



**NIRB File No.: 18YN020**

**NPC File No.: 148769**

May 4, 2018

To: The Honourable David Joanasie  
Minister Responsible for Nunavut Arctic College  
Government of Nunavut  
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**Re: Extension Request for NIRB Screening of Polar Knowledge Canada's "Permafrost Dynamics in Response to Climate Change on Victoria Island, Nunavut" Project Proposal**

Dear Honourable Minister:

On March 21, 2018 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received Polar Knowledge Canada's (PKC) "Permafrost Dynamics in Response to Climate Change on Victoria Island, Nunavut" project proposal from the Nunavut Planning Commission for screening, pursuant to Part 3 of the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act*, S.C. 2013, c. 14, s. 2 (*NuPPAA*). **Pursuant to subsection 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. 18YN020.**

On March 21, 2018 the NIRB requested that the Proponent complete the online application form through the NIRB's public registry system and ensure, pursuant to subsection 144(1) of the *NuPPAA*, that the information provided be sufficient to determine the scope of the project activities being proposed and commence screening. Following a preliminary completeness check of the proposal as submitted, the NIRB determined that the proposal did not contain the necessary information for the NIRB to carry out its screening and on March 27, 2018 requested that the Proponent provide the Board with additional information. On April 5, 2018 the NIRB received the required additional information and commenced the screening pursuant to Part 3 of the *NuPPAA*. On April 10, 2018 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 May 1, 2018.

Having since received and considered comments for this file, the project proposal has been remitted to the Board for its decision-making; however due to the high volume of screenings currently before the Board and continued vacancies in board member appointments challenging NIRB quorum requirement, additional time is required to complete the decision-making for this

file. Further, the Board will be occupied with the upcoming Final Hearing for the Phase 2 Hope Bay Belt Project proposal (NIRB File No. 12MN001) May 8-12, 2018 and will be unable consider any other matters until following the conclusion of these proceedings.

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](http://www.nirb.ca) by using any of the following search criteria:

- Project Name: Permafrost Dynamics in Response to Climate Change on Victoria Island, Nunavut
- NIRB File No.: 18YN020
- Application No.: 125305

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 **May 25, 2018**, 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, 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.

Sincerely,



Ryan Barry  
Executive Director  
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Stephanie Coulombe, Polar Knowledge Canada  
Mosha Cote, Nunavut Research Institute