



NIRB File No.: 26YN040

NIRB Public Registry link: www.nirb.ca/project/126455

NPC File No.: 151156

June 5, 2026

Rod Smith
Geological Survey of Canada
3303 33 St NW
Calgary, AB T2L 2A7

Sent via email: rod.smith@nrca-nrcan.gc.ca

Re: **Notice of Screening and Comment Request for Geological Survey of Canada's "Gascoyne Inlet Geoscience Project" proposal**

Dear Rod Smith:

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 26, 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 www.nirb.ca/project/126455 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	Qikiqtani (North Baffin) Region, Gascoyne Inlet and surrounding areas on southwest Devon Island, approximately 100 kilometres northeast of the community of Resolute Bay
Objective	The Proponent intends to conduct geoscience research in three areas: marine seabed geology and natural underwater noise, coastal dynamics and nearshore ice, and surficial geology and permafrost conditions to support safe operations, long-term planning, infrastructure planning, and environmental awareness in the Gascoyne Inlet area.
Timeline	July to August 2026

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

- Use of a helicopter and research vessels, including the RV Nuliajuk and a DRDC zodiac, to support marine, nearshore, and terrestrial research activities;
- Use of scientific equipment for research purposes:
 - Drone to capture high resolution aerial imagery.
 - Multi-beam/single-beam sonar for acoustic seafloor mapping from vessel.
 - Acoustic Doppler Current Profiler (ADCP) to understand water movement, sediment transport, and processes that affect coastal and seafloor conditions.
 - Handheld drill for permafrost core collection.
 - Sub-bottom profiler to use sound signals to image shallow layers below the seabed.
 - Conductivity-Temperature-Depth (CTD) data logger to measure conductivity, temperature, and depth levels.
 - Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) to image shallow subsurface layers on land.
- Historical air photographs, modern satellite images, and drone surveys to compare past and present ice conditions;
- Ground-based tools, including time-lapse cameras, and wave radar, to observe waves, ice and sediment movement along the coast;
- Air photos, satellite images, and remote sensing methods to map landforms and identify areas of instability;
- Collecting soil and stream sediment samples, and installing instruments that record ground temperatures;
- Use of the facilities and accommodation at the Gascoyne Inlet Camp;
- Use, transport, and storage of 22 drums of Jet-B aviation fuel, each with a capacity of 205 litres, at the Gascoyne Inlet Camp to support helicopter activities; and
- Hiring of up to two (2) local wildlife monitors, pending availability, to support field activities.

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 1-866-233-3033 ext. 555 or mbeattie@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



Mia Beattie
Impact Assessment Officer
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Distribution List
Jared Ottenhof, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Chris Spencer, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Conor Goddard, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Assol Kubesinova, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Justin Buller, Government of Nunavut, Department of Executive & Intergovernmental Affairs
Dianne Lapierre, Government of Nunavut, Department of Community Services
Natalie D'Souza, Government of Nunavut, Department of Environment
Sean Joseph, Government of Nunavut, Department of Community Services
Mosha Cote, Nunavut Research Institute
Jose Audet-Lecouffe, Fisheries and Oceans Canada