



NIRB File No.: 18TN035
NPC File No.: 148834

July 26, 2018

To: The Honourable Marc Garneau, P.C.
Minister of Transport
Government of Canada
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Sent via email: questions@tc.gc.ca

Re: Screening Decision for Hurtigruten AS's "MS FRAM The Northwest Passage - In the Wake of Great Explorers" project proposal, Qikiqtani and Kitikmeot Regions

Dear Honourable Minister:

On June 4, 2018 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received a referral to screen Hurtigruten AS's "MS FRAM The Northwest Passage - In the Wake of Great Explorers" project proposal from the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC or Commission) with an accompanying positive conformity determination with the North Baffin Regional Land Use Plan.

Please note that the referral from the NPC was triggered by cumulative effects concerns pursuant to s. 80(1) of *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act*, S.C. 2013, c. 14, s. 2 (*NuPPAA*) and are related to:

- a) Nearby projects that have been carried out, are being carried out, or have been proposed, including projects associated with Marine based tourism, scientific research, and minerals and mining freight shipping.
- b) Lancaster Sound and other areas surrounding the project itinerary have been identified as having value and priority for local communities for the following reasons:
 - i. Narwhal calving, whale, fish and seal habitats, bird nesting and char spawning; caribou sea ice crossing;
 - ii. Traditional harvesting of whales, seals, fish, caribou and birds;
 - iii. Access by boats to summer camps and travel to other communities;
 - iv. Historic sites, including sod houses; and
 - v. General concerns about the negative impact of cruise ships and mineral shipping on marine mammals.

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*), the NIRB commenced screening this project proposal and assigned it file number 18TN035.

Following the assessment of all material information provided, the NIRB is recommending that a review of Hurtigruten AS's "*MS FRAM* The Northwest Passage - In the Wake of Great Explorers" project proposal 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 project.

Accordingly, the NIRB is issuing the attached Screening Decision Report dated July 26, 2018 to the responsible Minister. 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/project/125338.

Please note that, the Board only directly addresses these notice letters to those individuals considered to be a "responsible Minister with decision-making authority" for the project as set out under the *NuPPAA*. However, regulatory authorities and other authorizing agencies associated with a proposed project (e.g. Regional Inuit Associations, Nunavut Water Board) will continue to be copied on the Notice of Release of the Screening Decision Report. The NIRB is providing these parties with notice and access to the Board's Screening Decision Report as required under s. 200(2) and in support of these parties in the fulfillment of their responsibilities under the *NuPPAA* and the *Nunavut Agreement* to address, and as appropriate, implement, to the fullest extent possible, any relevant NIRB recommendations contained in the Screening Decision Report.

We look forward to receiving a response from the responsible Minister and the NIRB remains available for consultation with the Minister regarding this report as necessary. 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.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Copland, Chairperson
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: The Honourable David Joanisie, Minister of Culture and Heritage, Government of Nunavut
The Honourable Jeannie Ehloak, Minister of Environment, Government of Nunavut

The Honourable David Akeeagok, Minister of Economic Development and Transportation,
Government of Nunavut
P.J. Akeeagok, President Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Stanley Anablak, President, Kitikmeot Inuit Association

Enclosure: Screening Decision Report, NIRB File No.: 18TN035 (July 26, 2018)