



**NIRB File No.: 22YN034**  
NPC File No.: 149421

October 19, 2022

Ik Icard  
Far North Digital  
200 W 34<sup>th</sup>  
#424 Anchorage  
Alaska, USA 99503

Sent via email: [iicard@fn-digital.com](mailto:iicard@fn-digital.com)

**Re: Notice of Screening for Far North Digital's "Far North Fiber Marine Route Survey" Project Proposal**

Dear Ik Icard:

On August 3, 2022, the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) received a referral to screen Far North Digital's "Far North Fiber Marine Route Survey" 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 **22YN034** - please reference this file number in all future related correspondence.

#### INFORMATION REQUEST

On October 3, 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 September 26, 2022, the NIRB released a formal correspondence, pursuant to s. 144(1) of the *NuPPAA*, requesting that the Proponent provide the Board with the information necessary in order to carry out the screening of the project proposal. On September 26, 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/125720](http://www.nirb.ca/project/125720).

<b>Project:</b>	Far North Fiber Marine Route Survey		
<b>Region:</b>	Qikiqtani and Kitikmeot		
<b>Location:</b>	Parry Channel, Baffin Bay		
<b>Closest Communities:</b>	Pond Inlet, Arctic Bay, Resolute Bay	<b>Distance (approximate)</b>	50-150 kilometres
<b>Summary of Project Description:</b>	The Proponent intends to conduct a survey to determine the possible route for a future fiber cable.		
<b>Project Proposed Timeline:</b>	July 2022 to October 2024		

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

- Sail through the Northwest Passage (Parry Channel) to conduct a survey on the best possible route for a fiber cable network from Europe to Asia, via Nunavut waters;
- Conduct a Burial Assessment Survey (BAS) using a Cone Penetrometer; and
- Use of sidescan and depth measurement sonars to profile the bottom topography.

### **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/125739](http://www.nirb.ca/project/125739) and include:

- *Commission Conformity Determination*
- *Commission Application and Questionnaire*
- *NIRB's Online Application*
- *Project Description Presentation*
- *PowerPoint Presentation*
- *Marine Survey Vessel Typical Specs & Equipment*
- *Additional Information*

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 Far North Fiber project proposal with this letter, and we invite interested parties to comment directly to the NIRB by **November 9<sup>th</sup>, 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 including whether any cumulative ecosystemic and socio-economic impacts could result from the impacts of the proposed project combined with those of any other project that has been carried out, is being carried out or is likely to be carried out inside the designated area, or wholly or partly outside the designated area.

#### 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/125720](http://www.nirb.ca/project/125720).

If you have any questions or require clarification, feel free to contact the undersigned at (867) 983-4618 or [rqammaniq@nirb.ca](mailto:rqammaniq@nirb.ca).

Sincerely,



Robby Qammaniq, *B. Sc.*  
Technical Advisor II  
Nunavut Impact Review Board

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

cc: Distribution List  
Geoff Clark, Kitikmeot Inuit Association  
Wynter Kuliktana, Kitikmeot Inuit Association  
Jared Ottenhof, Qikiqtani Inuit Association  
Joel Fortier, Qikiqtani Inuit Association  
Stephen Williamson Bathory, Qikiqtani Inuit Association  
Chris Spencer, Qikiqtani Inuit Association  
Michele LeBlanc-Havard, Government of Nunavut – Department of Environment  
Mosha Cote, Nunavut Research Institute  
Jody Small, Environment and Climate Change Canada  
Jane Chisholm, Parks Canada  
Florence Lapierre-Poulin, Parks Canada  
Alasdair Beattie, Fisheries and Oceans Canada  
Transport Canada General Inbox