



NIRB File No.: 22YN022
NPC File No.: 149723

June 27, 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 Memorial University’s “Investigating Scott Inlet seeps with autonomous underwater vehicles” Project Proposal

Dear Honourable Minister:

On April 14, 2022, the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received Memorial University’s “Investigating Scott Inlet seeps with autonomous underwater vehicles” 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. 22YN022.**

On April 14, 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. Following a preliminary completeness check of the proposal as submitted on May 16, 2022 by the Proponent, the NIRB determined that the proposal did not contain the necessary information for the NIRB to carry out its screening and requested that the Proponent provide the Board with the additional information in order to carry out the screening of the project proposal. On May 16, 2022, the NIRB received the required information and commenced the screening pursuant to Part 3 of the *NuPPAA*. On May 25, 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 June 3, 2022.

Due to public comment extension requests received on May 31, 2022 and June 1, 2022 from the Nangmoutaq Hunters and Trapper Association and the Ittaq Heritage and Research Center to allow for member and community consultation, the NIRB is unable to provide its written report for the screening of this project proposal within the 45 days as set out in the *NuPPAA*. Additional time is requested to complete the decision-making for this file. The NIRB anticipates screening of this

project proposal will be completed by **July 22, 2022**, at which time a screening decision report will be submitted to the responsible Minister for consideration; should any additional time be required to conclude the screening process, the NIRB commits to providing further updates as deemed appropriate.

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/125689.

If you have any questions or require clarification regarding this request, please contact our office toll free at 1-867-983-4600.

Sincerely,



Karen D. Costello
Executive Director
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Neil Bose, Memorial University
Lootie Toomasie, Chairperson Nunavut Water Board
Aluki Kotierk, President Nunavut Tunngavik Inc.
Olayuk Akesuk, President Qikiqtani Inuit Association