



NIRB File No.: 22YN062
NPC File No.: 149791

February 24, 2023

Dorthe Dahl-Jensen
University of Manitoba
Centre for Earth Observation Science
535 Wallace Building 125 Dysart Rd.
Winnipeg, MB R3T 2N2

Sent via email: Dorthe.dahl-jensen@umanitoba.ca

Re: Opportunity to address comments received regarding University of Manitoba's "Mueller's Ice Cap Ice Core" project proposal

Dear Dorthe Dahl-Jensen:

On December 7, 2022, the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received a referral to screen University of Manitoba's (U of M) "Mueller's Ice Cap Ice Core" project proposal from the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC or Commission). On February 2, 2023, the NIRB circulated a public notice of the screening for this project, inviting interested parties to provide comments directly to the NIRB by February 23, 2023.

On or before February 23, 2023, the NIRB received comments from the following interested parties:

- *Crown – Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC)*

All comment submissions received by the NIRB relating to this project proposal can be accessed from the NIRB's online public registry at www.nirb.ca/project/125765.

A *summary* of the public concerns reflected in the comment submissions relate to the following:

- *Recommends the Proponent to provide more details on the 600m deep ice drill hole, drill fluid to be used, and expected time to take before it is completely biodegraded. The information provided does not discuss biodegradability.*
- *Recommends the Proponent provide information on how they intend to secure the drill hole including cap/casing on top.*

The NIRB would like to provide U of M with an opportunity to address the comments noted above prior to the Board rendering its determination for this screening assessment and issuing its subsequent Screening Decision Report to the responsible Minister(s). The NIRB respectfully requests that a response be provided directly to the NIRB by **March 10, 2023**.

If U of M determines that the time required to supply a written response is significantly greater than two (2) weeks, the Board requests written notification and an anticipated date for submission be provided as soon as possible.

Please send any forthcoming submissions directly to the NIRB at info@nirb.ca, or through the online public registry at www.nirb.ca.

If you have any questions or require additional clarification, please contact the undersigned directly at (867) 983-4622 or motokiak@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



Mia Otokiak
Technical Advisor I
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Distribution List
Richard Dwyer, Nunavut Water Board
Stephen Williamson Bathory, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Jared Ottenhof, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Joel Fortier, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Michele LeBlanc-Havard, Government of Nunavut – Department of Environment
Mosha Cote, Nunavut Research Institute
Tracey McCaie, Crown – Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada