

any remediation effort including consideration for regional experience and Inuit-owned businesses who may provide services during with restoration activities.

Finally, the KEAC share the opinion of engagement session participants that there is an overall need to strengthen the relationship between federal departments and communities regarding contaminated sites such as designating a liaison officer to simplify communications and more events that allow for networking between Indigenous communities and governments to share solutions regarding the management of contaminated sites.

Sites of Concern for Nunavummiut

In November 2019, the KEAC provided Environment and Climate Change Canada with a list of contaminated sites that were of particular concern for Nunavik communities. Because none of these sites were discussed during the engagement session, we wish to once again bring these sites to your attention. Moving forward, the remediation of these sites is the priority for both the KEAC and KRG and we are requesting information regarding their restoration.

The Northern Village of Kuujuaq

In 1941, the US Air Force constructed a base on the western shore of the Koksoak River. It occupied this location from 1941-1945. After the end of World War II, the United States turned the base over to the Canadian government. This base makes up part of what is now known as the Northern Village of Kuujuaq, the largest of the 14 Nunavik communities with a population of approximately 2,600 people.

For many years residents have complained about various debris, such as barrels and metal, appearing in the eroded ground and sand in particular sectors of the community. Furthermore, residents suspect contaminated soil remains in the areas the US Air Force had constructed their base.

In February 2022, the KEAC attended an information session along with the KRG and several provincial and federal departments in which many actions were proposed to address the situation in Kuujuaq but the KEAC has not been privy to their implementation.

Akpatok Island

Akpatok Island is uninhabited and the largest island in Ungava Bay on the northern coast of Quebec. The island is named for the Akpat, the thick-billed murre which live on ledges along the limestone cliffs surrounding the island. This island is very important for the Inuit of Nunavik, rich in both traditional hunting and cultural significance. In July 1971 an exploratory oil well was drilled on the island. However, after failing to find oil, all equipment and shelters were abandoned and remain on the island.

In 2018 the Contaminated Sites Directorate for Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC) received reports that some fuel drums were observed leaking at the contaminated site located on the western shore of Akpatok Island, located on Crown land. In response, CIRNAC dispatched a consultant to the Island on September 27, 2018 to transfer the contents of the leaking fuel drums to more suitable containers for storage until arrangements can be made for their future removal from site. Many of these drums were rusted and observed in poor condition.

The KEAC are aware that CIRNAC successfully completed a Phase III ESA in August 2020 at the site. In 2020 we were also informed that next steps for the federal department included the development of a preliminary Remedial Action Plan and future engagement sessions with concerned communities and other stakeholders to shape the final

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remediation plans for the site. Since then, the KEAC has not been informed of any advancement regarding the remediation of Akpatok Island.

Killiniq

The community of Killiniq, also known as Port Burwell, is located at the northeastern most point of Nunavik, in the Ungava Bay, at the mouth of Hudson Strait. Until 1978, Killiniq was administered by the Northwest Territories government at which point it was closed. Most Killiniq residents moved to Kangiqsualujjuaq then called George River, while others moved to various other Nunavik and Nunavut communities.

Under the Nunavik Inuit Land Claims Agreement, Killiniq residents still have rights to lands there. In the 1990s efforts were made to support the move for some of Killiniq's original families back to the community but the lack of services made resettling difficult. In 1994 the Makivik Corporation undertook efforts to rehabilitate community infrastructure and to cleanup residual and hazardous materials remaining at the site.

In 2013, the Government of Nunavut (GN) recommended Phase III ESA at the site however, it was considered as a low priority. In 2018 the KEAC and KRG, along with members of the Kangiqsualujjuaq community, visited the location by helicopter and took aerial photos. A joint visit to the site with representatives from the KRG and the Government of Nunavut had been discussed but never occurred.

In 2022, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans contacted the KEAC to explain that, along with the Canadian Coast Guard, they were planning to sample soil at the site to confirm the success of previous remedial activities, and gather updated data for any potential areas of concern that remain and to determine if further environmental investigations and/or remediation activities are required. They had also requested contacts for the community of Kangiqsualujjuaq so that they may be part of this work. Since then the KEAC has had no further information regarding the remediation of Killiniq.

Conclusion

To conclude, the KEAC is satisfied with FSCAP's inclusion of contaminated sites impacting Nunavik communities and see the potential for future collaboration for training, community engagement, knowledge sharing and restoration activities. The committee will continue to monitor this important file and wish to remain informed of its development.

Regards,



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