



NIRB File No.: 24YN037
NPC File No.: 150445

January 14, 2025

Ryan VanEngen
299 Courtneypark Drive East
Mississauga, ON
L5T 2T6

Sent via email: ryan.vanengen@cnresources.com

Re: Notice of Screening for Canadian North Resources Inc.'s "Ferguson Lake, Nunavut, Environmental Baseline Studies" Project Proposal

Dear Ryan VanEngen:

On August 1, 2024, the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) received a referral to screen Canadian North Resources Inc. (CNRI)'s "Ferguson Lake, Nunavut Environmental Baseline Studies" project proposal from the Nunavut Planning Commission (Commission), with an accompanying positive conformity determination with the Keewatin Regional Land Use Plan.

On December 20, 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 **24YN037** - 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/126014.

Project:	Ferguson Lake, Nunavut, Environmental Baseline Studies
Region:	Kivalliq
Location:	Ferguson Lake

Closest Community:	Baker Lake	Distance (approximate)	165 kilometres (km)	Direction	Southwest
Summary of Project Description:	The Proponent intends to conduct feasibility studies of a possible winter road, all-weather road, and sea-link facilities that will connect to either Arviat or Baker Lake.				
Project Proposed Timeline:	June 2025 to October 2027				

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

- Consult with the affected community members about the best possible route for the road and possibly the sea link,
- Install underwater cameras in lakes,
- Collect fish samples using different types of nets,
- Install cameras on the land,
- Transport workers to different research locations using a helicopter and/or a boat,
- Collect soil, dust, and water samples,
- Conduct archaeological and traditional land use surveys, and
- Conduct aerial surveys enroute to the work locations.

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/126014 and include:

- *NPC Application & Conformity Determination*
- *NIRB Application*
- *2022 Nunavut Water Board Amended License Renewal*
- *Community Engagement Presentation*
- *Consultation and Community Engagement Report*
- *Detailed Workplan*
- *Project Location Map*

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 Canadian North Resources Inc.'s project proposal with this letter, and we invite interested parties to comment directly to the NIRB by **February 4, 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 including whether any cumulative ecosystemic and socio-economic impacts could result from the impacts of the proposed project combined with those of any other project that has been carried out, is being carried out or is likely to be carried out inside the designated area, or wholly or partly outside the designated area.

Additionally, please be aware that the NIRB and the Nunavut Water Board (NWB) are required to coordinate their processes¹ for projects that require a water licence, especially municipal undertakings in order ensure the timely review and processing of the application. In undertaking a coordinated NIRB-NWB process, the Proponent must provide information through the assessment to satisfy both the impact assessment requirements as well as the water licensing process; furthermore, where information to satisfy each process is similar, coordination of the timing or contents of applications may be considered when information is being submitted to both organizations. However, the Proponent has the option to request or opt out of a coordinated process at any time. Should the Proponent wish to discontinue the coordinated process, the Proponent may do so in writing to both the NIRB and the NWB.

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/126014.

If you have any questions or require clarification, feel free to contact the undersigned at (867) 983 - 4618 or rqammaniq@nirb.ca.

¹ As per Sections 13.5.2 and 13.6.1 of the *Nunavut Agreement*, s. 193 of *NuPPAA*, and s. 37 of the *Nunavut Waters and Nunavut Surface Rights Tribunal Act*.

Sincerely,



Robby Qammaniq
Impact Assessment Officer
Nunavut Impact Review Board

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

cc: Distribution List
Luis Manzo, Kivalliq Inuit Association
Ashley Aupaluktuq-Burton, Kivalliq Inuit Association
Brenda Pilakapsi, Kivalliq Inuit Association
Mosha Cote, Nunavut Research Institute
Richard Dwyer, Nunavut Water Board
Caroline Whittle, Government of Nunavut, Culture and Heritage
Sylvie LeBlanc, Government of Nunavut, Culture and Heritage
Natalie D'Souza, Government of Nunavut, Department of Environment
Bradley Pirie, Government of Nunavut, Department of Environment
Drikus Gissing, Government of Nunavut, Department of Environment
Tracie McCaie, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada
Jose Audet-Lecouffe, Fisheries and Oceans Canada