



NIRB File No.: 13UN006
NWB File No.: 4AH-IHP----

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Sent via email

Re: NIRB Scoping Meetings for Qulliq Energy Corporation's "Iqaluit Hydroelectric" Project Proposal

Dear Sirs and Madams:

On July 5, 2013 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received notification from the Honourable Bernard Valcourt, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development (the Minister) regarding the NIRB's April 29, 2013 Screening Decision Report for Qulliq Energy Corporation's (QEC) "Iqaluit Hydroelectric" project proposal (NIRB File No. 13UN006). The Minister has accepted the Board's recommendation that the Iqaluit Hydroelectric project proposal requires a public review under Part 5 or 6 of Article 12 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA), determining that the project proposal shall be subject to Review by the NIRB in accordance with the NLCA Article 12, Part 5.

The proposed Iqaluit Hydroelectric project is located in the Qikiqtani region of Nunavut and is located between 30 and 60 kilometres (km) southwest of the City of Iqaluit. The proposal involves the development of storage hydroelectric facilities with the maximum capacity of 14.6 Megawatts (MW) at Jaynes Inlet and 7.5 MW at the Armshow South site to supply electricity to the City of Iqaluit. The project would also involve the development of barge landing sites, access roads for the construction and operation of these facilities, transmission lines linking the hydroelectric facilities with the City of Iqaluit as well as two potential airstrips. QEC has proposed a two phased development, beginning with the construction of the Jaynes Inlet hydroelectric facility, followed by the development the Armshow South site.

Pursuant to NLCA Section 12.5.1, the Minister highlighted the following specific issues of concern for the NIRB to consider as part of its review of the Iqaluit Hydroelectric project:

- The Minister agreed that the issues of potential socio-economic impacts, potential ecosystemic impacts, safety risks of dam design, potential human health impacts, climate change effects assessment and long-term lifespan of the proposed development should be addressed through the public review process. The Minister stated that: *"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."*
- The Minister emphasized the issue of potential socio-economic impacts due to the proposed project and noted that it is essential that the impacts to fishery resources be carefully considered in the review of this proposal.

The Minister's decision, as well as all information pertaining to the NIRB's Review of this project proposal is available online from the Board's public registry at the following location:

<http://ftp.nirb.ca/02-REVIEWS/ACTIVE%20REVIEWS/13UN006-QEC%20IQALUIT%20HYDRO/>.

The first phase of the NIRB's Review process requires the Board to verify the scope of the project proposal and the assessment with the public and potentially-affected communities, to ensure that the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Guidelines developed by the NIRB are comprehensive and appropriately weighted. The NIRB's scoping process includes the development of a public participation and awareness program intended to engage the public during the early stages of the Review process to facilitate meaningful consultation with those communities potentially affected by the proposed Iqaluit Hydroelectric project. To this end, the

NIRB will be hosting community scoping sessions and requesting comments as a means of consulting with the public and obtaining input from interested parties regarding Valued Ecosystem Components (VECs) and Valued Socio-Economic Components (VSECs) that should be addressed throughout the NIRB's Review of the proposal.

On August 16, 2013 the NIRB provided the Proponent and the public with notice of the following schedule for public scoping sessions:

Community	Location	Date	Function	Time
Iqaluit	Francophone Society (Building 981)	September 10, 2013	Scoping Meeting	2-4 p.m.
			Scoping Meeting	7 p.m.
Kimmirut	Akavak Centre	September 11, 2013	Open House	2-4 p.m.
			Scoping Meeting	7 p.m.
Pangnirtung	Community Hall	September 12, 2013	Open House	2-4 p.m.
			Scoping Meeting	7 p.m.

The objectives of these public scoping sessions will be to:

- Inform the public of the proposed Iqaluit Hydroelectric project under Review;
- Explain the steps of the NIRB's Review process, including how members of the public can become involved and participate effectively; and
- Work with members of the public to identify Valued Ecosystem Components (VECs) and Valued Socio-Economic Components (VSECs) that should be considered in the NIRB's Review of the Project.

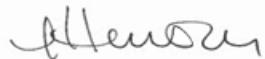
Given the scope of the project proposal, your organization's mandate and the Minister's identification of potential socio-economic impacts and the potential for impacts to fisheries resources as being two important issues to consider, by copy of this letter the NIRB extends an invitation to your organization to participate in these meetings to discuss QEC's Iqaluit Hydroelectric project proposal and any associated concerns or input you may wish to provide.

The NIRB's staff will deliver a formal scoping presentation and provide parties with an opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback on the Review of the proposed Iqaluit Hydroelectric proposal during the meeting to be held in Iqaluit at the Francophone Society on Tuesday **September 10, 2013 from 2:00-4:00 p.m.** A second meeting will also be held at the same location to go through the presentation again, beginning at 7 p.m. on Tuesday September 10, 2013.

Please note that your organization will have additional opportunities to provide written comments and input into the NIRB's Review throughout the current and subsequent phases of the Board's assessment. At this time, we are hoping that you will participate in these face-to-face meetings and take advantage of the opportunity to contribute to the NIRB's environmental assessment of the Iqaluit Hydroelectric project proposal.

We look forward to meeting with you in September; should you have any questions regarding the upcoming meetings or the NIRB's Review of the Iqaluit Hydroelectric project proposal, please contact Jaswir Dhillon, Technical Advisor, at jdhillon@nirb.ca or (867) 983-4609.

Sincerely,



Amanda Hanson
Director, Technical Services
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Iqaluit Hydroelectric Distribution List
David Hohnstein, Nunavut Water Board

Enclosure: Minister of AANDC Decision Re: QEC's Iqaluit Hydroelectric project proposal, NIRB File No. 13UN006 (*July 5, 2013*)