



NIRB File No.: 24YN049
NPC File No.: 150523

December 16, 2024

Gavin Law
West Kitikmeot Resources Corp.
PO Box 6, 30B Mitik Street
Cambridge Bay NU, X0B 0C0

Sent via email: glaw@westkit.ca

Re: Notice of Screening for West Kitikmeot Resources Corp's "Field Research Program for the Grays Bay Road and Port Project" Proposal

Dear Gavin Law:

On September 20, 2024, the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) received a referral to screen West Kitikmeot Resources Corp.'s (WKR) "Field Research Program for the Grays Bay Road and Port Project" proposal from the Nunavut Planning Commission (Commission), which noted that the project proposal is outside the area of an applicable regional land use plan.

On November 29, 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 **24YN049** - 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/126002.

Project:	Field Research Program for the Grays Bay Road and Port Project
Region:	Kitikmeot
Location:	Grays Bay

Closest Community:	Kugluktuk	Distance (approximate)	180 kilometres (km)	Direction	East
Summary of Project Description:	The Proponent intends to conduct field research within the Project Area accessing land and waters collecting environmental data, maintaining existing and installing new scientific instrumentation required to support environmental data collection, and undertake design-related studies including geotechnical drilling.				
Project Proposed Timeline:	2025 to 2030				

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

- Use of temporary camps as needed;
- Use of helicopters for aerial track and surveys;
- Use of fixed-wing aircraft for surveys and crew;
- Use of boats for research activities;
- Design related studies to support Project planning advancement including:
 - Marine and land based geotechnical drilling focused in the Port area;
 - Geochemical assessment of proposed quarries along the road corridor;
 - Terrain stability and permafrost assessments;
 - Terrestrial wildlife surveys to inform the environmental baseline and related impact assessment such as ground nest searches and shoreline bird surveys, use of motion activated cameras;
- Marine mammal studies including aerial, acoustic, and vessel surveys, marine and freshwater aquatic life surveys to inform the environmental baseline and related impact assessment including:
 - Intertidal and subtidal habitat and aquatic life surveys using transects, quadrats and a remote operated vehicle
 - Aquatic life and habitat sampling;
- Marine and freshwater sediment and water quality sampling;
- Vegetation and rare plant surveys;
- Use of up to eight (8) snowmobiles for accessing locations;
- Use of survey equipment such as cameras, data loggers, and remote operated vehicles for data collection;
- Use of up to six (6) various drills for geotechnical, geochemical, terrain, and permafrost data collection;
- Use of up to 14 generators and pumps to support drill and research;
- Archaeology studies to survey and document Archaeological and Paleontological Sites;
- Use of 5000 pounds (lbs) of propane in 50 containers;
- Use of 61,500 liters of diesel fuel for drilling support;
- Use of 61,500 litres of aviation fuel for ariel support;
- Use of 30,750 liters of gasoline for boat, snowmobiles, generators and other equipment;
- Daily use of up to 299 cubic meters (m³) of suitable fresh water or marine source adjacent to drill/or camp;

- Combustible waste to be incinerated and backhauled;
- Hazardous waste to be backhauled to an approved facility;
- Non-combustible waste to be backhauled to an approved facility; and
- Overburden to be disposed in a sump

Inclusion or Exclusion of Scoping List

At this time, the NIRB has identified no additional works or activities in relation to the project proposal, and any potential project-specific impacts of industrial users of the road or port are not considered as part of this application, but would be considered as part of the third parties' project-specific impact assessment.

REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

All documents received can be accessed from the NIRB's online public registry www.nirb.ca/project/126002 and include:

- *NPC Conformity Determination and Application*
- *Project Description*
- *Map*
- *Proponent Letter to NPC*
- *Engagement Log*
- *Spill Contingency Plan*
- *Environmental Management Plan*
- *Communities Engagement Plan*
- *Waste Management Plan*
- *Impact Mitigations*
- *Closure and Reclamation Plan*
- *NIRB Application*

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 WKR project proposal with this letter, and we invite interested parties to comment directly to the NIRB by **January 22, 2025**.

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, 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/126002.

If you have any questions or require clarification, feel free to contact the undersigned at 1-866-233-3033 or femingak@nirb.ca

Sincerely,



Francis Emingak
Screening Officer

Nunavut Impact Review Board

Enclosures (6): Public Notice of Screening (English, Inuinnaqtun and Inuktitut)
Comment Forms (English, Inuinnaqtun and Inuktitut)

cc: Distribution List
Richard Dwyer, Nunavut Water Board
Nidhi Singh, Nunavut Water Board
Abid Jan, Nunavut Water Board
Dustin Fredlund, Nunavut Tunngavik Inc.
Carson Gillis, Nunavut Tunngavik Inc.
Jorgan Aitaok, Nunavut Tunngavik Inc.
Wynter Kuliktana, Kitikmeot Inuit Association
Tannis Bolt, Kitikmeot Inuit Association
Justin Buller, Government of Nunavut
Dianne Lapierre, Government of Nunavut
William Patch, Government of Nunavut
Ken Wasylyshen, Government of Nunavut
Olivier Forbes-Bouillon, Government of Nunavut
Caroline Whittle, Government of Nunavut
Sylvie LeBlanc, Government of Nunavut
Natalie D'Souza, Government of Nunavut
Drikus Gissing, Government of Nunavut
Adrian Paradis, Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency
Kaitlyn Bakker, Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency
Tracey McCaie, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada
Lisa Pirie-Dominix, Canadian Wildlife Service
Environment and Climate Change Canada
Jose Audet-Lecouffe, Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Peter Unger, Natural Resources Canada
Pierre-Olivier Emond, Natural Resources Canada
Transport Canada
Hamlet of Cambridge Bay
Hamlet of Gjoa Haven

Hamlet of Kugaaruk
Hamlet of Kugluktuk
Kugluktuk Angoniatit Association
Ekaluktutiak Hunters & Trappers Organization
Spence Bay Hunters & Trappers Organization
Gjoa Haven Hunters & Trappers Organization
Kutairojuark Hunters & Trappers Organization
Omingmaktok Hunters & Trappers Organization
Burnside Hunters & Trappers Organization
Gwich'in Tribal Council
Inuvialuit Game Council
Łutsel K'e Dene First Nation
North Slave Métis Alliance
Northwest Territories Treaty 8
Tłı̨chǫ Government
Yellowknives Dene First Nation
Athabasca Denesų́liné Né Né Land Corporation