



NIRB File No.: 23KN076
NPC File No.: 150172

February 28, 2024

To: The Honourable Dan Vandal
Minister of Northern Affairs
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Sent via email: dan.vandal@parl.gc.ca and landsmining@rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca

Re: Extension Request for NIRB Screening of Crown – Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada’s “Pioneer High Arctic Bundle (HAB) Project” Proposal

Dear Honourable Minister:

On December 22, 2023, the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received Crown – Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada’s “Pioneer High Arctic Bundle (HAB) 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. 23KN076.**

On January 5, 2024, 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 January 25, 2024, the NIRB received the required additional information and commenced the screening pursuant to Part 3 of the *NuPPAA*. On February 6, 2024, 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 February 27, 2024.

As a result of the workload before the Board due a Project Certificate reconsideration associated with a major development project, 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* and additional time is requested to complete the decision-making for this file. The NIRB anticipates screening of this project proposal will be completed by **March 18, 2024**, 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/125872.

If you have any questions or require clarification regarding this request, please contact our office toll free at 1-866-233-3033.

Sincerely,



Robin R.R. Sinclair
Executive Director
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Lottie Toomasie, Chairperson of the Nunavut Water Board