



June 14, 2023
NPC File No.:150130

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Dear Mosha Cote, Richard Dwyer, Tracey McCaie, Jared Ottenhof, Francis Emingak, and Shannon Rupert:

RE: NPC File No: 150130 [FMARS 2023-- A second look at the Mars 160 research findings]

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

- 1. Scientific Research:** The short-term goal for this field season is to reexamine the findings of the original research conducted by the Mars 160 team in 2017 and update the literature. The long-term goal for this project is to continue expanding on our biological and geological understanding of the area surrounding the Flashline Mars Arctic Research Station on Devon Island over the multiyear project. Activities include looking at patterned ground known as polygons, and documenting hypolith and endolith colonies, as well as identifying lichens.

2. **Modifications to the original/amended project proposal:** Conduct basic environmental monitoring on radiation levels and water quality with a particular interest of looking for the presence/absence of microplastics in water sources.
3. **Associated NPC File No: 148522, Associated NIRB: 07LN014.**
4. Location: Qikiqtani Region; [Devon Island, approx. 115km Northeast of Resolute Bay.]

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

The Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC) has completed its review of the above noted project proposal. The NPC previously reviewed works and activities associated with the current proposal (conformity determination issued April 7, 2017, which still applies. In addition, associated activities were previously screened by the Nunavut Impact Review Board, including lichen specimens' collection and ambient physical conditions measurement (NIRB FILE NO.: 07LN014). It conforms to the North Baffin Regional Land Use Plan (NBRLUP). The proponent has undertaken to comply with the applicable conformity requirements of Appendix C, H, and I of the NBRLUP.

The above-noted project proposal is exempt from screening by the NIRB because the NPC is of the understanding that the inclusion of radiation levels and water quality monitoring does not change the general scope of the original or 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/project-dashboard.php?appid=150130&sessionid=>

The regulatory authorities to which this letter is addressed are responsible under the Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act (NUPPAA) to implement any of the applicable requirements by incorporating the requirements directly, or otherwise ensuring that they must be met, in the terms and conditions of any authorizations issued.

This conformity determination 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. Regulatory authorities may consult with the NPC to obtain recommendations on their duties to implement the existing land use plans prior to issuing licenses, permits and other authorizations under subsection 69(6) of the NUPPAA.

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, MCIP, RPP
Manager of Planning and Implementation
Nunavut Planning Commission