



NIRB File No.: 26YN021

NIRB Public Registry link: www.nirb.ca/project/126430

NPC File No.: 151061

March 25, 2026

Ross Lieblappen
Vermont State University
124 Admin Drive
Randolph Center, VT
05061
United States of America

Sent via email: ross.lieblappen@vermontstate.edu

Re: Notice of Screening and Comment Request for Vermont State University's "Vermont State University" project proposal

Dear Ross Lieblappen:

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 15, 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/126430 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, within the municipal boundaries of the community of Resolute Bay, and at Eureka
Objective	The Proponent intends to conduct scientific research to improve characterization of various polar terrains from the microscale and into the nanoscale using X-ray computed tomography.
Timeline	June to July 2026

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

- Collect up to five (5) permafrost cores and up to five (5) ice cores at both locations;
 - Transportation via truck to three (3) to five (5) locations in the Resolute Bay harbour;
 - Transportation via All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) to three (3) to five (5) locations outside of Eureka;
 - Core size approximately one (1) metre in length and 7.5 centimeter in diameter;
- Hiring of local services for ice/animal guiding from Viventem company as well as a local guide from Resolute Bay if ice conditions allow; and,
- Use of accommodation and facilities in Resolute Bay and the Eureka site.

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 1-866-233-3033 ext. 555 or mbeattie@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



Mia Beattie
Impact Assessment Officer
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Distribution List
Richard Dwyer, Nunavut Water Board
Jared Ottenhoff, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Chris Spencer, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Conor Goddard, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Assol Kubesinova, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Mosha Cote, Nunavut Research Institute
Tracey McCaie, Crown – Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada
Marcus Bermann, Crown – Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada
Jose Audet-Lecouffe, Fisheries and Oceans Canada