



NIRB File No.: 24XN058

Related to NIRB File No.: 24YN030

Commission File No.: 150555

Related to Commission File No.: 149159 and 150435

May 6, 2025

Justin McDonell
Department of Community Services
Government of Nunavut
PO Box 1000, Station 620
Iqaluit, NU
X0H 0H0

Sent via email: jmcdonell@gov.nu.ca

**Re: Notice of Screening for Government of Nunavut-Department of Community Services’
“Resolute Bay Community Harbour Project” Proposal**

Dear Justin McDonell:

On December 16, 2024 the NIRB received a referral to screen Government of Nunavut (GN) – Department of Community Services’ (GN-CS) “Resolute Bay Community Harbour 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 June 4, 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 of the construction of community harbour and supporting infrastructure.

On April 4, 2025 the NIRB received the complete application from the Proponent. The NIRB notes that previous baseline field studies and geotechnical drilling program activities were previously screened by the NIRB under file no. 24YN030; however, the NIRB has determined that the current proposed activities are a significant modification to the previously assessed activities and have assigned this proposal a new file number; **NIRB File No. 24XN058** - please reference this file number in all future related correspondence.

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, and by copy of this letter, **invites interested parties and municipalities potentially affected by the proposal to comment directly to the Nunavut Impact Review Board.**

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/126136.

Project:	Resolute Bay Community Harbour Project
Location:	Qikiqtani region, Municipal Boundaries of Resolute Bay
Summary of Project Description:	The Proponent intends to construct a community harbour and supporting infrastructure in the Hamlet of Resolute Bay. Components of the Project would include the construction of a new breakwater, boat launch ramp, laydown and storage area(s), small craft floats, and access roadways with slope protection; dredging of a harbour basin and entrance channel; install of area and navigational lighting; and development of a quarry and haul road.
Project Proposed Timeline:	<u>2026 to 2029</u> : construction of harbour and associated facilities during open-water season with work at quarry and other areas extending before and after the open-water season. <u>2030 to 2080</u> : operations of harbour and facilities.

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

- Construction of community harbour and offshore infrastructure with final footprint being approximately 30,000 square metres (m²) with seaward extent of 170 metres (m) from the shoreline. In-water harbour construction works to occur during open-water season:
 - Construction of a 320 m long breakwater from coarse run-of-quarry and rock armour to provide protection from winds and waves;
 - Dredging and removal of approximately 8,000 cubic metre (m³) sediment to create a 25 m wide harbour basin and entrance channel;
 - Construction of boat launch ramp(s);
 - Installation of small craft floating docks (by anchors and chain) to support mooring of up to 24 small craft vessels;
 - Installation of electrical infrastructure including harbour and navigational lighting;
 - Improved shoreline by grading and levelling to create a driving surface;
- Development of supporting infrastructure:
 - Stockpile, laydown, aggregate production and storage areas near the harbour;
 - Dredged sediment to be repurposed as fill for laydown area
 - Access roads with slope protection;
 - Upgrades to an existing 2.5 kilometre (km) to 4 km community road into a haul road for use between quarry site and proposed harbour:

- Widening of surface to accommodate construction traffic;
 - Development of pull-outs;
 - Upgrades to collapsed and/or installation of additional culverts along the haul road;
 - Development of temporary site offices and garages to facilitate construction personnel and administrative duties;
- Development of one (1) quarry site, aggregate stockpile and laydown area with facilities transferred to Hamlet following completion of harbour facilities:
 - Selection of one (1) quarry site out of two (2) based on rock quality;
 - Use of two (2) to three (3) drills for quarrying purposes;
 - Use of explosives to develop the quarry;
 - Crushing and screening of blasted rock to produce various granular materials;
 - Stockpiling of aggregates until needed;
 - Use of approximately 115,000 m³ (235,000 tonnes) of rock and granular materials of varied sizes for construction materials;
- Use of heavy equipment for transport of quarry materials and construction activities (loaders, grader, compactor, dozer, spud barge/derrick, rough terrain crane, rock crushers, excavators, trucks, telehandler);
- Use of one (1) to two (2) boats for in-water project activities;
- Daily transport of personnel to the project site by pickup and mini-bus;
- Daily refueling and servicing of major mobile equipment by fuel/service truck;
- Use of chemicals and hazardous materials, including oxyacetylene, paint, explosives, propane, lube and oils;
- Use of fuel sourced from community fuel. If not sufficient, installation of temporary fuel storage facilities and/or additional fuel shipments by contractor;
- Daily usage of up to 5 m³ of water from existing community water supply for project activities to suppress dust on roads, earthworks, cleaning of facilities and human consumption;
- Combustible and non-combustible wastes to be disposed at community landfill;
- Hazardous wastes to be transported south and disposed in accordance with regulations;
- Use of local accommodations and facilities;
- Potential development of construction camp by contractor for up to 30 personnel, if local accommodations not sufficient;
- Ongoing community consultations regarding the proposed project;
- Potential hiring of local community members in the construction of the facility and environmental monitoring;
- Operation of the facility to be coordinated with the community:
 - Annual inspection and maintenance of harbour components;
 - Spring clearing of culvert inlets and outlets of snow;
 - Recovery of small craft floating docks prior to freeze-up and deployment for following ice breakup and clearing of the harbour;
 - Periodic sounding surveys to confirm no accumulations of sediments or deposited boulders due to shifting ice; and
 - Ongoing regular facility maintenance.

Inclusion or Exclusion of Scoping List

The NIRB has identified that the previously assessed environmental, geoscience, geophysics, and archaeological field programs to support the detailed design phase of the Community Harbour Facilities in Resolute Bay in relation will not be considered in the current assessment as the works and activities were previously assessed under NIRB File No. 24YN030 and continues to apply under the previous approvals that may be in force. This includes the second drilling program to be undertaken in 2025 to inform geotechnical requirements for the detailed design of the harbour facility. Further information on the activities previously approved can be accessed from the NIRB's online public registry at www.nirb.ca/project/125979.

REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

All documents received can be accessed from the NIRB's online public registry at www.nirb.ca/project/126136 and include:

- *Commission Revised Conformity Determination*
- *Commission Conformity Determination*
- *Commission Application*
- *NIRB Application Form in English*
- *Non-technical Project Proposal in English and Inuktitut*
- *Project Overview*
- *Project Description and Study Area*
- *Request for Extension Letter for Submission of Project Proposal*
- *Construction Environmental Management Plan*
- *Environmental and Socio-Economic Existing Conditions Report*
- *Resolute Bay Community Harbour Consultation Log*
- *Hamlet of Resolute Bay Letter of Support (June 2024 and December 2024)*
- *Resolute Bay Hunters and Trappers Organization Letter of Support (June 2024 and January 2025)*

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 GN-CGS project proposal with this letter, and we invite interested parties to comment directly to the NIRB by **May 27, 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, 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/126136.

If you have any questions or require clarification, feel free to contact Kelli Gillard, Manager, Impact Assessment at (867) 983-4619 or kgillard@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



Kelli Gillard
Manager, Impact Assessment
Nunavut Impact Review Board

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

cc: Distribution List
Hamlet of Resolute Bay
Jared Ottenhof, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Chris Spencer, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Conor Goddard, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Joel Fortier, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Richard Dwyer, Nunavut Water Board
Dustin Fredlund, Nunavut Tunngavik Inc.
Carson Gillis, Nunavut Tunngavik Inc.
Justin Buller, Government of Nunavut – Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs
Dianne Lapierre, Government of Nunavut – Economic development and Transportation
Sean Joseph, Government of Nunavut, Environmental Assessment and Regulations
William Patch, Government of Nunavut, Community Services
Randy Mercer, Government of Nunavut, Community Services
Ken Wasylyshen, Government of Nunavut, Community Services
Olivier Forbes-Bouillon, Government of Nunavut, Community Services
Caroline Whittle, Government of Nunavut, Culture and Heritage
Sylvie LeBlanc, Government of Nunavut, Culture and Heritage
Mosha Cote, Government of Nunavut, Nunavut Research Institute
Natalie D'Souza, Government of Nunavut, Department of Environment
Adrian Paradis, Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency
Tracey McCaie, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada
José Audet-Lecouffe, Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Peter Unger, Natural Resources Canada
Pierre-Olivier Emond, Natural Resources Canada
Transport Canada