

NIRB File No.: 18AN053

PC File No.: 37401 NPC File No.: 148986

February 7, 2019

To: The Honourable Catherine McKenna, P.C. Minister of Environment and Climate Change House of Commons Government of Canada Ottawa ON, K1A 0A6

Sent via email: ec.ministre-minister.ec@canada.ca; catherine.mckenna@parl.gc.ca.

Re: Extension Request for NIRB Screening of Government of Nunavut's "Wolf Predation and Peary Caribou Population Composition on Bathurst Island Complex" Project Proposal

Dear Honourable Minister:

On December 12, 2018 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received the Government of Nunavut's "Wolf predation and Peary Caribou Population Composition on Bathurst Island Complex" project proposal directly from Parks Canada (PC). Please note that the referral from PC was triggered by cumulative effects concerns pursuant to s. 168(1) of the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act*, S.C. 2013, c. 14, s. 2 (*NuPPAA*) and Section 2.2 of the Exemption Agreement in place under Schedule 12-1 (item 7) of the *Agreement between the Inuit of the Nunavut Settlement Area and Her Majesty the Queen in right of Canada (Nunavut Agreement*) between the NIRB and Parks Canada Agency¹. Further, as public concerns were expressed by the Qausuittuq Park Management Committee, PC is also referring the project proposal under Section 2.3 of the Exemption Agreement where public concern has been expressed. The Qausuittuq Park Management Committee expressed concerns regarding:

- a) Surveying caribou during the pre-calving period; and
- b) Identified this as the start of a multi-year program with potential cumulative impacts from the community's (socio-economic) perspective.

The NIRB notes that for the component of the proposed project that is located within the Qausuittuq National Park, pursuant to s. 70(1) of the *NuPPAA*, the Nunavut Planning Commission's (NPC) conformity determination process does not apply.²

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¹ Nunavut Impact Review Board Exemption Agreement with Parks Canada (2015). Available at www.nirb.ca/publications/exemptions

www.nirb.ca/publications/exemptions

² Subsection 70(1) states of the *NuPPAA*: This Part and the broad planning policies, priorities and objectives, the specific planning objectives and any land use plan, established under this Part, do not apply in respect of a park that

On December 14, 2018 the NIRB received a referral to screen the GN's "Wolf Predation and Peary Caribou Population Composition on the Bathurst Island Complex" project proposal from the NPC, with an accompanying positive conformity determination with the North Baffin Regional Land Use Plan for those portions of the project located outside of Qausuittuq National Park.

Pursuant to s. 92(4) of the *NuPPAA*, the NIRB hereby requests that the responsible Minister extend the period for the submission of the Board's written report for the screening of this project proposal, NIRB File No. 18AN053.

On December 17, 2018 the NIRB requested that the Proponent complete the online application form through the NIRB's public registry system and ensure, pursuant to s. 144(1) of the *NuPPAA*, that sufficient information is provided to determine the scope of the project activities being proposed and commence screening. On December 24, 2018 the NIRB received the required additional information and commenced the screening pursuant to Part 3 of the *NuPPAA*. Following the conclusion of the holiday season, on January 9, 2019 the NIRB distributed notice of the project proposal to potentially affected communities and interested parties with a request for comments to be submitted for the Board's consideration by January 31, 2019. As a result of the delay experienced in releasing the notice of the project proposal to interested parties, additional time is required for the Board to fully consider the project proposal prior to completing the screening.

All documents received and pertaining to the NIRB's screening of this project proposal can be accessed from the NIRB's online public registry at www.nirb.ca/project/125426.

The NIRB is unable to provide its written report for the screening of this project proposal within the 45 days as set out in the *NuPPAA*. The NIRB anticipates that the screening of this project proposal will be completed by **February 14, 2019**, at which time a screening decision report will be submitted to the responsible Minister for consideration; should any additional time be required to conclude the screening process, the NIRB commits to providing further updates as deemed appropriate.

If this request is approved, the NIRB understands that the Minister will notify the Proponent and the NIRB of the extension.

If you have any questions or require clarification regarding this request, please contact our office toll free at 1-866-233-3033.

has been established or to a historic place that has been designated under the *Historic Sites and Monuments Act* and is administered by the Parks Canada Agency.

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Sincerely,

Ryan Barry

Executive Director

Ryan Barry

Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Conor Mallory, Government of Nunavut, Department of Environment

The Honourable Joe Savikataaq, Minister of Environment, Government of Nunavut

The Honourable Patterk Nester, Minister Responsible for Nunavut Arctic College, Government of

Nunavut

Drikus Gissing, Government of Nunavut, Department of Environment

Lisa Pirie-Dominix, Canadian Wildlife Service

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