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Building *Nunavut* Together
Nunavut liuqatigiingniq
Bâtir le *Nunavut* ensemble

May 1, 2023

Mia Otokiak
Technical Advisor I
Nunavut Impact Review Board
P.O. Box 1360
Cambridge Bay, NU X0B 0C0

Sent VIA Email: info@nirb.ca

RE: NIRB 23YN011: Notice of Screening and Comment request for Natural Resources Canada's "Talík Mapping and Lake-Groundwater Conceptual Models" project proposal

Dear Mia Otokiak,

The Government of Nunavut (GN) would like to thank the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) for the opportunity to provide comments regarding Natural Resources Canada's "Talík Mapping and Lake-Groundwater Conceptual Models" project proposal.

The GN has reviewed the proposed project and related documents and provides comments described in detail below.

The GN appreciates participating in the screening of this project through the NIRB process. Should there be any concerns or need for follow-up, please do not hesitate to contact me at dlapierre1@gov.nu.ca.

Qujannamiik,

Dianne Lapierre
Avatiliriniq Coordinator

On behalf of David Kunuk
Deputy Minister, Economic Development and Transportation
Government of Nunavut

GN-01: Wildlife Disturbance	
Department	Environment
Organization	Government of Nunavut
Subject/Topic	Wildlife Disturbance – Protocols and Procedures
References	<i>Notice of Screening for Natural Resources Canada's "Talik Mapping and Lake-Groundwater Conceptual Models" Project Proposal, NIRB File No. 23YN011</i>
CONCERNS	
The Project is proposed to take place within a 30 km radius of Rankin Inlet between April 2023 and March 2025. Project activities are likely to occur during the sensitive caribou seasons of migration and post-calving. The Proponent should have clearly identified protocols and procedures to minimize disturbance to wildlife and ensure that Project activities do not interfere with caribou migration. Drone usage around active migrating caribou herds and other wildlife may cause disruption. Although the company has a licensed flight operator, there is no mention of minimum distances from observed wildlife for operating the device. There is no mention of wildlife mitigation protocols to reduce the potential disturbance to wildlife, potential human-wildlife interactions, or whether a Wildlife Monitor will be present onsite during Project activities.	
RECOMMENDATIONS	
In respect of the above concerns, the Government of Nunavut has the following recommendations for the Proponent: 1. Issue a threshold minimum of 100m from observed wildlife for drone usage. 2. Wildlife Monitor should be onsite during the operation of the Project. 3. Human-wildlife interaction protocols should be included in the Proposal. 4. Wildlife mitigation protocols to reduce disturbance should be included in the Proposal.	
ADDITIONAL COMMENTS	
N/A	

GN-02: Environmental Impacts	
Department	Environment
Organization	Government of Nunavut
Subject/Topic	Environmental Impacts – Waste and Hazardous Materials
References	Notice of Screening for Natural Resources Canada's "Taluk Mapping and Lake-Groundwater Conceptual Models" Project Proposal, NIRB File No. 23YN011
CONCERNS	
The Project is proposed to take place within a 30 km radius of Rankin Inlet between April 2023 and March 2025. Project activities include the generation of waste and the use of fuels and other potentially hazardous materials. There is no indication of the intended protocols or procedures for the management of waste, spill prevention, and spill response.	
RECOMMENDATIONS	
In respect of the above concerns, the Government of Nunavut has the following recommendations for the Proponent: 1. Provide a description of the proposed protocols or procedures for the management of waste. 2. Provide a description of the proposed protocols or procedures for the storage, handling, and management of fuel and other potentially hazardous materials. 3. Provide a description of the proposed protocols or procedures in the event of a fuel or hazardous material spill.	
ADDITIONAL COMMENTS	
N/A	



1 (867) 975-7800
 2  (867) 975-7870
 3 www.gov.nu.ca