



**NIRB File No.: 24EN005**

NPC File No.: 150418

Related to NPC File No.: 150217

March 24, 2025

Samuel Robb  
Bronzite Exploration Corp.  
218 Holmwood Ave  
Ottawa ON K1S2P7 Canada

Sent via email: [sam.robbs@bronziteexploration.com](mailto:sam.robbs@bronziteexploration.com)

**Re: Notice of Screening for Bronzite Exploration Corp.'s (BEC) "Somerset Trough Project" project proposal**

Dear Samuel Robb:

On May 24, 2024, the NIRB received a referral to screen Bronzite Exploration Corp.'s (BEC) "Somerset Trough Project" project proposal from the Nunavut Planning Commission (Commission), with an accompanying positive conformity determination with the North Baffin Regional Land Use Plan. The Commission noted that the previous conformity determination issued on January 30, 2024, for the activities associated with the current proposal continues to apply and has determined that the project proposal is a significant modification to the project because it is for a component or activity that was not part of the original proposal, and its inclusion is a significant modification of the project.

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 section 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. Due to the proposal containing activities that are sufficiently related to previously assessed activities under NIRB file number **24EN005**, the NIRB views this project proposal as an amendment to the previously screened project and has assigned this proposal with this previous file number. Please reference this file number in all future related correspondence. A summary of the previously screened project activities can be found in [Appendix A](#).

## INFORMATION REQUEST

On August 12, 2024, NIRB received a request from BEC to suspend the NIRB's assessment for "Somerset Trough Project" proposal, which the NIRB did effective the same day. On January 28, 2025, the NIRB received notice that BEC would be completing an application and starting the file again. On February 25, 2025, BEC submitted a complete application and commenced the screening pursuant to Part 3 of the *NuPPAA*.

## 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/126134](http://www.nirb.ca/project/126134).

The following table provides a summary of the ***original*** project as previously screened by the NIRB File No. 24EN005.

<b>Original Project:</b>	Somerset Trough Project				
<b>Region:</b>	The project as previously approved was located within the Qikiqtani region.				
<b>Location:</b>	Somerset Island				
<b>Closest Community:</b>	Resolute	<b>Distance (approximate)</b>	250 kilometres (km)	<b>Direction</b>	South
<b>Summary of Project Description:</b>	The Project as originally screened was an early exploration program that included the following activities: airborne and ground-based geophysical surveys, prospecting, sampling, and geological mapping. The program would be based out of an exploration camp in the Western Somerset Island Watershed with a spring program and summer program. A complete description of the scope of activities previously approved is included in <a href="#">Appendix A</a> .				
<b>Original Project Timeline:</b>	March 2024 to September 2024				

The following table provides a summary of the ***amended*** project as proposed by BEC:

<b>Amended Project:</b>	Somerset Trough Project				
<b>Region:</b>	The project would be in the same area as previously approved in the Qikiqtani region.				
<b>Location:</b>	Somerset Island				
<b>Closest Community:</b>	Resolute	<b>Distance (approximate)</b>	250 kilometres (km)	<b>Direction</b>	South
<b>Summary of Project Description:</b>	The Proponent intends to amend the scope of previously approved activities to increase the project timeline by five (5) years to 2029, add diamond drilling, increase up to 299m <sup>3</sup> , increase in hazardous materials use and storage (calcium chloride), and increase in hazardous waste generation (used hydraulic oil).				

<b>Project Proposed Timeline:</b>	March 2024 to April 2029
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According to the current project proposal, the scope of the amended project includes the following additional undertakings, works, or activities:

- increase size of temporary camp to 20-person camp;
- Use of 1-2 diamond drill for drilling core samples;
- Use of 125,000 lbs of calcium chloride for drilling;
- Use of 1,000 liters of hydraulic oil for drilling;
- Use of 20 liters of engine oil for drilling;
- Use of 2,500 lbs of propane for fuel for stoves and hot water; and
- Increase daily use of 299m<sup>3</sup> of water for camp use and drilling activities.

### ***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 at [www.nirb.ca/project/126134](http://www.nirb.ca/project/126134) and include:

- *NPC Conformity Determination*
- *NWB Licence*
- *CIRNAC LUP*
- *Project Area and Tenements Map*
- *Map of Proposed Camp Location and Layout*
- *Project Area Map*
- *Spill Contingency Plan*
- *Environmental Protection Plan*
- *Community Engagement Strategy Plan*
- *Waste Management Plan*
- *Wildlife Management and Monitoring Plan*
- *Abandonment and Restoration Plan*
- *Community Engagement Log*
- *NIRB Application*

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 Bronzite Exploration Corp.'s project proposal with this letter, and we invite interested parties to comment directly to the NIRB by **April 14, 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.

#### CONTACT INFORMATION

Please send your comments to the NIRB via email at [info@nirb.ca](mailto: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/126134](http://www.nirb.ca/project/126134).

If you have any questions or require clarification, feel free to contact the undersigned at [femingak@nirb.ca](mailto:femingak@nirb.ca) or Kelli Gillard, Senior Impact Assessment Officer, at [kgillard@nirb.ca](mailto:kgillard@nirb.ca).

Sincerely,



Francis Emingak  
Screening Officer  
Nunavut Impact Review Board

Attachments: Appendix A: Previously Screened Project Proposals

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

cc: Distribution List  
Richard Dwyer, Nunavut Water Board  
Nidhi Singh, Nunavut Water Board  
Abid Jan, Nunavut Water Board  
Carson Gillis, Nunavut Tunngavik Inc.  
Jorgan Aitaok, Nunavut Tunngavik Inc.  
Dustin Fredlund, Nunavut Tunngavik Inc.  
Wynter Kuliktana, Kitikmeot Inuit Association  
Tannis Bolt, Kitikmeot Inuit Association  
Conor Goddard, Qikiqtani Inuit Association  
Jared Ottenhof, Qikiqtani Inuit Association  
Chris Spencer, Qikiqtani Inuit Association  
Joel Fortier, Qikiqtani Inuit Association  
Justin Buller, Government of Nunavut  
Dianne Lapierre, Government of Nunavut

Caroline Whittle, Government of Nunavut (GN-CH)  
Sylvie LeBlanc, Government of Nunavut (GN-CH)  
Natalie D'Souza, Government of Nunavut (GN-DOE)  
Bradley Pirie, Government of Nunavut (GN-DOE)  
Michele LeBlanc-Havard, Government of Nunavut (GN-DOE)  
Drikus Gissing, Government of Nunavut (GN-DOE)  
Tracey McCaie, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada  
Lisa Pirie-Dominix, Canadian Wildlife Service  
Environment Climate Change Canada  
Fisheries and Oceans Canada

## APPENDIX A: PREVIOUSLY-SCREENED PROJECT PROPOSALS

The original project proposal (NIRB File No.: 24EN005), was received by the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) from the Nunavut Planning Commission on January 30, 2024. The NIRB received with an accompanying positive conformity determination with the North Baffin Regional Land Use Plan. The project proposal was screened by the Board in accordance with Part 4, Article 12 of the *Nunavut Agreement* and Section 3 of the *NuPPAA*. On April 19, 2024, the NIRB issued a screening decision pursuant to s. 92(2)(a) of the *NuPPAA* to the Minister of Northern Affairs which indicated that the proposed project could proceed subject to the NIRB's recommended project-specific terms and conditions.

The Bronzite Exploration Corp.'s (Proponent) original "Somerset Trough Project" project was in the Qikiqtani region, approximately 250 kilometres (km) South from Resolute. The Proponent intended to conduct to undertake an early exploration program that will include the following activities: airborne and ground-based geophysical surveys, prospecting, sampling, and geological mapping. The program will be based out of an exploration camp in the Western Somerset Island Watershed and will include a spring program as well as a summer program. The program is proposed to take place from March 2024 to September 2024.

According to the previously screened project proposal, the scope of the project included the following undertakings, works or activities:

- Construction of a temporary 14-person exploration camp;
- Airborne and ground-based geophysical surveys, prospecting, sampling and geological mapping;
- Use of a helicopter to transport personnel and equipment from the camp to prospecting sites;
- Use of ATV, and snowmobile to transport personnel and supplies to field sites;
- Use of two helicopters to transport personnel and for airborne surveys;
- Use of an Incinerator to dispose of combustible waste;
- Use of 82,000 liters of Av Gas in for aircraft;
- Use of 19,475 liters of diesel fuel for heating and incinerator;
- Use of 1,025 liters of gasoline for generator;
- Use of 40 liters of liquid nitrogen for ground geophysical surveys during the summer program;
- Use of 10 m<sup>3</sup> (cubic meters) of water for camp;
- Use of a Spill Response Plan and Spill Kits in case of spills;
- Use of an appropriately located sump to dispose of greywater; and
- Non-combustible waste to be removed and disposed of at an accredited facility.