



**NIRB File No.: 24YN030**  
NPC File No.: 150435

August 9, 2024

Justin McDonell  
Government of Nunavut  
P.O. Box 1000 Stn 620  
Iqaluit, NU  
X0A 0H0

Sent via email: [jmcdonell@gov.nu.ca](mailto:jmcdonell@gov.nu.ca)

**Re: Notice of Screening for Government of Nunavut's "Grise Fiord and Resolute Bay Field Program" project proposal**

Dear Justin McDonell:

On June 4, 2024, the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) received a referral to screen Government of Nunavut's "Grise Fiord and Resolute Bay Field Program" project proposal from the Nunavut Planning Commission (Commission), with an accompanying positive conformity determination with the North Baffin Regional Land Use Plan.

On July 17, 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 **24YN030** - please reference this file number in all future related correspondence.

## PROJECT OVERVIEW

### **Project Scope:**

All documents received and pertaining to this project proposal can be accessed from the NIRB's online public registry at [www.nirb.ca/project/125979](http://www.nirb.ca/project/125979).

<b>Project:</b>	Grise Fiord and Resolute Bay Field Program
<b>Region:</b>	Qikiqtani (North Baffin) Region
<b>Location:</b>	Grise Fiord and Resolute Bay
<b>Summary of Project Description:</b>	The Proponent intends to conduct environmental, geoscience, geophysics and archaeological field programs to support the detailed design phase of the Community Harbour Facilities in Grise Fiord and Resolute Bay.
<b>Project Proposed Timeline:</b>	June 25, 2024 to December 30, 2026

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

- Use of community boats and operators to conduct marine surveys as well as collecting samples from the marine environment
- Use of trucks or ATVs to access various sites around the communities
- Scientific Collection (Marine)
  - Fish habitat – intertidal and subtidal
  - Water quality
  - Sediment quality
  - Bathymetric (using multi-beam and GPS positioning system)
  - Tidal gauges
  - Measure ocean surface patterns with a drogue
- Scientific Collection (Terrestrial)
  - Wildlife Surveys
    - General Reconnaissance
    - Breeding birds
    - Coastal water bird
  - Vegetation Assessment including field survey and local knowledge and values
- Scientific Collection Proposed Community Harbor (Geotechnical/Geophysical)
  - Subsurface drilling program using track mounted rotary drill rig
  - Test pits
  - Seismic refraction survey
  - Topographic and feature survey
- Proposed Quarry and Haul Road Studies
  - Subsurface drilling program using track mounted rotary drill rig
  - Test pits
  - Seismic refraction survey
- Accommodations, wildlife monitors, and field assistants will be hired locally
- All waste would be handled at local approved facilities.

- Water for drilling programs would be locally sourced or from water bodies close to 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 [www.nirb.ca/project/125979](http://www.nirb.ca/project/125979) and include:

- *Commission Conformity Determination*
- *Commission Application and Questionnaire*
- *Project Description*
- *Project Summary*
- *Non-Technical Summaries in English and Inuktitut*
- *NIRB Applications in English and Inuktitut*
- *Revised Project Overview*
- *Revised Environmental Management Plan*

The NIRB will copy the proponent 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 Government of Nunavut project proposal with this letter, and we invite interested parties to comment directly to the NIRB by **August 30, 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.

## 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/125979](http://www.nirb.ca/project/125979).

If you have any questions or require clarification, feel free to contact the undersigned at [kgillard@nirb.ca](mailto:kgillard@nirb.ca) or Keith Morrison, Manager, Impact Assessment at [kmorrison@nirb.ca](mailto:kmorrison@nirb.ca).

Sincerely,



Kelli Gillard PAg, CTAJ  
Senior Impact Assessment Officer  
Nunavut Impact Review Board

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

cc: Distribution List  
Victoria Burdett-Coutts, Dynamic Ocean  
Richard Dwyer, Nunavut Water Board  
Jared Ottenhof, Qikiqtani Inuit Association  
Chris Spencer, Qikiqtani Inuit Association  
Joel Fortier, Qikiqtani Inuit Association  
Justin Buller, Government of Nunavut  
Dianne Lapierre, Government of Nunavut  
William Patch, Government of Nunavut – Community & Government Services  
Randy Mercer, Government of Nunavut – Community & Government Services  
Ken Waylyshen, Government of Nunavut – Community & Government Services  
Oliver Forbes-Bouillon, Government of Nunavut – Community & Government Services  
Caroline Whittle, Government of Nunavut - Department of Culture and Heritage  
Sylvie LeBlanc, Government of Nunavut - Department of Culture and Heritage  
Natalie D'Sourza, Government of Nunavut – Department of Environment  
Brad Pirie, Government of Nunavut – Department of Environment  
Mosha Cote, Nunavut Research Institute  
Tracey McCaie, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada  
Environment and Climate Change Canada  
Jose Audet-Lecouffe, Fisheries and Oceans Canada  
Transport Canada