



NIRB File No.: 13YN021
NPC File No.: 149732

May 18, 2022

Alexandre Normandeau
Natural Resources Canada
1 Challenger Drive
Darmouth, NS B2Y 4A2

Sent via email: alexandre.normandeau@canada.ca

Re: Notice of Screening for Natural Resources Canada’s “Reducing Risk to Coastal Communities and Offshore Infrastructure caused by Marine Geohazards” Project Proposal

Dear Alexandre Normandeau:

On May 6, 2022, the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) received a referral to screen Natural Resources Canada’s (NRCAN) “Reducing Risk to Coastal Communities and Offshore Infrastructure caused by Marine Geohazards” 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 **13YN021** - please reference this file number in all future related correspondence.

INFORMATION REQUEST

On May 6, 2022, 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 May 10, 2022, 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/125695.

Project:	Reducing Risk to Coastal Communities and Offshore Infrastructure caused by Marine Geohazards
Region:	Qikiqtani
Location:	Grise Fiord
Closest Community:	Grise Fiord
Summary of Project Description:	The Proponent intends to investigate the stability of the seabed in fjords near Grise Fiord.
Project Proposed Timeline:	August 5, 2022, to August 20, 2022

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

- Coring and mapping the costal environment;
 - Collection of seabed sediment with gravity core;
 - Collection of coastal samples with shovels; and
 - Mapping with echosounder attached to the ship.
- Use of the Government of Nunavut research vessel *Nuliajuk*.

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 at www.nirb.ca/project/125695 and include:

- *Commission Conformity Determination*
- *Commission Application*
- *NIRB Online Application in English, Inuktitut, and French*
- *Project Description in English and Inuktitut*

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 Natural Resources Canada project proposal with this letter, and we invite interested parties to comment directly to the NIRB by **May 30, 2022**.

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.

Please note that *proposed* project-specific terms and conditions, should the project proceed, have been attached for consideration and comment ([Appendix A](#)).

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/125695.

If you have any questions or require clarification, feel free to contact the undersigned at (867)-983-4617 or kmorrison@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



Keith Morrison
Manager, Impact Assessment
Nunavut Impact Review Board

Attachments: Appendix A: Proposed Project Specific Terms and Conditions

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

cc: Distribution List
Richard Dwyer, Nunavut Water Board
Carson Gillis, Nunavut Tunngavik Inc.
Stephen Williamson Bathory, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Jared Ottenhof, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Joel Fortier, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Agnes Simonfalvy, Government of Nunavut
Michele Leblanc-Havard, Government of Nunavut – Department of Environment
Mosha Cote, Nunavut Research Institute
Tracey McCaie, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs
Alasdair Beattie, Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Appendix A: Proposed Project Specific Terms and Conditions

The following is a list of project-specific terms and conditions which, should the project proceed, may be recommended to be attached to any approval.

General

1. Natural Resources Canada (the Proponent) shall maintain a copy of the Project Terms and Conditions at the site of operation at all times and make it accessible to enforcement officers upon request.
2. The Proponent shall operate in accordance with all commitments stated in correspondence provided to the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC File No.: 149732), and the NIRB Online Application Form, May 10, 2022. This information should be accessible to enforcement officers upon request.
3. The Proponent shall operate the site in accordance with all applicable Acts, Regulations and Guidelines.
4. The Proponent shall ensure that it meets the standards and/or limits as set out in the authorizing agencies' permits or licences as required for this project.
5. The Proponent shall ensure that all personnel, staff and contractors are adequately trained prior to commencement of all project activities, and shall be made aware of all operational plans, management plans, guidelines and Proponent commitments relating to the project.

Waste Management

6. The Proponent shall manage all hazardous and non-hazardous waste including food, domestic wastes, debris and petroleum-based chemicals (e.g., greases, gasoline, glycol-based antifreeze) in such a manner to avoid release into the environment and access to wildlife at all times until disposed of appropriately or at an approved facility.

Wildlife – General

7. The Proponent shall not substantially alter or damage or destroy any wildlife habitat in conducting this operation unless otherwise authorized by the appropriate authorizing agencies.
8. The Proponent shall not chase, weary, harass or molest wildlife. This includes persistently circling, chasing, hovering over, pursuing or in any other way harass wildlife, or disturbing large groups of animals.
9. The Proponent shall not hunt or fish, unless proper Nunavut authorizations have been acquired.

Marine-Based Activities

10. The Proponent shall, where practicable, coordinate with other vessels to minimize simultaneous vessel traffic in critical wildlife habitat areas allowing the wildlife to continue to use the habitat undisturbed.

11. The Proponent shall ensure that noise be kept to a minimum and shall refrain from making sharp or loud noises, blowing horns or whistles and shall maintain constant engine noise levels.
12. The Proponent shall not visit cliffs used by nesting and breeding birds during the late afternoon or early evening hours during the months of August and September.
13. The Proponent shall anchor large vessels, such as cruise ships at least 500 metres away from seabird and seaduck breeding colonies except Ivory gull breeding sites which requires a setback distance of 2,000 metres. Further, the Proponent shall ensure small launch vessels (e.g., zodiacs, kayaks) maintain a distance of 100 metres from the seabird colonies.
14. The Proponent shall not attempt to intersect or interfere with the movements of marine mammals. This includes ensuring that there are no wake zones within 250 metres and a minimum of 100 metre no go zone around marine mammals. Strategic positioning of vessels ahead of the path being traveled by mobile mammals and waiting for the mammals to pass is also prohibited.
15. When marine mammals appear to be trapped or disturbed by vessel movements, the Proponent shall implement appropriate measures to mitigate disturbance, including stoppage of movement until wildlife have moved away from the immediate area.
16. The Proponent shall maintain a distance of 100 metres if a Polar Bear is encountered on land or ice while conducting activities from a zodiac or other small craft; all interaction with Polar Bears should be avoided if possible.
17. The Proponent shall maintain a distance of 500 metres of a walrus haul out while conducting activities from a zodiac or other small craft.
18. The Proponent shall suspend all project activities should any dead fish or wildlife (both marine and terrestrial), or any injured wildlife be observed during any works or activities in and around the marine waters. Activities may only be resumed on the recommendation of the authorizing agencies.
19. The Proponent shall report all incidents, injuries or sightings of marine mammals to the appropriate authorizing agencies.
20. The Proponent shall implement measures designed to minimize disturbance to seabed sediments and benthic communities and marine wildlife when carrying out project activities within the marine environment

Other

21. The Proponent should engage with local residents regarding planned activities in the area and should solicit available Inuit Qaujimaningit and information regarding current recreational and traditional usage of the project area which may inform project activities. Posting of translated public notices and direct engagement with potentially interested groups and individuals prior to undertaking project activities is strongly encouraged.
22. The Proponent shall ensure that project activities do not interfere with Inuit wildlife harvesting or traditional land use activities.

23. The Proponent should, to the extent possible, hire local people and access local services where possible.