



NIRB File No.: 13UN037

NWB File No.: 3AM-GRA1015/Amendment No. 1

June 9, 2014

The Honourable Bernard Valcourt
Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development
Government of Canada
10 Rue Wellington
Gatineau, QC K1A 0H3

Sent via email: minister@aandc.gc.ca; bernard.valcourt@parl.gc.ca

Re: Update on NIRB Screening of GN-CGS' "Hamlet of Rankin Inlet: Amendment Application – Seasonal Replenishment of Nipissar Lake" Project Proposal

Dear Mr. Bernard Valcourt:

Pursuant to Section 12.4.5(b) of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA), on December 20, 2013 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) provided correspondence to your office requesting additional time to screen the project proposal referenced above (NWB File No.: 3AM-GRA1015/Amendment No. 1). The current correspondence is intended to provide an update on the status of this assessment and serve as notice that additional time is required to complete the screening of this project proposal, for reasons outlined below.

On August 23, 2013 the NIRB received the Government of Nunavut, Department of Community and Government Services' (GN-CGS or Proponent) "Hamlet of Rankin Inlet: Amendment Application – Seasonal Replenishment of Nipissar Lake" project proposal from the Nunavut Water Board (NWB). On September 10, 2013 the NIRB issued correspondence to the GN-CGS advising that a conformity determination from the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC) for this file would be required prior to commencing screening and recommended that additional information, specifically the NIRB's Part 1 and Part 2 forms, be provided in support of the project proposal. Following receipt of the positive conformity determination (Keewatin Regional Land Use Plan) from the NPC on December 11, 2013 the NIRB assigned this project proposal File Number 13UN037 and commenced screening pursuant to NLCA Article 12, Part 4. Following a completeness check, the NIRB found that the proposal did not contain sufficient information to permit proper screening and on December 17, 2013 formally requested that the GN-CGS provide additional information in support of this proposal by January 3, 2014.

Recognizing the need to solicit additional information from the Proponent and to ensure an appropriate public commenting period, the NIRB was unable to provide its recommendation regarding GN-CGS' project proposal to your office within the initially anticipated 45 day time period and on December 20, 2013 the NIRB requested additional time to screen the proposal, noting that it anticipated the screening process would be completed by February 7, 2014. The

NIRB received the additional information requested from the Proponent on May 13, 2014, four months past the timeline initially provided. Following receipt of the requested information from the Proponent the NIRB recommenced its screening of the project as per Article 12, Part 4 of the NLCA. On May 29, 2014 the NIRB requested that interested parties review the project proposal and provide comments to our office by June 18, 2014.

Owing to the NIRB's need for additional information to be provided to not only facilitate the Board's own technical review of the application but also to support a public commenting opportunity, the NIRB has been unable to complete its screening of this proposal within the timeframe previously indicated and therefore requires additional time to screen the project proposal. It is anticipated that with the public commenting period closing on June 18, 2014 the NIRB's screening process will be completed by June 30, 2014.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact our office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ryan Barry". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Ryan Barry
Executive Director
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Jason Tologanak, Government of Nunavut, Community and Government Services
Joe Acorn, Stantec Consulting Ltd.
Phyllis Beaulieu, Nunavut Water Board
Luis Manzo, Kivalliq Inuit Association
Tracey McCaie, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada