

The following works and activities have been proposed in the above-noted project proposal:

- 1. Scientific Research: Four (4) weeks geological field research on Belcher Islands. The project aim to characterize ocean and atmospheric chemistry across approximately 200 million year interval. This will be achieved through geological mapping, and surface sampling of rocks for chemical analyses. Samples are typically 50-500 grams, and will be catalogued at Stanford University to be shared with other researchers upon request.
- 2. Modifications to the original/amended project proposal: Camp sites locations this year are different from the past. All planned camps are still located on Inuit Owned Land in the Belcher Islands
- 3. Associated NPC File No: 148202
- 4. Location: Qikiqtani Region; Belcher Islands around the community of Sanikiluaq.

A complete description of the project proposal reviewed by the NPC can be accessed online using the link below.

The Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC) previously reviewed works and activities associated with the current project proposal including the installation of temporary camp sites for geological mapping and the collection of small rock samples on Belcher Islands and a determination was issued on March 17, 2016 (NPC file # 148202) that it is outside the area of an applicable regional land use plan.

In addition, works and activities associated with the current proposal were previously screened by the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB FILE NO.: 16YN013).

The above-noted project proposal is exempt from screening by the NIRB because the NPC is of the understanding that the inclusion of new locations for the camp sites does not change the general scope of the original project activities, and the exceptions noted in Section 12.4.3 (a) and (b) of the Nunavut Agreement do not apply.

By way of this letter, the NPC is forwarding the project proposal to the regulatory authorities identified by the proponent. Project materials are available at the following address: http://npc.strata360.com/portal/project-dashboard.php?appid=148589&sessionid=

This decision applies only to the above noted project proposal as submitted. Proponents may not carry out projects and regulatory authorities may not issue licenses, permits and other authorizations in respect of projects if a review by the NPC is required.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (867) 979-3444.

Sincerely,

Goump Djalogue, MCIP, RPP

Senior Planner,

Nunavut Planning Commission