



**NIRB File No.: 22DA050**

*Related to NIRB File No.: 08DN056*

NPC File No.: 149788

*Related to NPC File No.: 148522, 148823, 14925*

July 28, 2022

Sarah Rahmer  
Defence Construction Canada  
180 Kent St  
Ottawa ON K1P 0B6

*Sent via email: [sarah.rahmer@forces.gc.ca](mailto:sarah.rahmer@forces.gc.ca)*

**Re: Notice of Screening for Defense Construction Canada's "DRDC - Northern Watch Technology Demonstration Project" Proposal**

Dear Sarah Rahmer:

On July 14, 2022 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) received a referral to screen Defense Construction Canada's (DCC) "DRDC - Northern Watch Technology Demonstration 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 **22DA050** - please reference this file number in all future related correspondence.

#### INFORMATION REQUEST

On July 14, 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.

On July 22, 2022 the NIRB received the required information and commenced the screening pursuant to Part 3 of the *NuPPAA*.

#### PROJECT OVERVIEW

##### ***Project Scope:***



(866) 233-3033



(867) 983-2594



[info@nirb.ca](mailto:info@nirb.ca)



[www.nirb.ca](http://www.nirb.ca)



[@NunavutImpactReviewBoard](https://www.facebook.com/NunavutImpactReviewBoard)

P.O. Box 1360 Cambridge Bay, NU X0B 0C0

All documents received and pertaining to this project proposal can be accessed from the NIRB's online public registry at [www.nirb.ca/project/125731](http://www.nirb.ca/project/125731).

<b>Project:</b>	Northern Watch Technology Demonstration Project
<b>Region:</b>	Qikiqtani
<b>Location:</b>	Parry Channel, Lancaster Sound, and Baffin Bay
<b>Closest Community:</b>	Pond Inlet, Arctic Bay, Qikiqtarjuaq, Resolute Bay
<b>Summary of Project Description:</b>	The Proponent intends to conduct research into new technology for maritime national defense.
<b>Project Proposed Timeline:</b>	August and September 2022

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

- Arctic Acoustic Recorders (AAR) Trial
  - Deployment of three (3) passive acoustic recorders in approximately 300 meters of water with one (1) near each of Pond Inlet, Arctic Bay, and Qikiqtarjuaq, in order to obtain a year-long record marine ambient noise data and conductivity, temperature, and depth data;
  - AARs to be deployed from HMCS *Goose Bay*;
- Marine Autonomous and Remote Piloted Systems (MARPS) Trial
  - Deployment of a Distributed Underwater Sensor Network (DUSN) node on the seafloor west of Pond Inlet, including an attached surface buoy for radio communications;
  - Collection of high frequency (450 kilohertz) sonar data from an uncrewed surface vessel (USV) deployed near the DUSN;
  - Deployment of an autonomous underwater vehicle (AUV) to test the performance of a new inertial navigation system;
  - DUSN node and robotic vehicles (USV and AUV) to be deployed and recovered after trials by HMCS *Margaret Brooke*;
- Long-Range Underwater Acoustic Communication Experiment
  - Deployment of two (2) DUSN nodes in Lancaster Sound to collect acoustic and non-acoustic data;
  - Testing of underwater acoustic communication using low-frequency sound over ranges of up to 100 kilometers from ship to DUSN nodes;
  - DUSN nodes to be deployed and recovered after trial by HMCS *Goose Bay*.

#### ***Inclusion or Exclusion of Scoping List***

The NIRB will proceed with screening the project based on the scope as described above. The NIRB notes that this proposed project is being carried out in association with the activities of the previously approved project 08DN056.

## REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

All documents received can be accessed from the NIRB's online public registry [www.nirb.ca/project/125731](http://www.nirb.ca/project/125731) and include:

- *Commission Conformity Determination, Application and Questionnaire*
- *NIRB's Online Application*
- *Map*
- *Non-Tech Summary*
- *Project Description*
- *Environmental Effects Determination Plan*
- *Spill Contingency Plan*
- *Preliminary AARs Trial Plan*
- *Preliminary MARPS Trial Plan*
- *Preliminary TRAPS Trial Plan*
- *Preliminary Trial Plan – Long Range Prop*
- *Short Trial Plan – Long Range Prop*

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 Defense Construction Canada project proposal with this letter, and we invite interested parties to comment directly to the NIRB by **August 18, 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.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Please send your comments to the NIRB via email at [info@nirb.ca](mailto: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/125731](http://www.nirb.ca/project/125731).

If you have any questions or require clarification, feel free to contact the undersigned at 867-983-4617 or [kmorrison@nirb.ca](mailto:kmorrison@nirb.ca).

Sincerely,



Keith Morrison  
Manager Impact Assessment  
Nunavut Impact Review Board

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

cc: Distribution List  
Stephen Williamson-Bathory, Qikiqtani Inuit Association  
Jared Ottenhof, Qikiqtani Inuit Association  
Joel Fortier, Qikiqtani Inuit Association  
Mosha Cote, Nunavut Research Institute  
Tracey McCaie, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada  
Lisa Pirie-Dominix, Environment and Climate Change Canada  
Alasdair Beattie, Fisheries and Oceans Canada  
Transport Canada