



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

June 17, 2019

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

The Honourable Amarjeet Sohi, P.C.
Minister of Natural Resources
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Sent via email: min@dfo-mpo.gc.ca, jonathan.wilkinson@parl.gc.ca, nrcan.minister-ministre.rncan@canada.ca, amarjeet.sohi@parl.gc.ca

Re: Extension Request for NIRB Screening of the Hamlet of Naujaat's "Community Access Trail" Project Proposal

Dear Honourable Ministers:

On January 14, 2019 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received a referral to screen the Hamlet of Naujaat's "Community Access Trail" 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. 19PN003.**

On January 14, 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. 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. 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.

On May 7, 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 28, 2019. Due to the complexity of comments and concerns received by parties, on June 4, 2019 the NIRB provided the Proponent with an opportunity to respond to comments and address issues raised prior to the Board's decision-making for this file. As a result of the time required to accommodate opportunity for the Proponent to respond to concerns raised during the public commenting period, 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* and requires an extension to complete the screening to fully consider the project proposal and all comments and responses.

The NIRB anticipates that the screening of this project proposal will be completed by **July 8, 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.

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.

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ryan Barry". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Ryan Barry
Executive Director
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Solomon Malliki, Mayor of Nauyasat
Jason Jones, Ecologic Consultants
Lootie Toomasie, Chairperson, Nunavut Water Board
The Honourable Lorne Kusugak, Minister of Community & Government Services, Government of
Nunavut
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
Peter Unger, Natural Resources Canada
Rob Johnstone, Natural Resources Canada
Transport Canada
Tracie McCaie, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada