



NIRB File No.: 09YN071
NRI File No.: 0204412-Registry

August 20, 2012

The Honourable Dan Shewchuk
Minister Responsible for Nunavut Arctic College
Government of Nunavut
c/o Mosha Cote, Manager Research Liaison
Nunavut Research Institute
P.O. Box 1720
Iqaluit, NU X0A 0H0

Via email: Mosha.Cote@arcticcollege.ca

Re: Application Exempt from the Requirement for Screening pursuant to Section 12.4.3 of the NLCA: Carlton University's "Ice Islands of the Eastern Canadian Arctic" project, North Baffin Region

Dear Mosha Cote:

On May 25, 2012 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received an application from the Nunavut Research Institute (NRI) for an amendment to the scientific research license (NRI No. 0204412-Registry) for Carlton University's "Ice Islands of the Eastern Canadian Arctic" project proposal. On June 22, 2012 the NIRB received a positive conformity determination (North Baffin Regional Land Use Plan) from the Nunavut Planning Commission for this file. On August 2, 2012 the NIRB requested an extension to the screening deadline for this file due at the scheduling of the Final Hearing for the NIRB's Review of Baffinland Iron Mine Corporation's "Mary River Project" (NIRB File No. 08MN053).

Please be advised that the original project proposal (NIRB File No.: 09YN071) was received by the NIRB from the NRI on November 20, 2009 and was screened by the Board in accordance with Part 4, Article 12 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA). On January 26, 2010 the NIRB issued the enclosed NLCA 12.4.4(a) screening decision to the Minister of Environment, Government of Nunavut which indicated that the proposed project could proceed subject to the NIRB's recommended project-specific terms and conditions.

The current NRI application, the original NIRB Screening Decision Report (09YN071) and related file information are available from the NIRB's ftp site at the following link:

<http://ftp.nirb.ca/01-SCREENINGS/COMPLETED%20SCREENINGS/2010/09YN071-Canadian%20Ice%20Service%20-%20Derek%20Mueller/>

PREVIOUSLY-SCREENED PROJECT PROPOSAL:

As previously screened by the NIRB (File No. 09YN071), the “Ice Islands of the Eastern Canadian Arctic” project was located within the Qikiqtani region, approximately 670 kilometres (km) northwest from Grise Fjord. Carlton University, the Proponent, indicated that it intended to study and track ice islands to create ice charts used to advise mariners of ice hazards.

The activities and components associated with the previously screened proposal included:

- Deployment of several (1-5) tracking beacons via helicopter or airplane on the surface of ice islands to monitor their movement in real time;
- Use results from tracking beacons to evaluate satellite imagery techniques and create ice charts to advise mariners of ice hazards;
- Researchers to be based out of temporary camps operated by the Canadian Hydrographic Service as part of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) project; and
- Program to take place from March to May 2010.

CURRENT APPLICATION:

Carlton University is proposing to amend its scientific research license to include the following additional components:

- Conduct shape analysis of the ice islands using side-scanning sonar;
- Use of a tilt-meter and wave-rider to measure wave action;
- Record salinity and temperature of surrounding water, and ice temperature;
- Use of a warm water drill to access water underneath the ice island;
- Collection of water samples from surface melt;
- Servicing of tracking beacons; and
- Accommodations, waste disposal, and field supplies sourced from local community.

Please note that Section 12.4.3 of the NLCA states that:

“Any application for a component or activity of a project proposal that has been permitted to proceed in accordance with these provisions shall be exempt from the requirement for screening by NIRB unless:

(a) such component or activity was not part of the original project proposal; or

(b) its inclusion would significantly modify the project.”

On August 7, 2012 NIRB distributed the current amendment request to a regional distribution list, requesting submission of any comments or concerns related to the application by August 17, 2012. The following comments were received regarding the proposed amendment:

- Environment Canada: no comments.

After completing a review of the information provided in support of the current application as well as the comments received from interested parties, the NIRB is of the understanding that the proposed amendment does not change the general scope of the original project activities, and the exceptions noted in NLCA 12.4.3(a) and (b) do not apply. Therefore, this application is exempt from the requirement for screening pursuant to Section 12.4.3 of the NLCA and the activities therein remain subject to the terms and conditions recommended in the original On January 26, 2010 Screening Decision Report (enclosed).

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Tara Arko, Technical Advisor, at 867-983-4611 or tarko@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ryan Barry". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Ryan Barry
Executive Director

cc: Derek Mueller, Carleton University
Jeff Mercer, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada
Tracey McCaie, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada
Bernie MacIsaac, Qikiqtani Inuit Association

Enclosed: NIRB Screening Decision Report, File No.: 09YN071 (January 26, 2010)