



NIRB File No.: 25YN079

NIRB Public Registry Link: www.nirb.ca/project/126250

Commission File No.: 150958

January 6, 2026

To: The Honourable David Akeeagok
Minister Responsible for Nunavut Arctic College
Unit 301, 607 Queen Elizabeth Way
Iqaluit, NU X0A 3H0

Sent via email: dakeeagok7@gov.nu.ca

Re: **Extension Request for NIRB Screening of Geological Survey of Canada’s “Why is mercury rising in some northern lakes?” Project Proposal**

Dear Honourable Minister:

On November 18,2025 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received Geological Survey of Canada’s “Why is mercury rising in some northern lakes?” project proposal from the Nunavut Planning Commission for screening, pursuant to Part 3 of the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act*, S.C. 2013, c. 14, s. 2 (*NuPPAA*). **Pursuant to s. 92(4) of the *NuPPAA*, the NIRB hereby requests that the responsible Minister extend the period for the submission of the Board’s written report for the screening of this project proposal, NIRB File No.25YN079.**

On November 18,2025, the NIRB requested that the Proponent complete the online application form through the NIRB’s public registry system and ensure, pursuant to s. 144(1) of the *NuPPAA*, that sufficient information is provided to determine the scope of the project activities being proposed and commence screening. On December 9,2025 the NIRB distributed notice of the project proposal to potentially affected communities and interested parties with a request for comments to be submitted for the Board’s consideration by January 5, 2026.

Due to the need to allow additional time for public and stakeholder engagement during and immediately following the Christmas and holiday season, the NIRB is unable to provide its written report for the screening of this project proposal within the 45 days as set out in the *NuPPAA* and additional time is requested to complete the decision-making for this file. The NIRB anticipates screening of this project proposal will be completed by **January 30, 2026**, at which time a screening decision report will be submitted to the responsible Minister for consideration; should

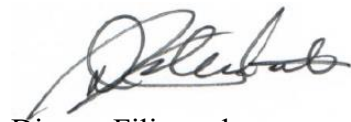
any additional time be required to conclude the screening process, the NIRB commits to providing further updates as deemed appropriate.

If this request is approved, the NIRB understands that the Minister will notify the Proponent and the NIRB of the extension.

All documents received and pertaining to the NIRB's screening of this project proposal can be accessed from the NIRB's online public registry at www.nirb.ca/project/126250.

If you have any questions or require clarification regarding this request, please contact our office toll free at 1-866-233-3033.

Sincerely,



Dionne Filiatrault
Executive Director
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: The Honourable Rebecca Chartrand P.C, MP, Government of Canada
The Honourable Rebecca Alty, Government of Canada