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NPC File No: 150556
NIRB File No: 24XN059

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2 June 2025

Re: Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada Information Request Response to the Grise Fiord Community Harbour Nunavut Impact Review Board Public Comment Period (24XN059)

Dear Richard and Francis,

1 Project Overview

The Government of Nunavut -Transportation and Infrastructure Nunavut (GN-TIN) is planning the design, construction and operation of the Grise Fiord Community Harbour (the Project). The Project is located in the community of Grise Fiord, which is approximately 1,100 km north of the Arctic Circle (76° 25.001'N, 82° 54.935'W, see Appendix A (Figure A-1). The community is located on the southern shore of Ellesmere Island in Jones Sound in the Qikiqtaaluk Region of Nunavut and conforms with the North Baffin Regional Land Use Plan (NBRLUP) (Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC, 2000)). While Grise Fiord is within the NBRLUP, the Recommended Nunavut Land Use Plan (RNLUP) (NPC, 2023) will replace the NBRLUP once it is approved.



Worley Canada Services Ltd., operating as Worley Consulting, has been retained by the GN-TIN to support the detailed design of a community harbour in Grise Fiord, Nunavut. Dynamic Ocean Consulting Ltd. (Dynamic Ocean) is supporting Worley Consulting on the permitting requirements for the Project. The Grise Fiord Community Harbour was a component of an earlier feasibility study, completed by Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) – Small Craft Harbour (SCH) in 2019.

The Project will improve safety and access to water, functionality of boating activities, and reduce the congestion and environmental risks associated with the current situation (see Section 1.3 of the Grise Fiord Project Specific Information Requirements [PSIR] Report for existing infrastructure (Dynamic Ocean & Worley Consulting, 2025b)).

The permanent components of the Project are described below and are depicted in the General Arrangement (see Appendix A (Figure A-1)):

- Two new breakwaters (to create a protected harbour).
- Boat launch ramp.
- Two small craft floating docks to support mooring of small craft vessels.
- Laydown area.
- Shoreline raised and graded to create a level driving surface.
- Navigational aids.
- Harbour lighting.

Temporary components required during construction include:

- Quarry (borrow pits).
- Haul road.
- Temporary work platforms (below the HWL to support land-based construction).

Construction activities will be inclusive of the activities described in Table 1-1, with the construction schedule described in Appendix B (Table B-1).

Table 1-1: Construction Activities Associated with the Community Harbour

Community Harbour	Quarry (borrow pits)	Haul Road
Infill (laydown area, breakwater, boat launch ramp)	Drilling and blasting	Construction of new haul road
Installation of small craft floats	Crushing and screening	Upgrades to existing road
Dredging	Stockpiling	Transportation of rocks
Stockpiling	Operation of equipment	Operation of equipment
Operation of equipment	-	Installation of culverts (potential)

Community Harbour	Quarry (borrow pits)	Haul Road
Installation of navigation aids and harbour lighting	-	-

2 Information Request Response

2.1 Background

The Grise Fiord Community Harbour Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) application was submitted on 4 April 2025 (NIRB, 2025b) with the application accepted as complete on 8 April 2025 (NIRB, 2025c). The screening assessment pursuant to Section 87 of the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act* was initiated. The NIRB requested interested parties to submit comments on the Project over a 21-day Public Comment Period, which initiated on 30 April 2025. The GN-TIN received a request from the NIRB on 23 May 2025 (NIRB, 2025a) (see list below) to respond to comment submissions (hereafter referred to as Information Request [IR]).

- Transport Canada (TC), 8 May 2025 (TC, 2025).
- Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC), 21 May 2025 (CIRNAC, 2025).

2.2 Letter Intention

This letter supports the GN-TIN’s response to CIRNAC. The CIRNAC IR is provided in Appendix C.

The Project acknowledges that a Land Use Plan (LUP) for the activities associated with the community harbour that are below the Ordinary High-Water Mark (OHWM) will be required from CIRNAC. The application will be submitted once the Screening Decision Report (SDR) has been issued. The GN-TIN will also engage with CIRNAC, to discuss transfer of administrative control. The GN-TIN will work with CIRNAC to confirm the transfer of administrative control of the water lot prior to construction. Depending on the status of devolution at the time of the land transfer, the GN-TIN (Lands Administration Office) may hold this responsibility.

2.3 Response

We appreciate CIRNAC taking the time to support the NIRB during the Public Comment Period and have provided our responses to the IR in Table 2-1.

Table 2-1: Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada Information Requests

ID No.	Topic	Question	Response
1	Quarry (Borrow Pits) Site and Haul Road	<p>The Proponent indicates a new quarry (borrow pits) will be created. CIRNAC notes that construction of a permanent quarry (borrow pits) and haul road should consider environmental controls, including acid generating rock, erosion, permafrost disturbance, and drainage management. While some environmental controls are referenced, it is unclear how acid rock drainage or metal leaching risks will be identified and mitigated. CIRNAC recommends that the Proponent clarify:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How any acid generating rock encountered will be managed. • Whether progressive reclamation is planned to stabilize disturbed areas. 	<p>Certain sulphide minerals in bedrock can be problematic from an Acid Rock Drainage (ARD) perspective. Unstable sulphides can react when exposed to air causing acid generation and Metal Leaching (ML). If left in the natural state, sulphide minerals remain benign. Screening level ARD testing was performed on a representative sample, and the paste pH values recorded (9.03) indicate an initial basic or alkaline tendency.</p> <p>In general, samples with a Neutralization Potential Ratio (NPR) <1 can be considered as Potentially Acid Generating (PAG). The sample resulted in such low concentrations (<0.3 kg CaCO₃/T) of Acid Generating Potential (AP) that the laboratory could not provide an accurate NPR and is therefore not PAG.</p> <p>It should be noted that these results and summaries are only based on one sample. While the sample is considered to be representative of the overall rock type present, if additional rock types or variability in the rock are discovered at the site, and if visible sulphides are observed at a later date, then additional screening and testing may be required to assess the PAG.</p>
2	Consultation with Interested Parties	CIRNAC recommends that the Proponent continue to consult with the Municipality of Grise Fiord, the Hunters and Trappers Association (HTA), the Qikiqtani Inuit Association (QIA), and any other relevant organizations	The GN remains committed to continued engagement and collaboration with the Municipality of Grise Fiord, the HTA, the guardians, the QIA, and stakeholders throughout the life of the Project.

ID No.	Topic	Question	Response
		<p>or individuals on its project proposal. As part of any consultation activities, several issues should be considered, including, but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incorporation of Inuit Qauijimajatuqangit (IQ) into project activities. • Mitigation measures designed to prevent any disturbance to wildlife and the environment. • Mitigation measures designed to prevent disturbance to sites with cultural, archaeological, and/or environmental significance. • Training and employment opportunities for Inuit and community members. • Procurement opportunities for local and Inuit-owned businesses. • Regular updates on the status of project activities. 	<p>The GN will continue to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incorporate IQ into project planning and activities. • Work collaboratively with the community to develop and implement mitigation measures to avoid or minimize any disturbance to wildlife, the environment, and culturally or archaeologically sensitive sites. • Maximize training, employment, and procurement opportunities for local Inuit. • Provide regular project progress updates to the community.
3	Management of Temporary Construction Camp	<p>CIRNAC recommends that the Proponent work closely with its contractor, the Municipality of Grise Fiord, and other interested parties to ensure the temporary construction camp is managed in a way that reflects local needs and expectations. This includes promoting respectful behaviour among project personnel, particularly regarding community customs and socio-economic wellbeing.</p>	<p>The GN will work closely with its contractor, the Municipality of Grise Fiord, community members and stakeholders to ensure that the temporary construction camp is managed in a manner that respects the community and reflects local needs and expectations. As outlined in the Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) (Dynamic Ocean & Worley Consulting, 2025a) Section 5.4.18 (Table 5-18), the contractor will prepare a Code of Conduct. As part of their employment with the contractor, Project personnel will be required to sign the Code of Conduct governing their behaviour on the job and during recreational hours to reduce the</p>

ID No.	Topic	Question	Response
			<p>likelihood of negative social effects on the community. This will include adherence to all rules at construction sites and at the construction camp. The Project personnel induction program will also include an Inuit cultural awareness component to promote understanding and respect for local culture and residents.</p>



3 Summary and Closing

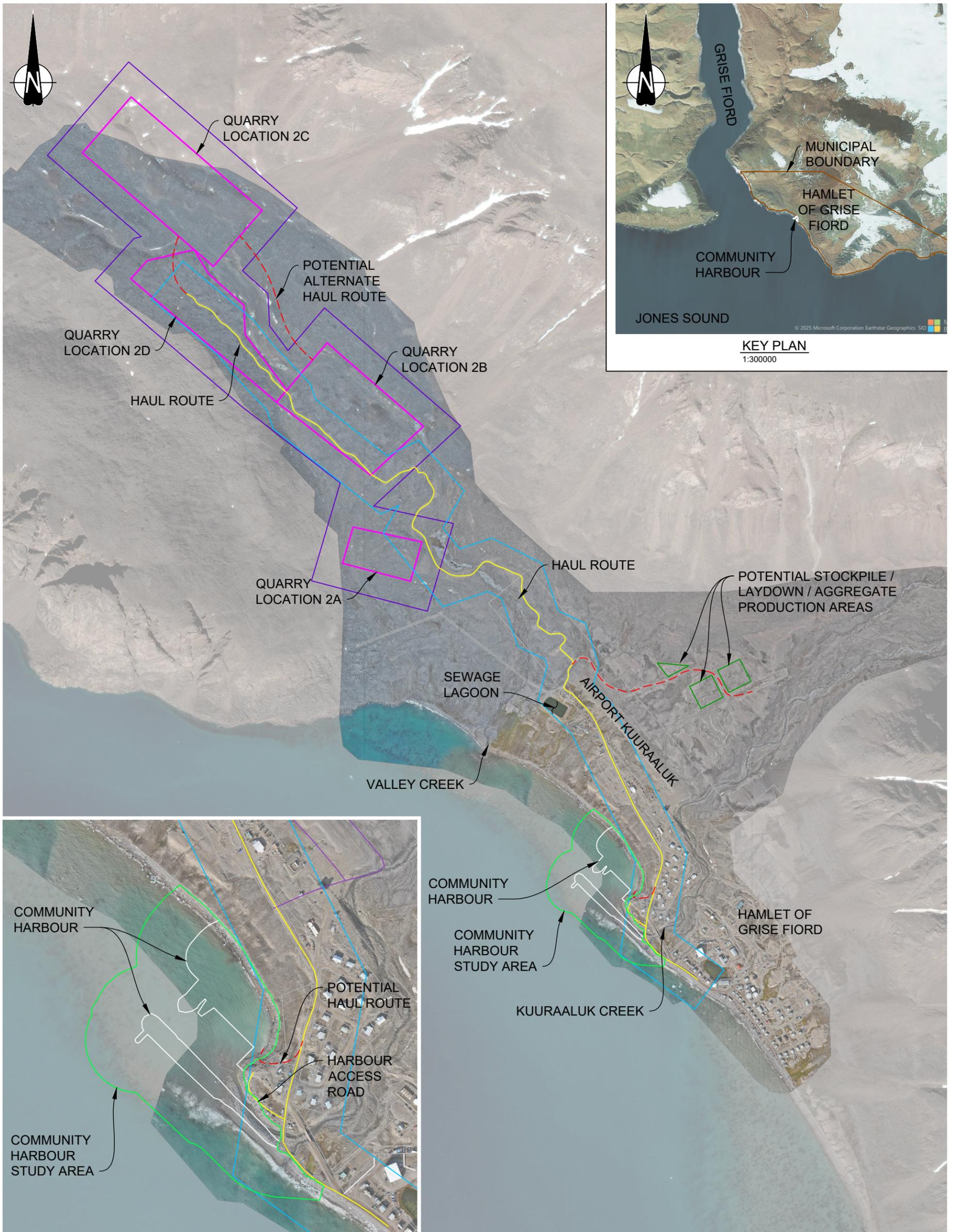
We appreciate CIRNAC taking the time to participate in the NIRB's Public Comment Period and are available for further discussions if needed. If you require any clarification on our responses, or have further questions, please do not hesitate to contact Victoria Burdett-Coutts (victoria@dynamicocean.ca; 778-839-2372).

Victoria Burdett-Coutts, MSc., RPBio
Dynamic Ocean Consulting Ltd.
Senior Regulatory Professional

Chris Meisl, PEng.
Worley Canada Services Ltd.
Practice Lead, Ports and Marine Terminals

Appendix A: Supporting Figures & Drawings



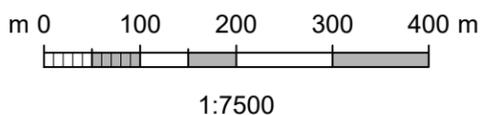


INSET PLAN
1:7500

PLAN
1:15000

LEGEND

- HAUL ROAD ON EXISTING ROAD/TRACK
- - - ALTERNATE/ADDITIONAL HAUL ROUTE
- COMMUNITY STUDY AREA
- QUARRIES STUDY AREA
- EXISTING ROAD STUDY AREA
- STOCKPILE/LAYDOWN AREA
- QUARRY



GOVERNMENT OF NUNAVUT
 GRISE FIORD COMMUNITY
 HARBOUR DEVELOPMENT

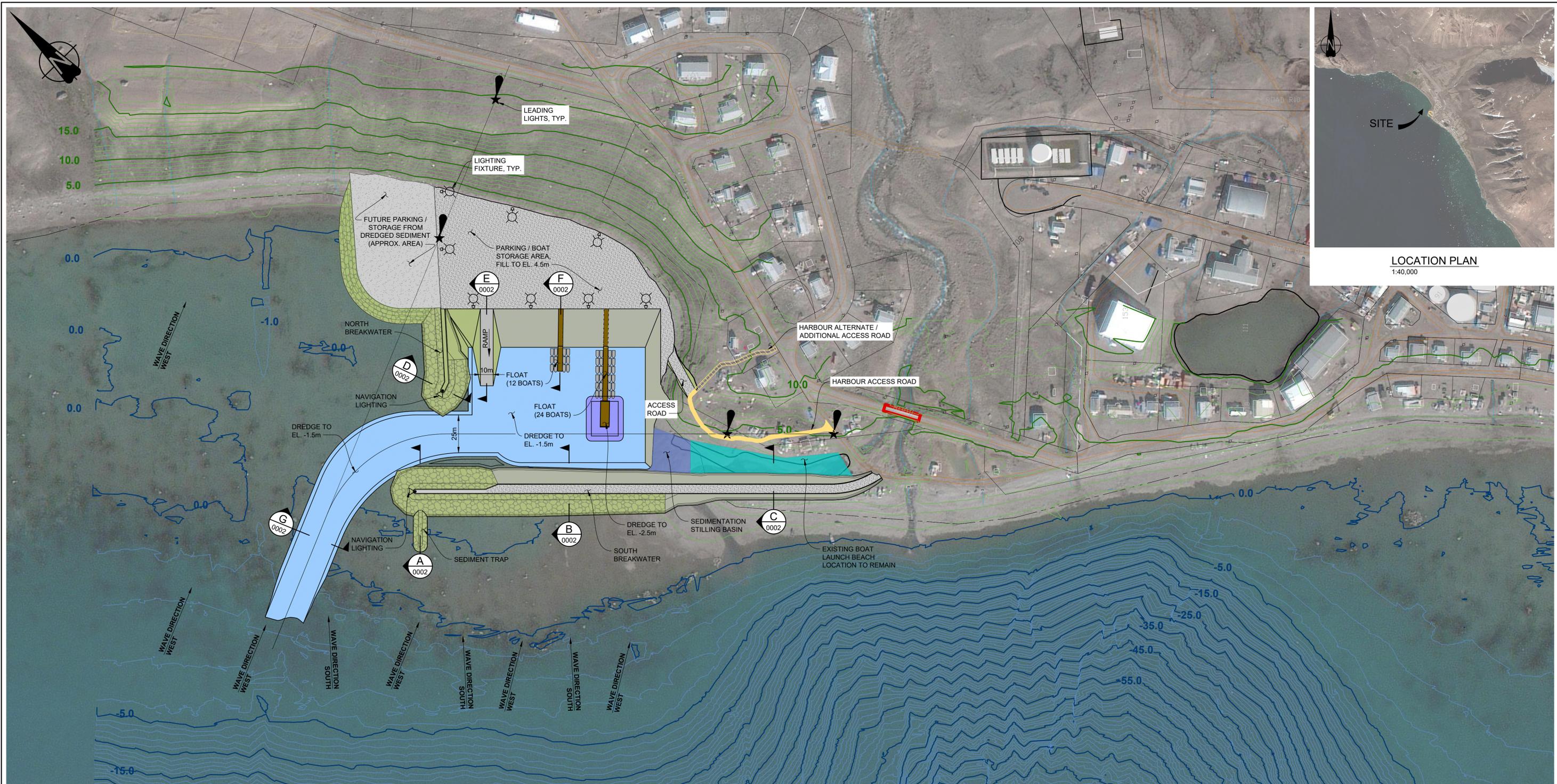
**PROJECT COMPONENTS
 (QUARRY, HAUL ROAD, COMMUNITY HARBOUR)**

Date: 03-APR-25 Drawn by: JLC Edited by: JLC App'd by: CM

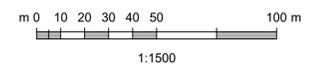


Worley Project Number
317086-54170
 DRG No **Figure A-1** REV **1**

This drawing is prepared for the use of the contractual customer of Worley Canada Services Ltd. and Worley Canada Services Ltd. assumes no liability to any other party for any representations contained in this drawing.



PLAN
1:1500



- NOTES:**
1. WATER DEPTHS WITHIN THE SURVEY BOUNDARY PROVIDED BY FISHERIES AND OCEANS CANADA. SURVEY WAS PERFORMED ON SEPTEMBER 22, 2018 BY AQUATICS-ESI, PROJECT NO. 18S022002, DRAWING NO. A1, REVISION 2, DATED 19/01/07

REV	DATE	REVISION DESCRIPTION	DRAWN	DRAFT CHK	DESIGNED	ENG CHK	APPROVED	OAR	REF DRAWING No	REFERENCE DRAWING TITLE
B	28-NOV-24	ISSUED FOR REVIEW	JLC	-	CM	DH	CM	-		
A	29-JUL-24	ISSUED FOR REVIEW	JLC	-	CM	DH	CM	-		

D SHEET	SCALE	SHOWN	ENGINEERING AND PERMIT STAMPS (As Required)	CUSTOMER
			<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> PRELIMINARY <small>DO NOT USE FOR CONSTRUCTION</small> <small>Last Saved: Nov. 28/24 2:07pm</small> </div>	
			WORLEY PROJECT No	
			317086-54170	

Building Nunavut Together
 Nunavutluuqatigiingniq
 Bâtir le Nunavut ensemble

This drawing is prepared for the use of the contractual customer of Worley Canada Services Ltd. and Worley Canada Services Ltd. assumes no liability to any other party for any representations contained in this drawing.

Drawing A-1
**GRISE FIOR
COMMUNITY HARBOUR
PLAN**

DRG No
317086-54170-00-MA-DGA-0001

REV
B

LOCATION: U:\V\31708654170_GON_CRS\FEIGRD\11_DRAWINGS\16_LAND_EIGZ_MARINE\317086-54170-00-MA-DGA-0001.DWG
 USER NAME: jennifer.coppardale
 PLOT DATE & TIME: 28/11/2024 2:08:21 PM
 SAVE DATE & TIME: 28/11/2024 2:07:45 PM

Appendix B: Supporting Tables



Table B-1: Anticipated Schedule for the Project

Task	Timeline
Pre-Construction	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Permitting, baseline surveys and consultations. 	Aug-24 to Apr-26
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schematic design. 	Jun-24 to Aug-25
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Geotechnical investigations. 	Spring 2025
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detailed design and construction documents preparation. 	Summer 2025 to Dec-25
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Permitting complete. 	Mar-26
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction contract tender period. 	Winter 2025 / Spring 2026
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Award of construction contract. 	Spring 2026
Construction	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mobilization of equipment and supplies. • Set up construction camp and equipment maintenance facilities, as required. • Prepare quarry (borrow pits) and commence blasting for aggregate production and stockpile pads. • Set up crusher and complete test runs. 	2026 Construction season (Jun-26 to Oct-26)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare quarry (borrow pits) and commence blasting for aggregate production and stockpile pads. • Aggregate production. • Commence placement of breakwater core. • Dredging and onshore disposal. 	2027 Construction season (Jun-27 to Oct-27)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aggregate production. • Breakwater core and armour placement. • Dredging and onshore disposal. • Partial demobilization. 	2028 Construction season (Jun-28 to Oct-28)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete breakwater armour surfacing. • Electrical installations. • Community Harbour floats, including installation and removal demonstration. • Final grading and compaction. • Remainder of demobilization. 	2029 Construction season (Jun-29 to Oct-29)
Operations	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community harbour operations. 	Spring 2030

Appendix C: Information Requests





CIRNAC Comments to NIRB

Re: Notice of Screening for Department of Community Services' "Grise Fiord Community Harbour Project" Proposal



Nunavut Regional Office
918 Sivumugiaq Street
Iqaluit, NU, X0A 3H0

Your file - Votre référence
24XN059
Our file - Notre référence
GCdocs# 136408115

May 21, 2025

Francis Emingak
Screening Officer
Nunavut Impact Review Board
P.O. Box 1360
Cambridge Bay, NU, X0B 0C0
via NIRB public registry

Re: Notice of Screening and Comment Request for Department of Community Services' "Grise Fiord Community Harbour Project" Proposal

Dear Francis Emingak,

On April 30, 2025, the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) invited parties to comment on Department of Community Services' "Grise Fiord Community Harbour Project" proposal. Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC) appreciates the opportunity to provide comments and offers the responses below as it pertains to the NIRB's request:

Any matter of importance to the Party related to the project proposal

CIRNAC #1: Quarry Site and Haul Road

The Proponent indicates a new quarry will be created. CIRNAC notes that construction of a permanent quarry and haul road should consider environmental controls, including acid generating rock, erosion, permafrost disturbance, and drainage management. While some environmental controls are referenced, about it is unclear how acid rock drainage or metal leaching risks will be identified and mitigated. CIRNAC recommends that Proponent clarify:

- How any acid generating rock encountered will be managed; and,
- Whether progressive reclamation is planned to stabilize disturbed areas.

CIRNAC #2: Consultation with Interested Parties

CIRNAC recommends that the Proponent continue to consult with the Municipality of Grise Fiord, the Iviq Hunters and Trappers Association, the Qikiqtani Inuit Association, and any other relevant organizations or individuals on its project proposal. As part of any consultation activities, several issues should be considered, including, but not limited to:



- Incorporation of Inuit Qauijimajatuqangit into project activities;
- Mitigation measures designed to prevent any disturbance to wildlife and the environment;
- Mitigation measures designed to prevent disturbance to sites with cultural, archaeological, and/or environmental significance;
- Training and employment opportunities for Inuit and community members;
- Procurement opportunities for local and Inuit-owned businesses; and
- Regular updates on the status of project activities.

CIRNAC #3: Management of Temporary Construction Camp

CIRNAC recommends that the Proponent work closely with its contractor, the Municipality of Grise Fiord, and other interested parties to ensure the temporary construction camp is managed in a way that reflects local needs and expectations. This includes promoting respectful behaviour among project personnel, particularly with regard to community customs and socio-economic wellbeing.

CIRNAC appreciates the opportunity to provide comments. Should you have any questions, please contact Muhammad Arslan by e-mail at muhammad.arslan@rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca or David Abernethy by email at david.abernethy@rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca.

Sincerely,



Richard Bingley
Manager, Impact Assessment



Appendix D:References





- CIRNAC. (2025). CIRNAC Comments to NIRB Re: Notice of Screening for Department of Community Services' "Grise Fiord Community Harbour Project" Proposal. May 21, 2025.
- Dynamic Ocean, & Worley Consulting. (2025a). Grise Fiord Community Harbour: Construction Environmental Management Plan. Prepared for the Government of Nunavut. Doc No: PLN-WRL-07-Grise Fiord Community HRB CEMP-0001. 26 March 2025. Rev5.
- Dynamic Ocean, & Worley Consulting. (2025b). Grise Fiord Community Harbour: Project Specific Information Requirements. Prepared for Nunavut Impact Review Board. Doc No: REP-WRL-07-Grise Fiord Community HRB PSIR-0003. 26 March 2025. Rev6.
- NIRB. (2025a). NIRB 126135/24XN059: Comments Received for Government of Nunavut's "Grise Fiord Community Harbour Project" Project Proposal. Email correspondence from NIRB (Tori Evalik) to GN (Justin McDonnell) on 23 May 2025.
- NIRB. (2025b). NIRB 126135: Submission Confirmation. Email correspondence from the NIRB to Government of Nunavut (Justin McDonnell) on April 4, 2025.
- NIRB. (2025c). RE: NIRB 126135: Application Accepted for Government of Nunavut's "Grise Fiord Community Harbour Project" Project Proposal. Email correspondence from the NIRB (Cassel Kapolak) to Government of Nunavut (Justin McDonnell) on April 8, 2025.
- NPC. (2000). North Baffin Regional Land Use Plan. Available at: <https://www.nunavut.ca/land-use-plans/north-baffin-region-land-use-plan>. Accessed: November 2024.
- NPC. (2023). Recommended Nunavut Land Use Plan (RNLUP). Available at: https://www.nunavut.ca/sites/default/files/23-001e-2023-06-20-recommended_nunavut_land_use_plan-eng_r.pdf. Accessed: November 2024. 136p.
- Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act*. SC 2013, c. 14, s. 2. Last amended: May 27, 2022. Available at: <https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/N-28.75/>. Accessed: November 2024.
- TC. (2025). Comment form for NIRB Screenings. Grise Fiord Community Harbour Project. Issued to Nunavut Impact Review Board. No. 24XN059. May 8, 2025.