



NIRB File No.: 23YN013
NPC File No.: 150036

May 1, 2023

Etienne Brouard
Geological Survey of Canada
601 Boot St.
Ottawa, ON K1A 0E8

Sent via email: Etienne.brouard@nrcan-rncan.gc.ca

Re: Notice of Screening for Natural Resources Canada's "Keewatin Glacial Dynamics" project proposal

Dear Etienne Brouard:

On March 21, 2023, the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) received a referral to screen Natural Resources Canada's (NRCan) "Keewatin Glacial Dynamics" project proposal from the Nunavut Planning Commission (Commission), with an accompanying positive conformity determination with the Keewatin Regional Land Use Plan. On April 6, 2023, the NIRB received the complete application from the Proponent.

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 **23YN013** - please reference this file number in all future related correspondence.

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/125784.

Project:	Keewatin Glacial Dynamics				
Region:	Kivalliq Region				
Closest Community:	Baker Lake	Distance (approximate)	190 kilometres (km)	Direction	West

Summary of Project Description:	The Proponent aims to improve understanding of how the landscape in western Nunavut has been affected by the movement and flow of glaciers.
Project Proposed Timeline:	July 2023 to August 2023

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

- Use of a helicopter to transport personnel and equipment to research sites daily from Tukto Lodge at Mosquito Lake in the Northwest Territories;
- Use of tools to collect bedrock, boulder and soil samples;
- Small fuel caches (5-7 containers each) in two (2) locations for main source of daily helicopter trips; and
- Waste to be brought back to the lodge for proper disposal.

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. The NIRB notes that it is only assessing activities from this project being carried out in Nunavut.

REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

All documents received can be accessed from the NIRB's online public registry www.nirb.ca/project/125784 and include:

- *Commission Conformity Determination*
- *Commission Application & Questionnaire*
- *MPC Supplementary Documentation*
- *NIRB Application*
- *Proposed Activities*
- *Additional Information*
- *Non-Technical Summary in English and Inuktitut*

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 NRCan project proposal with this letter, and we invite interested parties to comment directly to the NIRB by **May 22, 2023**.

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.

Additionally, please be aware that the NIRB and the Nunavut Water Board (NWB) are required to coordinate their processes¹ for projects that require a water licence, especially municipal undertakings in order ensure the timely review and processing of the application. In undertaking a coordinated NIRB-NWB process, the Proponent must provide information through the assessment to satisfy both the impact assessment requirements as well as the water licensing process; furthermore, where information to satisfy each process is similar, coordination of the timing or contents of applications may be considered when information is being submitted to both organizations. However, the Proponent has the option to request or opt out of a coordinated process at any time. Should the Proponent wish to discontinue the coordinated process, the Proponent may do so in writing to both the NIRB and the NWB.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Please send your comments to the NIRB via email at 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/125784.

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

¹ As per Sections 13.5.2 and 13.6.1 of the *Nunavut Agreement*, s. 193 of *NuPPAA*, and s. 37 of the *Nunavut Waters and Nunavut Surface Rights Tribunal Act*.

Sincerely,



Mia Otokiak
Technical Advisor I
Nunavut Impact Review Board

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

cc: Distribution List
Richard Dwyer, Nunavut Water Board
Luis Manzo, Kivalliq Inuit Association
Maria Serra, Kivalliq Inuit Association
Brenda Pilakapsi, Kivalliq Inuit Association
Craig Beardsall, Kivalliq Inuit Association
Mosha Cote, Nunavut Research Institute
Tracey McCaie, Crown – Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada
Lisa Pirie-Dominix, Canadian Wildlife Services