



NIRB File No.: 26EN012

NIRB Public Registry link: [www.nirb.ca/project/126348](http://www.nirb.ca/project/126348)

NPC File No.: 151029

March 10, 2026

John William Tugak  
Inuit Mining & Exploration  
P.O Box 1270  
Rankin Inet, X0C 0G0

Sent via email: [jtugak@hotmail.com](mailto:jtugak@hotmail.com)

**Re: Notice of Screening and Comment Request for Inuit Mining & Exploration's "Cache Zone 2026" project proposal**

Dear John William Tugak:

The Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) has commenced screening<sup>1</sup> 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 March 31, 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); and
- Any matter of importance to the Party related to the project proposal:
  - Whether any cumulative ecosystemic and socio-economic impacts could result from the impacts of the proposed project combined with those of any other project that has been carried out, is being carried out or is likely to be carried out inside the designated area, or wholly or partly outside the designated area.

**The application can be viewed on NIRB's online registry [www.nirb.ca/project/126348](http://www.nirb.ca/project/126348) where a comment form is available, or comments can be also submitted to [info@nirb.ca](mailto:info@nirb.ca), or by fax.**

<sup>1</sup> Pursuant to Article 12, Sections 12.4.1 and 12.4.4 of the *Agreement between the Inuit of the Nunavut Settlement Area and Her Majesty the Queen in right of Canada (Nunavut Agreement)* and s. 87 of the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act*, S.C. 2013, c. 14, s. 2 (NuPPAA)

## *Scope of proposal*

<b>Location</b>	Kivalliq region, 140km northwest of Arviat, 104km west of Whale Cove, and 135km southwest of Rankin Inlet
<b>Objective</b>	The Proponent intends to conduct magnetic surveys using a 3D gradiometer to identify mineralized quartz vein structures, followed by shallow diamond drilling to investigate potential mineralized zones.
<b>Timeline</b>	August 2026

The scope of the project includes the following undertakings, works or activities:

- Use of float plane for travel from Arviat to Quartzite Lake;
- Use of temporary camp for duration of project;
- Conducting magnetic surveys using a 3D gradiometer by foot;
- Use of a shallow backpack diamond drill to conduct drilling within the claim area, totaling up to approximately 60 metres of drilling;
  - Construction of a small sump (approximately 1 metre deep) to contain drilling wastewater;
- Water for camp will manually be retrieved from Quartzite lake;
- Gasoline to be stored in 205 litre drum; and
- Drilling waste and human waste to be disposed of by creating sump and covering with earth.

### *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.

For this assessment, the NIRB and the Nunavut Water Board (NWB) are initiating a coordinated process<sup>2</sup> as the proposal requires a water licence, and the Proponent has indicated they wish to start the Water Licence application process at this time. As a result, the Proponent must provide information during the assessment to satisfy both the impact assessment requirements as well as the water licensing process. At any time, the Proponent has the option to opt out of a coordinated process by providing the request in writing to both the NIRB and the NWB.

Questions about the NIRB's work should be directed to the undersigned at 1-866-233-3033 ext. 555 or [mbeattie@nirb.ca](mailto:mbeattie@nirb.ca).

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<sup>2</sup> The NIRB and the Nunavut Water Board (NWB) are required to coordinate their processes for projects that require a water licence as per Sections 13.5.2 and 13.6.1 of the *Nunavut Agreement*, s. 193 of *NuPPAA*, and s. 37 of the *Nunavut Waters and Nunavut Surface Rights Tribunal Act*.

Sincerely,



Mia Beattie  
Impact Assessment Officer  
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Distribution List  
Dustin Fredlund, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated  
Carson Gillis, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated  
Jorgan Aitaok, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated  
Luis Manzo, Kivalliq Inuit Association  
Ashley Aupaluktuq-Burton, Kivalliq Inuit Association  
Brenda Pilakapsi, Kivalliq Inuit Association  
Justin Buller, Government of Nunavut – Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs  
Dianne Lapierre, Government of Nunavut – Department of Community Services  
Natalie D’Souza, Government of Nunavut – Department of Environment  
Sean Joseph, Government of Nunavut – Department of Environment  
Caroline Whittle, Government of Nunavut – Department of Culture and Heritage  
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Ashley Piskor, Government of Nunavut – Department of Culture and Heritage  
Michele LeBlanc Havard, Government of Nunavut – Department of Environment  
Jon Neely, Government of Nunavut – Department of Environment  
Tracey McCaie, Crown – Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada  
Marcus Bermann, Crown – Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada  
Environment and Climate Change Canada General Inbox  
Jose Audet-Lecouffe, Fisheries and Oceans Canada