



NIRB File No. 09YA006

February 12, 2009

David Burgess
Canada Centre for Remote Sensing
588 Booth St.
Ottawa, ON K1A 0Y7

Via email: david.burgess@nrcan.gc.ca

Re: Notice of Part 4 Screening for David Burgess' "Glacier Mass Balance and Pollution Studies in the Canadian High Arctic" project proposal

Dear David Burgess:

On January 5, 2009 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received your "*Glacier Mass Balance and Pollution Studies in the Canadian High Arctic*" project proposal from the Nunavut Research Institute. On January 7, 2009 NIRB sent you correspondence, advising that your project appeared to be located in an area which would require conformity to the North Baffin Regional Land Use Plan (NBRLUP). On February 6, 2009 the NIRB received a positive conformity determination (NBRLUP) from the Nunavut Planning Commission for this project proposal.

The currently proposed activities are in support of a long term research program, elements of which have been previously screened under NIRB file 03YN007. NIRB has assigned the current project proposal file number **09YA006**.

The proposed research project is located in the North Baffin region on the Meighen, Melville, Agassiz and Devon ice caps, as well as the Grise Fiord glacier. The nearest communities to the proposed research sites are Grise Fiord and Resolute. The objective of the current study is ongoing monitoring of the mass balance and pollution levels of glaciers in the Canadian high arctic.

The proposed project activities include:

- Period of operation from April 16 to May 20;
- 2 researchers for each site, with 6 visits to each site;
- Researchers to be based out of existing permanent huts on the Meighen and Melville ice caps, and tents on the Agassiz and Devon ice caps;
- Transportation at each site will be by snowmobile or helicopter where required;
- Collection of meteorological data from 11 automatic weather stations;
- Collection of snow samples for analysis in Ottawa;
- Deploying of in-situ global positioning systems (GPS) on three major outlet glaciers that drain the Devon ice cap;
- Outreach activities in Grise Fiord where on-ice demonstrations of glacier monitoring techniques will be performed. Also, an in-class lecture is planned for junior and senior high school students; and

- Reporting of data to the World Glacier Monitoring Service, production of scientific publications and annual progress reporting to Grise Fiord and Resolute.

All documents received and pertaining to this project proposal (**09YA006**) can be obtained from NIRB's ftp site at <http://ftp.nirb.ca/SCREENINGS/ACTIVE%20SCREENINGS/> including:

- *Scientific Research Licence Application*
- *Maps*
- *Non technical Project Proposal summary in English and Inuktitut*
- *NPC Conformity Determination*

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

Be advised that NIRB is copying interested Parties and municipalities most affected by your project proposal. Interested persons are encouraged to comment directly to the NIRB by **March 5, 2009**.

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 attention of NIRB's Manager of Environmental Administration, Leslie Payette via email at lpayette@nirb.ca or via fax at **(867) 983-2594**.

If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact me directly at (867) 983-4608 or rbarry@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,

(original signed by:)

Ryan Barry
Technical Advisor
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Distribution List
Chris Filion – NRI (cfilion@nac.nu.ca)

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. David Burgess (the Proponent) shall maintain a copy of the Project Terms and Conditions at the site(s) 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 the site in accordance with all applicable Acts, Regulations and Guidelines.

Water

4. 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

5. The Proponent shall incinerate all combustible wastes daily, and remove the ash from incineration activities and non-combustible wastes from the project site to an approved facility for disposal.
6. The Proponent shall keep all garbage and debris in bags placed in a covered metal container or equivalent until disposed of. All wastes should be kept inaccessible to wildlife at all times.

Fuel and Chemical Storage

7. The Proponent shall locate all fuel and other hazardous materials a minimum of thirty-one (31) metres away from the high water mark of any water body and in such a manner as to prevent their release into the environment.
8. The Proponent shall store all chemicals in such a manner that they are inaccessible to wildlife.
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 is advised that its proposed activities are in an area where it may encounter Ivory Gulls, a Schedule 1 Species At Risk. Therefore, the Proponent shall take great care not to 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.
11. The Proponent shall ensure that there is no damage to wildlife habitat in conducting this operation.
12. 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.
13. 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.

14. 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.
15. The Proponent shall ensure that aircraft/helicopter do not, unless for emergency, touch-down in areas where wildlife are present.
16. The Proponent shall ensure all project staff are trained in appropriate bear/carnivore detection and deterrent techniques.

Physical Environment

17. 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.
18. The Proponent shall ensure that the land use area is kept clean and tidy at all times.

Camp

19. The Proponent shall ensure that all camps are located on gravel, sand or other durable land.
20. The Proponent shall not erect camps or store material on the surface ice of lakes or streams.

Restoration

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

Other

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