

2019 the NIRB received the required information and commenced the screening pursuant to Part 3 of the *NuPPAA*.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Project Scope:

The proposed “Four Harbour Feasibility Study Field Program” project is located within the Qikiqtani (North Baffin) region, within and adjacent to each of the communities of Arctic Bay, Grise Fiord, Resolute Bay, and Clyde River. The Proponent intends to conduct baseline studies to determine the feasibility of constructing small craft harbours and supporting infrastructure including haul roads and quarries, and disposal at sea sites (dredged sediment) in each of these four (4) communities. The program is proposed to take place from July to August 2019.

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

- Transport of up to six (6) personnel and research equipment via locally contracted and operated small boats to access marine study areas;
- Access to terrestrial study areas via locally contracted ATVs or motor vehicles, using existing roads and trails;
- Undertake research and sampling activities in support of environmental, geoscience, geophysics and archaeological baseline studies within the study areas, using the following methods:
 - Determining fish habitat quality by conducting:
 - Intertidal surveys on foot to document substrate type and composition, algae species identification, and relative abundance of marine invertebrates;
 - Subtidal surveys using local boat(s) to document same components as for the intertidal surveys; and
 - Use of remote operated vehicle (ROV) to film fish habitat at the subtidal zone;
 - Water quality surveys including collecting water samples, collecting conductivity, temperature, depth (CTD) profiles, and recording of depths using a depth sounder;
 - Collection of seabed samples for sediment quality and benthic community analyses;
 - Deployment of drogues (floatation buoy with GPS) from boats for the collection of surface current data;
 - Visual wildlife reconnaissance surveys, breeding bird point counts and coastal water bird surveys across the study areas to determine the presence of wildlife;
 - Vegetation plot-level surveys and representative sample collection to determine plant species and communities;
 - To inform future environmental studies and to inform potential future geotechnical programs:
 - Geotechnical surveys including visual assessment, tagging of potential quarry locations and possible quarry extents, and collection of representative rock samples;
 - Geophysics surveys via overwater acoustic profiling using a Lister electrical pulser system and multi-element hydrophone receiver array for the purpose of bathymetry and sub-bottom profiling;

- Archaeological surveys via transects, visual inspection, and shovel testing at potential sites (shovel test locations will be recorded, mapped, sketched, and photographed);
- Use of hazardous materials including formaldehyde for the purpose of sample preparation and preservation;
- Use of a generator to power marine subtidal and geophysics surveys;
- Use of gasoline, sourced from within each community, for the refueling of locally contracted vehicles (boats, ATVs, and motor vehicles) and for the generator;
- Project-generated waste to be packed out and disposed of at Iqaluit municipal facilities; and
- Use of local accommodations within each community for the duration of project activities.

Inclusion or Exclusion of Scoping List

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.

REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

All documents received and pertaining to this project proposal can be accessed from the NIRB's online public registry www.nirb.ca/project/125473.

The documents received include:

- *NPC Screening Referral and Conformity Determination;*
- *NPC Project Application;*
- *NIRB's Online Application Form;*
- *Non-technical Project Proposal summary in English and Inuktitut;*
- *Attachment 1 – Application Requirements*

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 DFO – SCH's project proposal with this letter, and we invite interested parties to comment directly to the NIRB by **July 18, 2019**.

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; and if so, why;
- Whether the project proposal is of a type where the potential adverse effects are highly predictable and mitigable with known technology, (and providing 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/project/125473.

If you have any questions or require clarification, feel free to contact the undersigned at (867) 857-4566 or ereimer@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



Erin Reimer
Technical Advisor I
Nunavut Impact Review Board

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

cc: Distribution List
Alexander Stubbing, Government of Nunavut – Department of Culture and Heritage
Amy Robinson, Government of Nunavut – Department of Environment
Mosha Cote, Nunavut Research Institute
Mark D'Aguiar, Fisheries and Oceans Canada