



AREVA Resources Canada Inc.

Kiggavik Project, Nunavut

Monthly Wildlife Report

June 12 – June 30, 2015

1 Introduction

During the 2015 Kiggavik exploration program, wildlife monitoring has been carried out in accordance with the Kiggavik Project Wildlife Mitigation and Monitoring Plan (WMMP). One of the requirements within this plan is monthly reporting. This report covers the month of June and is the first for the 2015 field season.

2 Local Wildlife Monitors

Throughout June, AREVA employed Wildlife Monitors from Baker Lake; Timothy Evviuk, Floyd Aksawnee, and Patrick Perkinson. Wildlife Monitors are responsible for notifying the Project Geologist and/or Safety, Health, Environment, and Quality (SHEQ) Supervisor of approaching caribou herds and determining their distance from activities. The monitors also determine when the herds are a sufficient distance for activities to resume in the event that caribou proximities dictate a shutdown of operations. Consistent monitoring occurred throughout June, which involves the Wildlife Monitor travelling to the five height-of-land (HOL) stations around camp and occasional visits outside of camp where required. The Wildlife Monitor records wildlife sightings in log books and reports findings to the SHEQ Supervisor. The HOL locations around camp are shown in Figure 1 below. While on site, the Wildlife Monitors liaise with the SHEQ Supervisor to determine if monitoring is needed at specific locations besides the HOL locations around camp.



Figure 1. Wildlife Monitor Height of Land (HOL) Locations

3 Wildlife Sightings

Observation methods vary with sightings provided from the personnel in camp, the field, aerial flights, and the Wildlife Monitors. Sightings are recorded at various locations and transcribed into an environmental data spreadsheet as shown in the appended Table. Sighting details vary with the observer, but typically include information regarding the species observed, the number present, behaviour, location, and whether a disturbance occurred. No animals were disturbed during the month of June.

One wolf was observed near camp (Figure 2), and another approached a drilling rig with no disturbances.



Figure 2. Wolf observed near Kiggavik Campsite

A grizzly bear with two cubs came within 500 m of a group of field personnel. The field personnel were extracted from the area for the remainder of the day to reduce the chances of a wildlife disturbance or incident. The following day, work continued in the area under the supervision of the wildlife monitor Timothy Evviuk.

There were a total of 17 separate wildlife sightings with 13 Caribou, 28 Muskox, 1 Fox, 2 Wolves, 3 Grizzly Bears, 1 Arctic Hare, 22 Canadian Geese, and 3 Sandhill Cranes. All species identified are summarized in Table 1 below. Many species of animals were observed but not reported on the Wildlife sighting sheets.

Table 1. June Kiggavik Wildlife Summary

Species	Wildlife Sightings	Total Number Observed
Arctic Fox	1	1
Arctic Hare	1	1
Caribou	3	13
Canadian Geese	2	22
Grizzly Bear	1	3
Muskox	3	28
Peregrine Falcon	0	0
Ptarmigan*	0	0
Sandhill Cranes	1	3
Savannah Sparrow	0	0
Siksik (Ground Squirrel)*	0	0
Wolf	2	2
Total	14	69

*Species were observed, but not reported.

3.1 Observation Methods

Apart from the regular observations from local Wildlife Monitors, personnel record wildlife sightings as well. The appended table outlines the sightings in more detail, including the method of observation. Wildlife logs are placed in the camp kitchen, camp office and in each helicopter for ease of recording wildlife sightings. During site orientation, Kiggavik personnel are informed of the wildlife log locations and are encouraged to report all wildlife sightings.

The Kiggavik camp uses two helicopters throughout the season for transport of personnel and to provide drill support. Pilots and personnel record aerial wildlife observations from the helicopter during these regular flights. Long range flights are occasionally made between Baker Lake and Kiggavik, while short range flights are commonly made between the Kiggavik camp and drilling rigs. These flights are monitored for altitude restrictions, and pilots are informed if caribou approach the area.

The Government of Northwest Territories (GNWT) provide collaring data showing collar movements. The issuance of collar data enables proper implementation of the WMMP as a source of caribou movements.

3.2 Mitigation Action Taken

As required by the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) 2007 screening decision and the WMMP, activity will be suspended when concentrations of caribou are within 2 km of drill rigs during the months of June and July, and aircraft will not take off or land within 1 km of a herd. From May 15 to July 15, operations will be suspended within 10 km of areas occupied by cows and calves. During the month of June, there were no instances requiring mitigating actions.

4 Flight Altitudes

The Kiggavik WMMP requires that long range flights be flown a minimum of 610 m (2000 ft) above ground, and short range flights be flown 300 m (1000 ft) above ground with exceptions for low-level ceiling conditions, slinging activity, or risks to flight safety. The pilots have been compliant with altitudes required for both long range and short range flights.

Through the internet based WebSentinel program, helicopter altitudes are tracked and periodically checked by the SHEQ Supervisor. The WebSentinel program allows the SHEQ Supervisor to cross reference with flight reports to ensure pilots abide by the proper altitudes. The pilots have been diligent in flying at or above the desired altitudes whenever possible with the exception of slinging requirements or low ceiling/bad weather. Baker Lake residents wishing to view the helicopter altitudes are welcome to stop by the AREVA office any time.

APPENDIX A – Flight Altitude Check

