



NIRB File No.: 26YN015
NIRB Public Registry link:
www.nirb.ca/project/126354
NPC File No.: 151025

March 12, 2026

Walton Williamson
California Institute of Technology, Jet Propulsion Laboratory (NASA)
4800 Oak Grove Ave
Pasadena CA 91108
United States
Sent via email: walton.williamson@jpl.nasa.gov

Re: Notice of Screening and Comment Request for California Institute of Technology, Jet Propulsion Lab's "CRISTAL Airborne Survey" project proposal

Dear Walton Williamson:

The Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) has commenced screening¹ 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 April 2, 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

The application can be viewed on NIRB's online registry www.nirb.ca/project/126354 where a comment form is available, or comments can be also submitted to info@nirb.ca, or by fax.

¹ 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

Location	In and around Cambridge Bay, spanning across sea ice between the Kitikmeot Region, Qikiqtani Region and the Inuvialuit Region.
Objective	The Proponent intends to conduct aerial surveys to measure sea ice to help develop algorithms for accurately estimating sea ice thickness.
Timeline	April 9, 2026, to April 23, 2026; one-time project with an anticipated duration of approximately two weeks.

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

- **Undertakings, Works and Activities**
 - Proponent intends to conduct aerial surveys over the sea ice between the Inuvialuit Region spreading across the Kitikmeot region and North Qikiqtani region to measure sea ice thickness.
 - Proponent would operate up to two flights a day, departing from and landing at Cambridge Bay.
- **Fuel & Equipment**
 - Use of one Basler BT-67 would be used to carry a group up to 10 people to conduct the aerial survey.
 - Up to 600L of fuel may be used per flight hour.
 - No fuel would be stored on site, refueling would be done prior to departure.
- **Waste**
 - Waste generation is not anticipated as all operations would occur within the aircraft.

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.

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

cc: Distribution List
Cory Barker, Kitikmeot Inuit Association
Tannis Bolt, Kitikmeot Inuit Association
Jared Ottenhof, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Chris Spencer, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Conor Goddard, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Assol Kubeisnova, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Mosha Cote, Government of Nunavut
Justin Buller, Government of Nunavut
Dianne Lapierre, Government of Nunavut
Natalie D'Souza, Government of Nunavut
Nunavut Research Institute
Transport Canada