



NIRB File No.: 22YN021
NPC File No.: 149746

June 2, 2022

To: The Honourable Joyce Murray
Minister of Fisheries and Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Sent via email: min@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Re: Extension Request for NIRB Screening of Fisheries and Oceans Canada’s “Passive Acoustic Monitoring and UAV Assessment of the Impacts of Shipping and Development on High Arctic Beluga Whales and Narwhals” Project Proposal

Dear Honourable Minister:

On April 12, 2022, the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received Fisheries and Oceans Canada’s (DFO) “Passive Acoustic Monitoring and UAV Assessment of the Impacts of Shipping and Development on High Arctic Beluga Whales and Narwhals” project proposal from the Nunavut Planning Commission for screening, pursuant to Part 3 of the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act*, S.C. 2013, c. 14, s. 2 (*NuPPAA*). **Pursuant to s. 92(4) of the *NuPPAA*, the NIRB hereby requests that the responsible Minister extend the period for the submission of the Board’s written report for the screening of this project proposal, NIRB File No. 22YN021.**

On April 12, 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 April 20, 2022, the NIRB received the required additional information and commenced the screening pursuant to Part 3 of the *NuPPAA*. On April 27, 2022, the NIRB distributed notice of the project proposal to potentially affected communities and interested parties with a request for comments to be submitted for the Board’s consideration by May 18, 2022.

Due to the concerns raised by the Regional Inuit Association, on May 24, 2022, the NIRB provided the Proponent with an opportunity to respond to comments prior to the Board making its decision on the proposal. As a result of the time required for the Proponent to provide the required information, the NIRB is unable to provide the written report for the screening within the 45 days as set out in the *NuPPAA* and requires additional time to complete the assessment. The NIRB

anticipates screening of this project proposal will be completed by **June 21, 2022**, at which time a screening decision report will be submitted to the responsible Minister for consideration.

If this request is approved, the NIRB understands that the Minister will notify the Proponent and the NIRB of the extension.

All documents received and pertaining to the NIRB's screening of this project proposal can be accessed from the NIRB's online public registry at www.nirb.ca/project/125688.

If you have any questions or require clarification regarding this request, please contact our office toll free at 1-866-233-3033.

Sincerely,



Karen Costello
Executive Director
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Courtney Wheeler, Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Olayuk Akesuk, President of the Qikiqtani Inuit Association
The Honourable Pam Gross, Government of Nunavut, Minister Responsible for Nunavut Arctic College
The Honourable David Akeagok, Government of Nunavut, Minister of Environment