



Nunavut Regional Office
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CIDMS # 1157320

July 5, 2017

Shanley Thompson, PhD
Technical Advisor II
Nunavut Impact Review Board
P.O. Box 1360
Cambridge Bay, NU, X0B 0C0
Via electronic mail to: info@nirb.ca

Re: Notice of Screening for the Government of Nunavut – Community and Government Services’ “3AM-ARV1016 Water Reservoir Cell #3” Project Proposal

Dear Dr. Thompson,

On June 14, 2017 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) invited parties to comment on the Government of Nunavut – Community and Government Services “3AM-ARV1016 Water Reservoir Cell #3” project proposal. Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) appreciates the opportunity to provide comments and offers the response below as it pertains to the NIRB’s request:

Whether the project proposal is likely to arouse significant public concern; and if so, why;

The Proponent and its design consultant (Exp Services Inc.) had a preliminary meeting with the Hamlet Council of Arviat on November 1, 2016, and the Hamlet Council gave its approval of the project on May 5, 2017. However, INAC is unable to offer comments on whether the proposed project is likely to arouse significant public concern since the project application does not contain any detailed records of community engagement/consultation activities undertaken by the Proponent to discuss community concerns regarding the proposed activities.



Whether the project proposal is likely to cause significant adverse eco-systemic or socio-economic effects; and if so, why;

The proposed project has the potential to cause permafrost degradation. INAC notes that in the “**Details Part 2**” of the project application, the Proponent has proposed to mitigate permafrost impacts “during construction by excavating and installing the liner quickly as to not allow the ground to thaw”. The Proponent has also submitted the Final Schematic Design Report and Geotechnical Investigation prepared by Exp Services Inc. for the proposed project, which present further recommendations and designs to mitigate permafrost degradation. It is not clear from the project application if the company that will be hired to carry out the construction work will be required to follow the recommendations from Exp Services Inc. INAC recommends the Proponent provide some clarification on its plan to incorporate permafrost protection measures during construction.

INAC appreciates the opportunity to provide comments and looks forward to working with the NIRB and the Proponent throughout any further review phases related to this project. Should you have any questions, please contact Julia Prokopick at (867) 975-4567 or by e-mail at julia.prokopick@aandc-aadnc.gc.ca .

Sincerely,

[Original Signed by]

Felexce Ngwa
A/Manager, Impact Assessment