



**NIRB File No.: 25UN029**

Commission File No.: 150699

*Related to Commission File Nos.: 148587, 148718,  
149785 & 150017*

May 9, 2025

Owen Wade  
Environment and Climate Change Canada  
351 Boulevard Saint-Joseph  
Gatineau, QC J8Y 3Z4

*Sent via email: [owen.wade@ec.gc.ca](mailto:owen.wade@ec.gc.ca)*

**Re: Notice of Screening for Environment and Climate Change Canada’s “Isachsen High Arctic Weather Station Waste Fuel Reduction Program” Project Proposal**

Dear Owen Wade:

On April 11, 2025, the NIRB received a referral to screen Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC)’s “Isachsen High Arctic Weather Station Waste Fuel Reduction Program” project proposal from the Nunavut Planning Commission (Commission), with an accompanying positive conformity determination with the North Baffin Regional Land Use Plan.

On April 16, 2025, the NIRB received the complete application from the Proponent and assigned it file number **25UN029** - 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/126171](http://www.nirb.ca/project/126171).

<b>Project:</b>	Isachsen High Arctic Weather Station Waste Fuel Reduction Program
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<b>Location:</b>	Isachsen High Arctic Weather Station on the western shore of Ellef Ringnes Island in the Swerdrup Islands, Qikiqtani region
<b>Summary of Project Description:</b>	As part of the initial step in the overall decommissioning and remediation work planned at the Isachsen High Arctic Weather Station, the Proponent intends to undertake incineration of waste fuel located at the site.
<b>Project Proposed Timeline:</b>	June 2025 to August 2025

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

- Incinerate up to 76,000 litres of waste fuel contained in storage tanks and hundreds of drums;
- Use of two (2) reconditioned forced-air incinerators to incinerate old diesel, jet fuels, kerosene and gasoline located in drums, and above ground storage tanks (AST);
- Removal of hazardous wastes off-site for proper disposal that cannot be incinerated (e.g., drums containing lead above guidelines for incineration);
- Removal of non-combustible wastes off-site for proper disposal;
- Use of fuel to preheat incinerators and refuel the Twin Otter and generators;
- Use of water from meltwater pond for camp purposes; and
- Use of seasonal work camp at the weather station.

#### ***Inclusion or Exclusion of Scoping List***

At this time, while referenced in the application, the following activities were found not to be sufficiently developed to be included within the scope and were noted by the Proponent that they would be managed during the next phase of the decommissioning activities at the site:

- Future processing and crushing of empty drums;
- Certification of ASTs as out of service;
- Removal of sludge or residual fuels from ASTs; and,
- Tank abatement and deconstruction.

As a result, the NIRB will proceed with screening the project based on the scope as described above.

### REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

All documents received can be accessed from the NIRB's online public registry at [www.nirb.ca/project/126171](http://www.nirb.ca/project/126171) and include:

- *Commission Conformity Determination*
- *Commission Application*
- *NIRB Online Application in English*
- *Non-technical Summary in English, French and Inuktitut*
- *Waste Fuel Reduction Plan: Isachsen High Arctic Weather Station (HAWS), Nunavut*

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 ECCC's project proposal with this letter, and we invite interested parties to comment directly to the NIRB by **May 30, 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](mailto: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/126171](http://www.nirb.ca/project/126171).

If you have any questions or require clarification, feel free to contact the undersigned at [kgillard@nirb.ca](mailto:kgillard@nirb.ca).

Sincerely,



Kelli Gillard PAg, CTAJ  
Manager, Impact Assessment  
Nunavut Impact Review Board

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

cc: Distribution List  
Richard Dwyer, Nunavut Water Board  
Jared Ottenhof, Qikiqtani Inuit Association  
Chris Spencer, Qikiqtani Inuit Association  
Conor Goddard, Qikiqtani Inuit Association  
Assol Kubeisinova, Qikiqtani Inuit Association  
Justin Buller, Government of Nunavut  
Dianne Lapierre, Government of Nunavut  
Tracey McCaie, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada  
Lisa Pirie, Canadian Wildlife Service  
Environment and Climate Change Canada  
Jose Audet-Lecouffe, Fisheries and Oceans Canada  
Transport Canada