

QIKIQTARJUAQ MARINE INFRASTRUCTURE NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

Project Name

Qikiqtarjuaq Marine Infrastructure

Non-Technical Project Description

Qikiqtaaluk Arctic Economic Development Corporation is planning to build a deep-water port facility in Qikiqtarjuaq, Nunavut. The Project will be built along the western shoreline of Broughton Island, south of the Qikiqtarjuaq Airport. The purpose of the project is to improve marine infrastructure in the community and provide facilities to support the fishing industry and marine traffic in the Davis Strait and Baffin Bay. The application to the Nunavut Water Board is to obtain a licence to dispose of quarry material at the quarry site and dredged marine sediment from the construction site onto land.

This project will consist of a new wharf structure complete with modern equipment and tools to accommodate commercial, scientific, and tourist vessels. The Project will consist of a closed-face marginal wharf structure with 10 m depth at low tide with laydown space. The Project will also include an access road from municipal roads to the facility, wastewater receiving systems, very high frequency (VHF) radio communications station, services to allow for freezer containers, operations and security office, power distribution, and a drainage channel.

Construction will involve both land-based (e.g., site preparation, rock quarrying) and marine-based activities (e.g., harbour dredging, construction of wharf and armour stone protection). Rock and fill will be excavated from a new quarry within the municipality. During construction of the Project, workers from outside Qikiqtarjuaq will be housed either in a land-based temporary camp or floating accommodations. Floating accommodations will allow an earlier start to construction without drawing on limited community accommodation (e.g., during the erection of a construction camp). These accommodations will also provide self-sustaining fuel resources and capacity to dispose of wastewater and solid waste, reducing the draw on community resources. Floating accommodations will consist of a vessel with an appropriate ice classification and accommodation capacity upwards of 70 personnel.

Water use for the Project construction is related to the water needed for the worker accommodations. Accommodation and support vessels will use onboard desalination water treatment plants to produce potable water for cooking and consumption. If required, support vessels may also use potable water delivered by truck from the community water supply that will be transferred into portable water tanks and thereafter the support vessels. If a land-based camp is needed, potable water will be delivered by truck from the community water supply. The potable water requirements for construction of the Project are less than 1,000 cubic metres per year for two years of construction, which is less than 4 % of the Municipal water use reported to the Nunavut Water Board for the past four years.

Diesel will be the primary fuel used for the construction vehicles and equipment. Vehicles and equipment will be refuelled at designated areas that have spill prevention measures in place. Fuel required for land-based construction equipment will be obtained from the existing facilities in Qikiqtarjuaq. Marine vessels, including floating accommodations, will not consume community fuel from Qikiqtarjuaq; refuelling will be managed through pre-arranged fuel supply ships or at ports such as Nuuk or Sisimiut during crew changes. Environmental mitigation measures, including spill prevention and emergency response, will be included in a Construction Environmental Management Plan.

Most solid waste generated during construction will be stockpiled on board vessels and transported off site for disposal in accordance with applicable regulations. Some solid waste may be disposed at the community landfill if required. Wastewater generated on board vessels will be managed in accordance with Canadian marine regulations and industry standards. Wastewater generated at a land-based camp or construction site will be collected by a wastewater truck and transported to municipal wastewater treatment facility. Excess soil and rock produced at the quarry will remain at the quarry site. Marine sediment dredge from the port area will be stored at the port site for infilling or reuse.

Construction will occur over two years from 2026 to 2028, with construction shut down over the winter seasons. Operation of the port is expected to begin in 2028.

Community engagement activities were conducted as part of feasibility studies in 2005 and 2020, and have continued since the design stage started in 2023. Meetings were held with the Council, the local Hunters and Trappers Association (HTA), the local QIA representatives, community members and knowledge holders.

During the two-year construction period, there will be an increase in human activity at the port and quarry sites, noise and dust from construction, loss of habitat, and disturbance to fish and wildlife. However, the project will also bring benefits to the community. During construction, there will be economic benefits through direct local hiring, renting of community facilities, and local purchases. After the project is completed, benefits will include deepwater accommodation for commercial vessels, storage on site for commercial fishery, and more efficient offloading of goods for the community. The project overall will provide economic benefit to the community and the region by offering infrastructure necessary to develop commercial fisheries.