



CIRNAC Comments to NIRB

Re: Notice of Screening for Bronzite Exploration Corp.'s "Somerset Trough Project" Proposal



Nunavut Regional Office
918 Sivumugiaq Street
Iqaluit, NU, X0A 3H0

Your file - Votre référence
24EN005
Our file - Notre référence
GCdocs# 123398772

March 15, 2024

Francis Emingak
Technical Advisor I
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 Bronzite Exploration Corp.'s "Somerset Trough Project" Proposal

Dear Francis Emingak,

On February 23, 2024, the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) invited parties to comment on Bronzite Exploration Corp.'s "Somerset Trough Project" proposal. Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC) has reviewed the project proposal and related documents, and offers the responses below as it pertains to the NIRB's request.

Any matter of important to the Party related to the project proposal

CIRNAC 1: Environmental Impacts Matrix

The Proponent has listed multiple environmental components as unknown within the application Identification of Environmental Impacts matrix. In particular, CIRNAC notes that these categories are listed as having unknown impacts:

- Vegetation
- Surface and bedrock geology
- Sediment and soil quality
- Permafrost
- Water Quality
- Ground Stability
- Eskers and other unique or fragile landscapes

It is unclear to CIRNAC if these categories of potential environmental impacts have been taken into consideration for potential mitigation measures. CIRNAC recommends the Proponent provide rationale to why these field were stated to have unknown impacts, or ensure that the appropriate mitigation measures are included in the management plans.



CIRNAC 2: Consultation with Interest Parties

CIRNAC recommends that the Proponent continue to consult relevant Inuit and community organizations, including the Qikiqtani Inuit Association, Hamlets of Resolute Bay and Taloyoak and the Hunters and Trappers Organizations that represent these communities, regarding its project proposal. Efforts should also be made to be considerate of concerns that may be raised by individual community members. In particular, efforts should be made to develop an acceptable approach for the operation of helicopters, all terrain vehicles, and snowmobiles, and activities near potential areas of interest, such as Crestwell Bay.

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, including by sensory (visual and noise) disturbances;
- 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 looks forward to working with the NIRB throughout any further review phases related to this project. Should you have any questions, please contact Courtney White by e-mail at courtney.white@cirnac-rcaanc.gc.ca, or David Abernethy at david.abernethy@rcaanc-cirnac.ca.

Sincerely,



Richard Bingley
A/Manager, Impact Assessment

