



**NIRB File No.: 16YN041**  
NPC File No.: 148305

July 8, 2016

Marie Cardona  
Advisian, Worley Parsons Group  
Suite 600, Willingdon Park Phase 6,  
4321 Still Creek Drive  
Burnaby, BC V5C 6S7

Sent via email: [marie.cardona@advisian.com](mailto:marie.cardona@advisian.com)

**Re: Opportunity to address comments received regarding Advisian's "Geotechnical and Environmental Baseline Studies-Iqaluit Port Development" project proposal**

Dear Marie Cardona:

On June 8, 2016 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received a referral to screen Advisian's "Geotechnical and Environmental Baseline Studies-Iqaluit Port Development" project proposal from the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC or Commission). On June 24, 2016 the NIRB circulated a public notice of the screening for this project, inviting interested parties to provide comments directly to the NIRB by July 4, 2016.

On or before July 4, 2016 the NIRB received comments from the following interested parties:

- Qikiqtani Inuit Association (QIA)
- Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO)
- Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC)
- Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC)
- Sinaakuut Support Group (SSG)

All comment submissions received by the NIRB relating to this project proposal can be obtained from the NIRB's online public registry at [www.nirb.ca](http://www.nirb.ca) by using any of the following search criteria:

- Project Name: Geotechnical and Environmental Baseline Field Studies - Iqaluit Port Development
- NIRB File No.: 16YN041
- Application No.: 124673

A *summary* of the public concerns reflected in the comment submissions relate to the following:

- Several aquatic species, specifically beluga whale, bowhead whale, killer whale, narwhal and Atlantic walrus, which are currently listed under the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada, and of special concern may be using the proposed work area;
- DFO recommended that the proposed work area be monitored for marine mammal presence prior to the commencement of in-water works, and that all activities cease if marine mammals are observed within or approaching the work location, and only recommence project activities when marine mammals have left the area;
- DFO recommended that the Proponent avoid causing serious harm to fish, and notify DFO if it has caused, or is about to cause, serious harm to fish that are part of or support a commercial, recreational or Aboriginal Fishery;
- The Proponent should provide additional information regarding the approximate number and size of the geotechnical drilling holes, including detailed substrate information and fish use in the area of the proposed works;
- The Spill Prevention Plan (the Plan) does not include details on the spill kits and location of the Plan on site, and further recommended that the proponent list the contents of the spill kits, including copies of the Plan on site with the spill kits, and noting where fuel or hazardous materials are stored;
- The Proponent is required to provide information regarding delineation and characterization of the dredge site including disposal site if disposal at sea is to be used for the proposed works, including additional information on the oceanography, biological, chemical and physical properties of the disposal site;
- Issues noted with respect to the proposed new port facility and specifically concerns regarding the potential for increased traffic, public safety, environmental changes including privacy and aesthetic impacts on the neighbourhood; and
- SSG requested an opportunity for neighbourhood briefings, and follow-up discussion with the Proponent to review development plans and approaches including impact predictions.

The NIRB would like to provide Advisian with an opportunity to address the comments noted above prior to the Board rendering its determination for this screening assessment and issuing its subsequent Screening Decision Report to the responsible Minister(s). The NIRB respectfully requests that a response be provided directly to the NIRB by **July 22, 2016**.

If Advisian determines that the time required to supply a written response is significantly greater than 2 weeks, the Board requests written notification and an anticipated date for submission be provided as soon as possible.

Please send any forthcoming submissions directly to the NIRB at [info@nirb.ca](mailto:info@nirb.ca) or via fax at **(867) 983-2594**.

If you have any questions or require clarification, feel free to contact the undersigned at (867) 983-4603 or at [samuno@nirb.ca](mailto:samuno@nirb.ca).

Sincerely,



Solomon Amuno, PhD  
Technical Advisor  
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc:      Distribution List  
         Karén Kharatyan, Nunavut Water Board  
         Mosha Cote, Nunavut Research Institute  
         Joel Fortier, Qikiqtani Inuit Association  
         Mike Immaroito, Government of Nunavut-Community and Government Services  
         Tracey McCaie, Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada  
         Andrea Markey, Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada  
         Michael Sewchand, Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada  
         Melissa Pinto, Environment and Climate Change Canada  
         Georgina Williston, Fisheries and Oceans Canada  
         Thomas Hoggarth, Fisheries and Oceans Canada