

Environmental Protection Operations Directorate
Prairie & Northern Region
5019 52nd Street, 4th Floor
P.O. Box 2310
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2P7

ECCC File: 6200 000 023/006
NIRB File: 126226/25QN060



November 21, 2025

via email at: info@nirb.ca

Dustin Sim
Screening Officer
Nunavut Impact Review Board
29 Mitik Street
P.O. Box 1360
Cambridge Bay, NU X0B 0C0

Dear Dustin Sim:

RE: 126226/25QN060 – Hamlet of Gjoa Haven – Municipal Quarry Project Proposal

Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) has reviewed the information submitted to the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) by the Hamlet of Gjoa Haven (“the Proponent”) regarding the above-mentioned Municipal Quarry Project Proposal.

ECCC provides expert information and knowledge to project assessments on subjects within the department’s mandate, including climate change, air quality, water quality, biodiversity, environmental emergencies preparedness and responses. This work includes reviewing proponent characterization of environmental effects and proposed mitigation measures. We provide advice to decision-makers regarding a proponent’s characterization of environmental effects, the efficacy of their proposed mitigation activities, and may suggest additional mitigation measures. Any comments received from ECCC in this context does not relieve the proponent of its obligations to respect all applicable federal legislation.

The following comments are provided:

1. Migratory Birds

Reference(s):

- Quarry Management Plan Framework; Revised NIRB Application

Comment:

In review of the Quarry Management Plan Framework and the Revised NIRB Application, ECCC noticed there was no inclusion of migratory birds beyond those in the SAR list, and that project activities within migratory bird habitat and during nesting season.



The Migratory Birds Regulations (MBR) prohibit the disturbance or destruction of migratory birds and their nests or eggs.

The project occurs during the nesting season for migratory birds which extends from late May to mid-August for this region (nesting season N10).

Migratory birds, their nests and their eggs can be inadvertently harmed, killed, disturbed or destroyed because of many activities including, but not limited to, clearing of trees and other vegetation, draining or flooding land, or using fishing gear. Harming of individual birds, nests or eggs, can have long-term consequences for migratory bird populations in Canada, especially through the cumulative effects of many different incidences.

ECCC Recommendation(s):

ECCC recommends the Proponent:

- List all migratory bird species that may be present in the Project area;
- Carry out all phases of the project in a manner that reduces risk to migratory birds and to avoid harming, killing or disturbing migratory birds or destroying, disturbing or taking their nests and eggs.

Proponents should not conduct potentially destructive or disruptive activities at key locations or during key periods to avoid negative impacts to migratory birds. In this regard, the Proponent should take into account ECCC's [Guidelines to Avoid Harm to Migratory Birds](#) and visit [Fact Sheet Nest Protection Under the Migratory Birds Regulations, 2022](#) and [Frequently Asked Question, Migratory Birds Regulations, 2022](#) for more information on the amended Migratory Bird Regulations and updates to nest protections.

If you need more information, please contact Jennifer Sabourin at Jennifer.Sabourin@ec.gc.ca.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Sabourin
Acting Senior Environmental Assessment Officer

cc: Eva Walker, Head, Environmental Assessment North (NT and NU)