



NIRB File No.: 18UN050
NPC File No.: 148937

January 31, 2019

To: The Honourable Dominic LeBlanc, P.C., Q.C., M.P.
Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs and Northern Affairs and Internal Trade
House of Commons
Government of Canada
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Sent via email: Dominic.leblanc@parl.gc.ca and Dominic.LeBlanc@iga-aig.gc.ca

Re: Extension Request for NIRB Screening of the Government of Nunavut's "Undersea Fibre Optic Cable Installation" Project Proposal

Dear Honourable Minister:

On December 3, 2018 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received a referral to screen the Government of Nunavut (GN)'s "Undersea Fibre Optic Cable Installation" project proposal from the Nunavut Planning Commission for screening, pursuant to Part 3 of the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act*, S.C. 2013, c. 14, s. 2 (*NuPPAA*). **Pursuant to s. 92(4) of the *NuPPAA*, the NIRB hereby requests that the responsible Minister extend the period for the submission of the Board's written report for the screening of this project proposal, NIRB File No. 18UN050.**

On December 3, 2018 the NIRB requested that the Proponent complete the online application form through the NIRB's public registry system and ensure, pursuant to s. 144(1) of the *NuPPAA*, that sufficient information is provided to determine the scope of the project activities being proposed and commence screening. On December 19, 2018 the NIRB received the required additional information and commenced the screening pursuant to Part 3 of the *NuPPAA*. On December 20, 2018 the NIRB distributed notice of the project proposal to potentially affected communities and interested parties with a request for comments to be submitted for the Board's consideration by January 16, 2019. Following the conclusion of the commenting period, the NIRB determined that more information on potential impacts and the applicable regulatory oversight for the project would be required from regulators prior to the Board making its screening determination, therefore additional time is required to receive these submissions.

All documents received and pertaining to the NIRB's screening of this project proposal can be accessed from the NIRB's online public registry at www.nirb.ca/project/125425.

The NIRB is unable to provide its written report for the screening of this project proposal within the 45 days as set out in the *NuPPAA*. The NIRB anticipates that the screening of this project

proposal will be completed by **February 20, 2019**, at which time a screening decision report will be submitted to the responsible Minister for consideration; should any additional time be required to conclude the screening process, the NIRB commits to providing further updates as deemed appropriate.

If this request is approved, NIRB understands that the Minister will notify the Proponent and the NIRB of the extension.

If you have any questions or require clarification regarding this request, please contact our office toll free at 1-866-233-3033.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ryan Barry". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Ryan Barry
Executive Director
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Jean-Francois Bouchard, Government of Nunavut – Community and Government Services
The Honourable Navdeep Bains, P.C., Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development
The Honourable Lorne Kusugak, Minister of Community & Government Services
P.J Akeegok, President, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Sean Joseph, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Robert Chapple, Community & Government Services
Tineka Simmons, Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency
Agnes Simonfalvy, Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency
Tracey McCaie, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada
Ryan Calvery, Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada