



CIRNAC Comments to NIRB Re: Notice of Screening for the Government of Nunavut's "Rankin Inlet Sand Pit" Project Proposal



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

Your file - Votre référence
20QN016
Our file - Notre référence
1286966

July 23, 2020

Cory Barker, M.Sc.
Technical Advisor I
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 the Government of Nunavut's
"Rankin Inlet Sand Pit" Project Proposal**

Dear Cory Barker,

On July 2, 2020 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) invited parties to comment on the Government of Nunavut's "Rankin Inlet Sand Pit" 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:

Whether the Project is of a type where the potential adverse effects are highly predictable and mitigable with known technology, (please provide any recommended mitigation measures);

CIRNAC is of the view that the potential impacts of the proposed Project can be mitigated with known practices or technology.

CIRNAC recommends that the Proponent considers the following additional common practices to avoid or mitigate potential impacts from project activities:

- Avoid ponded water in low-lying areas of a pit which can lead to permafrost degradation;
- Do not excavate the quarry below the water table;
- Clearly stake and flag pit and quarry boundaries so as to be visible to other land users;
- Avoid changes to natural drainage patterns;
- Construct ditches to direct runoff away from the site;



- Limit sediment movement using erosion controls (e.g., silt fences, rip-rap);
- Salvage and properly store organics, topsoil and overburden for use during reclamation;
- Ensure there is no obstruction of natural drainage, flooding or channel diversion from stockpiles or other facilities, including site access ;
- Minimize in-pit water by directing surface water away from the site (e.g., berm or swale to divert water);
- Thaw ice-rich material where meltwater will not re-enter the pit;
- Promote proper drainage by sloping the pit floor away from the pit face and installing drainage ditches or channels;
- Maintain an undisturbed buffer zone between the quarry site and the high water mark of any waterbody;
- Locate screening and crushing equipment on stable ground, at a location with ready access to stockpiles;
- Do not deposit or permit the deposit of sediment into any waterbody;
- Determine the acid rock drainage potential for the proposed quarry site (Acid Rock Drainage Report);
- Pump or divert accumulated water in pit to a pond/sump; and,
- Analyze collected water in accordance with the Nunavut Water Board water licence discharge criteria before discharging into the environment;

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

