



**NIRB File No.: 16YN040**  
Commission File No.: 150651

May 1, 2025

To: The Honourable Margaret Nakashuk  
Minister Responsible for Nunavut Arctic College  
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Sent via email: [mnakashuk6@gov.nu.ca](mailto:mnakashuk6@gov.nu.ca) and [sbaines6@gov.nu.ca](mailto:sbaines6@gov.nu.ca)

**Re: Screening Decision for Natural Resources Canada's "Western Hudson Bay Geoscience for Infrastructure" Project Proposal, Kivalliq Region**

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Dear Honourable Minister:

On February 28, 2025 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received a referral to screen Natural Resources Canada's "Western Hudson Geoscience for Infrastructure" project proposal from the Nunavut Planning Commission (Commission), with an accompanying positive conformity determination with the Keewatin Regional Land Use Plan. The Commission noted that the previous conformity determination issued on February 6, 2023 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 research proposed expansion to include other communities of the Kivalliq (Arviat, and potentially Baker Lake, Chesterfield Inlet and Whale Cove).

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 (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 **16YN040**, 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 Natural Resources Canada's "Western Hudson Geoscience for Infrastructure" project

is not required pursuant to s. 92(1)(a) of the *NuPPAA*. Pursuant to s. 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 May 1, 2025 to the responsible Minister(s). 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 and the information related to the project proposal is accessible from the NIRB's Public Registry at [www.nirb.ca/project/126154](http://www.nirb.ca/project/126154).

The Board only 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*. 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, Operations, Tara Arko at (867) 983-4611 or [tarko@nirb.ca](mailto:tarko@nirb.ca).

Sincerely,



Kaviq Kaluraq  
Chairperson  
Nunavut Impact Review Board

Enclosure (1): Screening Decision Report, NIRB File No.: 16YN040 (May 1, 2025)

cc: The Honourable Gary Anandasangaree, P.C., MP, Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs