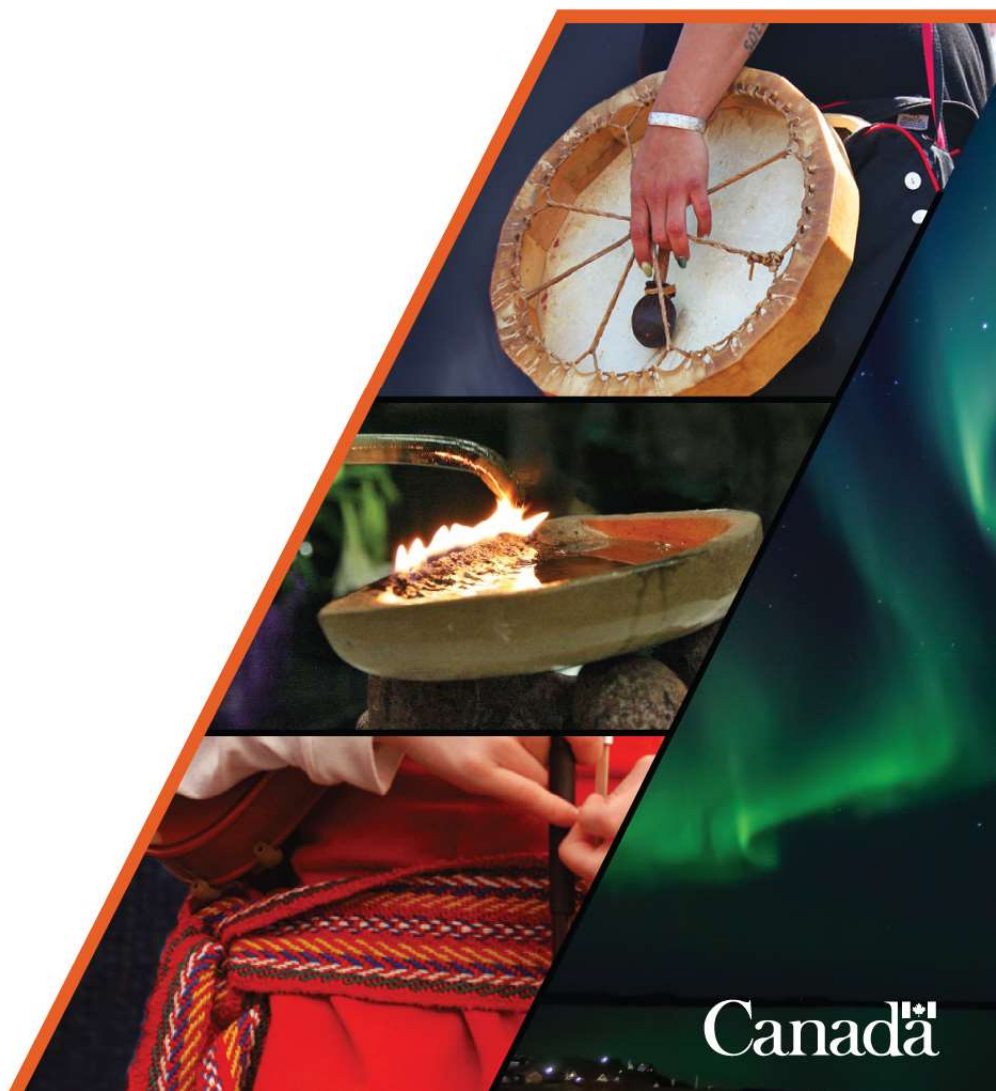




CIRNAC Comments to NIRB

Re: Notice of Screening for The Pennsylvania State University's "Tree River Geoscience Project 2022" Project Proposal



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

Your file - Votre référence
21YN043
Our file - Notre référence
GCdocs# 100670143

February 7, 2022

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 The Pennsylvania State University's "Tree River Geoscience Project 2022" Project Proposal

Dear Mia Otokiak,

On January 27, 2022, the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) invited parties to comment on The Pennsylvania State University's "Tree River Geoscience Project 2022" 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:

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

CIRNAC #1: Aviation Fuel

The Proponent indicates that a bush plane with floats will be used, along with two 55 gallon containers of aviation fuel, to conduct project activities. However, it is unclear what fuel spill mitigation measures would be implemented during refueling activities.

CIRNAC recommends that the Proponent ensure that appropriate spill mitigation measures are used when refueling, and that spill kits are readily available at any location where fuel will be stored or transferred.

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

CIRNAC recommends that the Proponent prioritize the employment and training of local Inuit as well as procurement with Inuit-owned businesses when implementing project activities. Such efforts will allow for positive effects to be realized by community members and the local Inuit population. As a result, Inuit and Inuit-owned businesses situated in Kugluktuk should be prioritized in any project-related employment, training, and procurement opportunities that may be made available.



CIRNAC #3: Consultation with Interested Parties

CIRNAC recommends that the Proponent consult with the Hamlet of Kugluktuk, the Kugluktuk Hunters and Trappers Association, community members and other organizations which may have an interest in the project's activities. Issues that should be considered as part of any consultation activities include:

- Incorporation of Inuit knowledge and Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit into project activities;
- Mitigation measures designed to prevent any disturbance to wildlife and the environment;
- The experience of community members who participate in traditional and non-traditional activities within or in close proximity to the project area;
- Training and employment opportunities for community members;
- Procurement opportunities for local businesses; and,
- Regular updates on the status of project activities.

CIRNAC #4: Potential Identification of Archaeological and/or Paleontological Resources

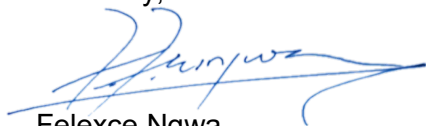
CIRNAC recommends that the Proponent contact the Government of Nunavut's Department of Culture and Heritage to determine if any actions are needed to ensure the protection of Nunavut's archaeological and paleontological resources. The Department of Culture and Heritage oversees the protection and management of heritage resources in Nunavut, in partnership with land claim authorities, regulatory agencies, and the federal government. It would be able to provide any needed guidance or direction to the Proponent.

CIRNAC #5: Caribou Protection Measures

CIRNAC recommends that the Proponent contact the Wildlife Management Division of the Government of Nunavut's Department of Environment to ensure adequate caribou protection measures are followed when carrying out project activities. Care should be exercised when using a float plane during the summer months to access sample collection sites so as to avoid any negative impacts to caribou.

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 by e-mail at richard.bingley2@canada.ca or David Abernethy at (867) 222-1610 or email at david.abernethy@canada.ca.

Sincerely,



Felexce Ngwa
Manager, Impact Assessment

