

NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

Project Name

Baseline Studies for Qikiqtarjuaq Marine Infrastructure

Non-Technical Project Proposal Description

CBCL Limited (CBCL) has been retained by Government of Nunavut (GN) to provide architectural and engineering services for a deep-water port facility in Qikiqtarjuaq Nunavut. To support the design, CBCL along with their sub-consultants propose to carry out baseline field studies and traditional knowledge or Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit (IQ) gathering in the spring and summer of 2024 to assess the proposed port area and quarry locations. The information obtained will be used to design the deep-water port facility, to evaluate the environmental risks, and to obtain the necessary permits to construct the port.

The field studies planned for spring and summer 2024 in Qikiqtarjuaq include the following:

- Geotechnical investigation
- Terrestrial surveys (wildlife, vegetation, topographic)
- Marine surveys (marine fish and habitat, marine mammals, water and sediment quality, bathymetry, tides)
- Archaeological assessment
- IQ gathering

The baseline field studies will be carried out in Qikiqtarjuaq, primarily in the area planned for the future marine infrastructure. The Study Area includes a Marine Study Area in Broughton Channel surrounding the future marine infrastructure, an Upland Study Area, and three potential quarry locations.

The purpose of the baseline field studies and IQ gathering is to collect baseline information to support the design and permitting of the Qikiqtarjuaq Marine Infrastructure project. The geotechnical drilling program is needed to evaluate the ocean bottom sediments in the proposed port area, obtain sediment samples for physical and chemical analysis, and obtain bedrock core. The environmental baseline field program, archaeological assessment and IQ gathering will be done to gather background knowledge about the study area, determine the potential impacts of the Qikiqtarjuaq infrastructure project, and develop appropriate mitigation and monitoring plans.

The baseline field studies and IQ gathering will be carried out over the late winter, spring, and summer of 2024. The geotechnical site program will be conducted between March 17, 2024, and May 4, 2024. The environmental baseline field program will be completed in 5 to 6 days between July 15, 2024, and August 30, 2024. The archaeological assessment will be done between July 15, 2024, and August 30, 2024, and the IQ gathering will take place on in late February or March 2024 and in September 2024.