

Executive Summary

The construction of the Iqaluit Deep Sea Port Marine Infrastructure Project (Project) has been underway through three open water seasons and was initiated in 2018. The Government of Nunavut is the proponent of the Project. Tower Arctic Ltd. (TA) was selected as the Contractor for the Project and began construction during the open-water season of 2018.

During the 2021 open-water season, water withdrawal will be required to support dust suppression and to produce concrete and crushed aggregates for the Project. The City of Iqaluit has confirmed that the water requirements for the construction activities of the Project cannot be met with the municipal water supply and requested that alternative options be explored (letter of the City of Iqaluit to TA dated from March 22, 2021).

The proposed withdrawal site along the Niaqunguk River (63° 45.385'N, 68° 27.730'W), is approximately 870 m downstream of an approved water withdrawal site for the City of Iqaluit to support the municipal water supply. A daily maximum of 30 m³ will be withdrawn and transported to be used for the construction activities. The total volume required for water withdrawal throughout the season (June to October 2021) is expected to be 500 m³ to 800 m³.

As per the Conformity Determination Letter from NPC (NPC No. 149513) of April 20, 2021, the proposed activity has been already reviewed by the NPC during the review process of the Project (NPC No. 148429 and 149115). Also, this activity has been previously screened by the NIRB (NIRB No. 17XN021) and the project proposal is exempt from screening as the proposed water withdraw does not change the general scope of the original Project activities.

This section of the Niaqunguk River is considered by TA as a fish bearing and TA will comply with the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) conditions and with DFO-FFHPP's Standards and Codes of Practice (SCOPs) for the end-of-pipe-fish screens.