



NIRB File No.: 21EN009

NPC File No.: 149463

associated with NIRB File No. 16EN035

April 27, 2021

Paul Sobie
MPH Consulting Limited
133 Richmond Street West, Suite 505
Toronto, ON M5H 2L3

Sent via email: psobie@mphconsulting.com

Re: Notice of Screening for MPH Consulting Limited's "Turquetil-Esker Drilling Program" project proposal

Dear Paul Sobie:

On February 17, 2021 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) received a referral to screen MPH Consulting Limited's "Turquetil-Esker Drilling Program" project proposal from the Nunavut Planning Commission (Commission), with an accompanying positive conformity determination with the Keewatin Regional Land Use Plan. The Commission noted that the current project proposal is a significant modification to the previous conformity determinations issued on November 22, 2017 and June 19, 2020 because drilling operations were not included for the Henik Lake Project and the number of person days increased to 1440.

Pursuant to Article 12, Sections 12.4.1 and 12.4.4 of the *Agreement between the Inuit of the Nunavut Settlement Area and Her Majesty the Queen in right of Canada (Nunavut Agreement)* and s. 87 of the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act*, S.C. 2013, c. 14, s. 2 (*NuPPAA*), the NIRB has commenced screening this project proposal and has assigned it file number **21EN009**.

INFORMATION REQUEST

On February 17, 2021 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 February 25, 2021 the NIRB released a formal correspondence, pursuant to s. 144(1) of the *NuPPAA*, requesting that the Proponent provide the Board with the information necessary in order

to carry out the screening of the project proposal. On March 14, 2021 the NIRB received the required information and commenced the screening pursuant to Part 3 of the *NuPPAA*.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Project Scope:

All documents received and pertaining to this project proposal can be accessed from the NIRB’s online public registry at www.nirb.ca/project/125585.

Project:	Turquetil-Esker Drilling Program				
Region:	Kivalliq				
Location:	Henik Lake Camp, Turquetil Gold Deposit, and Esker Gold Prospect				
Closest Community:	Arviat	Distance (approximate)	(Henik) 187 km (Turquetil) 138 km (Esker) 180 km	Direction	(Henik) West (Turquetil) Northwest (Esker) West
Summary of Project Description:	Helicopter-supported mineral exploration drilling and ground geophysical surveying.				
Project Proposed Timeline:	July 2021-July 2023				

According to the project proposal, the scope of the project includes the following undertakings, works or activities:

- Use of up to two (2) Diamond Core Drill Rigs
 - Drill cuttings, water return and sludge to be disposed in properly constructed sumps or natural depressions;
 - Use of a portable, heated shack at each drilling location;
 - Temporary fuel cache and a mobile emergency overnight shelter established at each drilling site; and
 - Use of lake water (approximately 40 cubic metres per day) for drilling operations;
- Possible Induced Polarization (IP) ground geophysics surveys;
- Use of the Henik Lake Camp as a base of operations;
- Use of up to 2 helicopters for daily transport of personnel and supplies between Henik Lake Camp and exploration sites;
- Use of aircraft for weekly resupply flights to Arviat;
- Use and storage of fuel at Henik Lake and at temporary drilling sites fuel caches:
 - 10,125 gallons of aviation fuel;
 - 4,050 gallons of diesel; and
 - 3,000 pounds of propane;
- Supplies and equipment transported from Churchill and Thompson, Manitoba via aircraft;
- Generation of waste:
 - Combustible wastes back hauled to Henik Lake Camp for incineration.
 - Non-combustible waste back hauled to Arviat or Churchill/Thompson;

Inclusion or Exclusion of Scoping List

At this time, the NIRB has identified no additional works or activities in relation to the project proposal. As a result, the NIRB will proceed with screening the project based on the scope as described above. However, the NIRB notes that the project will conduct activities in association with the mineral exploration project previously approved under NIRB File No. 16EN035, and any activities occurring at the Turquetil Gold Deposit/Huckleberry Claims area would be required to also abide by the terms and conditions issued for NIRB File No. 16EN035.

REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

All documents received can be accessed from the NIRB's online public registry www.nirb.ca/project/125585 and include:

- *Commission Conformity Determination*
- *Commission Application and Questionnaire*
- *NIRB Online Application*
- *Non-Technical Summary in English and Inuktitut*
- *Project Description in English and Inuktitut*
- *General Location Map*
- *Turquetil Location Map*
- *Abandonment and Restoration Plan*
- *Environmental Management Plan*
- *Fuel Spill Contingency Plan*
- *Safety Manual and Emergency Response Plan*
- *Wildlife Mitigation Plan*

The NIRB will copy you on screening process related correspondence and upload related documents to the NIRB's online registry for public access. The NIRB may request additional information at any time during the process.

The NIRB is copying parties and municipalities potentially affected by MPH Consulting Limited project proposal with this letter, and we invite interested parties to comment directly to the NIRB by **May 18, 2021**.

The NIRB would like parties to provide comments regarding:

- Whether the project proposal is likely to arouse significant public concern; and if so, why;
- Whether the project proposal is likely to cause significant adverse eco-systemic or socio-economic effects; and if so, why;
- Whether the project proposal is likely to cause significant adverse impacts on wildlife habitat or Inuit harvest activities; and if so, why;
- Whether the project proposal is of a type where the potential adverse effects are highly predictable and mitigable with known technology, (and providing any recommended mitigation measures); and
- Any matter of importance to the Party related to the project proposal.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Please send your comments to the NIRB via email at info@nirb.ca, via fax at (867) 983-2594 or via the individual project dashboard for this assessment on the NIRB's online public registry at www.nirb.ca/project/125585.

If you have any questions or require clarification, feel free to contact the undersigned at (867) 983-4622 or motokiak@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



Mia Otokiak
Junior Technical Advisor
Nunavut Impact Review Board

Enclosures (4): Public Notice of Screening (English and Inuktitut)
Comment Forms (English and Inuktitut)

cc: Distribution List
Richard Dwyer, Nunavut Water Board
Luis Manzo, Kivalliq Inuit Association
Maria Serra, Kivalliq Inuit Association
Brenda Osmond, Kivalliq Inuit Association
Ashely Aupaluktuq-Burton, Kivalliq Inuit Association
Tracey McCaie, Crown – Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada
Steve England, Hamlet of Arviat