



# CIRNAC Comments to NIRB

## Re: Notice of Screening for Government of Nunavut's "Kivalliq-Baffin Connector Marine Survey" Project Proposal



Nunavut Regional Office  
918 Sivumugiaq Street  
Iqaluit, NU, X0A 3H0

Your file - Votre référence  
25UN049  
Our file - Notre référence  
GCdocs# 138991215

July 11, 2025

Varun Nayak  
Monitoring Officer  
Nunavut Impact Review Board  
P.O. Box 1360  
Cambridge Bay, NU, X0B 0C0  
via NIRB public registry

**Re: Notice of Screening and Comment Request for Government of Nunavut's "Kivalliq-Baffin Connector Marine Survey" Project Proposal**

Dear Varun Nayak,

On June 24, 2025, the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) invited parties to comment on Government of Nunavut's "Kivalliq-Baffin Connector Marine Survey" project proposal. Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC) offers the responses below as it pertains to the NIRB's request:

**Whether the project proposal is of a type where the potential adverse effects are highly predictable and mitigable with known technology**

**CIRNAC #1: Best Management Practices for Fuel Handling and Spill Prevention**

CIRNAC is of the view that the potential impacts of the proposed Project can be mitigated with known practices or technology.

The chartered vessel RV Coriolis II has a total fuel capacity of 145 m<sup>3</sup> at 95% capacity. A significant volume of fuel will be stored in day-tanks for over-water transfer operations. Fall weather in Hudson Strait increases hose-parting and over-fill risks. CIRNAC recommends that the Proponent consider implementing best management practices to aid in mitigation of potential spill impacts, including:

- Conducting fuel transfer in suitable weather and daylight, using double-valve dry-break couplings and drip pans;
- Storing hazardous liquids and transfer hoses at least thirty-one (31) meters from the ordinary high-water mark during any shore operations; and,
- Performing and documenting regular inspections of tanks, hoses, and containment berms.



## **CIRNAC #2: Solid Waste and Grey-Water Management**

The Proponent estimates ~125 L day<sup>-1</sup> of freshwater use but gives no information on grey-water collection or discharge method. The Solid Waste section also marks solid-waste streams and reception sites as “unknown – contractor decision”. CIRNAC recommends that the Proponent consider preparing a waste and grey-water management plan that quantifies each stream, identifies reception facilities, and describes segregation, storage and disposal methods.

### **Any matter of importance to the Party related to the project proposal**

## **CIRNAC #3: Consultation with Interested Parties**

CIRNAC recommends that the Proponent consult with the affected communities of Iqaluit, Kimmirut, Kinngait, and Coral Harbour, the Amaruq Hunters and Trappers Association, the Kimmirut Hunters and Trappers Organization, the Aiviq Hunters and Trappers Association, the Aiviit Hunters and Trappers Organization, and any other relevant organizations or individuals on its project proposal. As part of these consultation activities, several issues should be considered, including, but not limited to:

- Incorporation of Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit into project activities;
- Mitigation measures to prevent any disturbance to wildlife and the environment;
- Mitigation measures to prevent disturbance to sites of cultural, archaeological, and/or environmental significance;
- The experience of community members who practice traditional and recreational activities within or in close proximity to project area;
- Training and employment opportunities for Inuit and community members;
- Procurement opportunities for local and Inuit-owned businesses; and
- Regular updates on the status of project activities.

CIRNAC appreciates the opportunity to provide comments. Should you have any questions, please contact Muhammad Arslan by e-mail at [muhammad.arslan@rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca](mailto:muhammad.arslan@rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca) or David Abernethy by email at [david.abernethy@rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca](mailto:david.abernethy@rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca).

Sincerely,



Richard Bingley  
Manager, Impact Assessment

