

Dear Land Administrators:

Enclosed is the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) Screening Decision Report to The Honourable Catherine McKenna, P.C., Minister of Environment and Climate Change and The Honourable Jonathan Wilkinson, P.C., Minister of Fisheries and Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard for University of Rhode Island's "URI Northwest Passage Project 2019" in the Qikiqtani (North Baffin) and Kitikmeot Regions, dated June 5, 2019.

The NIRB has assessed this project proposal for ecosystemic and socio-economic impacts taking into consideration the comments from relevant authorities and communities. Based on this assessment, the Board has indicated to the responsible Ministers that a review of the project is not required in accordance with paragraph 92(1)(a) of the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act*, S.C. 2013, c. 14, s. 2 (*NuPPAA*). Accordingly, the NIRB awaits a response from the Ministers.

In the absence of a response from the Ministers, regulatory authorities should take note of paragraph 75(1)(e) of the *NuPPAA*, which provides: "A regulatory authority is not authorized to issue a licence, permit or other authorization in respect of a project if the responsible Minister has decided either that the project could be modified and an amended project submitted to the Commission or that it is not to proceed." Contravention of s. 75(1) of *the NuPPAA* will render a licence, permit or other authorization issued of no force or effect.

Please contact Andrea Omilgoitok, NIRB Environmental Administrator at (867) 983-4615 or info@nirb.ca if you have any questions or require additional clarification.

Sincerely,



Andrea Omilgoitok
Environmental Administrator

Enclosure (1): NIRB Screening Decision Report, File No.: 18YN029 (June 5, 2019)

cc: Christopher Knowlton, University of Rhode Island
Jared Ottenhof, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Richard Dwyer, Nunavut Water Board
Sylvie LeBlanc, Department of Culture and Heritage, Government of Nunavut
Jane Chisholm, Parks Canada
Distribution List