



**NIRB File No.: 19DN049**

*Related to NIRB File No.: 16DN004, 16DN031, 16DN063*

*NPC File No.: 149253*

*Related to NPC File No.: 148197, 148282, 148373,  
148577, 148656, 148867, 148932, 149149*

April 8, 2020

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

Sent via email: [dan.vandal@parl.gc.ca](mailto:dan.vandal@parl.gc.ca)

**Re: Screening Decision for Department of National Defence's "Operation Nanook-Nunalivut 2020" Project Proposal, Kivalliq and Qikiqtani Regions**

Dear Honourable Minister:

On December 13, 2019 the NIRB received a referral to screen Department of National Defence's (DND) "Operation Nanook-Nunalivut 2020" project proposal from the Nunavut Planning Commission (Commission), with an accompanying positive conformity determination with the Keewatin and North Baffin Regional Land Use Plans. The Commission noted that the previous conformity determinations issued on February 8, 2016, April 25, 2016, November 12, 2016, May 24, 2017, November 29, 2017, May 31, 2018, August 17, 2018 and June 18, 2019 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 use of explosive to cut through sea ice.

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 and assigned it file number 19DN049. The NIRB considers this project proposal to be sufficiently related to previously assessed activities under NIRB file numbers 16DN004, 16DN031, and 16DN063 but is assessing this proposal as a new project.

Following the assessment of all material information provided, the NIRB is recommending that a review of Department of National Defence's (DND) "Operation Nanook-Nunalivut 2020" 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 April 8, 2020 to the responsible Minister. 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/125498](http://www.nirb.ca/project/125498).

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 Minister and the NIRB remains available for consultation with the Minister 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](mailto:tarko@nirb.ca).

Sincerely,



Kaviq Kaluraq  
Chairperson  
Nunavut Impact Review Board

Enclosure (1): Screening Decision Report, NIRB File No.: 19DN049 (April 8, 2020)

cc: Kono Tattuinee, President, Kivalliq Inuit Association  
P.J. Akeagok, President, Qikiqtani Inuit Association  
The Honourable Johnathan Wilkinson, P.C. Minister of Environment and Climate Change Canada  
The Honourable Bernadette Jordan, P.C. Minister of Fisheries and Oceans Canada and the Canadian Coast Guard