



NIRB File No.: 25XN030

Related to NIRB File No.: 24YN008

Commission File No.: 150698

Related to Commission File No.: 149366 & 150174

August 8, 2025

Justin McDonell
Government of Nunavut – Community and Government Services
PO Box 1000, Station 200
Iqaluit, NU
X0A 0H0

Sent via email: jmcdonell@gov.nu.ca

Re: Opportunity to address comments received regarding Government of Nunavut’s “Qikiqtarjuaq Marine Infrastructure Project” proposal

Dear Justin McDonell:

On April 15, 2025, the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received a referral to screen Government of Nunavut’s “Qikiqtarjuaq Marine Infrastructure Project” proposal from the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC or Commission). On July 3, 2025, the NIRB circulated a public notice of the screening for this project, inviting interested parties to provide comments directly to the NIRB by July 25, 2025.

On or before July 25, 2025, the NIRB received comments from the following interested parties:

Commenting Party	NIRB Doc ID No.
Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada	356818
Environment and Climate Change Canada	356820
Fisheries and Oceans Canada	356819
Transport Canada	356715

All comment submissions received by the NIRB relating to this project proposal can be accessed from the NIRB’s online public registry at www.nirb.ca/project/126185.

A *summary* of the public concerns reflected in the comment submissions relate to the following:

- Concern that potential volumes of fuel and hazardous material spills can cause long-lived contamination. Requested information be provided during the water licence application

process regarding the proposed emergency response plans for the construction and operation of the facility.

- Spill response equipment and clean-up materials should be employed during any transfer of fuel or hazardous substances.
- Operational procedures, equipment maintenance and operator training be provided at the start of each field season.
- Quarry operations and lay-down area runoff may introduce fines to the Broughton Channel that may raise turbidity and total suspended solids, depress dissolved oxygen and may mobilize trace metals or nutrients. Implementation of erosion and sediment control measures and monitoring water quality during in-water works should be conducted.
- No indication of emission standards for the equipment that will be used for construction phase. Consideration should be given to source construction equipment that would meet Tier 4 emission standards.
- The project is located near two National Wildlife Areas and lighting from the project could be a major attractant for marine birds and may result in collision with lit structures or their support structures, vessels, or with other birds, especially during periods of fog, drizzle, and haze.
- Concerns with potential impacts to species under the *Species at Risk Act* (SARA). The Proponent has not identified all species at risk that are likely to be present in the Project area, nor has the Proponent identified all adverse effects of the Project on species at risk.
- Concerns with potential impacts from the proposed activities including pollution incidents to migratory birds and to their habitats during nesting season. Harming bird, their nests or eggs can have long-term consequences for migratory birds, especially through cumulative effects of many different incidences.
- Measures should be identified to avoid bird collisions and electrocution from transmission lines.
- The Proponent is reminded to ensure food, domestic wastes and petroleum-based chemicals are inaccessible to wildlife at all times.
- The Proponent is reminded that employees and contractors should be made aware of plans and commitments related to preventing spills into near waterbodies.
- The proposed project warrants an in-depth analysis in relation to Fisheries and Oceans Canada's mandate, specifically its potential impacts on fish and fish habitat.
- Works within navigable waterway are subject to the *Canadian Navigable Waters Act* and works such as the wharf and infill, and dredging of the sea floor for the wharf will require an approval under the act from Transport Canada. The Proponent would need to complete self-assessments of the navigability of all waterways where works would be occurring.
- The Proponent is reminded that any vessel activity needed to support the project must comply with Canada's maritime laws.
- Domestic shipment of dangerous goods will require training under the Transportation of Dangerous Goods Regulations.

The NIRB would like to provide the Government of Nunavut with an opportunity to address the comments noted above prior to the Board rendering its determination for this screening assessment and issuing its subsequent Screening Decision Report to the responsible Minister(s). The NIRB respectfully requests that a response be provided directly to the NIRB by **August 22, 2025**.

If the Government of Nunavut determines that the time required to supply a written response is significantly greater than two (2) weeks, the Board requests written notification and an anticipated date for submission be provided as soon as possible.

Please send any forthcoming submissions directly to the NIRB at info@nirb.ca, or through the online public registry at www.nirb.ca.

If you have any questions or require additional clarification, please contact the undersigned directly at 1-866-233-3033 or femingak@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



Francis Emingak
Screening Officer
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Distribution List
Richard Bingley, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada
Jessica Kassar, Environment and Climate Change Canada
Paul Harper, Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Nicholas Wasilik, Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Scott Kidd, Transport Canada
Jared Ottenhof, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Richard Dwyer, Nunavut Water Board
Justin Buller, Government of Nunavut – Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs
Dianne Lapierre, Government of Nunavut – Economic development and Transportation
Sean Joseph, Government of Nunavut, Environmental Assessment and Regulations
William Patch, Government of Nunavut, Community Services
Randy Mercer, Government of Nunavut, Community Services
Ken Wasylyshen, Government of Nunavut, Community Services
Olivier Forbes-Bouillon, Government of Nunavut, Community Services
Caroline Whittle, Government of Nunavut, Culture and Heritage
Adam Pollock, Government of Nunavut, Culture and Heritage
Natalie D’Souza, Government of Nunavut, Department of Environment
Bradely Pirie, Government of Nunavut, Department of Environment
Adrian Paradis, Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency
Tracey McCaie, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada
José Audet-Lecouffe, Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Peter Unger, Natural Resources Canada
Pierre-Olivier Emond, Natural Resources Canada