



NIRB File No.: 16YN009
NPC File No.: 148212

March 4, 2016

Michael Janssen
Environment and Climate Change Canada
1125 Colonel By Drive
Ottawa, ON K1S 5B6

Sent via email: michael.janssen@canada.ca

Re: Notice of Screening for Environment and Climate Change Canada's "Marine Habitat use of Thick-billed Murres" project proposal

Dear Michael Janssen:

On February 25, 2016 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received a referral to screen Environment and Climate Change Canada's (ECCC) "Marine Habitat use of Thick-billed Murres" project proposal from the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC or Commission), with an accompanying positive conformity determination with the North Baffin Regional Land Use Plan. Pursuant to section 86 of the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act* (NuPPAA), the NIRB has commenced screening this project proposal and has assigned it file number **16YN009**- please reference this file number in all future related correspondence.

PROJECT SCOPE

Project Scope:

The proposed "Marine Habitat use of Thick-billed Murres" project is located within the North Baffin Region, approximately 66 kilometres (km) from Pond Inlet, within Cape Graham Moore, Bylot Island Migratory Bird Sanctuary. The Proponent intends to determine the distribution and abundance patterns of Thick-billed Murres, in order to identify key marine habitats, as well as investigate whether birds breeding at a variety of specific locations within the colony utilize different marine habitat areas, and whether this changes between breeding stages (incubating eggs versus feeding chicks). The program is proposed to take place from July to August 2016.

According to the project proposal, the scope of the project includes the following works or activities:

- Use of helicopter for personnel drop off and pickup, including equipment transport;
- Temporary set-up of field camp for accommodation and research activities;

- Research marine habitat of Thick-billed Murres nesting at Cape Graham Moore, Bylot Island;
- Use of 2000 watts generator for electricity;
- Use of 25 litres (L) of gasoline for powering generator, and 4L of fuel for camp stove;
- High temperature incineration of six garbage bags, and transport of non-combustible wastes to Pond Inlet;
- Disposal of grey water and sewage in sumps, and backfilling of sumps to fit the contour of the landscape;
- Use of boats for personnel transport to and from Bylot Island;
- Retrieval of 1 cubic metre of water through melted snow in shaded areas within 1km of camp.

At this time, the NIRB has identified no additional works or activities in relation to the project proposal. As a result, the NIRB will proceed with screening the project based on the scope as described above.

REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

All documents received and pertaining to this project proposal can be obtained from the NIRB's online public registry at the following location

<http://ftp.nirb.ca/01-SCREENINGS/ACTIVE%20SCREENINGS/16YN009-ECCC-Thick%20Billed%20Murres/01-APPLICATION/> and include:

- *NPC Application*
- *NPC Screening Referral and Questionnaire*
- *2015 Season Report*
- *Spill Contingency Plan*
- *Non-technical Project Proposal summary in English, French and Inuktitut*
- *Map of sampling locations (note that map of the sampling areas can be viewed by using the specific NIRB file number as the keyword search for projects in the updated public registry)*

The NIRB will copy you on screening process related correspondence and upload related documents to the above ftp site for public access. The NIRB may request additional information at any time during the process.

The NIRB is copying parties and municipalities potentially affected by ECCC's project proposal with this letter, and we invite interested parties to comment directly to the NIRB by **Thursday, March 24, 2016**.

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 or socio-economic effects; and if so, why;
- Whether the project is likely to cause significant adverse impacts on wildlife habitat or Inuit harvest activities; 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.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Please send your comments to the NIRB at info@nirb.ca or via fax at (867) 983-2594. **The NIRB has recently launched an updated online public registry, and parties can access project information as well as submit comments directly to the NIRB via www.nirb.ca**

If you have any questions or require clarification, please contact the undersigned at (867) 983-4603 or at samuno@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



Solomon Amuno, PhD
Technical Advisor II
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Distribution List
Brian Aglukark, Nunavut Planning Commission
Karèn Kharatyan, Nunavut Water Board
Joel Fortier, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Denise Baikie, Government of Nunavut-Department of Environment
Mosha Cote, Nunavut Research Institute
Mia Pelletier, Canadian Wildlife Service

Enclosures (4): Public Notice of Screening (English and Inuktitut)
Comment Forms (English and Inuktitut)