



NIRB File No.: 19YN036
NPC File No.: 149182

August 27, 2019

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

Sent via email: min@dfo-mpo.gc.ca and jonathan.wilkinson@parl.gc.ca

Re: Extension Request for NIRB Screening of the University of Waterloo's "Coastal Environmental Baseline: Baseline Mercury Levels in Frobisher Bay Fish and Invertebrates" Project Proposal

Dear Honourable Minister:

On July 2, 2019 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received a referral to screen University of Waterloo's "Coastal Environmental Baseline: Baseline Mercury Levels in Frobisher Bay Fish and Invertebrates" project proposal from the Nunavut Planning Commission, 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 Minister extend the period for the submission of the Board's written report for the screening of this project proposal, NIRB File No. 19YN036.**

On July 3, 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 July 18, 2019 requested that the Proponent provide the Board with the additional information in order to carry out the screening of the project proposal. On July 19, 2019 the NIRB received the required additional information and commenced the screening pursuant to Part 3 of the *NuPPAA*. On August 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 August 19, 2019.

Owing to the high volume of screenings currently before the Board and continued vacancies in board member appointments challenging satisfaction of NIRB quorum requirements, additional time is required to complete the decision-making for this file. Further, the Board will be occupied with the current Public Hearing for the Whale Tail Public Hearing (NIRB File No.: 16MN056) from August 26 to August 29, 2019 and will be unable to consider any other matters until following

the conclusion of these proceedings. As such, 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 additional time is requested to complete the decision-making for this file. The NIRB anticipates that the screening of this project proposal will be completed by **September 12, 2019**, at which time a screening decision report will be submitted to the responsible Minister 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 Minister will notify the Proponent and the NIRB of the extension.

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/125476.

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 line extending from the end of the name.

Ryan Barry
Executive Director
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Ryan VanEngen, University of Waterloo
The Honourable Patterk Netser, Nunavut Arctic College
Mosha Cote, Nunavut Research Institute
Mark D'Aguiar, Fisheries and Oceans Canada