



NIRB Application for Screening #126195 Kivalliq-Baffin Connector Marine Survey

Application Type: New

Project Type: Marine Based Activities

Application Date: Thursday, June 5, 2025

Period of operation: from 2025-06-20 to 2026-10-20

Project Proponent: Victoria
Government of Nunavut
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DETAILS

Non-technical project proposal description

English: The Government of Nunavut's Department of Community and Government Service (GN-CGS) has been awarded funding by the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) to support the construction of a 1,050 km fibre optic cable in southern Nunavut (Kivalliq-Baffin Connector (KBC) Fibre Optic Cable Project) (the KBC Project). The KBC Project will connect four Nunavut communities to high-speed internet: Iqaluit, Kimmirut, and Kinngait on the southern coast of Baffin Island (Qikiqtani Region), and Salliq [Coral Harbour] on Southampton Island (Kivalliq Region). The KBC Project will connect to an existing Branching Unit (BU) in Salluit (Nunavik). Dynamic Ocean Consulting Ltd (Dynamic Ocean) has been retained by the GN-CGS as the regulatory specialist to support the permitting for KBC Project. This Project Description (PD) is specific to the Marine Survey required for the marine route of the KBC Project. Prior to the offshore marine survey and detailed design, a desktop review to identify the technical feasibility and potential risks of the KBC Project was performed. The desktop review compiled a report of reviewed published and unpublished data including bathymetric data, meta-ocean data, GIS spatial data, and nautical charts, identifying the potential route option used to guide the KBC Marine Survey. The approximate route within the Nunavut Settlement Area (NSA) is 650 m, with an additional 400 m being in Nunavik Marine Region (NMR). The KBC Marine Survey will encompass the full extent of the marine cable route (1,050 km) with up to a 500 m survey corridor (250 m on either side of the cable). The KBC Marine Survey will be composed of the following activities. - Swath bathymetry (MBES). - Side Scan Sonar (SSS). - Subbottom profiler (SBP). - Magnometer to locate Salluit branching unit (BU) (potential). - Sediment sampler (vibrecore, grab sampler) approximately every 5 km up to a water depth of 25 m Chart Datum (CD). The KBC Marine Survey will take approximately 35 to 45 days, undertaken in the open water season of 2025 or 2026. The survey vessel may have the ability to run two 12-hour crew rotations to allow for 24-hour operation. This will be a contractor led decision. The survey vessel will follow all pertinent marine navigation legislation for safety and the protection of marine mammals such as the Collision Regulations and the Marine Mammal Regulations.

French: Le ministère des Services communautaires et gouvernementaux du gouvernement du Nunavut (SCG-GN) a obtenu un financement du Conseil de la radiodiffusion et des télécommunications canadiennes (CRTC) afin de soutenir la construction d'un câble de fibre optique de 1 066 km dans le sud du Nunavut, dans le cadre du projet de câble de fibre optique Kivalliq-Baffin Connector (Projet KBC). Le Projet KBC reliera quatre communautés du Nunavut à l'internet haute vitesse : Iqaluit, Kimmirut et Kinngait sur la côte sud de l'île de Baffin (région du Qikiqtani), ainsi que Salliq (Coral Harbour) sur l'île Southampton (région du Kivalliq). Le Projet KBC sera connecté à une unité de dérivation (UD) déjà en place à Salluit (Nunavik). Dynamic Ocean Consulting Ltd (Dynamic Ocean) a été retenue par le SCG-GN à titre de spécialiste en réglementation pour soutenir le processus d'obtention des permis nécessaires au Projet KBC. La présente description de projet (DP) concerne spécifiquement le relevé marin requis pour le tracé en mer du Projet KBC. Avant d'entreprendre le relevé marin et la conception détaillée, une étude préliminaire strictement documentaire a été effectuée pour évaluer la faisabilité technique et les risques potentiels du Projet KBC. Cette analyse a permis de compiler un rapport à partir de données publiées et non publiées, incluant des données bathymétriques, des données méta-océaniques, des données spatiales SIG et des cartes marines, afin d'identifier un tracé potentiel qui guidera le relevé marin du KBC. Le tracé approximatif dans la région désignée du Nunavut (RDN) est de 574 km, avec un segment additionnel de 492 km dans la région marine du Nunavik (RMN). Le relevé marin du KBC couvrira l'ensemble du tracé du câble sous-marin (1 066 km), dans un corridor d'étude allant jusqu'à 500 mètres de large (250 m de chaque côté du câble). Le relevé marin du KBC comprendra les activités suivantes : Bathymétrie multifaisceaux (MBES) Sonar à balayage latéral (SSS) Profileur de sub-surface (SBP) Magnétomètre pour localiser l'unité de dérivation de Salluit (BU) (potentiellement) Échantillonnage de sédiments (vibrocarottier, échantillonneur à godet) environ tous les 5 km jusqu'à une profondeur de 25 m selon le zéro hydrographique Profilage de la vitesse du son (SVP) Le relevé marin du KBC devrait durer environ 35 à 45 jours, pendant la saison des eaux libres de 2025 ou 2026. Le navire de relevé pourrait être en mesure de faire fonctionner deux quarts de travail de 12 heures afin d'assurer une opération en continu 24 heures. Cette décision reviendra à l'entrepreneur. Le navire de relevé respectera toute la législation pertinente en matière de navigation maritime pour assurer la sécurité et la protection des mammifères marins, incluant le Règlement sur les abordages et le Règlement

Inuktitut:

Inuinnaqtun: NA

Personnel on site: 28

Days on site: 75

Total Person days: 2100

Operations Phase: from 2025-06-20 to 2026-10-20

Activities

Location	Activity Type	Land Status	Site history	Site archaeological or paleontological value	Proximity to the nearest communities and any protected areas
Cable Route	Marine Based Activities	Marine	NA	NA	The marine survey will run up to the landings in Iqaluit, Kimmirut, and Kinngait (Nunavut), and up to the branching unit approximately 60 km from Salluit (Nunavik).The marine survey runs through the Western Hudson Strait Ecologically and Biologically Significant Area and the Southampton Island Area of Interest.

Community Involvement & Regional Benefits

Community	Name	Organization	Date Contacted
Iqaluit	NA	Seaforth will include Inuit-owed and/or Inuit partnered companies for refuelling, personnel transport, hotel accommodations, and reprovisioning to foster community engagement during the KBC Marine Survey.	2025-06-03

Authorizations

Indicate the areas in which the project is located:

Authorizations

Regulatory Authority	Authorization Description	Current Status	Date Issued / Applied	Expiry Date
Nunavut Research Institute	Scientific Research Licence	Not Yet Applied		
Fisheries and Oceans Canada	Letter of Advice	Not Yet Applied		
Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada	Land Use Permit	Not Yet Applied		

Project transportation types

Transportation Type	Proposed Use	Length of Use
Water	A marine vessel will transport personnel for this project.	

Project accomodation types

Other,

Material Use

Equipment to be used (including drills, pumps, aircraft, vehicles, etc)

Equipment Type	Quantity	Size - Dimensions	Proposed Use
Side scan sonar	1	2 m x 50 cm	Seabed type / conditions with an approximately 500 m wide survey corridor
Subbottom profiler	1	1 m x 1 cm	Ground conditions below seabed with an approximately 500 m wide survey corridor
Magnometer	1	2 m x 50 cm	Identification of the Salluit BU
Sediment sampler	2	3 m x 50 cm	Ponar and/or vibecore. Collection of sediment samples approximately every 5 km for depths up to 25 m CD on the approach to each landing (not required to Salluit (Nunavik)).
Multibeam echosounder	1	1m x 50 cm	Bathymetry with an approximately 500 m wide survey corridor
Cone Penetration Test	1	1.6 m x 1.6 m	To support determination of simultaneous laying and burial of the cable.
Sound Velocity Profiler	1	8 cm x 27 cm	To measure the speed of sound at different water column depths.
Drop Camera	1	2.5 m x 1.5 m	Visual observation of seabed conditions to support regulatory and environmental requirements.
Marine Vessel	1	50 m	Marine cable route survey

Detail Fuel and Hazardous Material Use

Detail fuel material use:	Fuel Type	Number of containers	Container Capacity	Total Amount	Units	Proposed Use
Diesel	fuel	3	12000	36000	Liters	Vessel propulsion and onboard power generation

Water Consumption

Daily amount (m3)	Proposed water retrieval methods	Proposed water retrieval location
0	Reverse osmosis desalination system.	To be confirmed by contractor.

Waste

Waste Management

Project Activity	Type of Waste	Projected Amount Generated	Method of Disposal	Additional treatment procedures
Waste disposal	Other, Waste types expected to be required are not known.	Unknown	Waste types expected to be required for the KBC Marine Survey are not known at this time, as it will be a contractor led decision. All waste during the KBC Marine Survey will be appropriately stored on the survey vessel and disposed of at an appropriate facility either in Nunavut or Southern Canada. The contractor will be required to maintain a waste manifest to document appropriate storage. There will be no waste disposed at sea.	N/A

Environmental Impacts:

Please refer to Section 4 (Potential Environmental Effects) and Section 5 (Environmental Management) of the Environmental Management Plan.

Additional Information

SECTION A1: Project Info

SECTION A2: Allweather Road

SECTION A3: Winter Road

SECTION B1: Project Info

SECTION B2: Exploration Activity

SECTION B3: Geosciences

SECTION B4: Drilling

SECTION B5: Stripping

SECTION B6: Underground Activity

SECTION B7: Waste Rock

SECTION B8: Stockpiles

SECTION B9: Mine Development

SECTION B10: Geology

SECTION B11: Mine

SECTION B12: Mill

SECTION C1: Pits

SECTION D1: Facility

SECTION D2: Facility Construction

SECTION D3: Facility Operation

SECTION D4: Vessel Use

SECTION E1: Offshore Survey

SECTION E2: Nearshore Survey

SECTION E3: Vessel Use

SECTION F1: Site Cleanup

SECTION G1: Well Authorization

SECTION G2: Onland Exploration

SECTION G3: Offshore Exploration

SECTION G4: Rig

SECTION H1: Vessel Use

Please refer to Section 2 of the Environmental Management Plan.

SECTION H2: Disposal At Sea

NA

SECTION I1: Municipal Development

Description of Existing Environment: Physical Environment

Please refer to Section 3 of the Environmental Management Plan.

Description of Existing Environment: Biological Environment

Please refer to Section 3 of the Environmental Management Plan.

Description of Existing Environment: Socio-economic Environment

NA

Miscellaneous Project Information

Please refer to the Environmental Management Plan for all miscellaneous information.

Identification of Impacts and Proposed Mitigation Measures

Please refer to Section 5.3 of the Environmental Management Plan.

Cumulative Effects

Please refer to Section 4 of the Environmental Management Plan.

Impacts

Identification of Environmental Impacts

	PHYSICAL	Designated environmental areas	Ground stability	Permafrost	Hydrology / Limnology	Water quality	Climate conditions	Eskers and other unique or fragile landscapes	Surface and bedrock geology	Sediment and soil quality	Tidal processes and bathymetry	Air quality	Noise levels	BIOLOGICAL	Vegetation	Wildlife, including habitat and migration patterns	Birds, including habitat and migration patterns	Aquatic species, incl. habitat and migration/spawning	Wildlife protected areas	SOCIO-ECONOMIC	Archaeological and cultural historic sites	Employment	Community wellness	Community infrastructure	Human health
Construction	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Operation																									
Marine Based Activities		M	-	-	-	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	M		-	M	M	M	M		-	-	P	-	-
Decommissioning																									
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

(P = Positive, N = Negative and non-mitigatable, M = Negative and mitigatable, U = Unknown)

Project Location



List of Project Geometries

1	polyline	Cable Route
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