NIRB File No.: 22YN005
NPC File No.: 149677

March 2, 2022

Danielle Hallé
University of Waterloo
355, MacKay St.
Ottawa ON K1M2B7

Sent via email: dhalle@uwaterloo.ca

Re: Notice of Screening for the University of Waterloo's "Measuring Glacier and Snow Changes in Grise Fiord" Project Proposal

Dear Danielle Hallé:

On February 2, 2022, the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) received a referral to screen the University of Waterloo's "Measuring Glacier and Snow Changes in Grise Fiord" project proposal from the Nunavut Planning Commission (Commission), with an accompanying positive conformity determination with the North Baffin 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 **22YN005** - please reference this file number in all future related correspondence.

INFORMATION REQUEST

On February 2, 2022, 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.

Following a preliminary completeness check of the proposal as submitted on February 14, 2022, by the Proponent, the NIRB determined that the proposal did not contain the necessary information for the NIRB to carry out its screening and on February 17, 2021, requested that the Proponent provide the Board with the additional information in order to carry out the screening of the project proposal. On February 18, 2022, 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/125654.

Project:	Measuring Glacier and Snow Changes in Grise Fiord				
Region:	Qikiqtani				
Location:	Grise Fiord				
Closest Community:	Grise Fiord	**Distance (approximate)**	500 meters	**Direction**	Northeast
Summary of Project Description:	The Proponent intends to conduct research on a project to quantify the amount of water melting from the local snowpack and glaciers that contribute to the river in the community of Grise Fiord, The glaciers are the ideal size for using smaller uncrewed ariel vehicle (UAV) for surveys to conduct analysis and will be used for creating snow depth products for monitoring snow cover, all field work will be done by foot and is expected to have minimal environmental impacts.				
Project Proposed Timeline:	August 20, 2022 to October 30, 2024				

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

- Use of an Uncrewed Aerial Vehicle (UAV) to be used for obtaining 3-D maps of the watershed through the use of photogrammetry techniques obtained during multiple flights to cover the area;
- Use of three (3) Hobo Loggers to measure air temperature; and
- Use of three (3) timelapse cameras to capture the changes in melt on the glacier surface.

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 can be accessed from the NIRB's online public registry at www.nirb.ca/project/125654 and include:

- *Commission Conformity Determination*
- *Commission Questionnaire and Application*
- *NIRB Application in English and Inuktitut*

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 UW project proposal with this letter, and we invite interested parties to comment directly to the NIRB by **March 14, 2022**.

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.

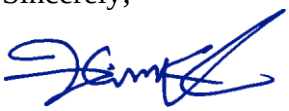
Please note that *proposed* project-specific terms and conditions, should the project proceed, have been attached for consideration and comment (Appendix A).

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/125654.

If you have any questions or require clarification, feel free to contact the undersigned at (867) 983-4616 or femingak@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



Francis Emingak
Junior Technical Advisor
Nunavut Impact Review Board

Attachments: Appendix A: *Proposed* Project Specific Terms and Conditions

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

cc: Distribution List
Carson Gillis, Nunavut Tunngavik Inc.
Stephen William Bathory, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Jared Ottenhof, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Joel Fortier, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Agnes Simonfalvy, Government of Nunavut
Amy Robinson, Department of Environment, Government of Nunavut
Mosha Cote, Nunavut Research Institute
Tracie McCaie, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada

Appendix A: *Proposed* Project Specific Terms and Conditions

The following is a list of project-specific terms and conditions which, should the project proceed, may be recommended to be attached to any approval.

General

1. University of Waterloo (the Proponent) shall maintain a copy of the Project Terms and Conditions at the site of operation at all times and make it accessible to enforcement officers upon request.
2. The Proponent shall operate in accordance with all commitments stated in correspondence provided to the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC File No.: 149677), and the NIRB (Online Application Form, February 14, 2022.) This information should be accessible to enforcement officers upon request.
3. The Proponent shall operate the site in accordance with all applicable Acts, Regulations and Guidelines.
4. The Proponent shall ensure that it meets the standards and/or limits as set out in the authorizing agencies' permits or licences as required for this project.
5. The Proponent shall ensure that all personnel, staff and contractors are adequately trained prior to commencement of all project activities, and shall be made aware of all operational plans, management plans, guidelines and Proponent commitments relating to the project.

Water courses/Water bodies (including fresh and marine waters)

6. The Proponent shall not deposit, nor permit the deposit of any fuel, chemicals, wastes (including wastewater) or sediment into any water body. The Proponent should have in place an Emergency Spill Response Plan that is approved by the appropriate authorizing agency(ies).

Waste Management

7. The Proponent shall manage all hazardous and non-hazardous waste including food, domestic wastes, debris and petroleum-based chemicals (e.g., greases, gasoline, glycol-based antifreeze) in such a manner to avoid release into the environment and access to wildlife at all times until disposed of appropriately or at an approved facility.

Wildlife – General

8. The Proponent shall not chase, weary, harass or molest wildlife. This includes persistently circling, chasing, hovering over, pursuing or in any other way harass wildlife, or disturbing large groups of animals.
9. The Proponent shall not hunt or fish, unless proper Nunavut authorizations have been acquired.

Migratory Birds and Raptors Disturbance

10. The Proponent shall carry out all phases of the project in a manner that protects migratory birds and avoids harming, killing or disturbing migratory birds or destroying, disturbing or

taking their nests or eggs. In this regard, the Proponent shall take into account Environment and Climate Change Canada's *Avoidance Guidelines*. The Proponent's actions in applying the *Avoidance Guidelines* shall be in compliance with the *Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994* and with the *Species at Risk Act*.

11. The Proponent shall not disturb or destroy the nests or eggs of any birds. If active nests of any birds are discovered or located (i.e., with eggs or young), the Proponent shall avoid these areas until nesting is complete and the young have naturally left the vicinity of the nest by establishing a protection buffer zone[1] appropriate for the species and the surrounding habitat.
12. The Proponent shall avoid the seaward site of seabird colonies and areas used by flocks of migrating waterfowl, a minimum distance away on the recommendation of the appropriate authorizing agencies.
13. The Proponent shall not pursue seabirds or waterbirds swimming on the water surface and shall avoid concentrations of these birds if encountered on the water.

Other

14. The Proponent should engage with local residents regarding planned activities in the area and should solicit available Inuit Qaujimaningit and information regarding current recreational and traditional usage of the project area which may inform project activities. Posting of translated public notices and direct engagement with potentially interested groups and individuals prior to undertaking project activities is strongly encouraged.
15. The Proponent should, to the extent possible, hire local people and access local services where possible.

1 Recommended setback distances to define buffer zones have been established by Environment and Climate Change Canada for different bird groups nesting in tundra habitat and can be found at www.ec.gc.ca/paom-itmb.