



NIRB File No.: 19WN050
NPC File No.: 149220
NWB File No.: 3BM-RUT1520

April 3, 2020

To: The Honourable Dan Vandal
Minister of Northern Affairs
Government of Canada
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Sent via email: dan.vandal@parl.gc.ca

Re: Extension Request for NIRB Screening of Government of Nunavut – Community and Government Services’ “Renewal and Amendment of the Resolute Bay Utilidor System Water Licence #3 BM-RUT 1520 Type A for Ten (10) yrs. term” Project Proposal

Dear Honourable Minister:

On December 19, 2019 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received Government of Nunavut – Community and Government Services’ (GN-CGS) “Renewal and Amendment of the Resolute Bay Utilidor System Water Licence #3 BM-RUT 1520 Type A for Ten (10) yrs. term” 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 Minister extend the period for the submission of the Board’s written report for the screening of this project proposal, NIRB File No. 19WN050.**

On January 10, 2020 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 February 13, 2020 and February 18, 2020 requested that the Proponent provide the Board with the additional information in order to carry out the screening of the project proposal. On February 20, 2020 the NIRB received the required additional information and commenced the screening pursuant to Part 3 of the *NuPPAA*. On February 26, 2020 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 March 18, 2020.

Due to additional time required to address the potential for operational challenges for affected communities and interested parties associated with the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, 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 **April 24, 2020**, 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/125499.

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: Bhabesh Roy, Government of Nunavut – Community and Government Services
Lootie Toomasie, Chairperson, Nunavut Water Board
Richard Dwyer, Nunavut Water Board
Sergey Kuflevskiy, Nunavut Water Board
Robert Chapple, Government of Nunavut, Community and Government Services
Tracey McCaie, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada