



CIRNAC Comments to NIRB

Re: Notice of Screening for the Government of
Nunavut's "Quarry Sites KM 8, 15, 16, 18, 20"
Project Proposal



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

Your file - Votre référence
20QN022
Our file - Notre référence
CIDM # 1290133

October 9, 2020

Mia Otokiak
Junior Technical Advisor
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 Government of Nunavut's
"Quarry Sites KM 8, 15, 16, 18, 20" Project Proposal**

Dear Ms. Otokiak,

On September 18, 2020, the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) invited parties to comment on the Government of Nunavut's "Quarry Sites KM 8, 15, 16, 18, 20" 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 adopt the following additional common practices to mitigate potential adverse effects from project activities:

- Drip trays should be placed under the engine/fuel compartment when equipment is not in use or parked overnight;
- Determine the acid rock drainage potential for the proposed quarry sites;
- Do not deposit or permit the deposit of sediment into any water body;
- Minimize in-pit water by directing surface water away from the site (e.g., berm or swale to divert water);



- Promote proper drainage by sloping the pit floor away from the pit face and installing drainage ditches or channels to direct runoff away from the site;
- Implement suitable erosion and sediment suppression measures on all areas during and after conducting quarrying activities in order to prevent sediment from entering any water body;
- Avoid ponded water in low-lying areas of a pit which can lead to permafrost degradation;
- Equipment or vehicles should not be moved unless the ground surface is capable of fully supporting the equipment or vehicles without rutting or gouging. If rutting occurs, overland travel of equipment or vehicles must be suspended;
- Minimize the environmental footprint of the quarry operation and use existing access roads trails to the extent possible;
- All heavy equipment, construction and road vehicles must be fitted with standard and well-maintained noise suppression devices and engine idling is to be minimized;
- Implement a progressive clean-up and reclamation to optimize time and reduce the extent of disturbance;
- Salvage and properly store topsoil and overburden for use during reclamation;
- Hamlet staffs and private contractors to be adequately trained prior to the commencement of the quarrying operations, and made aware of all operational management plans and commitments;
- Ensure there is no obstruction of natural drainage, flooding or channel diversion from stockpiles or other facilities, including site access; and
- Secure the quarrying site during the off season when the site is not in use.

Whether the project proposal is likely to arouse significant public concern; and if so, why;

Potential for positive effects to Inuit beneficiaries through employment and training opportunities.

CIRNAC recommends that the Proponent and Municipality of Rankin Inlet prioritize the employment and training of local Inuit beneficiaries in the development and operation of the five new quarries. Such efforts will allow for positive effects to be realized by the residents of Rankin Inlet and the local Inuit population.

Consultation with interested parties.

CIRNAC recommends that the Proponent and the Municipality of Rankin Inlet maintain open communication with the residents of Rankin Inlet and local organizations that may have an interest in project activities (e.g., the local Hunters and Trappers Organization). Issues that should be considered in consultation activities include:

- Safety precautions associated with quarry development and operation, including shared use of the Diane River Road;
- Incorporation of Inuit knowledge or Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit in the project design;



- Training and employment opportunities for community members; and
- Regular updates on the status of quarries (e.g., development, operation, and closure).

CIRNAC appreciates the opportunity to provide comments and looks forward to working with the NIRB and the Proponent throughout any further phases related to this project. Should you have any questions, please contact Vincent Okonkwo at (867)975-4552 or by e-mail at vincent.okonkwo@canada.ca.

Sincerely,



Felexce Ngwa
Manager, Impact Assessment

