



COMMENT FORM FOR NIRB SCREENINGS

The Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) has a mandate to protect the integrity of the ecosystem for the existing and future residents of Nunavut. To assess the environmental and socio-economic impacts of the project proposal, NIRB would like to hear your concerns, comments and suggestions about the following project proposal application:

Project Proposal Title: Field Research Program for the Grays Bay Road and Port Project	
Proponent: West Kitikmeot Resources Corp.	
Location: Kitikmeot	
Comments Due By: January 22, 2025	NIRB #: 24YN049

Indicate your concerns about the project proposal below:

<input type="checkbox"/> no concerns	<input type="checkbox"/> traditional uses of land
<input type="checkbox"/> water quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Inuit harvesting activities
<input type="checkbox"/> terrain	<input type="checkbox"/> community involvement and consultation
<input type="checkbox"/> air quality	<input type="checkbox"/> local development in the area
<input type="checkbox"/> wildlife and their habitat	<input type="checkbox"/> tourism in the area
<input type="checkbox"/> marine mammals and their habitat	<input type="checkbox"/> human health issues
<input type="checkbox"/> birds and their habitat	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: <u>CNWA approval may be required; observance of</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fish and their habitat	<u>marine safety and security regulations.</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> heritage resources in area	

Please describe the concerns indicated above:

Canadian Navigable Waters Act

Transport Canada notes that the waters where marine-based research is proposed are part of the Arctic Ocean. The Arctic Ocean is a scheduled navigable waterway listed in the *Canadian Navigable Waters Act* (CNWA). Given this, the works, being drilling, placement of research equipment on the sea floor, and the use of ropes, buoys, etc. may require an approval under the CNWA from Transport Canada.

The proponent has not yet discussed the project with Transport Canada's Navigation Protection Program.

Marine Safety and Security

Any vessel activity needed to support the project must comply with Canada's maritime laws. In the Arctic, the *Canada Shipping Act, 2001*, the *Marine Liability Act*, the *Arctic Waters Pollution Prevention Act*, Arctic Shipping Safety and Pollution Prevention Regulations, and the *Marine Transportation Security Act* combine to provide Canada's operational regulatory regime governing marine safety, security and environmental protection matters.

- The *Canada Shipping Act, 2001* (CSA) provides an overall regime to protect the safety and the environment for vessels operating in waters under Canadian jurisdiction. Its regulations include requirements for a vessel's construction, management of ballast water, pollution control, arrangements for emergency response, and crew qualifications. Pollution response and prevention measures apply in respect of vessels in Canadian waters or waters in the exclusive economic zone of Canada.
- The *Arctic Waters Pollution Prevention Act* (AWPPA) provides enhanced environmental protection with respect to vessels operating in waters under Canadian jurisdiction north of 60°

- The Arctic Shipping Safety and Pollution Prevention Regulations (ASSPPR) should be adhered to by vessels transiting in the Canadian Arctic.
- The *Marine Liability Act* sets out a regime that requires vessels operating waters under Canadian jurisdiction to carry insurance to pay for damages from oil spills.
- The *Marine Transportation Security Act* sets out a regime to protect and preserve the efficiency of Canada's marine transportation system against unlawful interference. The Department helps the industry achieve compliance with marine security legislation and regulations through awareness, certification, inspection, and enforcement, and helps ports, marine facilities and vessels implement the International Ship and Port Facility Security (ISPS) Code through the Marine Transportation Security Regulations (MTSRs).

Do you have any suggestions or recommendations for this application?

The proponent should engage Transport Canada's Navigation Protection Program (NPP) through the Program's 'pre-submission service'. Transport Canada's regional NPP office can be contacted at: 1-844-425-7787 or NPPPNR-PPNRPN@tc.gc.ca.

- The waterway on which the works will be conducted.
- The location of the works, including latitude and longitude coordinates.
- A brief description of the project.
- Estimated start date of construction.

Marine Safety and Security

- Impacts on Navigational aids, if any, are identified.
- The new facility is included on the appropriate chart, as applicable.

- Also, if they have not already done so, the proponent should consult with the shipping industry, particularly community resupply companies, about the project.

Transport Canada has no comments on whether NIRB should approve this project. However, Transport Canada believes impacts to navigation caused by the project will be mitigated by the proponent's adherence to the provisions of the *Canadian Navigable Waters Act* and any approval issued by the Department. The Marine Safety and Security acts and regulations detailed above combine to provide Canada's operational regulatory regime governing marine safety and environmental protection matters.

Signature: Scott Kidd **Date:** January 14, 2025