



NIRB File No.: 25UN049
Commission File No.: 150741

June 24, 2025

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

Sent via email: vburdett-coutts@gov.nu.ca

Re: Notice of Screening for Government of Nunavut's "Kivalliq-Baffin Connector Marine Survey" project proposal

Dear Victoria:

On May 20, 2025, the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) received a referral to screen Government of Nunavut's "Kivalliq-Baffin Connector Marine Survey" project proposal from the Nunavut Planning Commission (Commission), with an accompanying positive conformity determination with the Keewatin Regional Land Use Plan.

On June 5, 2025, the NIRB received the complete application from the Proponent and assigned it file number **25UN049** - 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/126195.

Project:	Kivalliq-Baffin Connector Marine Survey
Region:	Kivalliq and Qikiqtani
Location:	Kivalliq and Qikiqtani regions. Communities of Iqaluit, Kimmirut, Kinngait and Salliq (Coral Harbour)
Summary of Project Description:	The Proponent intends to conduct a marine survey along the proposed Kivalliq-Baffin Connector Fibre Optic Cable route, linking the communities of Iqaluit, Kimmirut, Kinngait and Salliq to high-speed internet.
Project Proposed Timeline:	July 2025 to October 2026, during the open-water season for about 35 to 45 days

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

- Conduct a marine survey along the proposed 1,050 kilometres (km) cable route with the survey corridor ranging between 500 metres (m) to 900 m from the centreline of the marine cable. Survey to include:
 - Swath bathymetry with a multibeam echosounder;
 - Side scan sonar to survey seabed type/conditions;
 - Subbottom profiling to determine ground conditions below seabed;
 - Magnetometer surveys to locate existing infrastructure (Salluit Branching Unit);
 - Sediment sampling with a ponar grab and/or vibrecore sampler approximately every five (5) km to a water depth of 25 metres (m) chart datum;
 - Cone penetration test to determine laying and burial of the cable;
 - Sound velocity profiler to measure the speed of sound at different water column depths;
 - Visual observation of the seabed conditions with a drop camera;
- Use of a 50 m marine vessel to transport up to 28 personnel to conduct the marine survey;
 - Use of fuel for the marine vessel and onboard power generation;
 - Use of a reverse osmosis desalination system to create potable water;
 - Storage of hazardous materials onboard as needed;
 - Storage of waste on vessel and disposed of at an appropriate facility; and,
- Use of local accommodations and facilities in Iqaluit.

Inclusion or Exclusion of Scoping List

At this time, the NIRB has identified no additional works or activities in relation to the project proposal. 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/126195 and include:

- *Commission Referral and Conformity Determination*
- *Commission Application*
- *NIRB On-line Application in English*
- *NIRB Revised Application in English*
- *Non-technical Summary in English, French and Inuktitut*
- *Environmental Management Plan by Dynamic Ocean Consulting Ltd.*
- *Government of Nunavut Letter of Support*
- *Project Overview*
- *Project Description in English and Inuktitut*

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 Government of Nunavut's project proposal with this letter, and we invite interested parties to comment directly to the NIRB by **July 15, 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, 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/126195.

If you have any questions or require clarification, feel free to contact the undersigned at 867-983-4607 or vnayak@nirb.ca .

Sincerely,



Varun Nayak
Monitoring Officer
Nunavut Impact Review Board

Enclosures (6): Public Notice of Screening (English, French and Inuktitut)
Comment Forms (English, French and Inuktitut)

cc: Distribution List
Luis Manzo, Kivalliq Inuit Association
Ashley Aupaluktuq-Burton, Kivalliq Inuit Association
Brenda Pilakapsi, Kivalliq Inuit Association
Jared Ottenhof, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Joel Fortier, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Justin Buller, Government of Nunavut
Dianne Lapierre, Government of Nunavut
Mosha Cote, Nunavut Research Institute
Adam Lewis, Nunavik Marine Region Impact Review Board
Janelle Kennedy, Nunavik Marine Region Planning Commission
Adrian Paradis, Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency
Melissa Alexander, Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency
Tracey McCaie, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada
José Audet-Lecouffe, Fisheries and Oceans Canada