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Nunavunmi Parnaiyiit
Nunavut Planning Commission
Commission d'Aménagement du Nunavut

April 11, 2022

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Dear Talia Maksagak, Mosha Cote, Michele LeBlanc-Havard, Veronique D'Amours-Gauthier, Lisa Pirie-Dominix, Carson Gillis, Jared Ottenhof and Cortney Wheeler:

RE: NPC File # 149746 [Passive acoustic monitoring and UAV assessment of the impacts of shipping and development on High Arctic beluga whales (Delphinapterus leucas) and narwhals (Monodon monoceros)]

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

1. Scientific research on narwhal and beluga populations. The study will involve setting up a small field camp (6 people camping in tents) on Somerset Island in Creswell Bay and will use non-invasive techniques such as unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs), hydrophones, and underwater cameras to collect photographs, video, and

audiograms. Tissue samples will be collected to assess genetic relationships and hormone levels of the populations studied.

2. Location: Qikiqtani Region; [Somerset Island in Creswell 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. 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 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: https://lupit.nunavut.ca/portal/project-dashboard.php?appid=149746&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
Manager Planning and Implementation
Nunavut Planning Commission