



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

September 8, 2023

Franz Seibel
Keewaytinook Okimakanak
730 S Syndicate Ave
Thunder Bay ON P8T 1B9

Sent via email: franzseibel@lp.knet.ca

Re: Opportunity to address comments received regarding 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 or Board) received a referral to screen Keewaytinook Okimakanak's "Keewaytinook Okimakanak Bathymetric Marine Fiber Optic Cable Survey" project proposal from the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC or Commission). On August 23, 2023, the NIRB circulated a public notice of the screening for this project, inviting interested parties to provide comments directly to the NIRB by September 5, 2023.

On or before September 5, 2023, the NIRB received comments from the following interested parties:

- *The Sanikiluaq Hunters and Trappers Association;*
- *The Government of Nunavut; and*
- *Crown Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada*

All comment submissions received by the NIRB relating to this project proposal can be accessed from the NIRB's online public registry at www.nirb.ca/project/125837.

A *summary* of the public concerns reflected in the comment submissions relate to the following:

- Concerns around the survey approach in the presence of cetaceans and general marine wildlife mitigation and monitoring practices;
- Concerns around the disposal of hazardous material and waste; and
- Requests for the specific survey route to ensure it is 125-150km away from the islands of Milliit instead of Sanikiluaq.

The NIRB would like to provide Keewaytinook Okimakanak with an opportunity to address the comments noted above prior to the Board rendering its determination for this screening assessment and issuing its subsequent Screening Decision Report to the responsible Minister(s). The NIRB respectfully requests that a response be provided directly to the NIRB by **September 22, 2023**.

If Keewaytinook Okimakanak determines that the time required to supply a written response is significantly greater than two (2) weeks, the Board requests written notification and an anticipated date for submission be provided as soon as possible.

Please send any forthcoming submissions directly to the NIRB at info@nirb.ca, or through the online public registry at www.nirb.ca.

If you have any questions or require additional clarification, please contact the undersigned directly at (867) 983-4607 or cbarker@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



Cory Barker, M.Sc.
Acting Manager, Impact Assessment
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: 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