



**NOTICE OF RELEASE OF SCREENING DECISION REPORT
NIRB FILE NO.: 25YN079**

NPC File No.: 150958

January 14, 2026

To: Moshia Cote
Manager, Research Liaison
Nunavut Research Institute
Iqaluit, NU Z0A 3H0

Sent via email: mosha.cote@arcticcollege.com

Re: Notice of Release of Screening Decision Report for Geological Survey of Canada's "Why is mercury rising in some northern lakes?" Project Proposal, Kivalliq Region

Dear Moshia Cote:

Enclosed is the Nunavut Impact Review Board's (NIRB or Board) Screening Decision Report to the Honourable Minister David Akeegok, Minister Responsible for Nunavut Arctic College for Geological Survey of Canada's "Why is mercury rising in some northern lakes?" in the Kivalliq Region, dated January 14, 2026.

The NIRB has assessed this project proposal for ecosystemic and socio-economic impacts taking into consideration the comments from relevant authorities and communities. Based on this assessment, the Board has indicated to the responsible Minister that **a review of the project is not required** in accordance with s. 92(1)(a) of the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act*, S.C. 2013, c. 14, s. 2 (*NuPPAA*). Accordingly, the NIRB awaits a response from the Minister.

In the absence of a response from the Minister, regulatory authorities should take note of s. 75(1)(e) of the *NuPPAA*, which provides: "A regulatory authority is not authorized to issue a licence, permit or other authorization in respect of a project if the responsible Minister has decided either that the project could be modified and an amended project submitted to the Commission or that it is not to proceed." Contravention of s. 75(1) of the *NuPPAA* will render a licence, permit or other authorization issued of no force or effect.

Please contact the undersigned at (867)983-5627 or info@nirb.ca if you have any questions or require additional clarification.

Sincerely,



Brittany Hogaluk
Public Registry Coordinator
Nunavut Impact Review Board

Enclosure (1): NIRB Screening Decision Report, File No.: 25YN079 (January 14, 2026)

cc: Tracey McCaie, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada
Marcus Bermann, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada
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