



NIRB File No.: 07LN014 (amended to include 03YN005 and 05YN077)

INAC LUP File No.: N2003J0001

INAC Lease File No.: 58H07002

NRI Scientific Research Licence: 0204505N-M

July 8, 2008

Honourable Minister Chuck Strahl
Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada
c/o John Craig, Assistant Land Administrator
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada PO Box 100
Iqaluit, NU X0A 0H0

Via email: craigjg@inac-ainc.gc.ca

Re: Extension Request for the Mars Society's Land Use Permit with Indian and Northern Affairs Canada for their "Devon Island Research Facility" project

Dear John Craig:

On June 27, 2008 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received an application from Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) for an extension to the Mars Society's Land Use Permit for their "Devon Island Research Facility (Flashline Mars Arctic Research Station)" project.

Previous File History

The original application for the above project was received by the NIRB from INAC on January 23, 2003 (NIRB File No. 03YN005). The proposal was screened in accordance with Part 4, Article 12 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement. On February 19, 2003 the NIRB issued a 12.4.4(a) screening decision to INAC and to the Nunavut Water Board allowing the proposed campsite and research activities to proceed subject to specific terms and conditions.

On May 5, 2005, the NIRB received a scientific research application from the Nunavut Research Institute (NRI) to conduct field investigations in Devon Island's polar desert, while replicating a human exploration on planet Mars (NIRB File No. 05YN077). The application included additional research activities not covered in the 2003 application (NIRB File No. 03YN005). On June 27, 2005 the NIRB issued a 12.4.4(a) screening decision to NRI, allowing the proposed project to proceed subject to recommended project-specific terms and conditions.

On February 20, 2007 the NIRB received a Land Lease application from INAC for the Mars Society's Devon Island Research Facility (NIRB File No. 07LN014). The proposal included a land lease for the existing research facility, as well as proposed research activities and on-site use of mechanized vehicles and fuel storage. On April 3, 2007 the NIRB issued a 12.4.4(a) screening decision to INAC allowing the proposed activities to proceed subject to specific terms and conditions.

Current Extension

The NIRB is amending File No.: 07LN014 to include all the activities from the afore- mentioned files (i.e. land use permit, research activities and land lease), including the extension request to the land use permit N2003J0001 received on June 27, 2008. The terms and conditions recommended by NIRB in the attached 2007 Screening Decision Report encompass all previously screened activities related to this project proposal. The original NIRB screening files and the current extension request is available from the NIRB's ftp site at the following link:

http://ftp.nirb.ca/SCREENINGS/COMPLETED%20SCREENINGS/ARCHIVE/2007_SCREENINGS/07LN014-Robert_Zubrin/.

After reviewing the extension request submitted by INAC, the NIRB has determined that the proposed extension does not *significantly* change the general scope of the original project activities. Therefore, NIRB is recommending that the original terms and conditions in the attached April 3, 2007 (NIRB File No.: 07LN014) Screening Decision Report be applied to the extended Land Use Permit.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the NIRB's Technical Advisor Sophia Granchinho at sgranchinho@nirb.ca or by phone at 867-983-4607.

Sincerely,



Stephanie Autut
Executive Director

cc: Robert Zubrin, Mars Society

Attachment: NIRB Screening Report Decision, File No.: 07LN014 (April 3, 2007)