



NIRB File No.: 24VN053
NPC File No.: 150573

January 24, 2025

To: The Honourable Diane Lebouthillier
Minister of Fisheries and Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Sent via email: diane.lebouthillier@parl.gc.ca

Re: Extension Request for NIRB Screening of Fisheries and Oceans Canada’s “Qikiqtait Marine Protected Area by Ministerial Order” Project Proposal

Dear Honourable Minister:

On November 15, 2024, the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received Fisheries and Oceans Canada’s “Qikiqtait Marine Protected Area by Ministerial Order” project proposal from the Nunavut Planning Commission for screening, pursuant to Part 3 of the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act*, S.C. 2013, c. 14, s. 2 (*NuPPAA*). **Pursuant to s. 92(4) of the *NuPPAA*, the NIRB hereby requests that the responsible Minister extend the period for the submission of the Board’s written report for the screening of this project proposal, NIRB File No. 24VN053.**

On November 18, 2024, the NIRB requested that the Proponent complete the online application form through the NIRB’s public registry system and ensure, pursuant to s. 144(1) of the *NuPPAA*, that sufficient information is provided to determine the scope of the project activities being proposed and commence screening. On December 12, 2024, the NIRB received the application and assessed the completeness of the application and commenced screening pursuant to Part 3 of the *NuPPAA*. On January 6, 2025, after receipt of translated correspondence, the NIRB distributed notice of the project proposal to potentially affected communities and interested parties with a request for comments to be submitted for the Board’s consideration by January 27, 2025.

Due to the unique nature of the screening and ensuring the availability of translations of correspondence, the NIRB is unable to provide its written report for the screening of this project proposal within the 45 days as set out in the *NuPPAA* and additional time is requested to complete the decision-making for this file. The NIRB anticipates screening of this project proposal will be completed by **February 7, 2025**, at which time a screening decision report will be submitted to the responsible Ministers for consideration; should any additional time be required to conclude the screening process, the NIRB commits to providing further updates as deemed appropriate.

If this request is approved, the NIRB understands that the Minister will notify the Proponent and the NIRB of the extension.

All documents received and pertaining to the NIRB's screening of this project proposal can be accessed from the NIRB's online public registry at www.nirb.ca/project/126015.

If you have any questions or require clarification regarding this request, please contact our office toll free at 1-866-233-3033.

Sincerely,



Dionne Filiatrault
Executive Director
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Jesslene Jawanda, Fisheries and Oceans Canada
The Honourable Gary Anandasangaree, Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs
Olayuk Akesuk, President, Qikiqtani Inuit Association