



NIRB File No.: 25YN061
NPC File No.: 150863

December 19, 2025

To: The Honourable Rebecca Alty P.C, MP
Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON, K1A 0A6

Sent via email: rebecca.alty@parl.gc.ca

Re: Screening Decision Report for Government of Nunavut's "The Kivalliq-Baffin Connector Horizontal Directional Drilling Feasibility Study" Project Proposal, Qikiqtani and Kivalliq Region

Dear Honourable Minister,

On August 9, 2025, the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received a referral to screen Government of Nunavut – Department of Transportation & Infrastructure's "Kivalliq-Baffin Connector Horizontal Directional Drilling Feasibility Study" project proposal from the Nunavut Planning Commission (Commission), with an accompanying positive conformity determination with the Keewatin Regional Land Use Plan.

Following the assessment of all material information provided, the NIRB is recommending that a review of Government of Nunavut – Department of Transportation & Infrastructure's "Kivalliq-Baffin Connector Horizontal Directional Drilling Feasibility Study" project is not required pursuant to s. 92(1)(a) of the *NuPPAA*. Pursuant to s. 92(2)(a) of the *NuPPAA*, the NIRB has determined that specific terms and conditions are appropriate for this project.

Accordingly, the NIRB is issuing the attached Screening Decision Report dated **December 19, 2025**, to the responsible Minister. The Screening Decision Report provides, among other things, the regulatory framework, project overview and the NIRB's assessment process, factors relevant for the determining significance of impacts, and recommended project-specific terms and conditions.

Please note that the project proposal will not be enclosed and the information related to the project proposal is accessible from the NIRB's Public Registry at <https://www.nirb.ca/project/126222>.



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The Board only addresses this notice letter to those individuals considered to be a “responsible Minister with decision-making authority” for the project as set out under the *NuPPAA*. Regulatory Authorities and other Authorizing Agencies associated with a proposed project (e.g., Regional Inuit Associations, Nunavut Water Board) will continue to be copied on the Notice of Release of the Screening Decision Report. The NIRB is providing these parties with notice and access to the Board’s Screening Decision Report as required under s. 200(2) and in support of these parties in the fulfillment of their responsibilities under the *NuPPAA* and the *Nunavut Agreement* to address, and as appropriate, implement, to the fullest extent possible, any relevant NIRB recommendations contained in the Screening Decision Report.

We look forward to receiving a response from the responsible Minister and the NIRB remains available for consultation with the Minister regarding this report as necessary. If you have any questions or require clarification, please do not hesitate to contact the NIRB’s Acting Manager, Impact Assessment, Amir Pourmahabadian at apourmahabadian@nirb.ca

Sincerely,



Albert Ehaloak
Acting Chairperson
Nunavut Impact Review Board

Enclosure (1): Screening Decision Report, NIRB File No.: 25YN061 (December 19, 2025)

cc: The Honourable Craig Simailak, Minister of Community Services - Government of Nunavut
The Honourable David Akeagok Minister Responsible for Nunavut Arctic College
Olayuk Akesuk President, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Luis Manzo, Director of Lands Kivalliq Inuit Association
Lootie Toomasie Chairperson, Nunavut Water Board