



Nunavut Regional Office
P.O. Box 100
Iqaluit, NU, X0A 0H0

Your file - Votre référence
17EA068

Our file - Notre référence
CIDMS# 1194603

January 04, 2018

Shanley Thompson, PhD
Technical Advisor II
Nunavut Impact Review Board
PO Box 1360; Cambridge Bay, NU, X0B 0C0
Via electronic mail to: info@nirb.ca

Re: Re: Notice of Screening and Comment Request for John Tugak's "Huckleberry Exploration" Project Proposal

Dear Ms. Thompson,

On December 13, 2017, the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) invited parties to comment on John Tugak's "Huckleberry Exploration" project proposal. The Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) appreciates the opportunity to provide comments and offers the response below as it pertains to NIRB's request:

Whether the project proposal is likely to arouse significant public concern; and if so, why:

INAC notes the opposition of the Hamlet of Whale Cove Council to any exploration project within the municipal boundaries when a small (two-person) prospecting project was submitted in 2016. The current project proposal goes beyond the originally approved project to include additional activities such as the installation of a 20-person exploration camp, geophysical survey (airborne and ground support), diamond/rap drilling, trenching and transportation of heavy equipment from the Meliadine mine and Whale Cove to Huckleberry-0001 property using winter roads. INAC is unable to comment on whether the amended project is likely to arouse significant public concern, given the broader scope of the current proposal and lack of evidence of community consultation/engagement activities undertaken by the proponent to discuss if the three nearby communities (Whale Cove, Arviat and Rankin Inlet) have any concerns regarding the proposed new activities. INAC recommends that the proponent conduct public consultations before the commencement of the project activities, should the project be approved to proceed.

Any matter of importance to the Party related to the project proposal.

The change in the scale and scope of the current project proposal compared to the project proposal that was submitted in 2016 might warrant reconsideration of the potential for cumulative impacts. INAC recommends that the project proponent assesses the potential for cumulative eco-systemic and socio-economic impacts that could result from the impacts of the proposed project in combination with the past, present, and foreseeable future activities.

INAC appreciate the opportunity to provide comments and looks forward to working further with NIRB and the Proponent, as necessary, throughout any further review related to this project. Should you have any questions, please contact Amal Roy at (867) 975-4554 or by e-mail at amal.roy@canada.ca.

Sincerely,

[Original signed by]

Felexce Ngwa
Acting Manager, Impact Assessment