



Water Resources Division
Resource Management Directorate
Nunavut Regional Office
918 Nunavut Drive
Iqaluit, NU, X0A 3H0

Your file - Votre référence
(8BW-GRI----)
Our file - Notre référence
GCDocs#143401765

February 6, 2026

Richard Dwyer
Manager of Licensing
Nunavut Water Board
P.O. Box 119
Gjoa Haven, NU, X0B 1J0
E-mail: richard.dwyer@nwb-oen.ca

**Re: Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada's Review of the New
Licence Application for the Hamlet of Grise Fiord Pedestrian Bridge Project ,
Type B Water Licence No. 8BW-GRI----**

Dear Richard,

Thank you for the January 9, 2026 invitation to review the Application for the Hamlet of Grise Fiord's Type B Water Licence #8BW-GRI----.

Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC) examined the application pursuant to its mandated responsibilities under the *Nunavut Waters and Nunavut Surface Rights Tribunal Act* and the *Department of Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Act*. Please find CIRNAC's comments and recommendations in the attached Technical Memorandum.

If there are any questions or concerns, please contact me at 873-452-2525 or jordan.beer@rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca or Joyce Demers at or joyce.demers@rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca.

Sincerely,

Jordan Beer, M.Sc.,
Water Management Coordinator



Technical Review Memorandum

Date: February 6, 2026

To: Richard Dwyer – Manager of Licensing, Nunavut Water Board

From: Jordan Beer – Water Management Coordinator, CIRNAC

Subject: Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada's Review of the New Licence Application for the Hamlet of Grise Fiord Pedestrian Bridge Project #8BW-GRI----, Type B Water Licence No. 8BW-GRI----

Region: ☐ Kitikmeot ☐ Kivalliq ☒ Qikiqtani

A. BACKGROUND

The hamlet of Grise Fiord is located within the Qikiqtani Region, Nunavut, on the southern shore of Ellesmere Island, at the geographic coordinates of 76° 25' N and 82° 54' W. The municipality is the northernmost inhabited municipality in Canada, with short cool summers and long cold winters.

Worley Consulting is applying, on behalf of the hamlet of Grise Fiord, for a 3 year Type B Water License. The municipality is applying to build a pedestrian walkway bridge across Airport River in the northern end of town. The proposed walkway is downstream from the hamlet's water supply intake and upstream from the existing river crossing. The proposed design is 27.50 m long, 2.5 m wide, and 1 m above projected 1-in-100 year flood water levels. The bridge is designed to withstand up to 14 people or up to 1 ATV or snowmobile at a time.

CIRNAC provides the following comments and recommendations pertaining to the application package. A summary of the subjects of recommendations can be found in Table 1. Documents reviewed as part of this submission can be found in Table 2 of Section B. Detailed technical review comments can be found in Section C.



Table 1: Summary of Recommendations

Recommendation Number	Subject
R-01	Aggregate Quality
R-02	Spill Prevention and Response Plan
R-03	Bridge Capacity Signs
R-04	Stockpile Management
R-05	Final Design Drawings

B. DOCUMENTS REVIEWED AND REFERENCED

The following table (Table 2) provides a list of the documents reviewed under the submission and reference during the review.

Table 2: Documents Reviewed and Referenced

Document Title	Author, File No., Rev., Date
260107 8BW-GRI---- 2024-09-20 NPC File No. 150536-IMLE	Nunavut Planning Commission, September 2024
260107 8BW-GRI---- 317086-59828_Grise Fiord Pedestrian Walkway_R0-IMLE	Worley Consulting, December 2025
260107 8BW-GRI---- Dillon2023_Grise Fiord Hydrologic Assessment-IMLE	Dillon Consulting, December 2023
260107 8BW-GRI---- Executive Summary_english-IMLE	Hamlet of Grise Fiord, December 2025
260107 8BW-GRI---- Executive Summary_Inuktitut-IMLE	Hamlet of Grise Fiord, December 2025
260107 8BW-GRI---- Exp2022_Hydrological and Water Balance Study-IMLE	EXP Services Inc., April 2022
260107 8BW-GRI---- Grise Fiord Pedestrian Bridge-General Water Licence Application_signed-IMLE	Worley Consulting, January 2026
260107 8BW-GRI---- Preliminary Planning for a Pedestrian Walkway in Grise Fiord-IMLE	Hamlet of Grise Fiord, September 2024
260107 8BW-GRI---- Supporting Letters from Hamlet of Grise Fiord-IMLE	Hamlet of Grise Fiord, December 2025
260107 8BW-GRI---- Topographic Plan_317086-59828-00-CI-DGA-0004-IMLE	Worley consulting, December 2025



C. RESULTS OF REVIEW

1. Aggregate Quality

Comment:

The preliminary design report plans to use aggregate materials from local borrow pits or quarries, but stipulates that the aggregate material quality must meet “the prescribed requirements”. The requirements for the aggregate material quality are not listed within the design report. The concern is that the proponent will not consider acid rock drainage and metal leaching when selecting aggregate.

Recommendation:

R-01) CIRNAC recommends that the applicant confirm that any aggregate material used for construction will be non-potentially acid generating and non-metal leaching.

2. Spill Prevention and Response Plan

Comment:

The application and preliminary design report both mention that spill plans will be developed and implemented, but no spill response plan was included within this application. The concern is that the spill plan may be lacking essential measures, including but not limited to: (1) appropriate secondary containment for fuels and hazardous materials, (2) information regarding any explosives or heavy equipment required for the project, and (3) a plan to implement if a spill occurs.

Recommendation:

R-02) CIRNAC recommends that the applicant submit a spill prevention and response plan to the NWB for review at least 60 days before beginning construction.

3. Bridge Capacity Signs

Comment:

The preliminary design report states that the bridge is designed to support up to 14 people or a single snowmobile or ATV at a time. The application does not mention any plans to add bridge capacity signs. The concern is that town residents could unintentionally overload the bridge, causing damage or collapse and subsequent freshwater contamination.

Recommendation:

R-03) CIRNAC recommends that the proponent add bridge capacity signs to help prevent bridge damage or collapse.



4. Stockpile Management

Comment:

The preliminary design report does not describe where aggregate and other building materials will be stockpiled before and during construction. The concern is that materials will be stockpiled too close to the river, potentially leading to preventable sedimentation or contaminants entering the waterbody.

Recommendation:

R-04): CIRNAC recommends that the proponent stockpile all aggregate and building materials at least 31 m from the normal high water mark of Airport River.

5. Final Design Drawings

Comment:

All design drawings in the application are listed as “PRELIMINARY: do not use for construction” and lack an engineer stamp. The concern is that the design will change before construction, without a chance for CIRNAC to review.

Recommendation:

R-05): CIRNAC recommends that the applicant submit a final stamped design report to the NWB for review before beginning construction. The typical timeline for design reports are 60 days before construction.