



NIRB File No.: 19UN013

Related to NIRB File Nos.: 19WA006, 13UN034

NPC File No.: 149007

NWB Water Licence: 3AM-IQA1626 Amendment No.1

DFO Authorization 18-HCAA-01025

February 14, 2019

City of Iqaluit CAO
City of Iqaluit
Building 901, Box 460
Iqaluit, NU X0A 0H0

c/o Erica Bonhomme, Nunami Stantec

Sent via email: cao@city.iqaluit.nu.ca, erica.bonhomme@stantec.com

Re: Notice of Screening for the City of Iqaluit's "Apex River Drinking Water Supply" project proposal

Dear Erica Bonhomme:

On January 11, 2019 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received a referral to screen The City of Iqaluit's "Apex River Drinking Water Supply" project proposal from the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC or Commission). The NPC noted that the project proposal is outside the area of an applicable regional land use plan and involved the extension of the emergency authorization to water licence 3AM-IQA1626 Amendment No. 1 (NIRB File No. 19WA006). The NPC has determined the project proposal is a significant modification because of the increase of the amount of water withdrawn from Lake Geraldine from 1,100,000 cubic metres (m³) to 2,000,000 m³.

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), the NIRB has commenced screening this project proposal and has assigned it file number **19UN013** - please reference this file number in all future related correspondence.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Project Scope:

The proposed “Apex River Drinking Water Supply” project is located within the Qikiqtani region (South Baffin), within the municipal boundaries of the City of Iqaluit. The Proponent intends to conduct water transfer via pumping from the Apex River to the Lake Geraldine Reservoir to meet the City of Iqaluit’s water requirements. The program is proposed to take place from July 2019 to June 2026.

According to the project proposal, the scope of the project includes the following undertakings, works or activities:

- Withdrawal of up to 500,000 cubic metres (m³) of water annually from the Niaquanguk (Apex) River and surrounding watershed to supplement the Lake Geraldine reservoir;
- Use of up to three (3) submersible pumps in the Niaquanguk (Apex) River for water withdrawal;
- Use of a 100 kilowatt (kW) generator to power the pumps;
- Use of up to 540 litres of diesel per day for the generator;
- Use of flexible hose or pipe laid overland from pumps to Lake Geraldine Reservoir;
- Use of an excavator to install pumps and hose;
- Use of existing municipal roads and trails; and
- Use of facilities in the City of Iqaluit.

Inclusion or Exclusion of Scoping List

At this time, 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.

REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

All documents received and pertaining to this project proposal can be accessed from the NIRB’s online public registry at www.nirb.ca/project/125429.

The documents received include:

- *NPC Screening Referral*
- *NPC Application and Conformity Questionnaire*
- *NIRB’s Online Application Form*
- *Non-technical Project Proposal summary in English Inuktitut, and French*
- *Nunavut Water Board Amendment Application*
- *Engagement Plan and Record*

The NIRB will copy you on screening process related correspondence and upload related documents to the NIRB’s online registry for public access. The NIRB may request additional information at any time during the process.

The NIRB is copying parties and municipalities potentially affected by the City of Iqaluit’s project proposal with this letter, and we invite interested parties to comment directly to the NIRB by **March 7, 2019**.

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 including if a Review is required any additional factors that should be considered as part of that process.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Please send your comments to the NIRB via email at info@nirb.ca, via fax at (867) 983-2594 or via the individual project dashboard for this assessment on the NIRB's online public registry at www.nirb.ca/project/125429.

If you have any questions or require clarification, please contact the undersigned at 867-983-4617 or at kmorrison@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



Keith Morrison
Technical Advisor II
Nunavut Impact Review Board

Enclosures (6): Public Notice of Screening (English, Inuktitut, and French)
Comment Forms (English, Inuktitut, and French)

cc: Distribution List
Amy Elgersma, City of Iqaluit
Richard Dwyer, Nunavut Water Board
Robert Chapple, Community and Government Services
Mark D'Aguiar, Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Fisheries Protection Program, Fisheries and Oceans Canada