



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:	Thelon Property		
Proponent:	Atha Energy Corp		
Location:	(Kivalliq Region)		
Comments Due By:	January 31, 2025	NIRB #:	24EN052

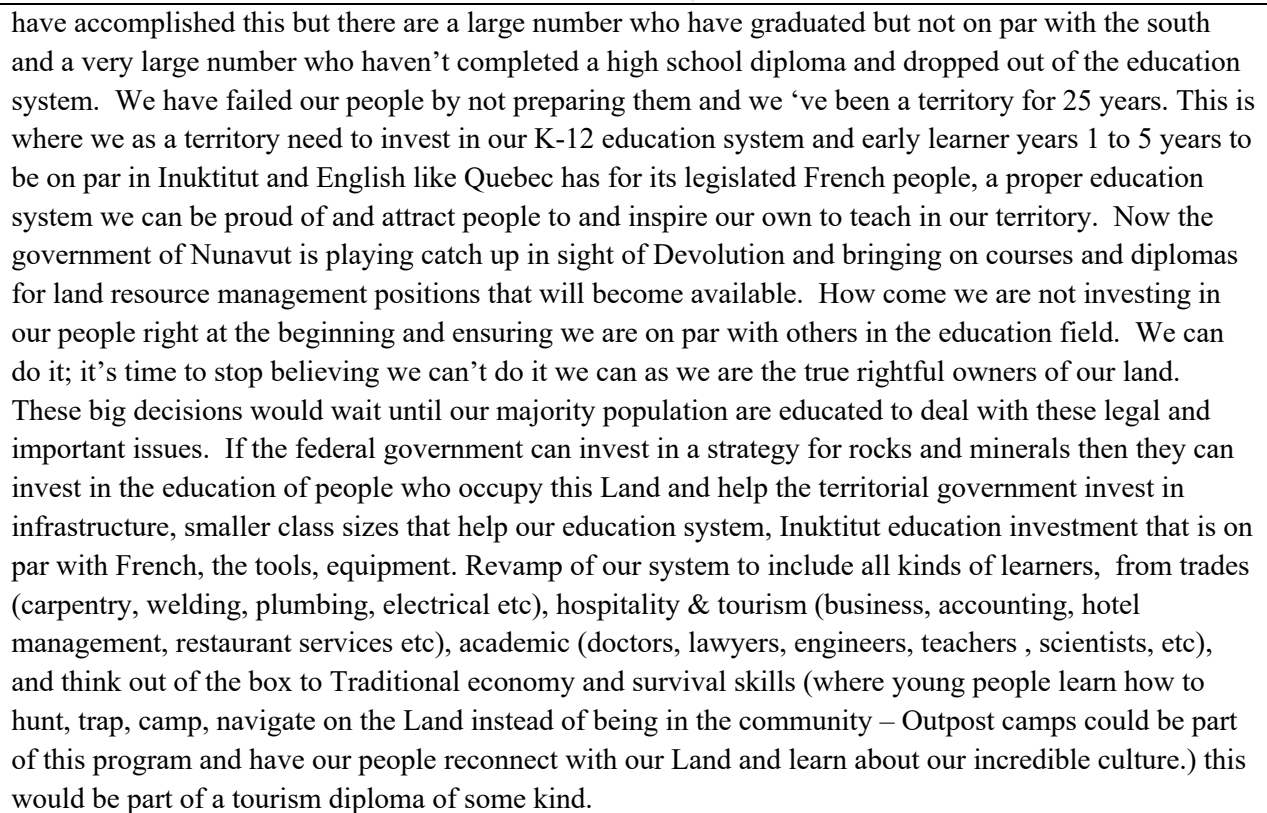
Indicate your concerns about the project proposal below:

<input type="checkbox"/> no concerns	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> traditional uses of land
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> water quality	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Inuit harvesting activities
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> terrain	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> community involvement and consultation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> air quality	<input type="checkbox"/> local development in the area
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> wildlife and their habitat	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> tourism in the area
<input type="checkbox"/> marine mammals and their habitat	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> human health issues
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> birds and their habitat	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: 1) Consultation 2) Critical Mineral Strategy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fish and their habitat	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> heritage resources in area	

Please describe the concerns indicated above:

1) Consultation at the LOCAL COMMUNITY level. This application was sent to NPC plus various levels of federal and territorial governments, NWB, NTI, KIA, KitIA, QIA, Hamlets, HTOs and CLARCs as set out in NuPPAA so NIRB sends the applications it receives as its obligated to do through regulations and legislation. When did these some elected, some nominated officials ask their constituents, community members if they agree with this or not. NuPPAA says send to these various governments, hamlets, htos, clares but there is no accountability transparency for those who make these important decisions, the system NuPPAA and this way of “consulting” with Nunavut is very colonial and legal in nature when the Land is more than rocks and minerals to those who live here and have ancestral ties to the land not just the post-colonial communities. This is our BACKYARD just like the lake is for southern people, it is our home, where our food, water, spiritual wellbeing is. Some may not access it as much as they like due to lack of knowledge or transportation but that does not diminish their connection to place. It is for our future generations as well not just today. How does a company thousands of kilometers away get more rights than those who live here?

It's in NuPPAA and important documents like these that are passed around governments and other parties who are signatories that follow the colonial system and perpetuate and allow industry to own our land. Agreements are signed to trade for access and jobs are promised etc but those who signed these agreements have yet to come to the community level and learn if the community agrees or not with these activities on our landscape. We have wildlife; caribou, muskox, birds, fish and millions cubic liters of



4) This ATHA Uranium project is one piece of the puzzle which is part of a bigger project which would likely lead to Uranium mining. Exploration to Mining to decommissioning uranium mine sites for ten to hundred thousands of years. The whole life cycle of this uranium industry needs to be reviewed not piece by piece. Uranium exploration in the arctic Canada is relatively new and who is monitoring sites for contamination when exploration is complete? Who is monitoring uranium is not seeping or entering our rivers and lakes which is our drinking water. If it is being monitored what are the actual numbers and are the numbers staying the same or rising? If the exploration sites of uranium are monitored where old drilling sites are located? who is monitoring sites for contamination to water, plants, air and wildlife? Exploration drilling increase the exposure of water contamination, and our landscape is our cultural life blood and roots. When and if contamination occurs how long does it take to be safe? What illnesses. and or diseases contribute to exposure of this industry to wildlife like caribou who roam this vast landscape and to humans, like cancers or internal diseases? Exploration may likely increase radon gas exposure, and this is concerning for wildlife, air, plants water and all close to these sites. Who is monitoring this? IS the risk worth it? Do we wait until our fast resource; us Inuit is able to speak up for ourselves and be equal at the table?



Do you have any suggestions or recommendations for this application?

Ask the hard question and learn if Inuit of Nunavut and Nunavummiut want this type of activity taking place in our territory. Give us back the moratorium on uranium and put it to a vote for federal crown lands and Inuit owned lands (NTI and designated Inuit orgs). The uranium is not going anywhere. Invest in the people of the territory with proper education infrastructure in Inuktitut and English to get us on par and to be able to enter any post-secondary school. Then maybe we will be ready, the length of time depends on the quality of education provided and our successful on par graduates that are the majority like the Nunavut agreement where 70 to 80% should be employed in upper management jobs. We are not there yet either. Investment in Education is key! Uranium is not going anywhere and lets invest in our peoples education first to be at a level playing field and then maybe we can then decide if this is the type of activity is what we want.

Do you support the project proposal? Yes ☐ No ☒ Any additional comments?

Name of person commenting: Paula Kigjugalik Hughson **of** Baker Lake, NU
Position: Inuk with ancestral ties to **Organization:** Nunavut Land Claims Beneficiary
project area
Signature: Paula K. Hughson **Date:** January 31, 2025