



**NIRB File No. 12YN014**

April 23, 2012

Gifford Miller  
INSTAAR  
University of Colorado  
Boulder, CO 80309-0450

Via email: [gmiller@colorado.edu](mailto:gmiller@colorado.edu)

**Re: Notice of Part 4 Screening for the University of Colorado's "Disappearing Ice Caps" project proposal**

Dear Gifford Miller:

On March 8, 2012 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received the University of Colorado's (the Proponent) "Disappearing Ice Caps" project proposal from the Nunavut Research Institute (NRI). On March 27, 2012 the NIRB received a positive conformity determination (North Baffin Regional Land Use Plan) from the Nunavut Planning Commission. Following an initial review of application materials received, the NIRB determined that the original application did not contain sufficient information to permit proper screening and requested that the Proponent provide shape files regarding the proposed sample sites. On April 16, 2012 the NIRB received the required information. The NIRB has assigned this project proposal file number **12YN014** - please reference this file number in related future correspondence.

The proposed project is located in the Qikiqtani Region, within the Auyuittuq National Park and surrounding areas on the Cumberland Peninsula. The program is proposed to take place from July 28, 2012 to August 12, 2012. The Proponent intends to collect tundra plant samples from glacial caps to determine how old the plants are by radiocarbon dating. The Proponent intends to return to the sample sites for three consecutive years following the 2012 field season.

The proposed project activities and components include:

- Use of a helicopter to access sites;
- Research team (3 scientists) to be flown from either Qikiqtarjuaq or Pangnirtung to the sites daily;
- Hand collection of 100 grams of plants per site, total of up to 80 sites visited;
- Photos and GPS coordinates of sites visited will be recorded.

All documents received and pertaining to this project proposal can be obtained from the NIRB's ftp site at <http://ftp.nirb.ca/01-SCREENINGS/ACTIVE%20SCREENINGS/12YN014-University%20of%20Colorado%20Disappearing%20Ice%20Caps/> including:

- *NRI Scientific Research License Application in English*
- *Non-technical project summary in English*
- *Non-technical project summary in Inuktitut*
- *Maps*
- *NPC 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 process. The NIRB will copy you on screening process related correspondence and upload related documents to the above ftp site for public access.

Be advised that the NIRB is copying parties and municipalities potentially affected by this project proposal. Interested parties are encouraged to comment directly to the NIRB by **May 3, 2012**.

The NIRB would like parties to provide comments regarding:

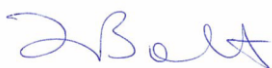
- Whether the project proposal is likely to arouse significant public concern; and if so, why;
- Whether the project proposal is likely to cause significant adverse eco-systemic and socio-economic effects; and if so, why;
- Whether the project is of a type where the potential adverse effects are highly 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](mailto:info@nirb.ca) or via fax at **(867) 983-2594**.

If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact me directly at (867) 983-4603 or [tbolt@nirb.ca](mailto:tbolt@nirb.ca).

Sincerely,



Tannis Bolt  
Assistant Technical Advisor  
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Distribution List  
Mosha Cote, NRI

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

Enclosures (2): Comment Forms (English and Inuktitut)

**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. University of Colorado – Gifford Miller (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 the NRI Research License application and non-technical project proposal summary.
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 at an approved facility. All wastes shall be kept inaccessible to wildlife at all times.

**Fuel and Chemical Storage**

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

**Wildlife**

9. The Proponent shall ensure that there is no damage to wildlife habitat in conducting this operation.
10. 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.
11. The Proponent shall not touch, feed or entice wildlife to approach by holding out or setting out decoys or any such devices, foodstuffs or bait of any kind.
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 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 its activities in the region.