



**NIRB File No.: 14YN017**  
NPC File No.: 148159

December 18, 2015

Warner Miles  
Geological Survey of Canada  
235-615 Booth Street  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0E9

*Sent via email: [warner.miles@canada.ca](mailto:warner.miles@canada.ca)*

**Re: Opportunity to address comments received regarding the Geological Survey of Canada's "Overby-Duggan, Nunavut Aeromagnetic Survey" project proposal**

Dear Warner Miles:

On November 20, 2015 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received a referral to screen the Geological Survey of Canada's (GSC or Proponent) "Overby-Duggan, Nunavut Aeromagnetic Survey" project proposal from the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC or Commission). On November 25, 2015 the NIRB circulated a public notice of the screening for this project, inviting interested parties to provide comments directly to the NIRB by December 16, 2015.

On or before December 16, 2015 the NIRB received comments from the following interested parties:

- Kitikmeot Inuit Association (KIA)
- Government of Nunavut (GN)
- Environment Canada (EC)
- Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC)

All comment submissions received by the NIRB relating to this project proposal can be obtained from the NIRB's online registry at the following location:

<http://ftp.nirb.ca/01-SCREENINGS/COMPLETED%20SCREENINGS/2014/14YN017-NRCan-Geological%20Geochemical%20Investigation/02-DISTRIBUTION/COMMENTS/>.

A *summary* of the public concerns reflected in the comment submissions relate to the following:

- Non-compliance of 2015 annual reporting requirements pursuant to the KIA land use exemption (File No. KTX114X006) and lack of information on the fuel and completion of fuel caching activities associated with the previous years' project.

- Concerns that a portion of the project proposal spatially and temporally overlaps with critical caribou habitat, including calving grounds, and spring migration corridors for the Beverly caribou population; therefore the GN recommends that the Proponent consider additional mitigation measures, specifically:
  - Remove the survey area from the project that overlaps with the Beverly herd caribou calving grounds;
  - Project activities be completed prior to April 10;
  - Additional mitigation be proposed related to suspending activities when caribou are detected, and clarification be provided on the communication and decision making process for implementing the suspensions, and
  - Provide additional reporting on wildlife sightings to the GN.
- The lack of record of the community consultations undertaken does not provide information on concerns expressed by the community organizations.

The NIRB would like to provide the GSC with an opportunity to address the comments noted above prior to the Board rendering its determination for this screening assessment and issuing its subsequent Screening Decision Report to the responsible Minister(s). The NIRB respectfully requests that a response be provided directly to the NIRB by **January 4, 2016**.

If the GSC determines that the time required to supply a written response is significantly greater than 2 weeks, the Board requests written notification and an anticipated date for submission be provided as soon as possible.

Please send any forthcoming submissions directly to the NIRB at [info@nirb.ca](mailto:info@nirb.ca) or via fax at **(867) 983-2594**.

If you have any questions or require clarification, please contact the undersigned directly at (867) 983-4606 or [hrasmussen@nirb.ca](mailto:hrasmussen@nirb.ca).

Sincerely,



Heather Rasmussen, M.Env-EA  
Technical Advisor  
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Distribution List  
Geoff Clark, Kitikmeot Inuit Association  
Mosha Cote, Nunavut Research Institute  
Denise Baikie, Government of Nunavut – Department of Environment  
Mia Pelletier, Canadian Wildlife Service  
Tracy McCaie, Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada