

August 8, 2017

Tara Arko
Director, Technical Services
Nunavut Impact Review Board
P.O Box 1360
Cambridge Bay, NU X0B 0C0

Sent VIA Email: info@nirb.ca

RE: Comment Request for GN-CGS' "Pond Inlet marine infrastructure" project proposal (NIRB File No. 17XN030)

Dear Tara Arko,

On behalf of the Government of Nunavut (GN), I would like to thank the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) for the opportunity to provide comments on GN-CGS' "*Pond Inlet marine infrastructure*" project proposal.

The GN has reviewed the proposed project and provides our comments in the following appendix.

Should you have any concerns with our comments, please contact me by phone at 867-975-7830 or by email at ezell@gov.nu.ca.

Qujannamiik,

[Original Signed By]

Erika Zell
Avatiliriniq Coordinator
Government of Nunavut

GN-01: Archaeological resources	
Department	Culture and Heritage
Organization	Government of Nunavut
Subject/Topic	Unidentified sites and cultural features
References	NIRB Notice of Screening; project location map
CONCERNS	
<p>The Nunavut archaeological site database indicates that there are four (4) archaeological sites in the general area proposed for the project development. This however does not preclude the presence of unidentified sites or cultural features as to this day no systematic archaeological reconnaissance has been conducted in this area.</p> <p>The proponent is planning a marine infrastructure project between 2018 and 2020. The scope of the project includes the following activities: construction of two rock breakwaters protecting a 2.5 hectare inward-facing harbor; floating docks; a sealift ramp; sealift laydown area; parking area; access/ hauling road(s); quarrying activities involving vegetation clearing and overburden removal; drilling and blasting; transportation, sorting, crushing, screening and stockpiling. The quarry source is located about 5km from the hamlet.</p>	
SUGGESTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	
<p>The Department of Culture and Heritage recommends that the proponent:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Hire a qualified archaeologist to conduct an overview assessment of the study area; (2) Conduct a field assessment of the complete footprint of the project area and associated components including the access/haul routes and quarry borrow source, and all other locations where land disturbance activities are planned to occur. <p>A thorough archaeological assessment will assist in determining the archaeological potential of the area and formulating mitigation plans for any archaeological resources that will be affected by the development.</p>	
ADDITIONAL COMMENTS	

All archaeological and palaeontological sites in Nunavut are protected by law. The applicant must understand that it is their responsibility to ensure that no heritage resource sites are disturbed in the course of their activities. No person shall alter, or otherwise disturb an archaeological site, or remove any artifact from an archaeological site. Moreover, the building of inuksuit is not recommended.

GN-02: Tourism potential	
Department	Economic Development and Transportation
Organization	Government of Nunavut
Subject/Topic	Tourism potential
References	NIRB Notice of Screening
CONCERNS	
The Department of Economic Development and Transportation (Tourism and Cultural Industries) does not have any concerns regarding this project at this time.	
SUGGESTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	
N/A	
ADDITIONAL COMMENTS	
<p>Under Nunavut's Marine Tourism Management Plan (2016-2019), one of the Tourism and Cultural Industries (TCI) division's four main goals is to prepare products and services for marine tourism. Identifying, assessing, and addressing infrastructure needs is integral to providing a competitive cruise product. In general, increasing the amount of small craft harbours in Nunavut has significant benefits for cruise tourism.</p> <p>As Pond Inlet is already the most visited hamlet by cruise ships in the territory, TCI strongly supports the small craft harbor project. Immediate benefits include eliminating the need to zodiac passengers to shore, which is heavily dependent on weather conditions. This could lead to increased cruise visits, which in turn could result in increased benefits flowing into the community through the levying of service and landing fees, increased art purchases, and increased payments for performances and other cultural products.</p>	

GN-03: Opportunities for Nunavummiut	
Department	Family Services
Organization	Government of Nunavut
Subject/Topic	Opportunities for Nunavummiut
References	NIRB Notice of Screening
CONCERNS	
<p>The Department of Family Services (Career Development) recognizes the employment and training opportunities specifically discussed in the non-technical summary document included in the application materials. In particular, we hope the proponent will make all efforts needed to comply with the NNI Policy and continues to prioritize making economic opportunities associated with the proposed project accessible to local Nunavummiut.</p>	
SUGGESTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	
<p>There are a variety of Career Development Services available to Nunavummiut, including the regional Career Development Officers (CDOs) within the Career Development division at Family Services. There is a specific CDO that serves Pond Inlet – this individual and their coworkers in the Baffin region are available to support the employment and training objectives outlined in this project summary. This includes connecting a work ready population with new labour market opportunities. Baffin region CDOs can be reached at 1-800-567-1514.</p>	
ADDITIONAL COMMENTS	
N/A	