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National Energy Board
444 Seventh Ave. SW
Calgary, AB T2P 0X8

Mr. Chairman,

Our community is not opposed to mining or development. Like all Nunavut communities, we need and support economic and other opportunities that contribute towards enhanced levels of employment for our people, for both short and long term sustainability. However, all economic activities undertaken need to meet and surpass acceptable scientific standards.

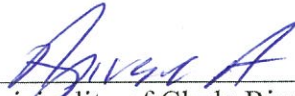
When dealing with economic growth we need to strike a balance between development and the environment with particular support for the wildlife that inhabit it. Regardless of any development, we will need to protect and sustain our 4000 plus years old culture of subsistence harvesting in this region.

The area, Baffin Bay and Davis Strait, which has been proposed for seismic testing, is rich in sea mammals, including narwhals, bowheads, walrus', and seals. Ringed seal is the mainstay of our people. These mammals feed and migrate all along Baffin Bay and Davis Straight to their summer grounds. Their food source includes crustaceans, shrimp, and turbot, among others. It is also home to Cold Water Corals which are believed to be the oldest living animals in the world. It's a habitat where fish and crustaceans live, spawn and feed providing a vital food source for our people.


The proponent has not properly identified how these food sources of the mammals will be affected. As is obvious, the larger mammals depend on the smaller, more fragile populations of sea animals for survival. These are not mentioned in the application. Any negative impact on them would surely have a domino effect affecting our way of life.

The proponent has not put forward any concrete baseline data regarding any animals of the affected sea region. Also, DFO has not provided sufficient information that could be used as a barometer to afford consideration to providing support for such an enormous multiyear project that could potentially be detrimental and harm the environment and sea animals. The proposed seismic testing and the resulting oil and gas drilling it would bring are not balanced development. It is utterly against the global movement to decrease global warming and to decrease our dependence on fossil fuels, including the never ending activities that destroy the ecology of our planet.

For these reasons, the HTO and Hamlet Council, who represent and speak for the people of Clyde River, are firmly opposed to seismic testing in Davis Strait and Baffin Bay. As such, we strongly urge all authorities to deny the proponent's proposal.



Municipality of Clyde River
Mayor: Apiusie Apak



Hunter's & Trapper's Org.
Chairman: Jaycopie Iqalukjuaq

Cc; Nunavut Impact Review Board, Nunavut Planning Commission, Government of Nunavut-Environment, Aboriginal Affairs & Northern Development, Nunatsiaq News, Nunavut News North, Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, Oceans North-Canada, World Wildlife Fund-Canada, Arctic Council, Inuit Circumpolar Council, Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, The Canadian Press, Greenland Government-Premier, United Nations-Canada, Hamlet of Pond Inlet, Municipality of Qikiqtarjuaq, Hamlet of Pangnirtung, City of Iqaluit, Nammautaq Hunter's & Trapper's Org.(HTO)-Clyde River, Mittimatalik HTO-Pond Inlet, Nattivak HTO-Qikiqtarjuaq, Pangnirtung HTO, Amarok HTO-Iqaluit, Dept. of Fisheries & Oceans, MP Leona Aglukkaq.