



CIRNAC Comments to NIRB Re: Notice of Screening for INRS' "Access to Safe Drinking Water in a Changing Arctic" Project Proposal



Nunavut Regional Office
P.O. Box 100
Iqaluit, NU, X0A 0H0

Your file - Votre référence
20YN018
Our file - Notre référence
1286800

July 13, 2020

Keith Morrison
Technical Advisor II
Nunavut Impact Review Board
P.O. Box 1360
Cambridge Bay, NU, X0B 0C0
Via NIRB public registry

Re: Notice of Screening and Comment request for INRS' "Access to Safe Drinking Water in a Changing Arctic" Project Proposal

Dear Keith Morrison,

On July 2, 2020, the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) invited parties to comment on Institut national de la recherche scientifique's (INRS's) "Access to Safe Drinking Water in a Changing Arctic" Project Proposal. Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC) has reviewed the Project Proposal and supporting documents and offers the responses below as it pertains to the NIRB's request:

Any matter of importance to the Party related to the project proposal;

Community engagement activities

CIRNAC recommends the Proponent ensure members of participating communities (i.e., Pond Inlet, Resolute Bay, and Cambridge Bay) are adequately informed of planned activities and project results. Regular communication will allow community members and other stakeholders (e.g., local Hamlet authorities and Hunters and Trappers Organizations) to comment on the project.

Current ban on non-essential travel to Nunavut to prevent the spread of COVID-19

CIRNAC notes that, to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 in Nunavut, the Government of Nunavut's Chief Medical Officer of Health has imposed a ban on all non-essential travel to Nunavut. As a result, travel to Nunavut for research purposes is not permitted. This is communicated by the Nunavut Research Institute (NRI) in a Mar. 19,



2020 information notice (<https://www.nri.nu.ca/news/covid-19-pandemic-response-important-information-researchers>).

CIRNAC recognizes the Proponent requires an Nunavut Research Institute (NRI) Scientific Research Licence. This is noted in the Nunavut Planning Commission's May 27, 2020 conformity decision and the project proposal. CIRNAC recommends that the Proponent should consult the NRI for further clarification regarding the applicability of the non-essential travel ban to the project proposal.

CIRNAC appreciates the opportunity to provide comments and looks forward to working with the NIRB and the Proponent throughout any further review phases related to this project. Should you have any questions, please contact Richard Bingley at (867) 975-4556 or by e-mail at Richard.Bingley2@Canada.ca.

Sincerely,



Felexce Ngwa
Manager, Impact Assessment

