

contain the necessary information for the NIRB to carry out its screening and on December 6, 2017 requested that the Proponent provide the Board with the additional information in order to carry out the screening of the project proposal. The Proponent provided the requested information on December 12, 2017 and the NIRB commenced the screening pursuant to Part 3 of the NuPPAA.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Project Scope:

The proposed “Huckleberry Exploration” project is located within the Kivalliq region, approximately 65 kilometres (km) west of Whale Cove, 110 km north of Arviat, and 115 km southwest of Rankin Inlet. The Proponent intends to conduct mineral exploration activities at the “Huckleberry-0001” property.^{1,2} The program is proposed to take place seasonally between April and October from 2018 to 2025.

According to the project proposal, the scope of the project includes the following undertakings, works or activities:

- Conduct prospecting, airborne and ground-based geophysical surveys;
- Conduct on-land and on-ice drilling with the use of one (1) diamond drill and one (1) rab drill;
- Conduct trenching activities (bedrock exposition by overburden removal);
- Establishment of exploration camp and associated facilities to accommodate twenty (20) personnel;
- Use of two (2) helicopters and one (1) Twin Otter plane to transport material, equipment, and personnel to site and the use of one (1) helicopter to transport personnel and equipment to drill sites;
- Use of a D6 bulldozer and mini excavator to move the diamond drill during the winter around drill sites;
- Use of existing airstrip approximately 400 metres (m) long;
- Use of winter access from the Meliadine Gold Mine and from Whale Cove area to transport material and equipment on an annual basis;
- Use of two (2) ATVs and two (2) snowmobiles to transport personnel around site;
- Transportation, storage and use of 107,000 litres (L) of diesel, 4,100 L of gasoline, and 41,000 L of aviation fuel;
- Transportation, storage and use of chemicals and oil;
- Daily withdrawal of up to 299 cubic metres (m³) of water from surrounding waterbodies for camp use and drilling activities;
- Domestic wastes to be incinerated with a standard dual chamber incinerator, or transported offsite to appropriate facility;
- Greywater to be disposed of in a natural depression;
- Sewage to be incinerated with a standard dual chamber incinerator, or buried; and

¹ The Huckleberry-0001 property is one of four claims included in John Tugak’s project proposal screened by the NIRB in 2016 (NIRB File No. 16EN035).

² Historic exploration activities were conducted on this property by a previous Proponent but these activities were not assessed by the NIRB.

- Hazardous and non-combustible wastes to be transported south for disposal at accredited facilities.

At this time, the NIRB has identified no additional works or activities in relation to the project proposal. As a result, the NIRB will proceed with screening the project based on the scope as described above. The NIRB notes that previous prospecting and staking activities in the area were assessed under NIRB File 16EN035 for this Proponent, but the activities are sufficiently unrelated to the proposed works or activities based on the scope described above.

REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

All documents received and pertaining to this project proposal can be obtained from the NIRB's online public registry at www.nirb.ca by using any of the following search criteria:

- Project Name: Huckleberry Exploration
- NIRB File No.: 17EA068
- Application No.: 125187

The documents received include:

- *NPC Screening Referral and Conformity Determination*
- *NPC Application and Conformity Questionnaire*
- *NIRB's Online Application Form*
- *Non-technical Project Proposal summary in English and Inuktitut*
- *Maps noting project location*
- *Agnico Eagle's Wildlife Protection and Response Plan for Exploration Projects*
- *Spill Contingency Plan*

The NIRB will copy you on screening process related correspondence and upload related documents to the NIRB's online registry for public access. The NIRB may request additional information at any time during the process.

The NIRB is copying parties and municipalities potentially affected by John Tugak's project proposal with this letter, and we invite interested parties to comment directly to the NIRB by **January 12, 2018**.

The NIRB would like parties to provide comments regarding:

- Whether the project proposal is likely to arouse significant public concern; and if so, why;
- Whether the project proposal is likely to cause significant adverse eco-systemic or socio-economic effects; and if so, why;
- Whether the project proposal is likely to cause significant adverse impacts on wildlife habitat or Inuit harvest activities; if so, why;
- Whether the project proposal is of a type where the potential adverse effects are highly predictable and mitigable with known technology, (please provide any recommended mitigation measures); and
- Any matter of importance to the Party related to the project proposal.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Please send your comments to the NIRB via email at info@nirb.ca, via fax at (867) 983-2594 or via the individual project dashboard for this assessment on the NIRB's online public registry at www.nirb.ca by using any of the following search criteria:

- Project Name: Huckleberry Exploration
- NIRB File No.: 17EA038
- Application No.: 125187

If you have any questions or require clarification, please contact the undersigned at 867-983-4607 or at sthompson@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



Shanley Thompson, PhD
Technical Advisor II
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: John Tugak
Distribution List
Karén Kharatyan, Nunavut Water Board
Luis Manzo, Kivalliq Inuit Association
Maria Serra, Kivalliq Inuit Association
Tracey McCaie, Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada

Enclosures (4): Public Notice of Screening (English and Inuktitut)
Comment Forms (English and Inuktitut)