



**NIRB File No.: 18YA019**

*Related to NIRB File No.: 18YN019*

NPC File No.: 149964

*Related to NPC File No.: 148780*

August 25, 2023

Rob Jamieson  
Dalhousie University  
1360 Barrington Street  
Halifax Nova Scotia B3J 1Z1

Sent via email: [jamiesrc@dal.ca](mailto:jamiesrc@dal.ca)

**Re: Notice of Screening for Dalhousie University’s “Impacts of wastewater at Baker Lake, Nunavut” project proposal**

Dear Rob Jamieson:

On May 31, 2023 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) received a referral to screen Dalhousie University’s “Impacts of wastewater at Baker Lake, Nunavut” project proposal from the Nunavut Planning Commission (Commission), with an accompanying positive conformity determination with the Keewatin Regional Land Use Plan.

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 section 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. Due to the proposal containing activities that are sufficiently related to previously assessed activities under NIRB file number 18YN019, the NIRB views this project proposal as an amendment to the previously screened project and has assigned this proposal file number **18YA019**. Please reference this file number in all future related correspondence. A summary of the previously screened project activities can be found in [Appendix A](#).

PROJECT OVERVIEW

**Project Scope:**

The following table provides a summary of the *original* project as previously screened by the NIRB (File No. 18YN019):

<b>Original Project:</b>	Impacts of wastewater at Baker Lake, Nunavut		
<b>Region:</b>	The project as previously approved was located within the Kivalliq region.		
<b>Location:</b>	Baker Lake		
<b>Closest Community:</b>	Baker Lake	<b>Distance (approximate)</b>	2 kilometres (km)
<b>Summary of Project Description:</b>	The Project as originally screened included water sampling. A complete description of the scope of activities previously approved has been included within <a href="#">Appendix A</a> .		
<b>Original Project Timeline:</b>	2018 to 2020		

The following table provides a summary of the current *amended* project as proposed by Dalhousie University:

<b>Amended Project:</b>	Impacts of wastewater at Baker Lake, Nunavut		
<b>Region:</b>	The project would be located in the same area as previously approved and would be located within the Kivalliq region.		
<b>Location:</b>	Baker Lake		
<b>Closest Community:</b>	Baker Lake	<b>Distance (approximate)</b>	2 kilometres (km)
<b>Summary of Project Description:</b>	The Proponent intends to amend the scope of previously approved activities to include sampling of fish and invertebrates.		
<b>Project Proposed Timeline:</b>	2023 to 2026		

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

- Collect fish and invertebrate samples in addition to current research activities.

***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 at [www.nirb.ca/project/125843](http://www.nirb.ca/project/125843) and include:

- *Commission Conformity Determination and Questionnaire (2018)*
- *Commission Conformity Determination and Questionnaire (2023)*
- *NIRB Application*

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 Dalhousie University 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 B](#)).

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Please send your comments to the NIRB via email at [info@nirb.ca](mailto: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/125843](http://www.nirb.ca/project/125843).

If you have any questions or require clarification, feel free to contact the undersigned at 867-983-4617 or [kmorrison@nirb.ca](mailto:kmorrison@nirb.ca).

Sincerely,



Keith Morrison  
Manager Impact Assessment  
Nunavut Impact Review Board

Attachments: Appendix A: Previously-Screened Project Proposals  
Appendix B: *Proposed* Project Specific Terms and Conditions

Enclosures (4): Public Notice of Screening (English, and Inuktitut)  
Comment Forms (English, and Inuktitut)

cc: Distribution List  
Richard Dwyer, Nunavut Water Board  
Luis Manzo, Kivalliq Inuit Association  
Maria Serra, Kivalliq Inuit Association  
Brenda Pilakapsi, Kivalliq Inuit Association  
Moshia Cote, Nunavut Research Institute  
Alasdair Beatty, Fisheries and Oceans Canada

## APPENDIX A: PREVIOUSLY-SCREENED PROJECT PROPOSALS

The original project proposal (NIRB File No.: 18YN019), was received on March 20, 2018 from the Nunavut Planning Commission (Commission), with an accompanying positive conformity determination with the Keewatin Regional Land Use Plan.

The University of Winnipeg's (Proponent) original "Impacts of wastewater at Baker Lake, Nunavut" project was located in the Kivalliq region, approximately within 2 kilometres (km) of Baker Lake. The Proponent intended to conduct water sampling. The program was proposed to take place from 2018 to 2020.

According to the previously screened project proposal, the scope of the project included the following undertakings, works or activities:

- Collection of water samples (approximately one (1) Litre (L)) from the wastewater lagoon, two (2) reference lakes upstream of the lagoon, Finger Lake inflow and outflow, Airplane Lake inflow and outflow, Baker Lake inflow, Baker Lake receiving water, and the shoreline of Baker Lake;
- Temporary installation of growth meters and passive samplers in the water, secured with buoys or poles if necessary, to measure algal production, chemical contaminants and water flow rates;
- Addition of approximately 1 L of non-toxic, water-soluble dye to the lagoon to characterize flow direction;
- Characterizing vegetation (species identification and counts) in one metre by one metre (1 m x 1 m) sample quadrats near the lagoon and the upstream reference sites;
- Collection of small samples of soil near the vegetation study areas;
- Use of a pickup truck and small boat hired through the Baker Lake Hunters and Trappers Organization (HTO) to access sampling sites;
- Use of approximately 50 L of diesel fuel for the boat and approximately 100 L of gasoline for the truck; and
- Use of accommodations and facilities in Baker Lake for two (2) to three (3) personnel.

## APPENDIX B: *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.

- The terms and condition for the original project 18YN019 remain in effect and no additional terms and conditions are recommended.