



NIRB File No.: 23YN043
NPC File No.: 150134

August 23, 2023

Franz Seibel
Keewaytinook Okimakanak
730 S Syndicate Ave
Thunder Bay ON P8T1B9

Sent via email: franzseibel@lp.knet.ca

Re: Notice of Screening for Keewaytinook Okimakanak's "Keewaytinook Okimakanak Bathymetric Marine Fiber Optic Cable Survey" Project Proposal

Dear Franz Seibel:

On June 28, 2023, the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) received a referral to screen Keewaytinook Okimakanak's "Keewaytinook Okimakanak Bathymetric Marine Fiber Optic Cable Survey" project proposal from the Nunavut Planning Commission (Commission), which noted that the project proposal is outside the area of an applicable regional land use plan. On July 24, 2023, the NIRB received the complete application from the Proponent.

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 **23YN043** - please reference this file number in all future related correspondence.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Project Scope:

Project:	Keewaytinook Okimakanak Bathymetric Marine Fiber Optic Cable Survey		
Region:	Qikiqtani		
Location:	Hudson Bay		
Closest Communities:	Sanikiluaq	Distance (approximate)	125 kilometres

Summary of Project Description:	The Proponent intends to conduct a survey to determine the possible route for a future fiber cable.
Project Proposed Timeline:	September- October 2023

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

- Sail through Hudson Bay to survey the route for a fiber cable route between Kuujjuaraapik, Peawanuck, and Fort Severn, via Nunavut waters; and
- Use of sidescan and depth measurement sonars to profile the bottom topography.

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 www.nirb.ca/project/125837 and include:

- *Commission Conformity Determination*
- *Commission Application and Questionnaire*
- *NIRB's Online Application*
- *DFO Letter of Advice*
- *Marine Survey Equipment*
- *Emergency Procedures*
- *Fueling Procedure*
- *Additional Information*

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 Far North Fiber project proposal with this letter, and we invite interested parties to comment directly to the NIRB by **September 5, 2023**.

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/125837.

If you have any questions or require clarification, feel free to contact the undersigned at (867) 983-4617 or 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

Jared Ottenhof, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Joel Fortier, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Conor Goddard, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Chris Spencer, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Michele LeBlanc-Havard, Government of Nunavut – Department of Environment
Mosha Cote, Nunavut Research Institute
Adrian Paradis, Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency
Kaitlyn Bakker, Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency
Tracey McCaie, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada
Alasdair Beattie, Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Transport Canada General Inbox

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. Keewaytinook Okimakanak (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.: 150134), and the NIRB (Online Application Form, July 24, 2023). 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 Course/Water Bodies

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.

Fuel and Chemical Storage

8. The Proponent shall have a Spill Contingency Plan in place at all fuel storage or transfer locations and shall ensure that appropriate spill response equipment and clean-up materials are readily available.
9. The Proponent shall ensure that wildlife deterrent systems are utilized at the time of a spill incident in order to avoid wildlife (terrestrial or marine) and migratory birds from being contaminated.
10. The Proponent shall ensure that all spills of fuel or other deleterious materials of 100 litres or more must be reported immediately to the 24-hour Spill Line at (867) 920-8130.

Wildlife – General

11. The Proponent shall not substantially alter or damage or destroy any wildlife habitat in conducting this operation unless otherwise authorized by the appropriate authorizing agencies.
12. 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.
13. The Proponent shall not hunt or fish, unless proper Nunavut authorizations have been acquired.

Marine-based Activities

14. The Proponent shall ensure that noise be kept to a minimum and shall refrain from making sharp or loud noises, blowing horns or whistles and shall maintain constant engine noise levels.
15. When marine mammals appear to be trapped or disturbed by vessel movements, the Proponent shall implement appropriate measures to mitigate disturbance, including stoppage of movement until wildlife have moved away from the immediate area.
16. The Proponent shall suspend all project activities should any dead fish or wildlife (both marine and terrestrial), or any injured wildlife be observed during any works or activities in and around the marine waters. Activities may only be resumed on the recommendation of the authorizing agencies.
17. The Proponent shall report all incidents, injuries or sightings of marine mammals to the appropriate authorizing agencies.
18. The Proponent shall implement measures designed to minimize disturbance to seabed sediments and benthic communities and marine wildlife when carrying out project activities within the marine environment.

Other

19. The Proponent should consult with local residents regarding their activities in the area and solicit available Inuit Qaujimaningit and information that can inform project activities.
20. The Proponent shall ensure that project activities do not interfere with Inuit wildlife harvesting or traditional land use activities.
21. The Proponent should, to the extent possible, hire local people and access local services where possible.