



SCREENING DECISION REPORT
NIRB FILE NO.: 10YN049

July 13, 2010

Honourable Daniel Shewchuk
Minister Responsible for Nunavut Arctic College
Iqaluit, NU

Via email: dshewchuk@gov.nu.ca or thughes@gov.nu.ca

Re: Screening Decision for Camille Partin's (University of Manitoba) "Reconstructing Ancient Ocean Conditions from Rocks of the Belcher Group, Belcher Islands, Nunavut" Project Proposal (NIRB File No.: 10YN049)

Dear Honourable Daniel Shewchuk:

The primary objectives of the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) are set out in Section 12.2.5 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA) as follows:

In carrying out its functions, the primary objectives of NIRB shall be at all times to protect and promote the existing and future well-being of the residents and communities of the Nunavut Settlement Area, and to protect the ecosystemic integrity of the Nunavut Settlement Area. NIRB shall take into account the well-being of the residents of Canada outside the Nunavut Settlement Area.

Section 12.4.4 of the NLCA states:

Upon receipt of a project proposal, NIRB shall screen the proposal and indicate to the Minister in writing that:

- a) the proposal may be processed without a review under Part 5 or 6; NIRB may recommend specific terms and conditions to be attached to any approval, reflecting the primary objectives set out in Section 12.2.5;*
- b) the proposal requires review under Part 5 or 6; NIRB shall identify particular issues or concerns which should be considered in such a review;*
- c) the proposal is insufficiently developed to permit proper screening, and should be returned to the proponent for clarification; or*
- d) the potential adverse impacts of the proposal are so unacceptable that it should be modified or abandoned.*

NIRB ASSESSMENT AND DECISION

After a thorough assessment of all material provided to the Board (please see *Procedural History* and *Project Activities* in **Appendix A**), in accordance with the principles identified within Section 12.4.2 of the NLCA, the decision of the Board as per Section 12.4.4 of the NLCA is:

12.4.4 (a): the proposal may be processed without a review under Part 5 or 6; NIRB may recommend specific terms and conditions to be attached to any approval, reflecting the primary objectives set out in Section 12.2.5.

RECOMMENDED PROJECT-SPECIFIC TERMS AND CONDITIONS (pursuant to Section 12.4.4(a) of the NLCA)

The Board is recommending that the following or similar project-specific terms and conditions be imposed upon the Proponent through all relevant legislation:

General

1. Camille Partin – University of Manitoba (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 (Scientific Research License Application dated June 1, 2010).
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 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.

Re-fuelling

8. If the Proponent re-fuels in the field, it shall be a minimum of thirty-one (31) metres away from the high water mark of any water body and in such a manner so as to prevent the release of fuel into the environment.
9. The Proponent shall ensure that appropriate spill response equipment and clean-up materials (e.g., shovels, pumps, barrels, drip pans, absorbents, etc) are readily available during any transfer of fuel.

10. The Proponent shall ensure that all on site personnel are properly trained in fuel handling procedures as well as spill response procedures. All spills of fuel or other deleterious materials of any amount must be reported immediately to the 24 hour Spill Line at (867) 920-8130.

Wildlife

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 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.
14. The Proponent shall cease activities that may interfere with migration or calving of caribou until the caribou have passed or left the area.
15. The Proponent shall ensure all project staff are trained in appropriate bear/carnivore detection and deterrent techniques.

Physical Environment

16. 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.
17. The Proponent shall ensure that the land use area is kept clean and tidy at all times.

Other

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

MONITORING AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS In addition, the Board is recommending the following:

1. The Proponent shall update its Spill Contingency Plan to include the up to date emergency contact numbers for the Government of Nunavut-Department of Environment (867-975-4644) and the Manager of Pollution Control and Air Quality (867-975-7748).

OTHER NIRB CONCERNS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In addition to the project-specific terms and conditions, the Board is recommending the following:

1. The Proponent review the bear/carnivore detection and deterrent techniques outlined in “Safety in Grizzly and Black Bear Country” which can be down-loaded from this link: <http://www.nwtwildlife.com/Publications/safetyinbearcountry/safety.htm>. Note that some recommendations in this manual are also relevant to polar bears. There is a DVD about polar

bears and safety available from Nunavut Parks at the following link <http://www.nunavutparks.com/english/visitor-information/suggested-resources.html> and a “Safety in Polar Bear Country” pamphlet from Parks Canada at the following link <http://www.pc.gc.ca/pn-np/nu/auyuittuq/pdf/PolarBearEnglish2007final.pdf>.

2. Any problem wildlife or any interaction with carnivores should be reported immediately to the local Government of Nunavut, Department of Environment Conservation Office.
3. The Proponent review Environment Canada’s “Environmental Assessment Best Practice Guide for *Wildlife at Risk in Canada*”, available at the following link: http://www.cws-scf.ec.gc.ca/publications/eval/index_e.cfm. The guide provides information to the Proponent on what is required when Wildlife at Risk, including *Species at Risk*, are encountered or affected by the project.

REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS

The Proponent is also advised that the following legislation may apply to the project:

1. The *Fisheries Act* (<http://laws.justice.gc.ca/en/showtdm/cs/F-14///en>).
2. The *Nunavut Waters and Nunavut Surface Rights Tribunal Act* (<http://www.canlii.org/ca/sta/n-28.8/whole.html>).
3. The *Migratory Birds Convention Act* and *Migratory Birds Regulations* (<http://laws.justice.gc.ca/en/showtdm/cs/M-7.01>).
4. The *Species at Risk Act* (<http://laws.justice.gc.ca/en/showtdm/cs/S-15.3>). Attached in **Appendix B** is a list of Species at Risk in Nunavut.
5. The *Nunavut Wildlife Act* which contains provisions to protect and conserve wildlife and wildlife habitat, including specific protection measures for wildlife habitat and species at risk.
6. The *Nunavut Act* (<http://laws.justice.gc.ca/en/showtdm/cs/N-28.6>). The Proponent must comply with the proposed terms and conditions listed in the attached **Appendix C**.

Validity of Land Claims Agreement

Section 2.12.2

Where there is any inconsistency or conflict between any federal, territorial and local government laws, and the Agreement, the Agreement shall prevail to the extent of the inconsistency or conflict.

Dated: July 13, 2010 at Sanikiluaq, NU.



Lucassie Arragutainaq, Chairperson

Attachments: Appendix A: Procedural History and Project Activities
Appendix B: Species at Risk in Nunavut
Appendix C: Archaeological and Palaeontological Resources Terms and Conditions for Land Use
Permit Holders

Appendix A Procedural History and Project Activities

Procedural History

On June 16, 2010 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received Camille Partin's "Reconstructing ancient ocean conditions from rocks of the Belcher Group, Belcher Islands, Nunavut" project proposal from the Nunavut Research Institute. No conformity determination was required for this project from the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC) as the project is located in the South Baffin Region for which there is currently no approved land use plan. The NIRB assigned this project proposal file number **10YN049**.

This project proposal was distributed to community organizations in Sanikiluaq, as well as to relevant federal and territorial government agencies and Inuit organizations including the Nunavik Region Marine Impact Review Board, Makivik Corporation and the Nunavik Marine Region Wildlife Board. The NIRB requested that interested parties review the proposal and the NIRB's *proposed* project-specific terms and conditions, and provide the Board with any comments or concerns by July 2, 2010 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, (providing any recommended mitigation measures); and
- Any matter of importance to the Party related to the project proposal.

On or before July 2, 2010, the NIRB received comments from the following interested parties:

- **Environment Canada (EC)**
- **Qikiqtani Inuit Association (QIA)**
- **Nunavik Marine Region Wildlife Board (NMRWB)**

All comments provided to the NIRB regarding this project proposal can be viewed on the NIRB's ftp-site, at the following location:

<http://ftp.nirb.ca/SCREENINGS/COMPLETED%20SCREENINGS/>

Project Activities

The proposed research project is located in the Belcher Islands, Hudson Bay, Nunavut Settlement Area. The nearest community to the proposed project is Sanikiluaq, which is within several kilometres of one of the proposed research locations. The objective of the proposed research is to study the origin of the sequence of rocks covering the Belcher Islands, to better understand ancient ocean conditions. The research program is proposed to take place from August 16 to September 1, 2010.

The project components/activities would include:

- Four (4) research personnel conducting activities over 17 consecutive days;
- Accommodations for project personnel in Sanikiluaq;
- Travel to research sites by ATV and/or boat; and
- Collection of geological samples using rock hammers.

Appendix B

Species at Risk in Nunavut

This list includes species listed on one of the Schedules of SARA (*Species at Risk Act*) and under consideration for listing on Schedule 1 of SARA. These species have been designated as at risk by COSEWIC (Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada). This list may not include all species identified as at risk by the Territorial Government.

- Schedule 1 is the official legal list of Species at Risk for SARA. SARA applies to all species on Schedule 1. The term “listed” species refers to species on Schedule 1.
- Schedule 2 and 3 of SARA identify species that were designated at risk by the COSEWIC prior to October 1999 and must be reassessed using revised criteria before they can be considered for addition to Schedule 1.
- Some species identified at risk by COSEWIC are “pending” addition to Schedule 1 of SARA. These species are under consideration for addition to Schedule 1, subject to further consultation or assessment.

Schedules of SARA are amended on a regular basis so it is important to periodically check the SARA registry (www.sararegistry.gc.ca) to get the current status of a species.

Updated: August 4, 2009

| Species at Risk | COSEWIC Designation | Schedule of SARA | Government Organization with Lead Management Responsibility ¹ |
|--|---------------------|--|--|
| Eskimo Curlew | Endangered | Schedule 1 | EC |
| Ivory Gull | Endangered | Schedule 1 | EC |
| Ross's Gull | Threatened | Schedule 1 | EC |
| Harlequin Duck (Eastern population) | Special Concern | Schedule 1 | EC |
| Rusty Blackbird | Special Concern | Schedule 1 | Government of Nunavut |
| Felt-leaf Willow | Special Concern | Schedule 1 | Government of Nunavut |
| Peregrine Falcon (<i>anatum-tundrius</i> complex) | Special Concern | Schedule 1 (<i>anatum</i>) Schedule 3 (<i>tundrius</i>) | Government of Nunavut |
| Short-eared Owl | Special Concern | Schedule 3 | Government of Nunavut |
| Peary Caribou | Endangered | Pending | Government of Nunavut |
| Beluga Whale (Eastern Hudson Bay population) | Endangered | Pending | DFO |
| Red Knot (<i>rufa</i> subspecies) | Endangered | Pending | EC |

| | | | |
|--|-----------------|---------|-----------------------|
| Beluga Whale (Cumberland Sound population) | Threatened | Pending | DFO |
| Atlantic Cod (Arctic population) | Special Concern | Pending | DFO |
| Beluga Whale (Western Hudson Bay population) | Special Concern | Pending | DFO |
| Beluga Whale (Eastern High Arctic – Baffin Bay population) | Special Concern | Pending | DFO |
| Bowhead Whale (Eastern Canada – West Greenland population) | Special Concern | Pending | DFO |
| Killer Whale (Northwest Atlantic / Eastern Arctic populations) | Special Concern | Pending | DFO |
| Porsild's Bryum | Threatened | Pending | Government of Nunavut |
| Atlantic Walrus | Special Concern | Pending | DFO |
| Narwhal | Special Concern | Pending | DFO |
| Red Knot (<i>islandica</i> subspecies) | Special Concern | Pending | EC |
| Horned Grebe (Western population) | Special Concern | Pending | EC |
| Barren-ground Caribou (Dolphin and Union population) | Special Concern | Pending | Government of Nunavut |
| Grizzly Bear | Special Concern | Pending | Government of Nunavut |
| Polar Bear | Special Concern | Pending | Government of Nunavut |
| Wolverine (Western Population) | Special Concern | Pending | Government of Nunavut |

¹ Environment Canada (EC) has a national role to play in the conservation and recovery of Species at Risk in Canada, as well as responsibility for management of birds described in the Migratory Birds Convention Act (MBCA). Day-to-day management of terrestrial species not covered in the MBCA is the responsibility of the Territorial Government. Populations that exist in National Parks are also managed under the authority of the Parks Canada Agency. The Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) has responsibility for management of aquatic species.

Appendix C
Archaeological and Palaeontological Resources Terms and Conditions
for Land Use Permit Holders



BACKGROUND: Archaeology

As stated in Article 33 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement:

The archaeological record of the Inuit of Nunavut is a record of Inuit use and occupancy of lands and resources through time. The evidence associated with their use and occupancy represents a cultural, historical and ethnographic heritage of Inuit society and, as such, Government recognizes that Inuit have a special relationship with such evidence, which shall be expressed in terms of special rights and responsibilities. [33.2.1]

The archaeological record of Nunavut is of spiritual, cultural, religious and educational importance to Inuit. Accordingly, the identification, protection and conservation of archaeological sites and specimens and the interpretation of the archaeological record is of primary importance to Inuit and their involvement is both desirable and necessary. [33.2.2]

In recognition of the cultural, spiritual and religious importance of certain areas in Nunavut to Inuit, Inuit have special rights and interests in these areas as defined by Article 33 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement. [33.2.5]

BACKGROUND: Palaeontology

Under the Nunavut Act¹, the federal Government can make regulations for the protection, care and preservation of palaeontological sites and specimens in Nunavut. Under the *Nunavut Archaeological and Palaeontological Sites Regulations*², it is illegal to alter or disturb any palaeontological site in Nunavut unless permission is first granted through the permitting process.

Definitions

¹ s. 51(1)

² P.C. 2001-1111 14 June, 2001

As defined in the *Nunavut Archaeological and Palaeontological Sites Regulations*, the following definitions apply:

“archaeological site” means a place where an archaeological artifact is found.

“archaeological artifact” means any tangible evidence of human activity that is more than 50 years old and in respect of which an unbroken chain of possession or regular pattern of usage cannot be demonstrated, and includes a Denesuline archaeological specimen referred to in section 40.4.9 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement.

“palaeontological site” means a site where a fossil is found.

“fossil” includes:

- (a) natural casts
- (b) preserved tracks, coprolites and plant remains; and
- (c) the preserved shells and exoskeletons of invertebrates and the eggs, teeth and bones of vertebrates.

Terms and Conditions

- 1) The permittee shall not operate any vehicle over a known or suspected archaeological or palaeontological site.
- 2) The permittee shall not remove, disturb, or displace any archaeological artifact or site, or any fossil or palaeontological site.
- 3) The permittee shall immediately contact the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth (867) 934-2046 or (867) 975-5500 or 1 (866) 934-2035 should an archaeological site or specimen, or a palaeontological site or fossil be encountered or disturbed by any land use activity.
- 4) The permittee shall immediately cease any activity that disturbs an archaeological or palaeontological site encountered during the course of a land use operation, until permitted to proceed with the authorization of the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, Government of Nunavut.
- 5) The permittee shall follow the direction of the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth and DIAND in restoring disturbed archaeological or palaeontological sites to an acceptable condition.
- 6) The permittee shall provide all information requested by the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth concerning all archaeological sites or artifacts and all palaeontological sites and fossils encountered in the course of any land use activity.

- 7) The permittee shall make best efforts to ensure that all persons working under authority of the permit are aware of these conditions concerning archaeological sites and artifacts, and palaeontological sites and fossils.
- 8) The permittee shall avoid the known archaeological and/or palaeontological sites listed in Attachment 1.
- 9) The permittee shall have an archaeologist or palaeontologist perform the following functions, as required by the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth:
 - a. survey
 - b. inventory and documentation of the archaeological or palaeontological resources of the land use area
 - c. assessment of potential for damage to archaeological or palaeontological sites
 - d. mitigation
 - e. marking boundaries of archaeological or palaeontological sites
 - f. site restoration

The Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth shall authorize by way of a Nunavut Archaeologist Permit or a Nunavut Palaeontologist Permit, all procedures subsumed under the above operations.