

Ministre des Affaires autochtones
et du développement du Nord



Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and
Northern Development

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0H4

JUL 5 2013

Ms. Elizabeth Copland
Chairperson
Nunavut Impact Review Board
PO Box 1360
CAMBRIDGE BAY NU X0B 0C0



Dear Ms. Copland:

Thank you for your letter of April 29, 2013, regarding the Screening Decision Report for the Qulliq Energy Corporation's Iqaluit Hydroelectric Project proposal. As per the report, the Nunavut Impact Review Board has determined that the proposal may have: significant adverse effects on the ecosystem, wildlife habitat, or Inuit harvesting activities; significant adverse socio-economic effects on Northerners; will cause significant public concern; and involves technological innovations for which the effects are unknown. Therefore, the Nunavut Impact Review Board has determined, pursuant to section 12.4.4(b) of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement, that the Iqaluit Hydroelectric Project proposal requires a review under Part 5 or Part 6 of Article 12.

I, along with the Ministers of Fisheries and Oceans, Natural Resources, and Transport, have jurisdictional responsibility for authorizing the proposal to proceed. The Responsible Ministers have reviewed the Board's report of the project proposal and concur that a Part 5 review is required. I am therefore referring the Iqaluit Hydroelectric Project proposal to the Nunavut Impact Review Board for a review under Part 5, Article 12 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement.

As the Board notes in its report, there are six issues relating to the proposal that require further consideration. I agree that these are all important issues that should be fully considered during the review of the project. I would like to emphasize the first issue of potential socio-economic impacts and note that it is essential that impacts to fishery resources be carefully considered.

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I appreciate the work that the Nunavut Impact Review Board has done in screening the proposal and I look forward to receiving your final hearing report upon completion of the review.

Sincerely,



Bernard Valcourt, PC, QC, MP

c.c.: The Honourable Denis Lebel, PC, MP
The Honourable Keith Ashfield, PC, MP
The Honourable Joe Oliver, PC, MP