

From: Kate Darling <contact information removed>
Sent: July 19, 2016 6:37 PM
To: EA Review / Examen EE (CEAA)
Cc: Bob Simpson; Mike Harlow
Subject: Inuvialuit Regional Corporation Comment Submission EA Expert Panel

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to provide comments on behalf of the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation (IRC) with respect to the EA Expert Panel Terms of Reference. These follow:

- The Environmental Regulatory framework in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region (ISR) is uniquely complex. While the Inuvialuit Final Agreement (IFA) provides for an Environmental Screening and Review mechanism, the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act (2012)* and the *Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act* purport to apply to all or part of the ISR. Echoing this confusion, the Terms of Reference indicates that the Minister of INAC has launched a process to amend “northern environmental assessment regimes”.
- As a first step, IRC posits that the Expert Panel Terms of Reference must be clarified to indicate which body will have a mandate over the review of the Environmental Assessment regime within the ISR – the Expert Panel or the Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada-led initiative as described in the Terms of Reference.
- IRC believes that the Terms of Reference should extend to the Expert Panel the mandate to consider alternatives to the application of the national environmental assessment regime to the ISR in order to respect and properly implement the terms of the IFA. Included in this mandate should be consideration of support for the existing screening and review structures established pursuant to the IFA in order to ensure a robust and modern regime.
- The IRC also seeks clarity on the basis for the selection of the Multi-Interest Advisory Committee and whether there will be Inuvialuit representation thereon.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions about these submissions.

Best regards,

Kate

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