



CIRNAC Comments to NIRB

Re: Notice of Screening for Prairie Scientific Inc.'s "Water Quality and Sediment Collection Near Chesterfield Inlet, Whale Cove, Rankin Inlet, Baker Lake, Arviat, Nauyasat and Coral Harbour" Project Proposal



Nunavut Regional Office
918 Sivumugiaq Street
Iqaluit, NU, X0A 3H0

Your file - Votre référence
25YN035
Our file - Notre référence
GCdocs# 138664492

June 23, 2025

Amir Pourmahabadian
Senior Impact Assessment Officer
Nunavut Impact Review Board
P.O. Box 1360
Cambridge Bay, NU, X0B 0C0
via NIRB public registry

Re: Notice of Screening and Comment Request for Prairie Scientific Inc.'s "Water Quality and Sediment Collection Near Chesterfield Inlet, Whale Cove, Rankin Inlet, Baker Lake, Arviat, Naujaat and Coral Harbour" Project Proposal

Dear Amir Pourmahabadian,

On June 11, 2025, the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) invited parties to comment on Prairie Scientific Inc.'s "Water quality and sediment collection near Chesterfield Inlet, Whale Cove, Rankin Inlet, Baker Lake, Arviat, Naujaat and Coral Harbour" project proposal. Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC) offers the responses below as it pertains to the NIRB's request:

Whether the project proposal is of a type where the potential adverse effects are highly predictable and mitigable with known technology

CIRNAC #1: Fuel Handling and Spill Risk

CIRNAC is of the view that the potential impacts of the proposed Project can be mitigated with known practices or technology.

The Project will rely on gasoline-powered equipment to access sampling sites. Refueling activities are expected to use two 20 L jerry cans carried into the field. Such handling of fuel in the field poses a spill risk and needs careful management. CIRNAC recommends that the Proponent consider implementing best management practices to aid in mitigation of potential impacts that might arise from the use of fuels, including:

- Adopting controlled fuel-handling equipment such as drip pans and absorbent pads during refueling events;
- Conducting all fuel-handling occurs a minimum of thirty-one (31) meters away from the ordinary high-water mark of any water body; and,
- Securing gasoline containers during transport to prevent, tipping, abrasion or leakage.



Any matter of importance to the Party related to the project proposal

CIRNAC #2: Consultation with Interested Parties

CIRNAC recommends that the Proponent continue its efforts to consult with the municipalities of Rankin Inlet, Chesterfield Inlet, Baker Lake, Whale Cove, Naujaat, Arviat, and Coral Harbour; the respective Hunters and Trappers Organizations (HTO): Kangiqlinik HTO (Rankin Inlet), Aqigiq HTO (Chesterfield Inlet), Baker Lake HTO, Issatik HTO (Whale Cove), Arviq HTO (Naujaat), Arviat HTO and the Aiviit HTO (Coral Harbour); the Kivalliq Wildlife Board; and any other relevant organizations or individuals regarding the project proposal. As part of these consultation activities, several issues should be considered, including, but not limited to:

- Incorporation of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit into project activities;
- Mitigation measures to prevent any disturbance to wildlife and the environment;
- Mitigation measures to prevent disturbance to sites of cultural, archaeological, and/or environmental significance;
- Training and employment opportunities for Inuit and community members;
- Procurement opportunities for local and Inuit-owned businesses; and
- Regular updates on the status of project activities.

CIRNAC appreciates the opportunity to provide comments. Should you have any questions, please contact Muhammad Arslan by e-mail at muhammad.arslan@rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca or David Abernethy by email at david.abernethy@rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca.

Sincerely,



Richard Bingley
Manager, Impact Assessment

