

July 2026

Attention: Richard Dwyer
Manager of Licensing, Nunavut Water Board
Gjoa Haven, Nunavut
Richard.dwyer@nwb-oen.ca
licensing@nwb-oen.ca



Re: Application for the Use of Water or Deposit of Waste Without a License, Environmental Sampling at the Cambridge Bay Upper Air Station

Dear Richard Dwyer,

Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) is submitting this application for the Use of Water or Deposit of Waste Without a License for environmental sampling work that will occur in August 2026 at the Cambridge Bay Upper Air Station in Cambridge Bay, Nunavut.

Project Background

The Cambridge Bay Upper Air Station has been operated by ECCC since 1970. Currently, weather balloons are released twice daily through an automated launching system. There are several buildings on Site belonging to ECCC as well as a water lift station, which is reportedly owned and operated by the Hamlet of Cambridge Bay. Previous environmental investigations which occurred in 2014 and 2015 found petroleum hydrocarbons (fuel) and soil acidity levels that were outside of the typical range.

Summer 2026 Field Work Plans at the Site

Site sampling is planned for August 2026 to build on the work that began in 2014 and 2015 to delineate impacts to soil and water at the site. An Archaeological Impact Assessment will be done first to check if there are any cultural features that need to be avoided and left undisturbed. The permit for this archaeological work is already in place with the Nunavut Department of Culture and Heritage.

To evaluate the water in the active layer, pre-packed wells will be installed in test pits adjacent to the soil sampling locations at four locations on the Site. The locations of the pre-packed wells will be determined once on Site, along the perimeter for delineating impacts. The water drawn from our site will be limited to the active zone water taken for the development, purging and sampling of these pre-packed wells and corresponds to approximately 40L over the course over the field work. The purge water will be containerized and brought off-site for testing. Test results will indicate whether the liquid can be disposed of in the municipal wastewater system, or if other disposal methods will be required.

The figures attached to this letter show the Site plan and sampling locations.

Should you require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully,
Iliana

Iliana Irons
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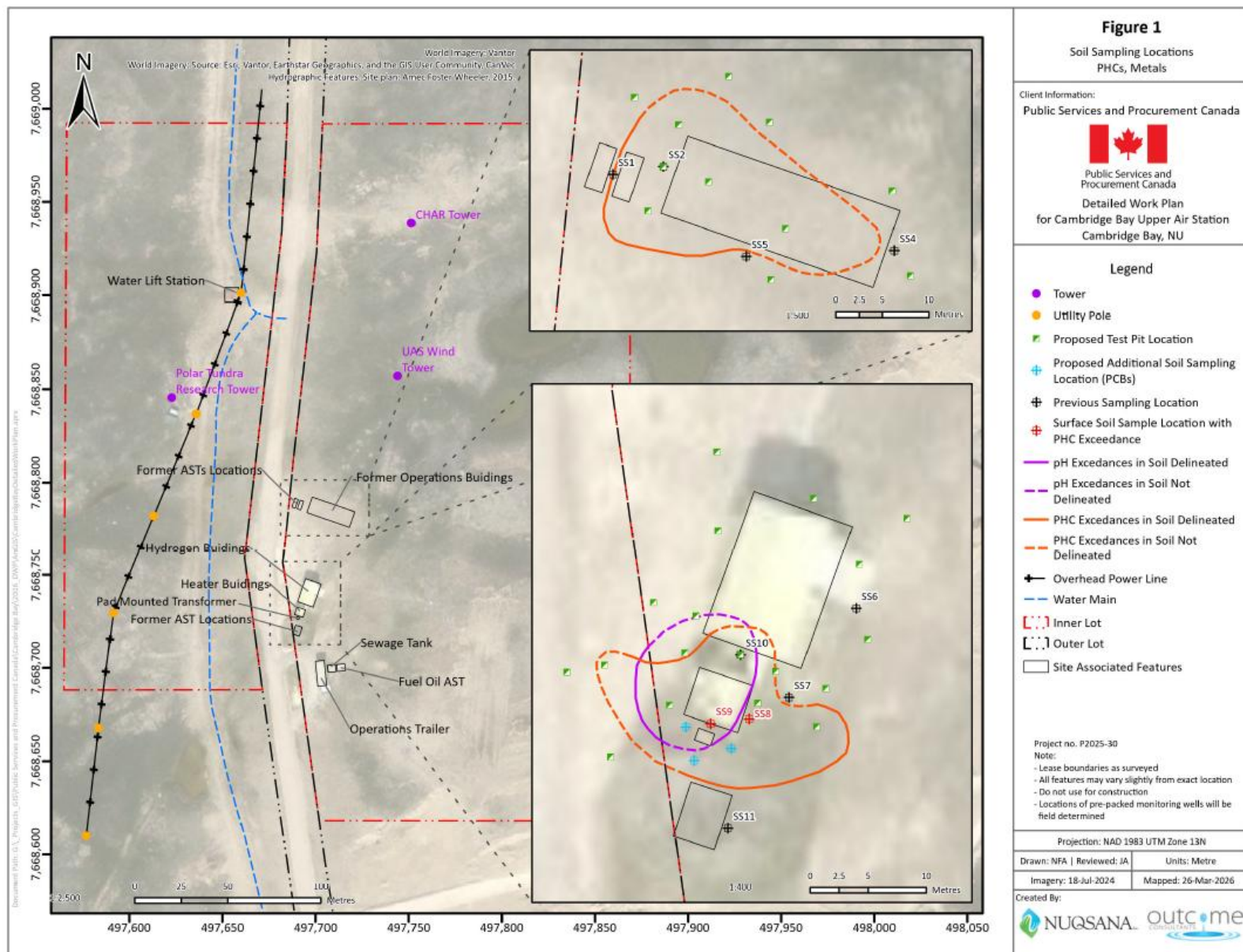


Figure 1: Planned Soil Sampling Locations around ECCC Operations

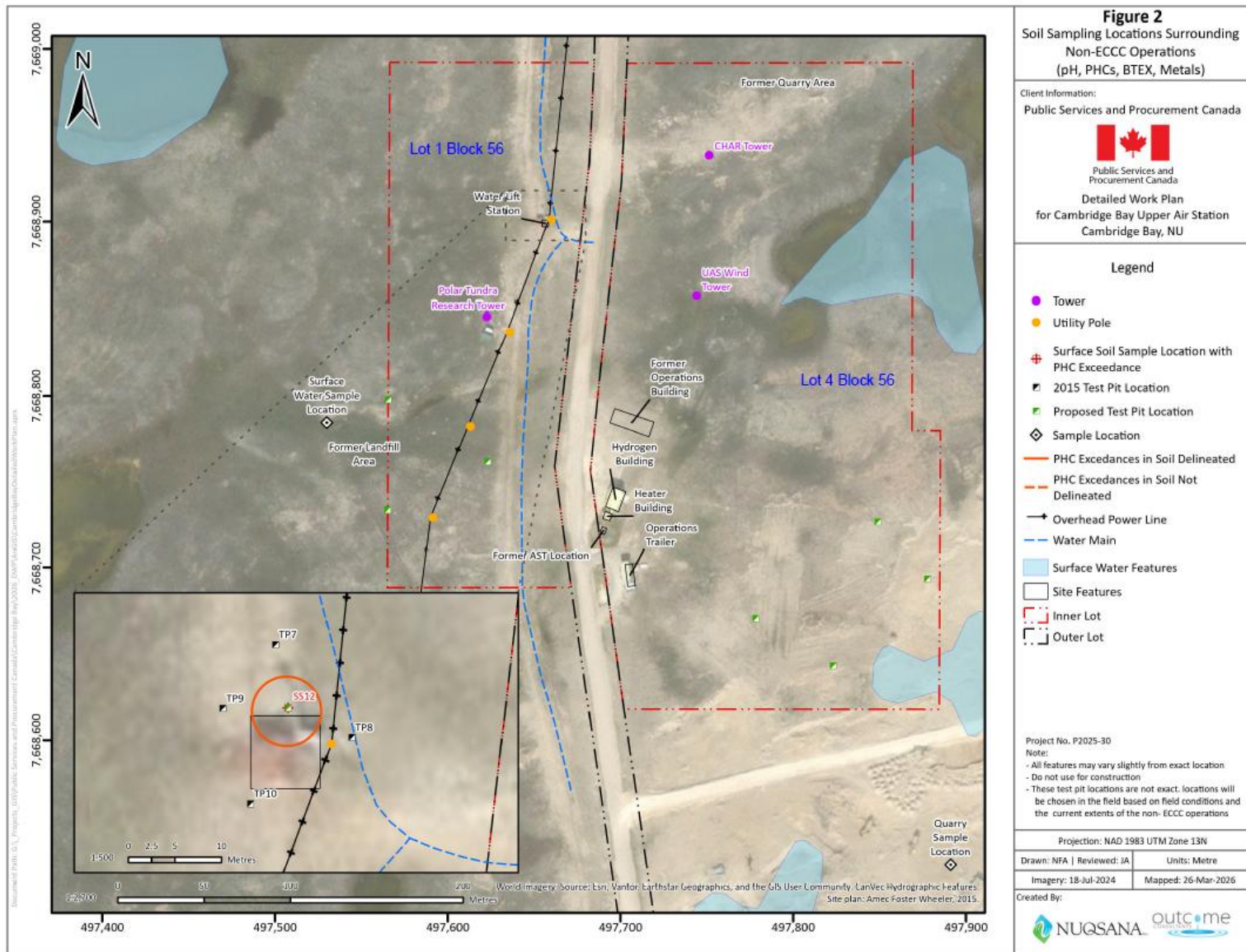


Figure 2: Planned Soil Sampling Locations around non-ECCC Operations



Figure 3: Location of the Cambridge Bay Upper Air Station
(Source: Google Earth)

