



NIRB File No.: 24YN022
NPC File No.: 150251

June 10, 2024

Bhabesh Roy
Municipality of Pangnirtung
Pangnirtung, NU

Sent via email: b.roy@pangnirtung.ca

Re: Notice of Screening for Municipality of Pangnirtung's "Bursting the Banks: Dealing with Flooding due to Climate Change in the Arctic" project proposal

Dear Bhabesh Roy:

On May 2, 2024, the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) received a referral to screen the Municipality of Pangnirtung's "Bursting the Banks: Dealing with Flooding due to Climate Change in the Arctic" project proposal from the Nunavut Planning Commission (Commission), which noted that the project proposal is outside the area of an applicable regional land use plan. On June 6, 2024, 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 **24YN022** - please reference this file number in all future related correspondence.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Project Scope:

Project:	Bursting the Banks: Dealing with Flooding due to Climate Change in the Arctic
Region:	Qikiqtani (South Baffin)
Location:	Within the municipal boundaries of the community of Pangnirtung
Summary of Project Description:	The Proponent intends to conduct research to better characterize the hydrology of Pangnirtung, especially the role of the snow regime and its impact on flash flooding and drainage in the Duval River.

Project Proposed Timeline:	April 2024 to April 2027
-----------------------------------	--------------------------

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

- Use of two (2) medium sized excavators;
- Installation and use of a weather station that will measure windspeed, rainfall and snowfall;
- Installation of solar panels to power weather station;
- Installation of ground temperature sensors;
- Use of 200 litres of diesel; and
- Combustible waste to be disposed in hamlet landfill;

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 at www.nirb.ca/project/125966 and include:

- *Commission Conformity Determination*
- *Commission Application*
- *NIRB Application*

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 Municipality of Pangnirtung's project proposal with this letter, and we invite interested parties to comment directly to the NIRB by **June 20, 2024**.

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.

Please note that *proposed* project-specific terms and conditions, should the project proceed, have been attached for consideration and comment ([Appendix A](#)).

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/125966.

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

Sincerely,



Mia Otokiak
Impact Assessment Officer
Nunavut Impact Review Board

Attachments: Appendix A: *Proposed* Project Specific Terms and Conditions

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

cc: Distribution List
Richard Dwyer, Nunavut Water Board
Jared Ottenhof, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Chris Spencer, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Conor Goddard, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Joel Fortier, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Assol Kubeisinova, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Justin Buller, Government of Nunavut, Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs
Dianne Lapierre, Government of Nunavut, Department of Economic Development and Transportation
Jonas Azonaha, Government of Nunavut, Department of Economic Development and Transportation
William Patch, Government of Nunavut, Department of Community and Government Services
Randy Mercer, Government of Nunavut, Department of Community and Government Services
Ken Wasylyshen, Government of Nunavut, Department of Community and Government Services
Olivier Forbes-Bouillon, Government of Nunavut, Department of Community and Government Services
Natalie D'Souza, Government of Nunavut, Department of Environment
Brad Pirie, Government of Nunavut, Department of Environment
Mosha Cote, Nunavut Research Institute

Appendix A: Proposed Project Specific Terms and Conditions

The following is a list of project-specific terms and conditions which, should the project proceed, may be recommended to be attached to any approval.

General

1. Municipality of Pangnirtung (the Proponent) shall maintain a copy of the Project Terms and Conditions at the site of operation at all times and make it accessible to enforcement officers upon request.
2. The Proponent shall operate in accordance with all commitments stated in correspondence provided to the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC File No.: 150251) and the NIRB (Online Application Form, June 6, 2024). This information should be accessible to enforcement officers upon request.
3. The Proponent shall operate the site in accordance with all applicable Acts, Regulations and Guidelines.
4. The Proponent shall ensure that it meets the standards and/or limits as set out in the authorizing agencies' permits or licences as required for this project.
5. The Proponent shall ensure that all personnel, staff and contractors are adequately trained prior to commencement of all project activities, and shall be made aware of all operational plans, management plans, guidelines and Proponent commitments relating to the project.

Water courses/Water bodies (including fresh and marine waters)

6. The Proponent shall not deposit, nor permit the deposit of any fuel, chemicals, wastes (including wastewater) or sediment into any water body. The Proponent should have in place an Emergency Spill Response Plan that is approved by the appropriate authorizing agency(ies).

Waste Management

7. The Proponent shall manage all hazardous and non-hazardous waste including food, domestic wastes, debris and petroleum-based chemicals (e.g., greases, gasoline, glycol-based antifreeze) in such a manner to avoid release into the environment and access to wildlife at all times until disposed of appropriately or at an approved facility.

Wildlife – General

8. The Proponent shall not substantially alter or damage or destroy any wildlife habitat in conducting this operation unless otherwise authorized by the appropriate authorizing agencies.
9. The Proponent shall not chase, weary, harass or molest wildlife. This includes persistently circling, chasing, hovering over, pursuing or in any other way harass wildlife, or disturbing large groups of animals.
10. The Proponent shall not hunt or fish, unless proper Nunavut authorizations have been acquired.

Migratory Birds and Raptors Disturbance

11. The Proponent shall carry out all phases of the project in a manner that protects migratory birds and avoids harming, killing or disturbing migratory birds or destroying, disturbing or taking their nests or eggs. In this regard, the Proponent shall take into account Environment and Climate Change Canada's *Avoidance Guidelines*. The Proponent's actions in applying the *Avoidance Guidelines* shall be in compliance with the *Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994* and with the *Species at Risk Act*.
12. The Proponent shall not disturb or destroy the nests or eggs of any birds. If active nests of any birds are discovered or located (i.e., with eggs or young), the Proponent shall avoid these areas until nesting is complete and the young have naturally left the vicinity of the nest by establishing a protection buffer zone¹ appropriate for the species and the surrounding habitat.

Land Use and Restoration of Disturbed Areas

13. The Proponent shall use existing trails where possible during project activities on the land.
14. The Proponent shall ensure that the land use area is kept clean and tidy at all times.
15. The Proponent shall avoid disturbance on slopes prone to natural erosion, and alternative locations shall be utilized.
16. The Proponent shall remove all garbage, fuel and equipment at the end of each field season.
17. The Proponent shall ensure that all disturbed areas are restored to a stable or pre-disturbed state using Best Available Technology Economically Achievable (BATEA) upon completion of work and/or abandonment.

Heritage Sites

18. The Proponent shall ensure that archaeological and paleontological sites are not purposely or inadvertently disturbed by clients or staff as a result of project activities.
19. The Proponent shall ensure that all clients and staff are aware of the Proponent's responsibilities and requirements regarding archaeological or palaeontological sites that are encountered during land-based activities. This should include briefings explaining the prohibitions regarding removal of artifacts, and defacing or writing on rocks and infrastructure.
20. No activities shall be conducted in the vicinity (50 metres buffer zone) of any archaeological/historical sites. If archaeological sites or features are encountered, activities shall immediately be interrupted and moved away from this location. Each site encountered needs to be recorded and reported to the Government of Nunavut-Department of Culture and Heritage.

Other

21. The Proponent should engage with local residents regarding planned activities in the area and should solicit available Inuit Qaujimaningit and information regarding current recreational and traditional usage of the project area which may inform project activities.

¹ Recommended setback distances to define buffer zones have been established by Environment and Climate Change Canada for different bird groups nesting in tundra habitat and can be found at www.ec.gc.ca/paom-itmb.

Posting of translated public notices and direct engagement with potentially interested groups and individuals prior to undertaking project activities is strongly encouraged.

22. The Proponent shall ensure that project activities do not interfere with Inuit wildlife harvesting or traditional land use activities.
23. The Proponent should, to the extent possible, hire local people and access local services where possible.