



**NIRB File No.: 25YN033**

*Related to NIRB File No.: 24YN048*

*Commission File No.: 150770*

*Related to Commission File No.: 150521*

June 6, 2025

Heather Shilton  
Nunavut Nukkiksautiit Corporation  
PO Box 1228  
Iqaluit, NU  
X0A 0H0

*Sent via email: [hshilton@qcorp.ca](mailto:hshilton@qcorp.ca)*

**Re: Notice of Screening for Nunavut Nukkiksautiit Corporation's "Investigative Studies for the Iqaluit Nukkiksautiit Project" proposal**

Dear Heather Shilton:

On April 15, 2025 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) received a referral to screen Nunavut Nukkiksautiit Corporation (NNC)'s "Investigative Studies for the Iqaluit Nukkiksautiit Project" 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. The Commission noted that the works and activities associated with the current proposal were previously reviewed by the Commission, including the hydrological scientific research activities; however, the Commission has determined that the project proposal is a significant modification to the project because of the proposed modifications listed above.

On May 12, 2025, the NIRB received the complete application from the Proponent. The NIRB notes that previous hydrology baseline field research activities were previously screened by the NIRB under file no. 24YN048; however, the NIRB has determined that the current proposed activities are a significant modification to the previously assessed activities and have assigned this proposal a new file number; **NIRB File No. 25YN033** - please reference this file number in all future related correspondence.

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*, S.C. 2013, c. 14, s. 2 (*NuPPAA*), the NIRB has commenced screening this project proposal, and by copy of this letter, **invites**

interested parties and municipalities potentially affected by the proposal to comment directly to the Nunavut Impact Review Board.

## 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/126174](http://www.nirb.ca/project/126174).

<b>Project:</b>	Investigative Studies for the Iqaluit Nukkiqsautiit Project
<b>Region:</b>	Qikiqtani Region
<b>Location:</b>	Kuugaluk, approximately 60 kilometres (km) northeast of Iqaluit
<b>Summary of Project Description:</b>	The Proponent intends to conduct baseline studies, archaeological studies and preliminary engineering studies to investigate the potential for a community scale hydroelectric project in Iqaluit.
<b>Project Proposed Timeline:</b>	July 2025 to October 2025

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

- Collect soil, surface water and groundwater samples for geophysical baseline studies;
- Deployment of a network of wildlife cameras around the primary proposed reservoir and in a buffered area surrounding the road routing;
- Conduct terrestrial ecosystem and wildlife habitat assessments at each camera location;
- Conduct bird surveys throughout areas of the proposed disturbance:
  - Conduct aerial surveys;
  - Conduct point count surveys for breeding birds;
  - Conduct standwatch surveys along the proposed road routes to document current patterns of bird flight behaviour;
- Collect water quality and fish samples in lakes for fish and fish habitat studies;
- Conduct groundwater hydrology studies with continuation of hydrometric monitoring and data collection;
- Conduct an archaeological assessment along the entire shoreline that would potentially be flooded. Newly recorded sites would be mapped but no collection made;
- Use of ground-penetrating-radar or similar methods for non-invasive geophysical data collection along with additional test pitting for surface materials;
- Use of one (1) LiDAR sensor from a fix-wing aircraft to capture topographic data and orthophotos of the proposed project area to;
- Establishment of a temporary camp to support research activities;
  - Onsite incineration using a Smart Ash incinerator;
  - Removal of all non-incinerable waste back to Iqaluit for disposal;
  - Treatment of greywater or removal to Iqaluit for disposal
  - Collection of surface water for domestic/camp purposes;
  - Demobilization of camp at end of field season;

- Use of helicopter, fixed wing plane, all-terrain vehicle, boats to transport personnel and equipment to research sites and to conduct research;
- Use and storage of fuel and chemicals;
- Use of local accommodations and facilities in Iqaluit;
- Hire locally from Iqaluit and Panniqtuuq for field work opportunities; and
- Ongoing engagement with stakeholders and communities to share research findings.

### ***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/126174](http://www.nirb.ca/project/126174) and include:

- Commission Conformity Determination
- Commission Application
- NIRB Online Application Form in English
- Non-technical Summary in English, French and Inuktitut
- Non-technical Project Description in English
- May 2025 Responses to NIRB Questions
- NNC's Project Overview and Outlook for 2025 Document
- NNC's Archaeological Description of Work
- NNC's Consultation Summary Report
- Dillon Consultant's Iqaluit Nukkiqsautiit Project Regulatory and Environmental Consultant Report
- INP Service Agreement for LiDAR Data Collection
- Temporary Camp Setup Information

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 NNC's project proposal with this letter, and we invite interested parties to comment directly to the NIRB by **June 26, 2025**.

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.

#### CONTACT INFORMATION

Please send your comments to the NIRB via email at [info@nirb.ca](mailto: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/126174](http://www.nirb.ca/project/126174).

If you have any questions or require clarification, feel free to contact the undersigned at [kgillard@nirb.ca](mailto:kgillard@nirb.ca).

Sincerely,



Kelli Gillard PAg CTAJ  
Manager, Impact Assessment  
Nunavut Impact Review Board

Enclosures (6): Public Notice of Screening (English, French and Inuktitut)  
Comment Forms (English, French and Inuktitut)

cc: Distribution List  
Richard Dwyer, Nunavut Water Board  
Jared Ottenhof, Qikiqtani Inuit Association  
Chris Spencer, Qikiqtani Inuit Association  
Joel Fortier, Qikiqtani Inuit Association  
Carson Gillis, Nunavut Tunngavik Inc.  
Justin Buller, Government of Nunavut-Executive and Intergovernment Affairs  
Dianne Lapierre, Government of Nunavut-Economic Development and Transportation  
Sean Joseph, Government of Nunavut-Economic Development and Transportation  
Caroline Whittle, Government of Nunavut-Culture and Heritage  
Adam Pollock, Government of Nunavut-Culture and Heritage  
Natalie D'Souza, Government of Nunavut-Department of Environment  
Bradely Pirie, Government of Nunavut-Department of Environment  
Michele LeBlanc-Havard, Government of Nunavut-Department of Environment  
Drikus Gissing, Government of Nunavut-Department of Environment  
Mosha Cote, Nunavut Research Institute  
Adrian Paradis, Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency  
Tracey McCaie, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada  
José Audet-Lecouffe, Fisheries and Oceans Canada