



NIRB File No.: 21EN009

NPC File No.: 149463

associated with NIRB File No. 16EN035

May 27, 2021

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

Sent via email: psobie@mphconsulting.com

Re: Opportunity to address comments received regarding MPH Consulting Limited's "Turquetil-Esker Program" project proposal

Dear Paul Sobie:

On February 17, 2021 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received a referral to screen MPH Consulting Limited's "Turquetil-Esker Drilling Program" project proposal from the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC or Commission). On April 27, 2021 the NIRB circulated a public notice of the screening for this project, inviting interested parties to provide comments directly to the NIRB by May 18, 2021.

On or before May 18, 2021 the NIRB received comments from the following interested parties:

- *Arviat Hunters and Trappers Organization (Arviat HTO)*
- *Kivalliq Inuit Association (KivIA)*
- *Government of Nunavut – Department of Culture and Heritage (GN-CH)*
- *Crown – Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC)*
- *Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO)*

All comment submissions received by the NIRB relating to this project proposal can be accessed from the NIRB's online public registry at www.nirb.ca/project/125585.

A *summary* of the public concerns reflected in the comment submissions relate to the following:

- Arviat HTO does not support the project due to concerns regarding traditional uses of land, Inuit harvesting activities, and wildlife and their habitat.
- KivIA does not support the project until the community concerns of the Arviat HTO are resolved.

- GN-CH notes that hundreds of archeological sites are recorded in the vicinity of the camp and proposed exploration areas and that the Proponent should conduct an archeological program prior to any land disturbance activities.
- CIRNAC recommends that:
 - the Proponent clarify that appropriate measures will be put into place in regard to fuel storage, drill wastes, and contaminated ice and water;
 - the Proponent coordinate any activities with the GN to ensure they are compliant with any health orders currently in effect; and
 - the Proponent employ and train local Inuit, as well as maintain open communication with all interested parties throughout the life of the project.
- DFO recommends that the Proponent review the Interim Code of Practice for End-of-pipe fish screens and the Measures to Protect Fish and Fish Habitat. DFO notes that it is the Proponents responsibility to remain in compliance with the *Fisheries Act*.

The NIRB would like to provide MPH Consulting Limited with an opportunity to address the comments noted above prior to the Board rendering its determination for this screening assessment and issuing its subsequent Screening Decision Report to the responsible Ministers. The NIRB respectfully requests that a response be provided directly to the NIRB by **June 10, 2021**.

If MPH Consulting Limited determines that the time required to supply a written response is significantly greater than two (2) weeks, the Board requests written notification and an anticipated date for submission be provided as soon as possible.

Please send any forthcoming submissions directly to the NIRB at info@nirb.ca, or through the online public registry at www.nirb.ca.

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

Sincerely,



Mia Otokiak
Junior Technical Advisor
Nunavut Impact Review Board

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