



NIRB File No.: 20YN008
NPC File No.: 149332

May 14, 2020

To: The Honourable Johnathan Wilkinson
Minister of Environment and Climate Change
Government of Canada
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Sent via email: ec.ministre-minister.ec@canada.ca and jonathan.wilkinson@parl.gc.ca

Re: Extension Request for NIRB Screening of the Government of Nunavut’s “Re-estimating the abundance of the Lancaster Sound (LS) Polar Bear subpopulation via genetic mark-recapture sampling” Project Proposal

Dear Honourable Minister:

On March 23, 2020 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received the Government of Nunavut’s (GN) “Re-estimating the abundance of the Lancaster Sound (LS) Polar Bear subpopulations via genetic mark-recapture sampling” 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. 20YN008.**

On March 23, 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. On March 27, 2020 the NIRB received the required additional information and commenced the screening pursuant to Part 3 of the *NuPPAA*. On April 16, 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 May 7, 2020. On May 12, 2020, the NIRB provided the Proponent with an opportunity to address the comments received.

Due to additional time provided to the Proponent to address the comments and the 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 **May 28, 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/125513.

If you have any questions or require clarification regarding this request, please contact our office toll free at 1-866-233-3033.

Sincerely,



Mark Ings
A/Executive Director
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Markus Dyck, Government of Nunavut
P.J Akeeagok, President, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
The Honourable Joe Savikataaq, Government of Nunavut, Minister of Environment
Stephen Williamson Bathory, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Natalie O'Grady, Government of Nunavut – Department of Economic Development & Transportation
Jared Ottenhof, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Drikus Gissing, Government of Nunavut – Department of Environment
Tineka Simmons, Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency
Agnes Simonfalvy, Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency
Lisa Pirie-Dominix, Canadian Wildlife Services
Jane Chisholm, Parks Canada