

March 21, 2023 NPC File No. 149754

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Dear Mr. Emingak, Mr. Cote, Mr. Dwyer, Ms. McCaie, Ms. Pilakapsi, and Ms. LeBlanc:

# RE: NPC File # 149754 [Talik mapping and conceptual models of subpermafrost groundwater-surface water connectivity to support decision making regarding mining development facilities]

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

- 1. Natural Resource Canada (NRCan) is proposing to conduct field activities in and around Rankin Inlet on the western coast of Hudson Bay. Specific activities include:
  - Carry out lake water sampling (bottom of water column) to assess lake water chemistry including lowering down instruments into the water column (either via holes drilled through their ice cover or via drones or zodiacs during the summer);
  - Undertake short- and long-term installation of devices and sensors in lake and lake bottom (spring or summer);
  - Conduct shallow permafrost (~<3m) sampling in various surficial geology units (summer);</li>
  - Acquisition of ground-based geophysical data to determine if unfrozen ground (i.e., open talik) underlies lakes of interest (spring).

- Carry out follow up visits to some of the sites of interests for instruments and data retrieval, and for further sampling after the analysis of first year results (until termination of this GEM-GeoNorth project in March 2025).
- 2. Location: Kivalliq Region; [Lake samples within and around the vicinity of Rankin Inlet].

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. It conforms to the Keewatin Regional Land Use Plan (KRLUP). The proponent has undertaken to comply with the applicable conformity requirements of Appendix C, G, and H of the KRLUP. The project proposal requires screening by the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) because it does not belong to a class of exempt works or activities set out in Schedule 12-1 of the Nunavut Agreement.

By way of this letter, the NPC is forwarding the project proposal with this determination to the NIRB for screening. Project materials, including the applicable conformity requirements, are available at the following address: <a href="https://lupit.nunavut.ca/portal/project-dashboard.php?appid=149754">https://lupit.nunavut.ca/portal/project-dashboard.php?appid=149754</a> &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) 447-4563.

Sincerely,

Solomon Amuno, PhD Senior Planner

**Nunavut Planning Commission**