



NIRB File No.: 26YN016
NIRB Public Registry link:
www.nirb.ca/project/126400
NPC File No.: 151082

March 23, 2026

Erik Sperling
Stanford University,
California, USA

Sent via email: esper@stanford.edu

Re: Notice of Screening and Comment Request for Stanford University's "Testing the impact of early land plants on the Earth system" project proposal

Dear Erik Sperling:

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 13, 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 (link above) 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	Qikiqtani region, with primary field locations at Read Bay on Cornwallis Island and Twilight Creek on Bathurst Island, including additional potential sites near Resolute Bay (Signal Hill and Cape Martyr), Somerset Island, and Truro Island.
Objective	The Proponent intends to characterize geological rock layers through field observations and the collection of rock samples from exposed outcrops surrounding temporary research camps.
Timeline	July 4, 2026, to August 4, 2026, one season of field work.

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

- Travel to Read Bay via helicopter and to Twilight Creek via fixed wing aircraft from Resolute Bay. If Twilight Creek is not accessible, an alternative location would be Truro Island. Access Cape Martyr and Signal Hill will occur by foot or by bicycle.
 - Requesting access to the Aston Bay mineral exploration camp to study previously collected drill core
- Set up temporary camps at each location
 - Read Bay camp: eight people for approximately 8 to 10 days
 - Twilight Creek camp: six people for approximately 6 to 7 days
- Use of small sleeper tents, and one central cooking/working tent
- Water will be sourced from a nearby creek (approximately 25 L per day)
- Use of propane and gasoline for cooking on stoves and use of a small generator
- Collection of approximately 300–400 outcrop samples (~100 g each), typically at intervals of approximately one metre, using hand tools (e.g., geological hammer or shovel).

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 867-983-4606 or jtakkiruuq@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



Jordan Takkiruq
Impact Assessment Officer
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Distribution List
Richard Dwyer, Nunavut Water Board
Jared Ottenhof, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Chris Spencer, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Conor Goddard, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Assol Kubeisinova, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Caroline Whittle, Government of Nunavut Culture and Heritage
Adam Pollack, Government of Nunavut Culture and Heritage
Ashely Piskor, Government of Nunavut Culture and Heritage
Moshha Cote, Government of Nunavut, Nunavut Research Institute
Justin Buller, Government of Nunavut
Dianne Lapierre, Government of Nunavut
Natalie D'Souza, Government of Nunavut
Sean Joseph, Government of Nunavut
Maryse Mahy, Parks Canada