



November 17, 2025

Albert Ehaloak
Acting Chairperson
Nunavut Impact Review Board
29 Mitik Street, P.O. Box 1360
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Dear Albert Ehaloak:

Thank you for your correspondence of June 18, 2025, regarding the Nunavut Impact Review Board's (the Board) Screening Decision Report (the Report) for ATHA Energy Corporation's (the Proponent) Thelon Property project proposal (the Project).

As described in the Report, the Board has concluded that due to the potential unacceptable adverse effects of the Project, as currently scoped by the Proponent, it should be modified or abandoned, as set out in Article 12, Section 12.4.4(d) of the Nunavut Agreement, and section 91 of the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act* (the Act).

I am responding on behalf of the Ministers of Northern and Arctic Affairs and Transport, who have the regulatory jurisdiction to make a decision with respect to the Report, as per section 95 of the Act.

On November 6, 2025, officials from Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada and Board staff met to consult on the Board's recommendation, as required under section 95 of the Act. Having carefully considered the Report, and the outcomes of the consultation meeting, I hereby agree with the Board's determination and, as per subparagraph 95(a)(1), indicate that the Project could be modified and an amended proposal be resubmitted to the Nunavut Planning Commission.

The Board's determination stems primarily from uncertainties regarding the geographical and temporal extent of Project activities and information gaps regarding the consideration and incorporation of Inuit Qaujimaningit, and Indigenous and Community knowledge. It is expected that the Proponent should be able to submit a revised application that addresses the identified issues or concerns.

I encourage the Proponent to carefully consider the recommendations provided by the Board prior to any subsequent resubmission of a modified project proposal. This includes the Board's recommendations to: further develop the Wildlife Management Plan in consultation with all affected communities to address concerns that are unaddressed and/or unidentified in the current project proposal; supplement the existing management plans with input from site investigations and community engagement sessions; and,



conduct an approved archaeological survey through a Nunavut Archaeology Permit in consultation with the Government of Nunavut. I take particular note of the Board's recommendation for the Proponent to work to more specifically identify areas that would *not* be included in the exploration program, to establish a more focused and realistic geographic and temporal scope of the Project.

Further, following issuance of the Report, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada reached out to Ghotelnene K'odtineh Dene and Athabasca Denesuline Ne Ne Land Corporation regarding the Board's views and recommendations. On August 28, 2025, Ghotelnene K'odtineh Dene wrote to the Minister of Northern and Arctic Affairs providing additional recommendations, including that any resubmission be informed by engagement between them and the Proponent regarding concerns expressed during the Screening or brought forward as part of that engagement. The responsible Ministers are supportive of this recommendation, which is also consistent with the Board's recommendations regarding further Proponent engagement with affected communities, located both within and outside of Nunavut.

The work that the Board and its staff have done in screening the Project is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



Georgina Lloyd
Assistant Deputy Minister
Northern Affairs Organization
Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada

c.c.: Shari Currie, Regional Director General Prairie and Northern Region, Transport Canada
Dionne Filiatrault, Executive Director, Nunavut Impact Review Board
Karina Tyne, ATHA Energy Corporation
Luis Manzo, Director of Lands, Kivalliq Inuit Association
Stephanie Autut, Executive Director, Nunavut Water Board