



CIRNAC Comments to NIRB

Re: Notice of Screening for Dalhousie University's "Impacts of wastewater at Baker Lake, Nunavut" Project Proposal



Nunavut Regional Office
P.O. Box 100
Iqaluit, NU, X0A 0H0

Your file - Votre référence
18YA019
Our file - Notre référence
GCdocs#116819073

September 5, 2023

Keith Morrison
Manager, Impact Assessment
Nunavut Impact Review Board
P.O. Box 1360
Cambridge Bay, NU, X0B 0C0
via NIRB public registry

Re: Notice of Screening and Comment Request for Dalhousie University's "Impacts of wastewater at Baker Lake, Nunavut" Project Proposal

Dear Keith Morrison,

On August 25, 2023, the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) invited parties to comment on Dalhousie University's "Impacts of wastewater at Baker Lake, Nunavut" project proposal. Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC) appreciates the opportunity to provide comments and offers the responses below as it pertains to the NIRB's request:

Any matter of importance to the Party related to the project proposal.

CIRNAC #1: Fuelling Activities

The Proponent indicated that it intends to use a small boat to carry sampling equipment to offshore sites, and that fifty (50) liters of diesel will be used to fuel the boat during the field season. CIRNAC notes that the Proponent did not provide a description of where and how it intends to fuel the boat, or measures it will implement to minimize negative impacts on receiving terrestrial and freshwater environments resulting from potential fuel spills.

CIRNAC recommends that the fuelling of all equipment, as well as the storage of fuel, occur a minimum of thirty-one (31) meters away from the high water mark of any waterbody, and drip pans or other equivalent device(s) should be used when fuelling equipment on the site to aid in the prevention of fuel spills.

CIRNAC #2: Consultation with Interested Parties

CIRNAC appreciates the effort the Proponent has made in contacting the Hamlet of Baker Lake, and acknowledges that it intends to:

- Work with local residents for truck and boat rentals and operations; and
- Identify and train interested individuals, to assist in sampling.



CIRNAC recommends that the Proponent continues consulting with the Hamlet of Baker Lake, and considers consulting with relevant interested Inuit, community members, and community organizations in Baker Lake who may have an interest in the project.

As part of any consultation activities, several issues should be considered, including, but not limited to:

- Incorporation of Inuit Qauijimajatuqangit into project activities;
- Mitigation measures designed to prevent any disturbance to wildlife and the environment;
- The experience of community members who participate in traditional and non-traditional activities within or in close proximity to the project area;
- Mitigation measures designed to prevent disturbance to sites with cultural, archaeological, and/or environmental significance;
- Training and employment opportunities for Inuit and community members;
- Procurement opportunities for local and Inuit-owned businesses; and
- Regular updates on the status of project activities.

CIRNAC appreciates the opportunity to provide comments and looks forward to working with the NIRB and the Proponent throughout any further phases related to this project. Should you have any questions, please contact John MacInnis by e-mail at john.macinnis@rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca.

Sincerely,



Vincent Okonkwo
A/Manager, Impact Assessment

