



NIRB File No.: 13UN037

NPC File No.: 148311

NWB File No.: 3AM-GRA1624

September 27, 2017

Megan Lusty
Government of Nunavut – Community and Government Services
P.O Box 490
Rankin Inlet NU, X0C 0G0

Sent via email: mlusty@gov.nu.ca

Re: Notice of Screening for Government of Nunavut – Community and Government Service’s “3AM-GRA1624 GN-CGS Rankin Inlet Water Licence Amendment – Lower Landing Lake” Project Proposal

Dear Megan Lusty:

On June 19, 2016 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received a referral to screen Government of Nunavut - Community and Government Services’ (GN-CGS) “Hamlet of Rankin Inlet Type ‘A’ Water Licence: Amendment – Lower Landing Lake” project proposal from the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC or Commission) with an accompanying positive conformity determination with the Keewatin Regional Land Use Plan.

Pursuant to Article 12, Sections 12.4.1 and 12.4.4 of the *Agreement between the Inuit of the Nunavut Settlement Area and Her Majesty the Queen in right of Canada* (Nunavut Agreement) and section 87 of the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act* (NuPPAA), the NIRB has commenced screening this project proposal. Due to the proposal containing activities that are sufficiently related to previously assessed activities under NIRB file number **13UN037**, the NIRB views this project proposal as an amendment to the previously screened project and has assigned this proposal with this previous file number. Please reference this file number in all future related correspondence. A summary of the previously screened project activities can be found in **Appendix A**.

INFORMATION REQUEST

Following a preliminary completeness check, the NIRB determined that the proposal as submitted did not contain the necessary information for the NIRB to carry out its screening. Pursuant to subsection 144(1) of the NuPPAA, on June 30, 2016 the NIRB requested that the additional information from GN-CGS be provided to the Board.

After several additional requests by the NIRB including a second formal letter issued on August 3, 2016 and subsequent requests for the information, the Proponent did not provide the additional information and on September 14, 2016 the NIRB notified GN-CGS that the assessment activities for this project proposal had been suspended pursuant to subsection 144(2) of the NuPPAA, pending submission of the outstanding requested information.

On September 14, 2017 the NIRB received the requested additional information and commenced the screening pursuant to Part 3 of the NuPPAA.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Project Scope:

The proposed “Hamlet of Rankin Inlet Type ‘A’ Water Licence: Amendment – Lower Landing Lake” project is located within the Kivalliq region, approximately four kilometres (km) northwest from Rankin Inlet, within the municipal boundaries. The Proponent intends to relocate the existing water pump and water pipeline from Char River approximately 200 meters northwest to Lower Landing Lake—the source of Char River—which provides a larger water source. The program is proposed to take place from May to July, 2018. The scope of activities previously approved for this infrastructure (NIRB File No. 13UN037) has been included within **Appendix A**.

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

- Construction of an access road to Lower Landing Lake and pad using approximately 1,050 cubic meters of granular fill sourced from existing aggregate sources:
 - Access road to be 145 meter (m) long from an existing road toward Lower Landing Lake;
- Pad approximately 12 m by 15 m at the end of the new access road at Lower Landing Lake;
 - Installation of culverts along the access road as required to facilitate surface water drainage;
- Relocation of the seacan containing existing water pump at Char River to the new pad at Lower Landing Lake;
- Relocation of current seasonal floating water inlet from Char River to Lower Landing Lake;
- Extending existing water pipeline approximately 200 meters to the new pump location at Lower Landing Lake::
 - Approximately 180 m of pipe identical to the current pipeline installed on the ground, and
 - 20 m of pipespan to be seasonally suspended over Char River during pumping periods and stored alongside the road when pumping for the season has been completed.

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 www.nirb.ca by using any of the following search criteria:

- Project Name: Rankin Inlet Water License Amendment – Lower Landing Lake
- NIRB File No.: 13UN037
- Application No.: 124677

The documents received include:

- *NPC Screening Referral and Conformity Determination*
- *NPC Application and Conformity Questionnaire*
- *Nunavut Water Board Type 'A' Water Licence 3AM-GRA1624*
- *Water Balance Assessment (including maps noting project location)*
- *Adaptive Management Plan*
- *Diagram of Pipeline Extension*

The NIRB will copy you on screening process related correspondence and upload related documents to the NIRB's online registry 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 the GN-CGS project proposal with this letter, and we invite interested parties to comment directly to the NIRB by **October 18, 2017**.

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 proposal is likely to cause significant adverse impacts on wildlife habitat or Inuit harvest activities; if so, why;
- Whether the project proposal 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 via email at info@nirb.ca, via fax at (867) 983-2594 or via the individual project dashboard for this assessment on the NIRB's online public registry at www.nirb.ca by using any of the following search criteria:

- Project Name: Rankin Inlet Water License Amendment – Lower Landing Lake
- NIRB File No.: 13UN037
- Application No.: 124677

If you have any questions or require clarification, please contact the undersigned at 867-983-4617 or at kmorrison@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



Keith Morrison
Technical Advisor II
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Distribution List
 Karén Kharatyan, Nunavut Water Board
 Luis Manzo, Kivalliq Inuit Association
 Maria Serra, Kivalliq Inuit Association
 Brian Aglukark, Nunavut Planning Commission
 Ralph Ruediger, Government of Nunavut-Community and Government Services
 Darren Flynn, Government of Nunavut-Community and Government Services
 Randy Mercer, Government of Nunavut-Community and Government Services

Attachment: Appendix A: Previously-Screened Project Proposals

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

APPENDIX A: PREVIOUSLY-SCREENED PROJECT PROPOSALS

The original project proposal NIRB (File No. 13UN037), was received by the NIRB from the Nunavut Water Board on August 23, 2013 and was screened by the Board in accordance with Part 4, Article 12 of the *Agreement between the Inuit of the Nunavut Settlement Area and Her Majesty the Queen in right of Canada* (Nunavut Agreement). On June 26, 2014 the NIRB issued a Nunavut Agreement 12.4.4(a) screening decision to the then-Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development which indicated that the proposed project could proceed subject to the NIRB's recommended project-specific terms and conditions.

The Government of Nunavut, Department of Community and Government Services' (Proponent) original "Hamlet of Rankin Inlet: Amendment Application - Seasonal Replenishment of Nipissar Lake" project was located in the Kivalliq region, approximately two to four kilometres (km) northwest of Rankin Inlet. The Proponent indicated that it intended to transport water from the Char River in order to re-supply the Nipissar Lake (also known as Nipissak Lake), which is in turn used to supply the municipal water needs for Rankin Inlet. The program was proposed to take place from September 2012 to September 2032, or longer if the pipeline remains functional, with yearly seasonal operation between June and September to have commenced in June 2014.

According to the previously screened project proposal, the scope of the project included the following undertakings, works or activities:

- Use and grading of the existing access road at the intake area along Char River;
- Development and use of a temporary winter access trail along the pipeline to transport equipment, materials and personnel (fuel to be stored in Rankin Inlet);
 - Approximately 10 Litres (L) of oils and lubricants to be used annually during the operation phase;
 - Used oil and waste fuel to be disposed of at an approved disposal facility in Rankin Inlet;
- Domestic waste to be disposed of at the Rankin Inlet Solid Waste Facility;
- Construction, operation and decommissioning of a 4.05 kilometre (km) overland water intake pipeline extending from the Char River to Nipissar Lake including:
 - Installation of a water intake area with pump and 75 horsepower diesel powered generator (to be refuelled with a hand pump or electric pump and stored in a sea canister);
 - 50 m intake hose with floating base (to anchor the intake hose during operation), and intake screen. Hose and floating base to be stored in the sea canister at the end of the operation season;
 - 250 millimetre (mm) diameter high density polyethylene (HDPE) pipeline with one low point drain and two high point air releases to facilitate draining of the pipeline at the end of the operation season; and
 - Discharge area at the high water mark of Nipissar Lake with the installation of a concrete slab (splash pad) and surrounding riprap;
- Installation of culverts under existing access roads to facilitate surface water drainage and to allow for passage of the pipeline;
- Approximately 0.5 m of granular material (sand) sourced from Rankin Inlet's community borrow pit to be placed on the pipeline in two areas to facilitate snowmobile access; and

- Amount of water required to prevent water level decreases in Nipissar Lake would be dependent on community need and expected to increase as the community increases in size, with a projected maximum 47,187 cubic metres (m³) to be transferred during the 2014 season and up to 271,924 m³ in 2030:
 - A Withdrawal Plan was proposed to be developed using data collected from the 2014 pumping season for pumping activities to be conducted during subsequent years.

An additional authorization and extension request associated with the “Hamlet of Rankin Inlet: Amendment Application - Seasonal Replenishment of Nipissar Lake” project was received from the NWB on March 27, 2015, followed by a positive conformity determination by the NPC on April 1, 2015 in response to the GN-CGS’s application to renew the Hamlet of Rankin Inlet’s Type A Water License. Following review, the NIRB confirmed that the application was exempt from the requirement for further screening pursuant to Section 12.4.3 of the Nunavut Agreement and that the activities therein remained subject to the terms and conditions recommended in the original June 26, 2014 Screening Decision Report.