



**NIRB File No.: 25YN039**  
NPC File No.: 150563

May 30, 2025

To: The Honourable David Joanasie  
Minister of Environment  
Government of Nunavut  
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The Honourable Margaret Nakashuk  
Minister Responsible for Nunavut Arctic  
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**Re: Screening Decision for University of Alberta's "Assessing the ecological risk associated with critical mineral extraction and low-sulphur fuels in Northern ecosystems" Project Proposal, Kitikmeot Region**

Dear Honourable Ministers:

On April 22, 2025, the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received a referral to screen University of Alberta's "Assessing the ecological risk associated with critical mineral extraction and low-sulphur fuels in Northern ecosystems" 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.

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 section 87 of the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act (NuPPAA)*, the NIRB commenced screening this project proposal and assigned it file number **25YN039**.

Following the assessment of all material information provided, the NIRB is recommending that a review of University of Alberta's "Assessing the ecological risk associated with critical mineral extraction and low-sulphur fuels in Northern ecosystems" project is not required pursuant to s. 92(1)(a) of the *NuPPAA*. Pursuant to s. 92(2)(a) of the *NuPPAA*, the NIRB has determined that specific terms and conditions are appropriate for this project.

Accordingly, the NIRB is issuing the attached Screening Decision Report dated May 30, 2025, to the responsible Minister(s). The Screening Decision Report provides, among other things, the regulatory framework, project overview and the NIRB's assessment process, factors relevant for the determining significance of impacts, and recommended project-specific terms and conditions.

Please note that the project proposal will not be enclosed and the information related to the project proposal is accessible from the NIRB's Public Registry at [www.nirb.ca/project/126179](http://www.nirb.ca/project/126179).

The Board only addresses these notice letters to those individuals considered to be a "responsible Minister with decision-making authority" for the project as set out under the *NuPPAA*. Regulatory Authorities and other Authorizing Agencies associated with a proposed project (e.g., Regional Inuit Associations, Nunavut Water Board) will continue to be copied on the Notice of Release of the Screening Decision Report. The NIRB is providing these parties with notice and access to the Board's Screening Decision Report as required under s. 200(2) and in support of these parties in the fulfillment of their responsibilities under the *NuPPAA* and the *Nunavut Agreement* to address, and as appropriate, implement, to the fullest extent possible, any relevant NIRB recommendations contained in the Screening Decision Report.

We look forward to receiving a response from the responsible Ministers and the NIRB remains available for consultation with the Ministers regarding this report as necessary. If you have any questions or require clarification, please do not hesitate to contact the NIRB's Director, Operations, Tara Arko at (867) 983-4611 or [tarko@nirb.ca](mailto:tarko@nirb.ca).

Sincerely,



Albert Ehloak  
*Acting Chairperson*  
Nunavut Impact Review Board

Enclosure (1): Screening Decision Report, NIRB File No.: 25YN039 (May 30, 2025)

cc: Lootie Toomasie, Nunavut Water Board  
The Honourable Rebecca Chartrand, P.C., MP, Minister of Northern and Arctic Affairs