



NOTICE OF SCREENING OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

NIRB File No.: 23YN026

Project Name: The “**Identifying Putative Microbial Drivers of Methane Flux on Earth and Mars**” project
Proponent Name: York University
Project Type: Research Region: Qikiqtani Region
Public Registry: www.nirb.ca Application No.: 125813
Comment Deadline: **June 21, 2023**

PROJECT SCOPE:

The proposed “Identifying Putative Microbial Driver of Methane Flux on Earth and Mars” project is located within the Qikiqtani region, approximately 350 kilometres (km) from Grise Fiord. The Proponent intends to conduct research to understand the relationship between subsurface microorganisms and methane in the Arctic. The program is proposed to take place from June 2023 to July 2023. The scope of this proposed project as identified by the NIRB includes the following undertakings, works or activities:

- Use of a helicopter for daily trips to sample sites;
- Use of the McGill Arctic Research Station (MARS) and facilities for the duration of the project.
- Use and storage of multiple hazardous liquids (no more than 200 millimeters) for disinfecting, preserving and acidifying samples;

Please visit the NIRB’s public registry online at the link above and look up NIRB File No.: **23YN026** to access all project information, maps, and public comment forms.

REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

You are invited to provide the NIRB with your comments regarding whether the proposed project is:

- likely to arouse significant public concern and, if so, why;
- likely to cause significant adverse ecosystemic or socio-economic effects and, if so, why;
- likely to cause significant adverse impacts on wildlife habitat or Inuit harvest activities and, if so, why;
- a type where the potential adverse effects are highly predictable and can be prevented/managed appropriately with known technology.

Parties are also invited to recommend any specific mitigation measures they feel would be appropriate, and to bring any other matter of importance related to this project proposal to the NIRB’s attention.

CONTACT INFORMATION

The NIRB has recently launched an updated online public registry, and parties can access project information as well as submit comments directly to the NIRB via www.nirb.ca. Comments can still be submitted directly to the NIRB via email at info@nirb.ca or via fax to **(867) 983-2594**.

If you have any questions or require clarification regarding the proposed project or the NIRB’s screening process, please contact Mia Otokiak, Technical Advisor I toll-free at 1-866-233-3033 or motokiak@nirb.ca.