



NIRB File No.: 16DN061
NPC File No.: 148361

January 11, 2017

Major Gordon Prentice
Department of National Defence
701 Oxford Street East
London, ON N5Y 4T7

Sent via email: gordon.prentice@forces.gc.ca

Re: Notice of Screening for Department of National Defence's "NOREX 17" project proposal

Dear Major Gordon Prentice:

On October 31, 2016 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received a referral to screen Department of National Defence's (DND) "NOREX 17" 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 Article 12, Section 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 86 of the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act* (NuPPAA), the NIRB has commenced screening this project proposal and has assigned it file number **16DN061** - 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 November 7, 2016 the NIRB requested that DND provide additional information in support of this proposal by November 21, 2016. On January 3, 2017 the NIRB received the requested additional information and commenced the screening pursuant to Part 3 of the NuPPAA.

PROJECT SCOPE

Project Scope:

The proposed "NOREX 17" project is located within the North Baffin region, approximately 60 kilometres (km) northeast, south and west from the community of Resolute Bay. The Proponent intends to conduct winter exercises involving the Arctic Response Company Group a division of

the Canadian Armed Forces and the Canadian Rangers. The program is proposed to take place from March 6 to March 31, 2017.

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

- Military training to be staged from the Canadian Armed Forces Arctic Training Centre (CAFATC) located in Resolute Bay;
- Mobilization of up to 134 personnel to CAFATC for acclimatisation training;
- Military exercises and patrols to be conducted by personnel within three (3) operational boxes (Eureka or Polaris, Gascoyne Inlet, Resolute);
- Establishment of temporary camps near Eleanor Lake on northeast portion of Cornwallis Island, near Eureka or Polaris and Gascoyne Inlet. A temporary camp near Eleanor Lake to be used as the primary temporary camp for military exercises;
- Establishment of austere airfield on Eleanor Lake (ice airstrip);
- Use of snowmobiles and tracked oversnow vehicles (BV-206) for transportation of personnel and equipment to temporary camp and military exercise locations;
- Use of aircrafts, helicopter and/or snowmobiles to transport personnel and equipment to additional exercise locations (Eureka or Polaris and Gascoyne Inlet);
- Use of area near Resolute as rifle range;
- Transportation, storage and use of 10 x 200 litres drums of gasoline, 200 litres of diesel and 60 litres of Naphtha;
- Use and transportation of water from existing facilities at CAFATC;
- Production and management of wastes:
 - Combustible wastes, sewage, and greywater to be disposed of at Resolute or at an approved facility down south;
 - Hazardous and non-combustible wastes to be shipped to an approved facility down south for disposal; and
- Demobilization and removal of equipment and materials on completion of military exercises.

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: NOREX 17
- NIRB File No.: 16DN061
- Application No.: 125021

The documents received include:

- *NPC Screening Referral and Conformity Determination*
- *NPC Application and Conformity Questionnaire*
- *NIRB's Online Application Form (formerly the NIRB Part 1 form in English)*
- *NIRB Part 1 Summary Form in English and Inuktitut*

- *Non technical Project Proposal summary in English and Inuktitut*
- *Maps noting operational boxes and rifle ranges*

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 DND's project proposal with this letter, and we invite interested parties to comment directly to the NIRB by **February 1, 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 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 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: NOREX 17
- NIRB File No.: 16DN061
- Application No.: 125021

If you have any questions or require clarification, please contact the undersigned at (867) 983-4619 or at kgillard@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kelli Gillard". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "K".

Kelli Gillard B.Sc., P.Ag.
Manager, Project Monitoring
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Distribution List
 Karén Kharatyan, Nunavut Water Board
 Salamonie Shoo, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
 Joel Fortier, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
 Tracey McCaie, Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada

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