



NIRB File No.: 26YN020
NIRB Public Registry link:
www.nirb.ca/project/126399
NPC File No.: 151120

May 11, 2026

Marie-Claude Williamson
Natural Resources Canada – Geological Survey of Canada
Ottawa, ON

Sent via email: marie-claude.williamson@nrcan-rncan.gc.ca

Re: Notice of Screening and Comment Request for Natural Resources Canada’s “Geological Study of the Coppermine River Group volcanic rocks, Nunavut” project proposal

Dear Marie-Claude Williamson:

The Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) has commenced screening¹ the project proposal.

By copy of this letter, NIRB invites regulators, interested parties, and community members or groups potentially affected by the proposal to view the application and comment directly to the NIRB by June 01, 2026.

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

The application can be viewed on NIRB’s online registry (link) where a comment form is available, or comments can be also submitted to info@nirb.ca, or by fax.

¹ 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)

Scope of proposal

Location	Kitikmeot region, 80 km south of Kugluktuk at the Coppermine base camp, and 140 km northwest of Cambridge Bay near Washburn Lake
Objective	The Proponent intends to perform geological mapping and conduct rock sampling at each location to improve understanding of the Coppermine River Group volcanic rocks and assess their potential for critical mineralization (e.g., nickel, copper, and platinum-group elements).
Timeline	July 6 to July 28, 2026, Kugluktuk fieldwork July 28 to July 31, 2026, Cambridge Bay fieldwork

The scope of the project includes the following undertakings, works or activities:

- Transport of personnel and equipment via helicopter, including establishment of a temporary camp in the Coppermine Study Area and helicopter access to pre-selected sampling locations in the Washburn Lake Study Area.
- Temporary camp would include a kitchen tent, six sleeper tents, supported by a portable generator and camp stove, with associated gasoline and propane use. Water would be sourced from local streams, using buckets.
- Geological mapping and rock sampling would be carried out on foot up to five kilometers away from the camp. Including the use of a drone, digital mapping tablets, and rock hammers for sampling.
- Approximately two days of helicopter support to study areas located 20 km from camp.
- Geological mapping and rock sampling in the Washburn Lake Study Area conducted without the use of a drone.
- Removal of all field personnel, equipment, and rock samples at the end of the field season.

Inclusion or Exclusion of Scoping List

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.

Questions about the NIRB's work should be directed to the undersigned at 867-983-4606 or jtakkiruu@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



Jordan Takkiruu
Impact Assessment Officer
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Distribution List
Richard Dwyer, Nunavut Water Board
Cory Barker, Kitikmeot Inuit Association
Tannis Bolt, Kitikmeot Inuit Association
Justin Buller, Government of Nunavut
Dianne Lapierre, Government of Nunavut
Natalie D'Souza, Government of Nunavut
Sean Joseph, Government of Nunavut
Mosha Cote, Nunavut Research Institute