



NIRB File No.: 18YN020
NPC File No.: 148796

May 18, 2018

To: The Honourable Carolyn Bennett
Minister of Crown – Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0A6

Sent via email: minister@aadnc-aandc.gc.ca and carolyn.bennett@canada.ca

Re: Screening Decision for Polar Knowledge Canada’s “Permafrost Dynamics in Response to Climate Change on Victoria Island, Nunavut” Project Proposal, Kitikmeot Region

Dear Honourable Minister:

On March 21, 2018 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received a referral to screen Polar Knowledge Canada’s “Permafrost Dynamics in Response to Climate Change on Victoria Island, Nunavut” project proposal from the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC or Commission), which noted that the project proposal is outside the area of an applicable regional land use plan.

Pursuant to Article 12, Sections 12.4.1 and 12.4.4 of the *Agreement between the Inuit of the Nunavut Settlement Area and Her Majesty the Queen in right of Canada* (Nunavut Agreement) and section 87 of the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act*, S.C. 2013, c. 14, s. 2 (NuPPAA), the NIRB commenced screening this project proposal and assigned it file number 18YN020.

Following the assessment of all material information provided, the NIRB is recommending that a review of Polar Knowledge Canada’s “Permafrost Dynamics in Response to Climate Change on Victoria Island, Nunavut” project is not required pursuant to paragraph 92(1)(a) of the NuPPAA.

Pursuant to its discretion under paragraph 92(2)(a) of the NuPPAA, the NIRB has determined that specific terms and conditions are appropriate for this project.

Accordingly, the NIRB is issuing the attached Screening Decision Report dated May 18, 2018 to the responsible Minister. The Screening Decision Report provides, among other things, the

regulatory framework, project overview and the NIRB's assessment process, factors relevant for the determining significance of impacts and recommended project-specific terms and conditions.

Please note that the project proposal will not be enclosed due to the size of the electronic document and the limited bandwidth. However, an electronic copy of the project proposal is accessible online from the NIRB's online public registry at 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

Please note that, the Board only directly addresses these notice letters to those individuals considered to be a "responsible Minister with decision-making authority" for the project as set out under the *NuPPAA*. However, regulatory authorities and other authorizing agencies associated with a proposed project (e.g. Regional Inuit Associations, Nunavut Water Board) will continue to be copied on the Notice of Release of the Screening Decision Report. The NIRB is providing these parties with notice and access to the Board's Screening Decision Report as required under s. 200(2) and in support of these parties in the fulfillment of their responsibilities under the *NuPPAA* and the *Nunavut Agreement* to address, and as appropriate, implement, to the fullest extent possible, any relevant NIRB recommendations contained in the Screening Decision Report.

We look forward to receiving a response from the responsible Minister and the NIRB remains available for consultation with the Minister regarding this report as necessary. If you have any questions or require clarification, please do not hesitate to contact the NIRB's Acting Director, Technical Services, Kelli Gillard at (867) 983-4619 or kgillard@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Copland, Chairperson
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Stanley Anablak, President of Kitikmeot Inuit Association
The Honourable Joe Savikataaq, Minister of Environment
The Honourable David Joanase, Minister Responsible for Nunavut Arctic College

Enclosure: Screening Decision Report, NIRB File No.: 18YN020 (May 18, 2018)