



NIRB File No.: 21YN027
NPC File No.: 149542

June 11, 2021

Kono Tattuninee
Kivalliq Inuit Association
32-4 Sivulliq Ave.
P.O. Box 340
Rankin Inlet, NU, X0C 0G0

Sent via email: konotattuinee@kivalliqinuit.ca

Re: Notice of Screening for Kivalliq Inuit Association's "Kivalliq Hydro-Fibre Link Baseline Research" Project Proposal

Dear Kono Tattuninee:

On May 7, 2021, the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) received a referral to screen the Kivalliq Inuit Association (KIA or the Proponent)'s "Kivalliq Hydro-Fibre Link Baseline Research" project proposal from the Nunavut Planning Commission (Commission), with an accompanying positive conformity determination with the Keewatin 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 s. 87 of the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act*, S.C. 2013, c. 14, s. 2 (*NuPPAA*), the NIRB has commenced screening this project proposal and has assigned it file number **21YN027** - please reference this file number in all future related correspondence.

INFORMATION REQUEST

On May 10, 2021, the NIRB requested that the Proponent complete the online application form through the NIRB's public registry system and ensure, pursuant to s. 144(1) of the *NuPPAA*, that sufficient information is provided to determine the scope of the project activities being proposed and commence screening.

On May 21, 2021, the NIRB released a formal correspondence, pursuant to s. 144(1) of the *NuPPAA*, requesting that the Proponent provide the Board with the information necessary in order

to carry out the screening of the project proposal. On June 4, 2021, the NIRB received the required information and commenced the screening pursuant to Part 3 of the *NuPPAA*.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Project Scope:

All documents received and pertaining to this project proposal can be accessed from the NIRB's online public registry at www.nirb.ca/project/125614.

Project:	Kivalliq Hydro-Fibre Link Baseline Research
Region:	Kivalliq, Transboundary
Location:	Corridor from Manitoba boundary to Chesterfield Inlet and then inland to Baker Lake and the Meadowbank Mine
Closest Communities:	Arviat, Whale Cove, Rankin Inlet, Chesterfield Inlet, Baker Lake
Summary of Project Description:	The Proponent intends to conduct several fieldwork activities to support the ongoing project design, evaluation and development of the Kivalliq Hydro-Fibre Link (KHFL). These activities are focused on gathering information about the wildlife biology, vegetation, aquatics, geomorphology, and permafrost conditions of the region.
Project Proposed Timeline:	August 2021 to August 2023

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

- Migratory birds survey including waterfowl along the proposed corridor; including
 - helicopter survey; and
 - twenty-five (25) Autonomous Recording Units (ARUs) or bird call recorders installed in locations to be determined during the survey.
- Terrestrial wildlife survey including:
 - A late winter aerial multi-species survey flown at 500 m and 5 km on each side of the proposed KHFL project corridor (four transects);
 - A late fall aerial survey in known fall caribou areas with a minimum of two transects approximately 2.5 kilometers on each side of the proposed corridor; and
 - Approximately 30 trail cameras deployed at strategic locations along the corridor.
- Fish and fish habitat survey including:
 - Stream classification field assessment sites evaluated for physical habitat characteristics;
 - Presence/absence surveys of fish communities by either backpack electrofishing or seine netting; and
 - Possible Environmental DNA (eDNA) assessment to supplement fisheries surveys.
- A targeted field program to validate preliminary desktop-based mapping of the proposed KHFL project corridor, including:
 - use a spade and/or hand auger to investigate near-surface ground conditions where there are no pre-existing exposures;

- Use of a steel frost probe to determine and record active layer thickness within distinct landforms; and
- Use a lightweight drill to penetrate depths of up to several meters at select locations for permafrost study.
- Collection of local and community knowledge to support the characterization of baseline conditions.

Inclusion or Exclusion of Scoping List

At this time, the NIRB has identified no additional works or activities in relation to the project proposal. While the project forms part of the overall baseline research for a potential Kivalliq Hydro-Fibre Link extending into Northern Manitoba, the activities considered by the NIRB for this screening are limited to those taking place solely within Nunavut. As a result, the NIRB will proceed with screening the project based on the scope as described above.

REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

All documents received can be accessed from the NIRB's online public registry www.nirb.ca/project/125614 and include:

- *NIRB Applications*
- *KHFL Non-Technical Summary*
- *KHFL Engagement Summary*
- *KHLF Fieldwork Summary*
- *KHLF Route Map*
- *NPC Application*
- *NPC Conformity Determination*
- *NPC Questionnaire*

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 Kivalliq Inuit Association project proposal with this letter, and we invite interested parties to comment directly to the NIRB by **July 2, 2021**.

The NIRB would like parties to provide comments regarding:

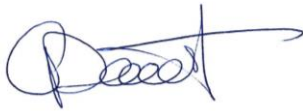
- Whether the project proposal is likely to arouse significant public concern; and if so, why;
- Whether the project proposal is likely to cause significant adverse eco-systemic or socio-economic effects; and if so, why;
- Whether the project proposal is likely to cause significant adverse impacts on 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/125614.

If you have any questions or require clarification, feel free to contact the undersigned at (867) 983-2594 or gdaoust@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



Guillaume Daoust
Technical Advisor I
Nunavut Impact Review Board

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

cc: Distribution List
Richard Dwyer, Nunavut Water Board
Luis Manzo, Kivalliq Inuit Association
Maria Serra, Kivalliq Inuit Association
Natalie O'Grady, Government of Nunavut
Robert Chapple, Government of Nunavut, Community and Government Services
Randy Mercer, Government of Nunavut, Community and Government Services
Alexander Stubbing, Government of Nunavut, Department of Culture and Heritage
Sylvie Leblanc, Government of Nunavut, Department of Culture and Heritage
Steve Perry, Government of Nunavut, Department of Culture and Heritage
Amy Robinson, Government of Nunavut, Department of Environment
Drikus Gissing, Government of Nunavut, Department of Environment
Mosha Cote, Nunavut Research Institute
Adrian Paradis, Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency
Tracey McCaie, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada
Lisa Pirie-Dominix, Canadian Wildlife Service
Daniel Coombs, Fisheries and Oceans Canada
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Ashley Ymana, Hamlet of Rankin Inlet
John R. Ivey, Hamlet of Chesterfield Inlet
Sheldon Dorey, Hamlet of Baker Lake
Northlands Dene First Nation
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