



NIRB File No.: 20AN020
NPC File No.: 149395

November 29, 2023

David Kattegatsiaq
Hamlet of Chesterfield Inlet
PO Box 10
Chesterfield Inlet Nunavut X0C 0B0

Sent via email: edohamlet@qiniq.com

Re: Opportunity to address comments received Hamlet of Chesterfield Inlet's "Access Trail Project Chesterfield Inlet" project proposal

Dear David Kattegatsiaq:

On July 28, 2020, the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received a referral to screen Hamlet of Chesterfield Inlet's "Access Trail Project Chesterfield Inlet" project proposal from the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC or Commission). On November 3, 2023, the NIRB circulated a public notice of the screening for this project, inviting interested parties to provide comments directly to the NIRB by November 24, 2023.

On or before November 24, 2023, the NIRB received comments from the following interested parties:

- *Government of Nunavut*
- *Crown-Indigenous Relations 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/125842.

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

Government of Nunavut

- The Project Proposal contains insufficient information, which impedes the GN's accurate assessment and review of the Projects potential environmental effects, the Project is located in the ranges of both the Lorillard herd and the Qamanirjuaq herd of barren-ground caribou;



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- Access Trail Road Descriptions, the lengths of the three access trails are provided, but the GN notes that the widths of the proposed trails are not provided, the information is key to understanding the extent of direct habitat loss or degradation associated with the Project;
- The GN is aware of additional existing and future locations of aggregate sites that have been studied to support community development proposals or other infrastructure projects, for example Nunavut Feasibility Study for Small Craft Harbour near Chesterfield Inlet (NIRB file no.22YN033) where studies for quarries and haul road locations were planned, The proposed project should allow for future connection to the Kivalliq All-Season road to Chesterfield Inlet, incorporating alignment consistent with the GN Kivalliq Roads technical study where appropriate.

Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada

- CIRNAC recommends that the Proponent provide clarification on whether this is a 35km ATV Trail or three separate access roads for rock trucks, and if so specifications for the proposed roadway is recommended;
- CIRNAC notes it is hard to access potential direct impacts and cumulative impacts for the duration of the project without having schedule of construction and operation, CIRNAC recommends that the proponent clarify the timeline with a more refrain schedule that clearly indicates when construction is planned to start and end with each segment of access road;
- CIRNAC notes the stated purpose of the access trail is to provide the Municipality of Chesterfield Inlet access to potential aggregate sites in order to develop gravel production. CIRNAC is concerned that no information related to the development, use/exploitation, and closure/reclamation of these potential quarry/borrow sites has been provided, nor information regarding how operational activities at these sites will have an additional set of impacts associated. No description of adverse effects related to quarry use, or monitoring and mitigation of these effects is included within the application.

The NIRB would like to provide Hamlet of Chesterfield Inlet 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. The NIRB respectfully requests that a response be provided directly to the NIRB by **December 13, 2023**.

If the Hamlet of Chesterfield Inlet 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) 983-4616 or femingak@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



Francis Emingak
Technical Advisor I
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Distribution List
 Justin Buller, Government of Nunavut
 Dianne Lapierre, Government of Nunavut
 Laura Harris, Government of Nunavut
 Caroline Whittle, Government of Nunavut
 Michele LeBlanc-Harvard, Government of Nunavut
 William Patch, Government of Nunavut
 Randy Mercer, Government of Nunavut
 Tracey McCaie, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada