



NIRB File No.: 25YN061

NIRB Public Registry Link: <https://www.nirb.ca/126222>

NPC File No.: 150863

October 7, 2025

Government of Nunavut – Department of Transportation & Infrastructure
P.O. Box 1000, Station 1360
Iqaluit, NU X0A 0H0

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

Re: Notice of Screening for Government of Nunavut’s “The Kivalliq-Baffin Connector Horizontal Directional Drilling Feasibility Study” Project Proposal

Dear Victoria Burdett-Coutts:

The Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) received a referral to screen Government of Nunavut – Department of Transportation & Infrastructure (GN-TIN)’s “The Kivalliq-Baffin Connector Horizontal Directional Drilling Feasibility Study” project proposal:

- July 23, 2025, the Nunavut Planning Commission completed its conformity determination and confirmed that the proposal conforms to the Keewatin Regional Land Use Plan (KRLUP), subject to compliance with applicable Appendix C, G, and H requirements¹.
- On August 8, 2025, the NIRB received a complete application and assigned it NIRB File No. 25YN061. Please reference this file number in all future correspondence.

The NIRB has commenced screening the project proposal pursuant to the *Nunavut Agreement* and *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act*² 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.**

SCOPE OF PROPOSED PROJECT

Location	Southern Nunavut: Iqaluit, Kimmirut, Kinngait (Qikiqtani Region) and Coral Harbour/Salliq (Kivalliq Region); connecting to the Branching Unit at Salluit, Nunavik (EAUFON Project)
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¹ Pursuant to s. 70(1) and s. 167 of the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act*, S.C. 2013, c. 14, s. 2

² 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 s. 87 of the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act*, S.C. 2013, c. 14, s. 2 (NuPPAA)

Objective	The Proponent intends to conduct an HDD Engineering Support Program to assess the technical feasibility and engineering design of potential landing sites. This includes geotechnical, geophysical, topographic, and biological investigations required to support the future construction of the fibre optic subsea cable connecting southern Nunavut communities with Nunavik
Timeline	August 15, 2025 – October 26, 2026, with activities scheduled during seasonal open-water and iced-ocean periods, approximately 30–40 days per community over multiple deployments

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

Land-Based Activities

- Borehole drilling (10–40 metre (m) depth at Beach Manhole and Punch-In sites) using CME45/55 mounted drill.
- Thermistor installation (ground temperature / permafrost monitoring).
- Electrical Resistivity Tomography (ERT) with surface electrodes and cables.
- Seismic Refraction and Reflection surveys with surface geophones.
- Multichannel Analysis of Surface Waves (MASW).
- Downhole logging with Optical Televiwer (OTV) and/or Acoustic Televiwer.
- Borehole caliper measurements.
- Visual site assessments (shoreline, BMH, PI).
- Topographic surveys:
 - LiDAR.
 - Orthoimagery.
 - Drone surveys.
- Use of handheld field tools/cameras for documentation.
- Local transport and support: use of All Terrain Vehicles (ATV), trucks, and community accommodations.
- Community participation: local field assistants, wildlife monitors, ATV /truck operators.

Marine-Based Activities

- Offshore borehole drilling (through open water or iced ocean) using marine-mounted drill rig.
- Cone Penetration Tests (CPTs) on seabed using CPT rig.
- Swath bathymetry (Multibeam Echosounder, MBES).
- Side Scan Sonar (SSS).
- Magnetometer surveys.
- Seismic Reflection and Refraction using airgun (90 cm x 9 m).
- Sub-bottom profiling (SBP).
- Sound Velocity Profiling (SVP).
- Downhole logging in marine boreholes (OTV/ Acoustic Televiwer).
- Borehole caliper measurements in marine boreholes.
- Biological/environmental surveys:
 - Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) seabed inspection.
 - Drop camera seabed video.
 - Underwater video (potential).

- Hydrophone deployment (potential; marine mammal and noise monitoring).
- Marine transport and support: use of vessels, barges, and ice platforms for offshore operations.
- Community participation: local boat operators and marine support crews.

Logistics & Support (General)

- Community accommodations for project personnel.
- Use of local ATV, trucks, and boats where available.
- Use of barges and ice platforms for offshore operations.
- Local participation opportunities identified: wildlife monitors, field assistants, boat operators, ATV /truck support.
- Fuel sourced from each community
- All garbage would be disposed of appropriately at the community.

Inclusion or Exclusion of Scoping List

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

Documents received and describing the proposal can be accessed from the NIRB's online public registry at <https://www.nirb.ca/126222> including:

- *Commission 2025 Conformity Determination*
- *NIRB Online Application in English, French, Inuktitut, Inuinnaqtun*
- *Non-technical Summary in English French*
- *Environmental Management Plan in English*
- *GN KBC Project Overview in English*

The NIRB may request additional information at any time during the process.

By copy of this letter, the NIRB is inviting interested parties and municipalities potentially affected by the project proposal to comment directly to the NIRB by **October 28, 2025**

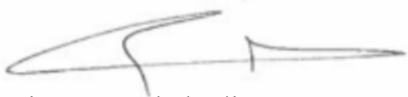
The NIRB would like parties to provide comments regarding:

- 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 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 <https://www.nirb.ca/126222>. Questions should be directed to the undersigned at apourmahabadian@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



Amir Pourmahabadian
Senior Impact Assessment Officer
Nunavut Impact Review Board

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

cc: Distribution List
Richard Dwyer, Nunavut Water Board
Dustin Fredlund, Nunavut Tunngavik Inc.
Carson Gillis, Nunavut Tunngavik Inc.
Jorgan Aitoak, Nunavut Tunngavik Inc.
Luis Manzo, Kivalliq Inuit Association
Ashley Aupaluktuq-Burton, Kivalliq Inuit Association
Justin Buller, Government of Nunavut
Jared Ottenhof, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
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Peter Unger, Natural Resources Canada
Pierre-Olivier Emond, Natural Resources Canada
Transport Canada
Hamlet of Kimmirut
Mayukalik Hunters & Trappers Association
Hamlet of Kinngait
Aiviq Hunters & Trappers Association
Hamlet of Coral Harbour (Salliq)
Aiviit Hunters & Trappers Organization
Community of Iqaluit
Kimmirut, Mayukalik Hunters and Trappers Organization (HTO)
Kinngait (Cape Dorset), Aiviq Hunters and Trappers Organization (HTO)
Salliq (Coral Harbour), Aiviit Hunters and Trappers Organization (HTO)
Iqaluit, Amaruq Hunters and Trappers Association (HTA)