



NIRB File No. 14AN024
NPC File No.: 148268

July 5, 2016

Conrad Combrink
Silversea Cruises Ltd.
Wells Fargo Center, 333 Southeast 2nd Avenue
Suite 2600, Miami 33131 USA

Sent via email: ConradC@silversea.com

Re: Notice of Screening for Silversea Cruises Limited's "MS Silver Explorer, Expedition High Arctic" project proposal

Dear Conrad Combrink:

On June 7, 2016 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received a referral to screen Silversea Cruises Limited's (SCL) "MS Silver Explorer, Expedition High Arctic" project proposal from the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC or Commission), with an accompanying positive conformity determination with the North Baffin Regional Land Use Plan due to significant modification to the original project proposal. The NPC noted that the conformity determination issued on June 10, 2014 continues to apply to this proposal.

Pursuant to section 86 of the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act* (NuPPAA), the NIRB commenced screening this project proposal. Due to the proposal containing activities that were sufficiently related to previously assessed activities under NIRB file number **14AN024**, the NIRB views this project proposal as an amendment to the previously screened project and assigned this proposal with this previous file number. Please reference this file number in all future related correspondence.

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. On June 16, 2016 the NIRB requested that SCL provide additional information in support of this proposal by June 30, 2016. On June 29, 2016 the NIRB received the requested additional information and commenced the screening pursuant to Part 3 of the NuPPAA.

PROJECT SCOPE

Project Scope:

The proposed “MS Silver Explorer, Expedition High Arctic” project is a cruise ship which proposes to originate in Greenland and travel to the Qikiqtani (North Baffin) region to cruise in the area and to various North Baffin communities. The Proponent intends to travel along a pre-planned route to allow passengers to engage in sightseeing, zodiac cruising and organized community visits. The program is proposed to take place from August to September 2016.

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

- Use of a cruise vessel, the MS Silver Explorer, for transportation and accommodation of up to 263 passengers, staff and crew throughout the northern parts of the Qikiqtani region;
- Use of approximately 570 cubic metres (m³) of diesel for vessel operations, and 1800 litres of gasoline for zodiac operations;
- Use of approximately ten (10) inflatable zodiac boats fitted with outboard engines to facilitate shore landings and sightseeing excursions;
- Generation of combustible wastes, and non-combustible wastes with disposal at a certified reception port;
- Generation of sewage and grey water with treatment prior to disposal at sea or on shore;
- Conduct education and training of passengers, crew and expedition team during project duration;
- Tourism expedition and archeological visits to include:
 - Cruise into deep fjords with active glaciers and icebergs;
 - Wildlife and bird viewing;
 - Visits to a Thule site, a Hudson’s Bay Company trading post, and Royal Canadian Mountain Police Station near Dundas Harbour, Devon Island;
 - Visits to the Northumberland House, including graves and ruins associated with the Franklin expedition on Beechey Island;
 - Visits to Thule sites in Caswel Tower, Devon Island and Radstock Bay;
 - Visits to the Blacklead Island Whaling Station including the remains of the Anglican Mission and Scottish outpost; and,
 - Visits to other tourism sites and wildlife areas proximal to Gibbs Fjord, Sam Fjord, Isabella Bay, Aulitivik Island, Padloping Island, Blackhead Island, Lady Franklin Island, Monumental Island, Pond Inlet, Sirmilik Glacier, Navy Board Inlet, Dundas Harbour and Crocker Bay.

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: MS Silver Explorer, Expedition High Arctic

- NIRB File No.: 14AN024
- Application No.: 124680

The documents received include:

- *NPC Screening Referral and Conformity Determination*
- *NPC Application*
- *Environmental Impact Assessment for Ship-Based Tourism*
- *Non-technical Summary of Voyage*
- *Non-technical Project Proposal summary in English and Inuktitut*
- *Silver Explorer Voyage Schedule*
- *Revised Environmental Impact Assessment for Ship-Based Tourism*
- *NIRB's Online Application Form (formerly the NIRB Part 1 form in English)*
- *Silver Explorer Revised Voyage Schedule*
- *NIRB Part 1 Summary Form in Inuktitut*
- *Map noting Route of High Arctic Expedition*

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 SCL project proposal with this letter, and we invite interested parties to comment directly to the NIRB by **July 26, 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 additional clarification, please contact the undersigned directly at (867) 983-4603 or at samuno@nirb.ca

Sincerely,



Solomon Amuno, PhD
Technical Advisor II
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Distribution List
Victoria Wheatley, Expedition Voyage Consultants Ltd.
Karén Kharatyan, Nunavut Water Board
Joel Fortier, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Tracey McCaie, Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada
Mia Pelletier, Canadian Wildlife Service

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