



NIRB File No.: 18YN029

Related to NIRB File No. 17YN016

NPC File No.: 149083

Related to NPC File No.: 148421, 148442, 148813

May 16, 2019

To: The Honourable Catherine McKenna, P.C.
Minister of Environment and Climate
Change
Government of Canada
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

The Honourable Jonathan Wilkinson, P.C.
Minister of Fisheries and Oceans and the
Canadian Coast Guard
Government of Canada
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Sent via email: ec.ministre-minister.ec@canada.ca; catherine.mckenna@parl.gc.ca; min@dfompo.gc.ca and jonathan.wilkinson@parl.gc.ca

Re: Extension Request for NIRB Screening of University of Rhode Island's "URI Northwest Passage Project 2019" Project Proposal

Dear Honourable Ministers:

On March 25, 2019 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received the University of Rhode Island's (URI) "URI Northwest Passage Project 2019" 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 Ministers extend the period for the submission of the Board's written report for the screening of this project proposal, NIRB File No. 18YN029.**

On March 25, 2019 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. 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 and on April 9, 2019 requested that the Proponent provide the Board with the additional information in order to carry out the screening of the project proposal. On April 12, 2019 the NIRB received the required additional information and commenced the screening pursuant to Part 3 of the *NuPPAA*. On April 23, 2019 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 May 3, 2019. Due to the nature and location of the proposed project activities, the NIRB requires additional time to prepare translated materials required for the Board's decision-making for this file.

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/125457.

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 **June 7, 2019**, at which time a screening decision report will be submitted to the responsible Ministers 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, the NIRB understands that the Ministers 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,



Ryan Barry
Executive Director
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Christopher Knowlton, University of Rhode Island
The Honourable David Joanasie, Minister of Culture and Heritage, Government of Nunavut
The Honourable Joe Savikataaq, Minister of Environment, Government of Nunavut
The Honourable Patterk Netser, Minister Responsible for Nunavut Arctic College, Government of Nunavut
P.J. Akeagok, President, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Stephen Williamson-Bathory, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Jared Ottenhof, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Alexander Stubbing, Department of Culture and Heritage, Government of Nunavut
Sylvie LeBlanc, Department of Culture and Heritage, Government of Nunavut
Amy Robinson, Department of Environment, Government of Nunavut
Mosha Cote, Nunavut Research Institute
Lisa Pirie-Dominix, Canadian Wildlife Service
Jane Chisholm, Parks Canada
Mark D'Aguiar, Fisheries and Oceans Canada