



NIRB File No.: 25YN082
NIRB Public Registry link:
www.nirb.ca/project/126255
NPC File No.: 150966

January 13, 2026

Mary Sanborn-Barrie
601 Booth Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0E8
Canada

Sent via email: mary.sanborn-barrie@canada.ca

Re: Notice of Screening and Comment Request for Geological Survey of Canada's "Community Bedrock Mapping Points of Interest" project proposal

Dear Mary Sanborn-Barrie:

The Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) has commenced screening the project proposal.

By copy of this letter, NIRB invites regulators, interested parties, and community members or groups potentially affected by the proposal to view the application and comment directly to the NIRB by February 3, 2026.

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);

The application can be viewed on NIRB's online registry (link) where a comment form is available, or comments can be also submitted to info@nirb.ca, or by fax (867) 983-2594.

SCOPE OF PROPOSED PROJECT

Location	Qikiqtani region, near Kimmirut and along the Itijjagial Trail (Kimmirut to Frobisher Bay)
Objective	The Proponent intends to conduct a three-week community bedrock mapping project in Kimmirut and along the Itijjagial Trail to Frobisher Bay, aiming to create a new “Points of Interest” feature on the SIKU mobile app. This initiative will replace the outdated paper “Geology Walking Tour” by engaging local residents in collecting geoscience data and photos, which will be uploaded to SIKU for use by Northerners and visitors. The project includes hiring and training community members, integrating traditional knowledge, and collaborating with the Hamlet council and Territorial Parks.
Timeline	June 29, 2026 to July 20, 2026 Seasonal

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

- **Undertakings, Works and Activities (Summary)**
 - The Proponent will conduct community-based bedrock mapping and geoscience documentation at selected locations in and around Kimmirut and along the Itijjagial Trail within Katannilik Territorial Park;
 - Mapping will consist of **visual observation, photography, GPS documentation, and limited hand sampling** using small handheld geological tools;
 - Activities will be conducted on foot and, where appropriate, by truck or ATV using existing roads and trails. A five-day hike will be undertaken along the Itijjagial Trail to collect geoscience observations and;
 - One day of helicopter support will be used to access up to three bedrock locations within northeastern Katannilik Territorial Park and to demobilize project personnel to Iqaluit;
- **Fuel & Equipment Servicing**
 - Fuel will be used for ATV operations and one day of helicopter support only. No fuel will be stored, and all vehicles will be refueled prior to leaving.
 - All vehicles and equipment will be refueled prior to departure from established facilities
- **Camp**
 - No temporary camp will be established;
 - Personnel will use existing cabins in the territorial park;
 - No new structures, tents, or ground disturbance for accommodation.
- **Waste Management**
 - Minor non-hazardous waste will be generated
 - All waste will be removed and disposed of in Iqaluit using approved management facilities and procedures.
 - No waste will be left in the field or park areas

Inclusion or Exclusion of Scoping List

The NIRB has identified

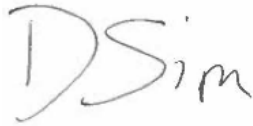
- no additional works or activities in relation to the project proposal. As a result, the NIRB will proceed with screening the project based on the scope as described above.

OTHER MATTERS CONSIDERED IN THE ASSESSMENT

Please note that *proposed* project-specific terms and conditions, should the project proceed, have been attached for consideration and comment ([Appendix A](#)).

Questions about the NIRB's work should be directed to the undersigned at 867-983-4618 or dsim@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



Dustin Sim
Screening Officer
Nunavut Impact Review Board

Attachments: Appendix A: *Proposed* Project Specific Terms and Conditions

Enclosures (4): Public Notice of Screening (English)
Comment Forms (English, and Inuktitut)

cc: Distribution List
Richard Dwyer, Nunavut Water Board
Nidhi Singh, Nunavut Water Board
Abid Jan, Nunavut Water Board
Jared Ottenhof, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Chris Spencer, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Conor Goddard, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Natalie D'Souza, Government of Nunavut Department of Environment
Michele LeBlanc-Havard, Government of Nunavut Department of Environment
Jon Neely, Government of Nunavut Department of Environment
Jeff MacDonald, Government of Nunavut Department of Environment
Salome Qaunaq, Government of Nunavut Department of Environment
Paula Hughson, Government of Nunavut Department of Environment
Bradley Pirie, Government of Nunavut Department of Environment
Mosha Cote, Nunavut Research Institute

Appendix A: Proposed Project Specific Terms and Conditions

The following is a list of project-specific terms and conditions which, should the project proceed, may be recommended to be attached to any approval.

General

1. Geological Survey of Canada shall maintain a copy of the Project Terms and Conditions at the site of operation at all times and make it accessible to enforcement officers upon request.
2. The Proponent shall operate in accordance with all commitments stated in correspondence provided to the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC File No.: 150966), and the NIRB (Online Application Form, December 5, 2025). This information should be accessible to enforcement officers upon request.
3. The Proponent shall operate the site in accordance with all applicable Acts, Regulations and Guidelines.
4. The Proponent shall ensure that it meets the standards and/or limits as set out in the authorizing agencies' permits or licenses as required for this project.

Water courses/Water

5. The Proponent shall ensure that water extraction from any fish-bearing waterbody is done with appropriate care and caution. Small lakes or streams should not be used for water withdrawal unless approved by the appropriate authorizing agency.
6. The Proponent shall not deposit, nor permit the deposit of any fuel, chemicals, wastes (including wastewater) or sediment into any water body. The Proponent should have in place an Emergency Spill Response Plan that is approved by the appropriate authorizing agency(ies).

Waste Management

7. The Proponent shall manage all hazardous and non-hazardous waste including food, domestic wastes, debris and petroleum-based chemicals (e.g., greases, gasoline, glycol-based antifreeze) in such a manner to avoid release into the environment and access to wildlife at all times until disposed of appropriately or at an approved facility.

Fuel and Chemical Storage

8. The Proponent shall have a Spill Contingency Plan in place at all fuel storage or transfer locations and shall ensure that appropriate spill response equipment and clean-up materials (e.g., shovels, pumps, barrels, drip pans, and absorbents) are readily available.
9. The Proponent shall follow the authorizing agencies' direction for management and removal of hazardous materials and wastes (e.g., contaminated soils, sediment and waste oil).
10. The Proponent shall ensure that wildlife deterrent systems are utilized at the time of a spill incident in order to avoid wildlife (terrestrial or marine) and migratory birds from being contaminated.

11. The Proponent shall ensure that all spills of fuel or other deleterious materials of 100 litres or more must be reported immediately to the 24-hour Spill Line at (867) 920-8130.

Air Quality

12. The Proponent shall eliminate unnecessary idling to reduce greenhouse gas emissions as much as possible.

Wildlife – General

13. The Proponent shall not substantially alter or damage or destroy any wildlife habitat in conducting this operation unless otherwise authorized by the appropriate authorizing agencies.
14. The Proponent shall ensure that all wildlife have the right-of-way on any roads or trails. Vehicles are required to slow down or stop and wait to permit the free and unrestricted movement of wildlife across roads or trails at any location.

Migratory Birds and Raptors Disturbance

15. The Proponent shall carry out all phases of the project in a manner that protects migratory birds and avoids harming, killing or disturbing migratory birds or destroying, disturbing or taking their nests or eggs. In this regard, the Proponent shall take into account Environment and Climate Change Canada's *Avoidance Guidelines*. The Proponent's actions in applying the *Avoidance Guidelines* shall be in compliance with the *Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994* and with the *Species at Risk Act*.
16. The Proponent shall not disturb or destroy the nests or eggs of any birds. If active nests of any birds are discovered or located (i.e., with eggs or young), the Proponent shall avoid these areas until nesting is complete and the young have naturally left the vicinity of the nest by establishing a protection buffer zone¹ appropriate for the species and the surrounding habitat.

Caribou and Muskoxen Disturbance

17. The Proponent shall avoid interfering with any paths or crossings known to be frequented by caribou during periods of migration as identified by current land use plans in place and/or by Inuit Qaujimaningit.
18. The Proponent shall not locate any operation or undertake activities that could block or cause any diversion to migration of caribou or muskoxen.

Road and Ground Disturbance

19. The Proponent shall not move any equipment or vehicles unless the ground surface is in a state capable of fully supporting the equipment or vehicles without rutting or gouging. Overland travel of equipment or vehicles must be suspended if rutting occurs.

Other

20. The Proponent should engage with local residents regarding planned activities in the area and should solicit available Inuit Qaujimaningit and information regarding current recreational and traditional usage of the project area

which may inform project activities. Posting of translated public notices and direct engagement with potentially interested groups and individuals prior to undertaking project activities is strongly encouraged

21. The Proponent should consult with local residents regarding their activities in the area and solicit available Inuit Qaujimaningit and information that can inform project activities.
22. The Proponent shall ensure that project activities do not interfere with Inuit wildlife harvesting or traditional land use activities.
23. The Proponent should, to the extent possible, hire local people and access local services where possible.