



**NIRB File No.: 25YN023**  
Commission File No.: 150691

May 27, 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: Extension Request for NIRB Screening of Vermont State University's "Interpretations of Polar Environments at the Nanoscale" Project Proposal**

Dear Honourable Minister:

On April 5, 2025, the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received a referral to screen Vermont State University's "Interpretations of Polar Environments at the Nanoscale" project proposal from the Nunavut Planning Commission for screening, pursuant to Part 3 of the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act*, S.C. 2013, c. 14, s. 2 (*NuPPAA*). **Pursuant to s. 92(4) of the *NuPPAA*, the NIRB hereby requests that the responsible Minister extend the period for the submission of the Board's written report for the screening of this project proposal, NIRB File No. 25YN023.**

On April 5, 2025, the NIRB requested that the Proponent complete the online application form through the NIRB's public registry system and ensure, pursuant to s. 144(1) of the *NuPPAA*, that sufficient information is provided to determine the scope of the project activities being proposed and commence screening. On April 11, 2025, the NIRB received the required information and commenced the screening pursuant to Part 3 of the *NuPPAA*. On May 1, 2025, the NIRB distributed notice of the project proposal to potentially affected communities and interested parties with a request for comments to be submitted for the Board's consideration by May 12, 2025.

Due to limited capacity, the NIRB is unable to provide its written report for the screening of this project proposal within the 45 days as set out in the *NuPPAA* and additional time is requested to complete the decision-making for this file. The NIRB anticipates screening of this project proposal will be completed by **May 30, 2025**, at which time a screening decision report will be submitted to the responsible Minister for consideration; should any additional time be required to conclude the screening process, the NIRB commits to providing further updates as deemed appropriate.

If this request is approved, the NIRB understands that the Minister will notify the Proponent and the NIRB of the extension.

All documents received and pertaining to the NIRB's screening of this project proposal can be accessed from the NIRB's online public registry at [www.nirb.ca/project/126166](http://www.nirb.ca/project/126166).

If you have any questions or require clarification regarding this request, please contact our office toll free at 1-866-233-3033.

Sincerely,



Dionne Filiatrault  
Executive Director  
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Ross Lieblappen, Vermont State University  
Elizabeth Goodell, Vermont State University  
Lootie Toomasie, Nunavut Water Board  
The Honourable Rebecca Chartrand, P.C., MP, Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency  
Mosha Cote, Nunavut Research Institute  
Richard Dwyer, Nunavut Water Board  
Tracey McCaie, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada  
José Audet-Lecouffe, Fisheries and Oceans Canada