



**NIRB File No.: 21UN004**  
NPC File No.: 149437

August 24, 2021

Eleanor McEwan  
Fisheries and Oceans Canada – Small Craft Harbours  
501 University Crescent  
Winnipeg, MB R3T 2N6

Sent via email: [eleanor.mcewan@dfo-mpo.gc.ca](mailto:eleanor.mcewan@dfo-mpo.gc.ca)

**Re: Notice of Screening for Fisheries and Oceans Canada – Small Craft Harbours’  
“Arctic Bay Small Craft Harbour Development” Project Proposal**

Dear Eleanor McEwan:

On January 27, 2021 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) received a referral to screen Fisheries and Oceans Canada – Small Craft Harbours’ (DFO – SCH) “Arctic Bay Small Craft Harbour Development” project proposal from the Nunavut Planning Commission (Commission), with an accompanying positive conformity determination with the North Baffin Regional Land Use Plan.

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 **21UN004**.

#### INFORMATION REQUEST

On January 27, 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 9, 2021 the NIRB released a formal correspondence requesting that the Proponent provide the Board with the information necessary in order to carry out the screening of the project proposal. On February 25, 2021 the Proponent requested that the Project be suspended until details are complete. On March 5, 2021 the NIRB released a formal correspondence to indicate that the “Arctic Bay Small Craft Harbour Development” would be suspended until further notice. On

August 18, 2021 the NIRB received the requested additional 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/125580](http://www.nirb.ca/project/125580).

<b>Project:</b>	Arctic Bay Small Craft Harbour Development
<b>Region:</b>	Qikiqtani (North Baffin)
<b>Location:</b>	Within the municipal boundaries of Arctic Bay
<b>Summary of Project Description:</b>	The Proponent intends to construct a small craft harbour to support safe access to the land and sea in the context of rapid environmental changes in the Arctic and in support of community fish harvesting and marine mammal harvest, ensuring local fishing operations have access to safe harbours and landing facilities.
<b>Project Proposed Timeline:</b>	Construction carried out from 2022 to 2025. The project is expected to be operational in the summer of 2026.

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

- Construction and development of a Small Craft Harbour, including the development of a:
  - Rock breakwater;
  - Boat launch ramp;
  - Laydown area for boat and sealift storage; and
  - Floating docks that would be removed during winter;
- Construction and use of a temporary camp to support project activities;
- Development of a new quarry to support project activities during construction;
  - Potential construction of a new quarry access road to access new quarry;
- Use of heavy equipment for the construction and development of the project;
- Sourcing fuel locally for fuel use activities during the life of the project;
- Sourcing of water locally for the life of the project;
- Hazardous harbour infrastructure to be returned to the south in sealed drums and disposed of properly;
- Combustible and non-combustible wastes to be disposed of at the local landfill; and
- Greywater and sewage waste to be disposed of at the local sewage lagoon.

##### ***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.

## REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

All documents received can be accessed from the NIRB's online public registry [www.nirb.ca/project/125580](http://www.nirb.ca/project/125580) and include:

- *Commission Conformity Determination*
- *Commission Application and Questionnaire*
- *NIRB Application*
- *Project Description in English and Inuktitut*
- *Project Report*
- *Arctic Bay Consultation Report*
- *Hamlet of Arctic Bay Letter of Support*
- *Ikajutit Hunters' and Trappers Association Letter of Support*
- *Community Consultation Records*
- *Community Feedback Notes*
- *Map of Nearby Communities and Designated Areas*
- *Site Location Study Areas*
- *Site Plan*
- *Construction Environmental Management Plan*
- *First Consultation Report*
- *Project Specific Information Requirements Report*
- *Second Consultation Report*
- *Baseline Report*

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 DFO - SCH project proposal with this letter, and we invite interested parties to comment directly to the NIRB by **September 14, 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](mailto: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/125580](http://www.nirb.ca/project/125580).

If you have any questions or require clarification, feel free to contact the undersigned at (867) 983-4622 or [motokiak@nirb.ca](mailto: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  
Stephen Williamson Bathory, Qikiqtani Inuit Association  
Jared Ottenhof, Qikiqtani Inuit Association  
Joel Fortier, Qikiqtani Inuit Association  
Natalie O'Grady, Government of Nunavut, Department of Economical Development & Transportation  
Amy Robinson, Government of Nunavut – Department of Environment  
Tracey McCaie, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada  
Daniel Coombs, Fisheries and Oceans Canada  
Peter Unger, Natural Resources Canada  
Transport Canada