



May 14, 2025
NPC FILE No. 149966

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Dear Cassel Kapolak, Mosha Cote, Richard Dwyer, Lisa Pirie-Dominix, Brenda Pilakapsi, Natalie D'Souza, and Paul Smith:

RE: NPC File # 149966 [Shorebird Research - East Bay, Ikkattuag, and Prince Charles Island]

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

1. Continue regular shorebird research at East Bay and Prince Charles Island.
2. Modifications to the original/amended project proposal: Use of a small unmanned aerial vehicle (drone) to count nesting Snow Geese in the East Bay Migratory Bird Sanctuary. Transects over the study area will be flown once to program the route, and subsequently the drone will make 2-3 passes to collect imagery. The drone altitude must be necessarily maintained high enough to avoid flushing birds, as birds must remain on the nest for it to be identified in the imagery, which provides a means to ensure that disturbance to nesting geese is minimal.
3. Associated NPC File Nos: 149738, 148462, 149041; Related NIRB File No: 06AN026, 05AN011 and 17AN040
4. Location: Kivalliq and Qikiqtani Regions; [Ikkattuag (Harry Gibbons) Migratory Bird Sanctuary]

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 NPC previously reviewed works and activities associated with the current project proposal and decision was issued on March 14, 2006, April 23, 2014, February 20, 2017, February 13, 2019 and May 27, 2022. This conformity determination still applies. In addition, associated activities were previously screened by the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB File Nos.: 06AN026, 05AN011, AND 17AN040).

This project proposal is exempt from the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act* (NUPPAA) under section 235 of that Act. The above-noted project proposal is exempt from screening by the NIRB because the NPC is of the understanding that the inclusion of a drone survey 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/registry/registry.aspx?appid=149966>

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) 447-4563.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'SA', with a horizontal line extending from the end of the 'A'.

Solomon Amuno, PhD
Senior Planner
Nunavut Planning Commission