



# NOTICE OF SCREENING OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

NIRB File No.: 25YN039

Project Name: The “Assessing the ecological risk associated with critical mineral extraction and low-sulphur fuels in Northern ecosystems” project

Proponent Name: University of Alberta

Project Type: Research Region: Kitikmeot Region

Public Registry: [www.nirb.ca](http://www.nirb.ca) Application No.: 126179

Comment Deadline: **May 12, 2025**

## PROJECT SCOPE:

The proposed “Assessing the ecological risk associated with critical mineral extraction and low-sulphur fuels in Northern ecosystems” project is located within the Kitikmeot region, approximately near Cambridge Bay, Dease Strait and Grenier Lake. The Proponent intends to conduct research activities to investigate how cold-adapted Arctic organisms would respond to exposure to metal contaminants and oil-related chemicals, with eventually improving protocols and water quality guidelines to protect Northern ecosystems from human-associated disturbances. The program is proposed to take place from April to September 2025-2027. The scope of this proposed project as identified by the NIRB includes the following undertakings, works or activities:

- Use of Canadian High Arctic Research Station (CHARS) facilities to expose organisms collected to key metal contaminants (copper, zinc, cobalt, nickel, lithium) and oil-related chemicals (including PFAS and compounds from low-sulphur fuels)
- Collect *Daphnia* (water fleas) and water samples from six (6) locations around Greiner Lake and an outflow of sewage lagoon in August
- Collect sea-ice algae and copepods from sea ice between Cambridge Bay and Dease Strait in May
- Hiring of local hunters and trappers organization to assist in fieldwork

Please visit the NIRB’s public registry online at the link above and look up NIRB File No.: **25YN039** to access all project information, maps, and public comment forms.

## REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

**You are invited to provide the NIRB with your comments regarding whether the proposed project is:**

- likely to arouse significant public concern and, if so, why;
- likely to cause significant adverse ecosystemic or socio-economic effects and, if so, why;
- likely to cause significant adverse impacts on wildlife habitat or Inuit harvest activities and, if so, why;
- a type where the potential adverse effects are highly predictable and can be prevented/managed appropriately with known technology.

Parties are also invited to recommend any specific mitigation measures they feel would be appropriate, and to bring any other matter of importance related to this project proposal to the NIRB’s attention.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

**The NIRB has recently launched an updated online public registry, and parties can access project information as well as submit comments directly to the NIRB via [www.nirb.ca](http://www.nirb.ca).** Comments can still be submitted directly to the NIRB via email at [info@nirb.ca](mailto:info@nirb.ca) or via fax to (867) 983-2594.

If you have any questions or require clarification regarding the proposed project or the NIRB’s screening process, please contact Kelli Gillard, Manager, Impact Assessment toll-free at 1-866-233-3033 or [kgillard@nirb.ca](mailto:kgillard@nirb.ca).