



NIRB File No.: 26XN047
NIRB Public Registry link:
www.nirb.ca/project/126492

October 20, 2026

Adam Russell
Department of National Defence
Ottawa, ON

Sent via email: adam.russell@dcc-cdc.gc.ca

Re: Notice of Screening and Comment Request for Department of National Defence's "Crossbow Capital Project" proposal

Dear Adam Russell:

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 November 10, 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/126492] 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 region, two locations entirely within Quttinirpaaq National Park on Ward Hunt Island and Ellesmere Island. Approximately 780 km North of Grise Fiord.
Objective	The Proponent intends to install two passive surveillance sensors to support national defence, these are expected to be long-term infrastructure.
Timeline	July 1, 2029, to August 1, 2032, period of deployment and installation (summer months only) September 1, 2029, to August 31, 2049, period of operation

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

- Deploy two self-powered, autonomous, ruggedized power-generating container systems designed for continuous operations in Arctic conditions
 - Containers are 20' long x 8' wide x 8' high, and elevated off the ground using four to six adjustable "feet" with weight-distributing rubber pads
 - Powered using direct methanol fuel cells, use of approximately 2760 L of methanol, completely within the container which has no drain hole to prevent leakage into the environment, ventilated for cooling purposes. As well as renewable energy sources, such as solar panels, small wind turbines, and absorbent glass mat batteries
 - Implementation of methanol safety measures, spill alarms, and MSDS instructions
- Transportation of equipment and personnel via fixed-wing or rotary-wing aircraft
- No personnel on site, other than during a three-to-five-day temporary deployment and installation camp, and for annual maintenance (yearly or less)
 - Including heated tents for approximately 30 people, including wildlife monitors and camp security
 - No water withdrawal from the environment is proposed
 - Grey water would be disposed of using existing infrastructure
 - Human waste would be bagged and packed out when municipal services are unavailable
 - Waste material and litter would be collected and disposed of in accordance with municipal, territorial, and federal regulations

Inclusion or Exclusion of Scoping List

The NIRB received a positive conformity determination (NPC No. 151253) on August 10, 2026, noting the broader project, but determining that the works are exempt from assessment from NIRB. However, the two locations within the Quttinirpaaq National Park have been referred to the NIRB for assessment by Parks Canada; as such the NIRB is directed to assess whole projects but the NIRB's recommendations will be focused on the works within the National Park as well as possible recommendations on cumulative effects of the complete works.

Questions about the NIRB's work should be directed to the undersigned at 867-983-3033 EXT. 565 or jtakkiruq@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



Jordan Takkiruaq
Impact Assessment Officer
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Distribution List
Maryse Mahy, Parks Canada
Jared Ottenhof, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Chris Spencer, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Conor Goddard, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Assol Kubeisinova, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Justin Buller, Government of Nunavut
Natalie D'Souza, Government of Nunavut
Sean Joseph, Government of Nunavut
Dianne Lapierre, Government of Nunavut