



NIRB File No.: 18YN029

Related to NIRB File No.: 17YN016

NPC File No.: 149083

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

DFO File No.: S-18/19-1009-NU

Previous NRI File No.: 02 064 18N-A

June 5, 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@dfo-mpo.gc.ca; and jonathan.wilkinson@parl.gc.ca

Re: Screening Decision for University of Rhode Island's "URI Northwest Passage Project 2019" Project Proposal, Qikiqtani (North Baffin) and Kitikmeot Regions

Dear Honourable Ministers:

On March 25, 2019 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received a referral to screen University of Rhode Island's "URI Northwest Passage Project 2019" project proposal from the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC or Commission), with an accompanying positive conformity determination with the North Baffin Regional Land Use Plan. The NPC noted that the previous conformity determination issued on January 27, 2017, February 10, 2017, and April 24, 2018 for the activities associated with the current proposal continues to apply and has determined that the project proposal is a significant modification to the project because of the additions of new locations around Austin Channel, Viscount Melville Sound (near Resolute Bay) and Lady Ann Strait (near Grise Fiord).

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 commenced screening this project proposal. Due to the proposal containing activities that were sufficiently related to previously assessed activities under NIRB file number **18YN029**, the

NIRB viewed this project proposal as an amendment to the previously screened project and assigned this proposal with this previous file number.

Following the assessment of all material information provided, the NIRB is recommending that a review of University of Rhode Island's "URI Northwest Passage Project 2019" project is not required pursuant to paragraph 92(1)(a) of the *NuPPAA*.

Pursuant to its discretion under paragraph 92(2)(a) of the *NuPPAA*, the NIRB has determined that specific terms and conditions are appropriate for this project.

Accordingly, the NIRB is issuing the attached Screening Decision Report dated June 5, 2019 to the responsible Ministers. The Screening Decision Report provides, among other things, the regulatory framework, project overview and the NIRB's assessment process, factors relevant for the determining significance of impacts and recommended project-specific terms and conditions.

Please note that the project proposal will not be enclosed due to the size of the electronic document and the limited bandwidth. However, an electronic copy of the project proposal is accessible online from the NIRB's online public registry at www.nirb.ca/project/125457.

Please note that, the Board only directly addresses these notice letters to those individuals considered to be a "responsible Minister with decision-making authority" for the project as set out under the *NuPPAA*. However, regulatory authorities and other authorizing agencies associated with a proposed project (e.g. Regional Inuit Associations, Nunavut Water Board) will continue to be copied on the Notice of Release of the Screening Decision Report. The NIRB is providing these parties with notice and access to the Board's Screening Decision Report as required under s. 200(2) and in support of these parties in the fulfillment of their responsibilities under the *NuPPAA* and the *Nunavut Agreement* to address, and as appropriate, implement, to the fullest extent possible, any relevant NIRB recommendations contained in the Screening Decision Report.

We look forward to receiving a response from the responsible Ministers and the NIRB remains available for consultation with the Ministers regarding this report as necessary. If you have any questions or require clarification, please do not hesitate to contact the NIRB's Director, Technical Services, Tara Arko at (867) 983-4611 or tarko@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



Kaviq Kaluraq
A/Chairperson
Nunavut Impact Review Board

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

cc: 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