



NIRB File No. 09AN034

May 20, 2009

Richard Weber
Canadian Arctic Holidays
363 Pritchard Road
Alcove, QC J0X 1A0

Via email: Richard@canadianarcticholidays.ca

Re: Notice of Part 4 Screening for Canadian Arctic Holidays' "Tourism & Wildlife Observation on Somerset Island and Prince Leopold Island Bird Sanctuary" project proposal

Dear Richard Weber:

On March 19 and April 24, 2009, the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received applications from the Qikiqtani Inuit Association (QIA), and the Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) as part of Canadian Arctic Holidays' *Tourism & Wildlife Observation on Somerset Island and Prince Leopold Island Bird Sanctuary* project proposal. On May 4, 2009, the NIRB received a positive conformity determination (North Baffin Regional Land Use Plan) from the Nunavut Planning Commission for this file. The NIRB has assigned this project proposal file number **09AN034**. Please reference this file number in any forthcoming correspondence.

The proposed project is located in the North Baffin Region of Nunavut, on both Somerset and Prince Leopold Islands, approximately 150 kilometres southeast of the community of Resolute. The proposal involves the utilization of Canadian Arctic Holidays' Arctic Watch Lodge located on Crown land at Cunningham Inlet on Somerset Island (Land Lease No. 05F802001). This season, Canadian Arctic Holidays will host two groups of twelve (12) tourists over the proposed term of authorization; from June 30 to August 20, 2009. The lodge has a limit of 22 guests per week, which equates into a maximum seasonal usage of 110 people over the course of the summer season.

Tourists will stay at the Arctic Watch Lodge, and travel via guide-driven Mercedes Unimog (former military off road vehicle) and raft once per week, to gain access to picnicking and wildlife viewing areas (located on Inuit Owned Land) on Somerset Island. The proposal also involves transporting tourists via Twin Otter aircraft to Prince Leopold Island Bird Sanctuary where the groups will walk around and view wildlife for day trips of 4-5 hours, returning to the Arctic Watch Lodge via Twin Otter aircraft each day. The Proponent plans to remove all wastes from Prince Leopold Island to the Arctic Watch Lodge for treatment or disposal. The proponent estimates a total of 4 or 5 trips to Prince Leopold Island Bird Sanctuary during the proposed term of authorization, and daily trips around Somerset Island for picnicking and wildlife viewing.

All documents received and pertaining to this project proposal can be obtained from NIRB's ftp site at <ftp://ftp.nirb.ca/SCREENINGS/ACTIVE%20SCREENINGS/09AN034-Canadian%20Arctic%20Holidays/1-SCREENING/> including:

- *NIRB Part 1 Summary Application Form in English*
- *Canadian Wildlife Service Bird Sanctuary Permit in English*
- *Qikiqtani Inuit Association Application for Access to Inuit Owned Lands*
- *Maps*
- *Non technical Project Proposal summary in English*
- *Non technical Project Proposal summary in Inuktitut*
- *Nunavut Planning Commission Conformity Determination*

Pursuant to Part 4, Article 12 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA), the NIRB shall proceed to screen this project proposal. The NIRB may request additional information at any time during the screening process, and will copy you on related correspondence and upload related documents to the above ftp site for public access.

Be advised that the NIRB is copying interested Parties and municipalities most affected by your project proposal. Interested persons are encouraged to comment directly to the NIRB by **May 27, 2009**.

The NIRB would like Parties to provide comments regarding:

- Whether the project proposal is likely to arouse significant public concern; and if so, why;
- Whether the project proposal is likely to cause significant adverse eco-systemic and socio-economic effects; and if so, why;
- Whether the project is of a type where the potential adverse effects are highly predictable and mitigable with known technology, (please provide any recommended mitigation measures); and
- Any matter of importance to the Party related to the project proposal.

Please note that *proposed* project-specific terms and conditions, should the project proceed, have been attached for consideration and comment (**Appendix A**).

Please send your comments to the NIRB at info@nirb.ca or via fax at **(867) 983-2594**.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me directly at 867-983-4615 or via email at ahanson@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



Amanda Hanson
Technical Advisor
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Distribution List
Salamonie Shoo, QIA
Mark Mallory, CWS

Attachments: Appendix A – *Proposed* Project Specific Terms and Conditions
Comment Form

Appendix A

Proposed Project Specific Terms and Conditions

The following is a list of project-specific terms and conditions which, should the project proceed, may be recommended to be attached to any approval.

General

1. Canadian Arctic Holidays (the Proponent) shall maintain a copy of the Project Terms and Conditions at the site of operation at all times.
2. The Proponent shall forward copies of all permits obtained and required for this project to the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) prior to the commencement of the project.
3. The Proponent shall operate in accordance with all commitments stated in correspondence provided to NIRB (NIRB Part 1 Form, April 24, 2009), to the Qikiqtani Inuit Association (Application for Access to Inuit Owned Lands, February 25, 2009), and to the Canadian Wildlife Service (Bird Sanctuary Permit Application, April 24, 2009).
4. The Proponent shall operate the site in accordance with all applicable Acts, Regulations and Guidelines.

Water

5. The Proponent shall not extract water from any fish-bearing waterbody unless the water intake hose is equipped with a screen of appropriate mesh size to ensure that there is no entrapment of fish. Small lakes or streams shall not be used for water withdrawal.
6. The Proponent shall not use water, including constructing or disturbing any stream, lakebed or the banks of any definable water course unless approved by the Nunavut Water Board.

Waste

7. The Proponent shall remove all wastes from Prince Leopold Island daily after each trip, and shall dispose of the wastes at an approved facility.
8. The Proponent shall keep all garbage and debris in bags placed in a covered metal container or equivalent until disposed of. All wastes shall be kept inaccessible to wildlife at all times.

Fuel and Chemical Storage

9. The Proponent shall report all spills of fuel, or other deleterious materials immediately to the 24 hour Spill Line at (867) 920-8130.

Wildlife

10. The Proponent shall ensure that there is no damage to wildlife habitat in conducting this operation.
11. The Proponent shall not harass wildlife. This includes persistently worrying or chasing animals, or disturbing large groups of animals. The Proponent shall not hunt or fish, unless proper Nunavut authorizations have been acquired.
12. The Proponent shall restrict aircraft/helicopter activity related to the project to a minimum altitude of 610 metres above ground level unless there is a specific requirement for low-level flying, which does not disturb wildlife and migratory birds.
13. The Proponent shall ensure that aircraft maintain a vertical distance of 1000 metres and a horizontal distance of 1500 metres from any observed groups (colonies) of migratory birds.

14. The Proponent shall ensure that aircraft/helicopter do not, unless for emergency, touch-down in areas where wildlife are present.
15. The Proponent shall not disturb or destroy the nests or eggs of any birds. If active nests of any birds are discovered (i.e. with eggs or young), the Proponent shall avoid these areas until nesting is complete and the young have left the nest.
16. The Proponent shall cease activities that may interfere with migration or calving of caribou or muskox, until the caribou or muskox have passed or left the area.
17. The Proponent shall ensure that all project staff are trained in appropriate bear/carnivore detection and deterrent techniques.

Physical Environment

18. The Proponent shall not move any equipment or vehicles unless the ground surface is in a state capable of fully supporting the equipment or vehicles without rutting or gouging. The Proponent shall suspend overland travel of equipment or vehicles if rutting occurs.
19. The Proponent shall ensure that the land use area is kept clean and tidy at all times.

Restoration

20. The Proponent shall remove all garbage, fuel and equipment upon abandonment.
21. The Proponent shall complete all clean-up and restoration of the lands used prior to the expiry date of the permit.

Other

22. The Proponent should, to the extent possible, hire local people and consult with local residents regarding their activities in the region.