



CIRNAC Comments to NIRB

Re: Notice of Screening Memorial University of Manitoba's "Mueller's Ice Cap Ice Core" Project Proposal



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

Your file - Votre référence
22YN062
Our file - Notre référence
GCdocs# 109908644

February 23, 2023

Mia Otokiak
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 University of Manitoba's "Mueller's Ice Cap Ice Core" Project Proposal

Dear Mia Otokiak,

On February 2, 2023, the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) invited parties to comment on University of Manitoba's "Mueller's Ice Cap Ice Core" 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: Closure and Reclamation of the Ice Drill Hole

It is unclear if the Proponent has assessed the risk of long term surface and ground water contamination that may be caused by drill fluid left in the hole after the collection of ice core. It is also unclear how long the drill fluid is expected to take before it is completely biodegraded.

CIRNAC recommends the Proponent to provide more details on the proposed closure and reclamation of the 600m deep ice drill hole including cap/casing on top.

CIRNAC #2: Consultation with Interested Parties

CIRNAC recommends that the Proponent continue to consult with the Hamlets of Grise Fiord and the Resolute Bay, and consult with the Ivik Hunters and Trappers Association and the Resolute Bay Hunters and Trappers Association. Issues that should be considered as part of any consultation activities should include:

- Incorporation of Inuit knowledge and Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit into project activities;
- Mitigation measures designed to prevent contamination of surface and ground water from drill fluid left in the ice drill hole, 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 appreciates the opportunity to provide comments and looks forward to working with the NIRB and the Proponent throughout any further phases related to this project. Should you have any questions, please contact Richard Bingley by e-mail at richard.bingley2@rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca.

Sincerely,



Felexce Ngwa
Manager, Impact Assessment

