



**NIRB File No.: 15EN028**

NPC File No.: 148367

*Associated NPC File No.: 148166*

KIA File Nos.: KVL115B02; KVL315B01; KVRW16F01

INAC File No.: N2015C0019

NWB File No.: 2BE-KDP---

February 28, 2017

To: The Honourable Carolyn Bennett  
Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs  
Government of Canada  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

cc: David Ningeongan  
President  
Kivalliq Inuit Association  
P.O. Box 340  
Rankin Inlet, NU X0C 0G0

Sent via email: [minister@aadnc-aandc.gc.ca](mailto:minister@aadnc-aandc.gc.ca); [carolyn.bennett@canada.ca](mailto:carolyn.bennett@canada.ca);  
[dningeongan@kivalliqinuit.ca](mailto:dningeongan@kivalliqinuit.ca)

**Re: Screening Decision for Dunnedin Ventures Inc.'s "Kahuna Diamond Project" Proposal, Kivalliq Region**

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Dear Ms. Carolyn Bennett:

On November 9, 2016 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received a referral to screen Dunnedin Ventures Inc.'s (Dunnedin) modified "Kahuna Diamond Project" project proposal from the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC or Commission). The NPC noted within its correspondence that the modified project proposal conforms to the Keewatin Regional Land Use Plan and that past determinations issued April 28, 2015 and January 7, 2016 (NPC File No. 148166) for associated works and activities continue to apply.

The current project proposal is a modified version of the "Kahuna Diamond Project – 2016" project proposal (NIRB File No.: 15EN028), previously referred to the NIRB on January 7, 2016 for screening pursuant to section 87 of the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act* (NuPPAA). On April 4, 2016 the NIRB issued a screening decision under NuPPAA subsection

92(1)(c) determining that due to specific concerns, the project should be modified or abandoned. As outlined in the Board's screening decision report, concerns raised during the NIRB's assessment of the original project proposal related to the lack of adequate community consultation during the project's development and corresponding issues with the project's potential impacts on wildlife and wildlife habitat; soil, water and air; culturally and archaeologically sensitive areas; and the cumulative impacts of past and ongoing mining activity. On August 15, 2016 the Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs (the Minister), on behalf of the Responsible Ministers for the proposed project, accepted the Board's determination and directed the Proponent to clearly indicate any changes made to the project should they choose to submit a modified project proposal in the future which addresses the Board's concerns.

In accordance with the Minister's direction, the Proponent indicated that the modified "Kahuna Diamond Project" proposal contains various updated operational protocols, wildlife and environmental mitigation and monitoring measures, an archaeological assessment, letters of support, records of community consultations, and supplemental information to address concerns raised during the NIRB's assessment of the original project proposal. The Proponent also indicated that the modified proposal and associated commitments were developed through consultation with community groups and representative bodies in Rankin Inlet and Chesterfield Inlet, with consideration provided for recommendations received from regulatory authorities during the NIRB's previous assessment.

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 section 87 of the NuPPAA, the NIRB commenced screening this project proposal. Due to the proposal being a modified re-submission of the project previously assessed activities under NIRB file number **15EN028**, the NIRB assigned this proposal to the previous file number.

Following the assessment of all material information provided, the NIRB is recommending that a review of Dunnedin's "Kahuna Diamond Project" is not required pursuant to paragraph 92(1)(a) of the NuPPAA.

Pursuant to its discretion under paragraph 92(2)(a) of the NuPPAA, the NIRB has determined that specific terms and conditions are appropriate for this modified project.

Accordingly, the NIRB is issuing the attached Screening Decision Report dated February 28, 2017 to the responsible Minister(s). The Screening Decision Report provides, among other things, the regulatory framework, project overview and the NIRB's assessment process, factors relevant for the determining significance of impacts and recommended project-specific terms and conditions.

Please note that the project proposal will not be enclosed due to the size of the electronic document and the limited bandwidth. However, an electronic copy of the project proposal is accessible online 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: Kahuna Diamond Project
- NIRB File No.: 15EN028
- Application No.: 125023

We look forward to receiving a response from the responsible Minister. If you have any questions or require clarification, please do not hesitate to contact the NIRB's Director, Technical Services, Tara Arko at (867) 983-4611 or [tarko@nirb.ca](mailto:tarko@nirb.ca).

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Copland, Chairperson  
Nunavut Impact Review Board

Enclosure: Screening Decision Report, NIRB File No.: 15EN028 (February 28, 2017)