



NIRB File No.: 23KN076
NPC File No.: 150172

February 6, 2024

Dele Morakinyo
Crown – Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada
P.O Box 2200
Iqaluit, Nunavut
X0A 0X0

Sent via email: dele.morakinyo@rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca

Re: Notice of Screening for Crown - Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada’s “Pioneer High Arctic Bundle (HAB) Project” proposal

Dear Dele Morakinyo:

On December 12, 2023, the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) received a referral to screen Crown – Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada’s (CIRNAC) “Pioneer High Arctic Bundle (HAB) Project” proposal from the Nunavut Planning Commission (Commission), with an accompanying positive conformity determination with the North Baffin Regional Land Use Plan. On January 25, 2024, 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 **23KN076** - please reference this file number in all future related correspondence.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Project Scope:

Project:	Pioneer High Arctic Bundle (HAB) Project
Region:	Qikiqtani (North Baffin) Region
Location:	Seven (7) contaminated sites between 160 kilometres (km) and 570 km northeast of Resolute Bay. Sites are: Playfair Point, Pioneer Island, Stupart Island, Skybattle Bay, Kristofer Bay, Cape Isachsen, and Cape Ahnighito

Summary of Project Description:	The Proponent intends to conduct site cleanup and remediation work at each of the seven (7) contaminated sites.
Project Proposed Timeline:	April 2024 to March 2026

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

- Use of a Twin Otter aircraft and helicopter for transportation of materials, waste, and personnel between sites and from Resolute Bay to sites;
- Set up and use of a temporary camp at Stupart Island to serve as a base of operations for Skybattle Bay, Stupart Island and Cape Ahnighito sites;
- Use of the temporary camp at Isachsen High Arctic Weather Station for the Cape Isachsen and Kristofer Bay sites;
- Mobilizing a work team to perform work from Resolute Bay for remediation work at Playfair Point and Pioneer Island sites;
- Use of the sealift services to mobilize supplies and materials in large quantities in to Resolute Bay and wastes to be disposed out of Resolute Bay;
- Use of heavy equipment for site remediation;
- Use of incinerators for wood waste and waste fuel;
- Use of all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) for transportation of waste and equipment on site;
- Use of chainsaws to dismantle equipment for incineration of combustible waste;
- Combustible and non-combustible wastes to be containerized and disposed of out of territory; and
- Storage and use of fuel for remediation activities:
 - Approximately 20,000 liters of diesel fuel, and
 - Approximately 410 liters of gasoline.

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/125872 and include:

- *Commission Conformity Determination*
- *Commission Application*
- *NIRB's Online Application*
- *Non-Technical Executive Summary*
- *2022 Environmental Impact Assessment Report*
- *Archeological Impact Assessment Summary Report*
- *Archeological Impact Assessment Report*
- *Remedial Action Plan*

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 CIRNAC's project proposal with this letter, and we invite interested parties to comment directly to the NIRB by **February 27, 2024**.

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.

Additionally, please be aware that the NIRB and the Nunavut Water Board (NWB) are required to coordinate their processes¹ for projects that require a water licence, especially municipal undertakings in order ensure the timely review and processing of the application. In undertaking a coordinated NIRB-NWB process, the Proponent must provide information through the assessment to satisfy both the impact assessment requirements as well as the water licensing process; furthermore, where information to satisfy each process is similar, coordination of the timing or contents of applications may be considered when information is being submitted to both organizations. However, the Proponent has the option to request or opt out of a coordinated process at any time. Should the Proponent wish to discontinue the coordinated process, the Proponent may do so in writing to both the NIRB and the NWB.

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/125872.

If you have any questions or require clarification, feel free to contact the undersigned at (867) 983-4622 or motokiak@nirb.ca.

¹ As per Sections 13.5.2 and 13.6.1 of the *Nunavut Agreement*, s. 193 of *NuPPAA*, and s. 37 of the *Nunavut Waters and Nunavut Surface Rights Tribunal Act*.

Sincerely,



Mia Otokiak
Technical Advisor I
Nunavut Impact Review Board

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

cc: Distribution List
Richard Dwyer, Nunavut Water Board
Dustin Fredlund, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated
Carson Gillis, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated
Jorgan Aitaok, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated
Conor Goddard, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Joel Fortier, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Jared Ottenhof, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Tracey McCaie, Crown – Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada