

March 01, 2017

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Dear Mr. Cote, Ms. Chisholm, Ms. Kharatyan, Mr. Johnstone, Ms. Ohokannoak, Mr. Shoo, Ms. McCaie, and Ms. Piepjohn:

## **RE:** NPC File # 148498-CASE 19-Pearya

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

1. Scientific Research: The major scientific goal of the CASE-program is to understand the deformation of rocks on Svalbard, North Greenland and the Queen Elizabeth Islands related to the opening of the Arctic Ocean and the final break-up of the ancient northern continent Laurasia. The geologic structures formed, the timing of faulting, and the direction of fault movement related to opening of the Arctic Ocean is complex and complicated. The resultant 2,500 km long and 400 km wide mountain belts formed are poorly understood. Therefore, study of the history of fault movement along northern Ellesmere Island is critical to

getting some answers to one of the most important questions in Arctic geoscience: how and when did the Arctic Ocean (especially the Amerasian Basin) form?

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 activities associated with this proposal were previously reviewed by NPC, and a conformity determinations were issued on March 21, 2016, which still applies (NPC File # 148223). In addition, the activities were previously screened by the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB FILE NO.: 16FN015). The above-noted project proposal is exempt from screening by the NIRB under section 12.4.3 of the Nunavut Agreement as amended because it is for a component or activity that was part of the original proposal and its inclusion is not a significant modification of the project.

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:

http://npc.strata360.com/portal/project-dashboard.php?appid=148498&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,

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Senior Planner, MCIP, RPP Nunavut Planning Commission

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