



NIRB File No.: 19PN003
NPC File No.: 148988 and 149131

May 7, 2019

Mayor of Naujaat
Hamlet of Naujaat
P.O. Box 10
Naujaat, NU X0C 0H0

Sent via email: saonaujaat@qiniq.com.

Re: Notice of Screening for Hamlet of Naujaat's "Community Access Trail" Project Proposal

Dear Mayor of Naujaat:

On January 14, 2019 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received a referral to screen Hamlet of Naujaat's "Community Access Trail" project proposal from the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC or Commission), with an accompanying positive conformity determination with the Keewatin Regional Land Use Plan. On April 9, 2019 the NIRB issued a notice to the Commission that, following consultation with the Proponent, an inclusion has been made to the scope of the project under s. 86(1)(a) of the *NuPPAA*. On April 26, 2019, the NIRB received a second referral from the NPC for the inclusion activities noting that the previous conformity determination issued on January 14, 2019 continues to apply.

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 has commenced screening this project proposal and has assigned it file number **19PN003**.

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. On February 8, 2019 the NIRB followed up with the Proponent requesting an online application, and on February 22, 2019 the NIRB received an application and 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 March 5, 2019 requested that the Proponent provide the Board with the additional information in order to carry out the screening of the project proposal which was followed by submission of an amended application on March 11, 2019.

On March 20, 2019 the Board notified the Proponent that additional works and activities had been 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.

On April 9, 2019 the NIRB provided notice to the Commission that, following consultation with the Proponent, an inclusion had been made to the scope of the project pursuant to s. 86(1)(a) of the *NuPPAA* and that the NIRB was unable to proceed with screening until the updated scope of the project had been considered by the Commission. The NIRB noted that an inclusion was warranted as the activities as listed below was sufficiently related to the original project to form part of it.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Project Scope:

The proposed “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, operate and maintain a 15 km all-weather community access road with a bridge and multiple culverts following an existing all-terrain vehicle (ATV) trail. 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 with operation and maintenance to commence following construction activities.

According to the project proposal, the scope of the project includes the following undertakings, works or activities:

- 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, flocculents, 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 as well as maintenance of the road;

- Ongoing operations and maintenance of road, culvert and bridge following construction; and
- Use of local facilities in Naujaat for accommodations, water source, and waste management.

Inclusion or Exclusion of Scoping List

In addition to the scope as described above and pursuant to paragraph 86(1)(a) of the *NuPPAA*, the NIRB has identified additional works to be sufficiently related to the project to form part of it. Following consultation with the Proponent and a referral by the Commission on April 26, 2019, the NIRB resumed the assessment of the project proposal and included the following within the scope of the project:

- Eight (8) borrow sites and other gravel quarries along the road alignment and any access roads as required; and
- Potential for blasting of bedrock exposures to make riprap and rock fills.

At this time, the NIRB has identified no additional works or activities in relation to the project proposal. As a result, the NIRB will proceed with screening the project based on the scope as described above. However, the NIRB notes that any additional quarry sources not identified in the application that may be used by the Hamlet of Naujaat would require a separate assessment by the NIRB under s. 86 of the *NuPPAA*.

It is also noted that 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.

REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

All documents received and pertaining to this project proposal can be accessed from the NIRB's online public registry at www.nirb.ca/project/125448.

The documents received include:

- *NPC Screening Referral and Conformity Determination*
- *NPC Application and Conformity Questionnaire*
- *NIRB's Online Application Form*
- *Non-technical Project Proposal summary in English, French, and Inuktitut*
- *Maps noting proposed community access trail route, bridge, culverts, quarry sites*
- *Supplemental information*

The NIRB will copy you on screening process related correspondence and upload related documents to the NIRB's online registry for public access. The NIRB may request additional information at any time during the process.

The NIRB is copying parties and municipalities potentially affected by Hamlet of Naujaat project proposal with this letter, and we invite interested parties to comment directly to the NIRB by **May 28, 2019**.

The NIRB would like parties to provide comments regarding:

- Whether the project proposal is likely to arouse significant public concern; and if so, why;
- Whether the project proposal is likely to cause significant adverse eco-systemic or socio-economic effects; and if so, why;
- Whether the project proposal is likely to cause significant adverse impacts on wildlife habitat or Inuit harvest activities; and if so, why;
- Whether the project proposal is of a type where the potential adverse effects are highly predictable and mitigable with known technology, (and providing any recommended mitigation measures); and
- Any matter of importance to the Party related to the project proposal including if a Review is required any additional factors that should be considered as part of that process.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Please send your comments to the NIRB via email at info@nirb.ca, via fax at (867) 983-2594 or via the individual project dashboard for this assessment on the NIRB's online public registry at www.nirb.ca/project/125448.

If you have any questions or require clarification, please contact the undersigned at (867) 983-5627 or at tmaksagak@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



Talia Maksagak
Junior Technical Advisor
Nunavut Impact Review Board

Enclosures (4): Public Notice of Screening (English and Inuktitut)
Comment Forms (English and Inuktitut)

cc: Distribution List
Jason Jones, Ecologic Consultants
Richard Dwyer, Nunavut Water Board
Luis Manzo, Kivalliq Inuit Association
Maria Serra, Kivalliq Inuit Association
Brenda Osmond, Kivalliq Inuit Association
Ashley Burton, Kivalliq Inuit Association
Randy Mercer, Government of Nunavut, Community and Government Services
Mark D'Aguiar, Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Prairies and Territories Office, Transport Canada
Peter Unger, Natural Resources Canada
Rob Johnstone, Natural Resources Canada