



NIRB File No.: 24EN005

NPC File No.: 150418

Related to NPC File No.: 150217

June 12, 2025

To: The Honourable Rebecca Chartrand, P.C.
Minister of Northern and Arctic Affairs
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Sent via email: rebecca.chartrand@parl.gc.ca

Re: Screening Decision for Bronzite Exploration Corp.'s (BEC) "Somerset Trough Project" Proposal, Qikiqtani and Kitikmeot Regions

Dear Honourable Minister:

On May 24, 2024 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received a referral to screen Bronzite Exploration Corp.'s (BEC) "Somerset Trough Project" proposal from the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC or 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 s. 87 of the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act*, S.C. 2013, c. 14, s. 2 (*NuPPAA*), the NIRB commenced screening this project proposal. Due to the proposal containing activities that were sufficiently related to previously assessed activities under NIRB File Number **24EN005**, the NIRB viewed this project proposal as an amendment to the previously screened project and assigned this proposal with this previous file number.

Following the assessment of all material information provided, the NIRB is recommending that a review of Bronzite Exploration Corp.'s (BEC) "Somerset Trough Project" is not required pursuant to paragraph 92(1)(a) of the *NuPPAA*.

Pursuant to its discretion under paragraph 92(2)(a) of the *NuPPAA*, the NIRB has determined that specific terms and conditions are appropriate for this project.

Accordingly, the NIRB is issuing the attached Screening Decision Report dated June 12, 2025, to the responsible Ministers. The Screening Decision Report provides, among other things, the regulatory framework, project overview and the NIRB's assessment process, factors relevant for the determining significance of impacts and recommended project-specific terms and conditions.

Please note that the project proposal will not be enclosed due to the size of the electronic document and the limited bandwidth. However, an electronic copy of the project proposal is accessible online from the NIRB's online public registry at www.nirb.ca/project/126134.

Please note that, the Board only directly addresses these notice letters to those individuals considered to be a "responsible Minister with decision-making authority" for the project as set out under the *NuPPAA*. However, regulatory authorities and other authorizing agencies associated with a proposed project (e.g. Regional Inuit Associations, Nunavut Water Board) will continue to be copied on the Notice of Release of the Screening Decision Report. The NIRB is providing these parties with notice and access to the Board's Screening Decision Report as required under s. 200(2) and in support of these parties in the fulfillment of their responsibilities under the *NuPPAA* and the *Nunavut Agreement* to address, and as appropriate, implement, to the fullest extent possible, any relevant NIRB recommendations contained in the Screening Decision Report.

We look forward to receiving a response from the responsible Minister and the NIRB remains available for consultation with the Minister regarding this report as necessary. If you have any questions or require clarification, please do not hesitate to contact the NIRB's Director, Technical Services, Tara Arko at (867) 983-4611 or tarko@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



Albert Ehloak
Acting Chairperson
Nunavut Impact Review Board

Enclosure (1): Screening Decision Report, NIRB File No.: 24EN005 (June 12, 2024)

cc: James Eetoolook, Kitikmeot Inuit Association
Olayuk Akesuk, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Lootie Toomasie, Nunavut Water Board