



CIRNAC Comments to NIRB

Re: Notice of Screening for University of Ottawa's
“Instability of Permafrost Landscapes from Climate
Change and the Hydrological Implications to High
Arctic Watersheds” Project Proposal



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

Your file - Votre référence
21YN014
Our file - Notre référence
92501532

March 29, 2021

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 University of Ottawa's "Instability of Permafrost Landscapes from Climate Change and the Hydrological Implications to High Arctic Watersheds" Project Proposal

Dear Mia Otokiak,

On March 18, 2021 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) invited parties to comment on University of Ottawa's "Instability of Permafrost Landscapes from Climate Change and the Hydrological Implications to High Arctic Watersheds" Project Proposal. Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC) appreciates the opportunity to provide comments 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 #1: Best Management Practices Related to Spill Prevention

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

The Proponent indicates that all-terrain vehicles are proposed to be used for the project. However, it is unclear if the Proponent will use appropriate mitigation measures while refueling any all-terrain vehicle used in the proposed activities. CIRNAC recommends that the Proponent incorporate the following measures to mitigate any potential impacts that might arise from the use of fuels in the proposed activities:



- Using drip pans or other equivalent device when refueling equipment;
- Re-fuelling of all equipment a minimum of thirty-one (31) metres away from the high water mark of any waterbody;
- Have spill response equipment and clean-up materials (e.g., shovels, pumps, barrels, drip pans, and absorbents) readily available during any transfer of fuel or hazardous substances, at all fuel storage sites and maintenance areas; and,
- Ensure that all personnel are properly trained in fuel and hazardous waste handling procedures, as well as spill response procedures.

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

CIRNAC #2: Potential for Positive Effects to Inuit Through Employment and Training Opportunities

CIRNAC recommends that the Proponent prioritize the employment and training of local Inuit when implementing project activities. Such efforts will allow for positive effects to be realized by community members and the local Inuit population. Members of the community of Grise Fiord and Resolute Bay, the communities in closest proximity to the project, should be prioritized in any project-related employment and training opportunities that may be made available.

CIRNAC #3: Consultation with interested parties

CIRNAC recommends that the Proponent maintain open communication with the Hamlets of Grise Fiord and Resolute Bay as well as local community organizations that may have an interest in the project's activities. Issues that should be considered in consultation activities include:

- Incorporation of Inuit knowledge or Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit into project activities;
- Mitigation measures designed to prevent disturbance to wildlife and the surrounding environment;
- Training and employment opportunities for community members; and,
- Regular updates on the status of project activities and monitoring results.

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

