



Sanikiluaq

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QIA, as a Designated Inuit Organization under the NLCA, represents the rights and values of Inuit within the Qikiqtani. This includes rights specific to representing Inuit through processes led by the Institutions of Public Government, rights to water and wildlife compensation, rights as a landowner, and, rights further defined through the negotiation of an Inuit Impact and Benefits Agreement.

Beyond the Proponent, the IPGs and QIA, there are numerous other groups with direct relationships to the proposed project. Community working groups, Hunters and Trappers Organizations, Hamlet Councils, Territorial and Federal Government Departments all constitute important elements of the proposed project picture.

For QIA the environmental assessment and regulatory process is more than reviewing a tall stack of documents. It is about developing an understanding of how a project is proposed to function, how responsibilities for the operational environment will be addressed, and, whether or not the final proposal presented is acceptable. Achieving such an understanding will require consistent commitment by all parties involved. The DEIS currently under review should be understood as a starting point.

It is clear that if the proposed Project goes forward, its extent and multi-generational nature will transform the socio-economic and environmental character of the North Baffin Region. It is also understood that impact predictions are fraught with uncertainties due to the multitude of confounding factors and the wide variation in the manner in which events actually take place. For these reasons, QIA places a high priority on proactive mitigation, management and monitoring.

In general, the DEIS presents ample data and a thorough discussion of the potential impacts and benefits that Inuit and communities may face. The attached Information Requests represent QIA's first attempt to review the DEIS in a comprehensive fashion. The comments are largely high level and have been drafted with the intent of further directing the nature and content of the review process. Certain comments challenge the interpretation of the information and the assumptions underlying assessment of impact. Others question the format of the review process and the roles of Responsible Agencies.

Though there are certainly elements of technicality that will require significant discussion, QIA believes the largest challenge will be the degree to which Inuit in potentially impacted communities are actively included in the review process in a meaningful way. For QIA this is a responsibility shared by all parties.

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QIA is actively taking measures to expand its communications, technical, coordination capacity to take on the challenge of the review process and look forward to working with you and all other interested parties.

Sincerely,

Sincerely,

Sālamonie Shoo
A/Director, Lands and Resources

Cc:

Pond Inlet CLARC

Igloolik CLARC

Hall Beach CLARC

Clyde River CLARC

Arctic Bay CLARC

Cape Dorset CLARC

Kimmirut CLARC

Mittimatalik Hunters and Trappers (Pond Inlet)

Igloodik Hunters and Trappers

Hall Beach Hunters and Trappers

Namautaq Hunters and Trappers (Clyde River)

Ikajutit Hunters and Trappers (Arctic Bay)

Aiviq Hunters and Trappers (Cape Dorset)

Mayukalik Hunters and Trappers (Kimmirut)

Hamlet of Pond Inlet

Municipality of Igloolik

Municipality of Hall Beach

Municipality of Clyde River

Hamlet of Arctic Bay

Municipality of Cape Dorset

Hamlet of Kimmirut

Gabriel Nirlungayuk, Director Wildlife and Environment-NTI

Sharon Ehaloak, Executive Director-NPC

Dionne Filiatrault, Executive Director-NWB

Hon. Eva Aariak, Minister EIA-GN

Robin Aitken, RDG-INAC

Eric Kan, DFO Area Director-Eastern Arctic Area Office

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