29 May 2024

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Shannon Rupert

Mars Society (Proponent) Lakewood, Colorado, USA

By email: srupert@marssociety.org

Dear Mosha Cote, Richard Dwyer, Tracey McCaie, Carson Gillis, Jared Ottenhof, Cassel Kapolak, and Shannon Rupert:

RE: NPC File No. 150428 [FMARS 2024]

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

- 1. Scientific research activities building upon the foundational work completed in the previous year, the 2024 research initiative aims to deepen the scientific community's understanding of these Arctic systems by extending the scientific scope of the study. The 2024 research plan aims to continue water and ice assessments, search for nanoplastics contamination, sample the living and fossilised algae located in 2023, expand on the study of radiation exposure, and increase community involvement in research on Devon Island.
- 2. Associated NPC File Nos.: 148522 and 150130; Associated NIRB File No.: 07LN014
- 3. Location: Qikiqtani Region; [Devon Island, Flashline Mars Arctic Research Station (FMARS) approximately 115 km northeast of Resolute Bay]

A complete description of the project proposal reviewed by the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC) can be accessed online using the link below.

The NPC has completed its review of the above noted project proposal. The activities associated with this proposal were previously reviewed by NPC, and a conformity determination was issued on June 14, 2023, which still applies. In addition, the activities were previously screened by the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB File No.: 07LN014).

The above-noted project proposal is exempt from screening by the NIRB because the NPC is of the understanding that it does not change the general scope of the previously amended 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, including the applicable conformity requirements, are available at the following address: https://lupit.nunavut.ca/portal/registry/registry/aspx?appid=150428.

This conformity determination applies only to the above noted project proposal as submitted. The regulatory authorities to which this letter is addressed are responsible under the *Nunavut Agreement* to implement any of the applicable conformity requirements by incorporating the requirements directly, or otherwise ensuring that they must be met, in the terms and conditions of any authorizations issued.

My office would be pleased to discuss how best to implement the applicable requirements and to review any draft authorizations that regulatory authorities wish to provide for that purpose. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (867) 979-3444.

Sincerely,

Goump Djalogue

Manager of Planning & Implementation, MCIP, RPP

Nunavut Planning Commission