



NIRB File No.: 19PN003
NPC File No.: 148988

April 9, 2019

To: Brian Aglukark
Director of Policy and Planning
Nunavut Planning Commission
P.O. Box 419
Arviat, NU X0C 0E0

Sent via email: aglukark@nunavut.ca

Re: Notice of Inclusion to Scope of the Hamlet of Naujaat's "Community Access Trail" Project Proposal

Dear Brian Aglukark:

On January 14, 2019 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received the Hamlet of Naujaat's "Community Access Trail" project proposal from the Nunavut Planning Commission (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. 86(3) of the *NuPPAA*, the NIRB is providing notice to the Commission that, following consultation with the proponent, an inclusion has been made to the scope of the project and the NIRB is unable to proceed with screening until the updated scope of the project has been considered by the Commission.

Project History

Following receipt of the project and referral for screening from the Commission, on January 14, 2019 the NIRB requested that the Proponent complete the Board's online application form through the NIRB's public registry system. The Proponent was asked to ensure, pursuant to s. 144(1) of the *NuPPAA*, that the information provided is sufficient to determine the scope of the project activities being proposed and facilitate the public screening process. Following a preliminary completeness check of the proposal as submitted, the NIRB determined that the proposal did *not* contain the necessary information for the NIRB to carry out its screening. On February 8, 2019 and March 5, 2019 the NIRB requested that the Hamlet of Naujaat provide additional information in support of this proposal. On March 11, 2019 the NIRB received an amended application and initiated its preliminary completeness check.

On March 20, 2019 the Board notified the Proponent that additional works and activities were identified to those specified within the scope of the project as submitted, and that appeared to be sufficiently related so as to form part of the project under assessment. The NIRB requested that the Hamlet of Naujaat provide comments to the NIRB by April 1, 2019 regarding the potential inclusions to the scope being contemplated. The Hamlet of Naujaat provided correspondence in

response on March 30, 2019 noting support of the project proposal and the importance of the project to allow future access to granular sources, economic growth in tourism, cultural programs and other land-based programs; no comments directly applicable to the proposed inclusion to the project scope were provided.

Project Scope:

As described by the Proponent in the project proposal provided to the Commission, the proposed “Naujaat Community Access Trail” project is located within the municipal boundaries of Naujaat, in the Kivalliq region, up to 15 kilometres (km) northeast from the community. The Hamlet of Naujaat (the Proponent) intends to develop a 15 km all-weather access road following an existing all-terrain vehicle (ATV) trail, including the construction of a bridge, and multiple culverts. The purpose of the road is to allow safer access by community members to hunting grounds, access to gravel and carving stone resources, the development of eco-tourism and educational opportunities and the facilitation of industrial opportunities. The construction is proposed to take place from August 2019 to October 2019.

The Hamlet has coordinated with three (3) companies to develop the proposal and receive assistance with required engineering, environmental studies, permitting, early-stage financing and potential construction: Onsite Engineering Ltd. (routing, design and potential construction of the trail), Ecologic Consultants Ltd. (permitting and environmental studies) and North Arrow Minerals (logistics and funding for Onsite and Ecologic’s preconstruction work on the trail). North Arrow Minerals Inc. (North Arrow) operates the Naujaat Diamond Project (formerly the Qilalugaq Project, NIRB File No. 12EN012), an ongoing diamond exploration program within the municipality boundaries of Naujaat. The project proposal notes that the trail could be used by North Arrow to access mineral tenure and the NIRB understands that North Arrow’s intention is to develop a spur road from its mineral tenure to connect with and utilize the Hamlet’s trail once constructed. Further, in its 2018 Annual Report submitted to the NIRB on December 10, 2018, North Arrow indicated that the trail would be essential to the next stage of the assessment for the Naujaat Diamond Project which would involve transporting 10,000 tonnes of Q1-4 kimberlite bulk sample back to Naujaat for processing. The NIRB expects that potential future connection of North Arrow’s mineral tenure and utilization of the Hamlet road to support mineral exploration activities would be assessed as a significant amendment to the Naujaat Diamond Project, NIRB File No. 12EN012, should it be formally proposed.

Pursuant to s. 86(1) of the *NuPPAA*, from the materials provide in support of the project proposal the NIRB identified the following works or activities as comprising the scope of this proposed project:

- Construction of a 15 km all weather access road;
- Construction of a clear span bridge;
- Installation of ditches, diversion channels, riprap and approximately six (6) culverts along road;
- Use of erosion and sediment control methods (e.g., application of mulches, erosion control products in ditches, topsoil re-application and seeding, rock and or sandbag check dams, polyethylene sheeting and other soil covers, sediment fencing, berms or earth dykes, sediment retention ponds, pumps and sediment filter bags, flocculants or chemical additives);

- Use of heavy equipment (dump trucks, bulldozer, excavators, grader, crusher, compactor and water truck) to conduct general earth works and the development of the road; and
- Use of local facilities in Naujaat for accommodations, water source and waste management.

In addition to the scope as described above, pursuant to *NuPPAA* paragraph 86(1)(a), the NIRB also identified the following additional works or activities as being sufficiently related to the project to form part of it:

- Borrow sites and other gravel quarries along the road alignment; and
- Potential for blasting of bedrock exposures to make riprap and rock fills.

Based on the comments received from the Proponent and in review of the project proposal, the NIRB has determined pursuant that an inclusion under s. 86(1)(a) of the *NuPPAA* is warranted as the activities as listed above is sufficiently related to the project to form part of it. As the Board recognizes that these activities may require specific government authorizations involving responsible authorities not clearly identified in the project proposal submitted to the Commission, the NIRB considers this inclusion to the scope of the project to be warranted. The NIRB is providing this notice to allow the Commission to exercise its powers and perform its duties and functions in relation to the entire project.

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/125448.

The NIRB looks forward to receiving further direction from the Commission regarding whether the proposed project and updated scope of activities is in conformity with any applicable land use plans for the area. If you have any questions or require clarification, please Sophia Granchinho, Manager of Impact Assessment at (867) 857-4829 or sgranchinho@nirb.ca or Talia Maksagak, Junior Technical Advisor at (867) 983-5627 or tmaksagak@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



Tara Arko, Director Technical Services
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Kevin Tegumiar, Senior Administrative Office, Hamlet of Naujaat
Jason Jones, Ecologic Consultants
Jonathan Savoy, Nunavut Planning Commission
Peter Scholz, Nunavut Planning Commission