



NIRB File No.: 16TN039

NPC File No.: 148484

May 9, 2017

John Stoll
Crystal Cruises LLC
11755 Wilshire Blvd, Suite 900
Los Angeles, CA 90025
USA

Sent via email: jstoll@crystalcruises.com

Re: Notice of Screening for Crystal Cruises LLC's "MS Crystal Serenity - Crystal Cruises LLC Northwest Passage 2017" project proposal

Dear John Stoll:

On April 6, 2017 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received a referral to screen Crystal Cruises LLC's "MS Crystal Serenity - Crystal Cruises LLC Northwest Passage 2017" project proposal from the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC or Commission), with an accompanying positive conformity determination with the North Baffin Regional Land Use Plan. The NPC noted that the previous conformity determination issued on June 7, 2016 for the activities associated with the current proposal continues to apply and has determined that the project proposal is a significant modification to the project because the proponent has added two additional locations to visit (Bylot Island and Prince Leopold Island) that require a permit from Canadian Wildlife Services.

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 **16TN039**, 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 April 6, 2017 the NIRB requested that the additional information from Crystal Cruises LLC be provided to the Board. The NIRB followed up with the Proponent on April 20, 2017 noting that the NIRB required the additional information in order to carry out the screening of the project proposal. On May 4, 2017 the NIRB received the requested additional information and commenced the screening pursuant to Part 3 of the NuPPAA.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Project Scope:

The “MS Crystal Serenity - Crystal Cruises LLC Northwest Passage 2017” project was previously screened in 2016 and proposed to sail the Northwest Passage traversing Nunavut waters in both the Qikiqtani (North Baffin) and Kitikmeot regions. In 2017 the Proponent intends to conduct a modification of the sailing route by adding two (2) additional stops in Nunavut. The program is proposed to take place from August to September 2017. The scope of activities previously approved for this ongoing cruise (NIRB File No. 16TN039) has been included within **Appendix A**.

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

- Two (2) additional land based stops at Bylot Island Migratory Bird Sanctuary/Sirmilik National Park and Prince Leopold Island Migratory Bird Sanctuary; and
- Hiking and observation of birds at these two additional stops.

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 Crystal Serenity - Crystal Cruises LLC Northwest Passage 2017
- NIRB File No.: 16TN039
- Application No.: 125124

The documents received include:

- *NPC Screening Referral and Conformity Determination*
- *NPC Application and Conformity Questionnaire*
- *NIRB’s Online Application Form*
- *Non-technical Project Proposal summary in English, French, Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtun*
- *Project Description including Voyage Plan 2017, Route Map and MS Crystal Serenity and RRS Ernest Shackleton Certifications*

- *CWS Project Description and Amended Permit Application*
- *Fuel and Hazardous Materials Use*
- *Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures*

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 Crystal Cruises LLC project proposal with this letter, and we invite interested parties to comment directly to the NIRB by **May 19, 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.

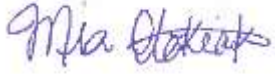
CONTACT INFORMATION

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: MS Crystal Serenity - Crystal Cruises LLC Northwest Passage 2017
- NIRB File No.: 16TN039
- Application No.: 125124

If you have any questions or require clarification, please contact the undersigned at (867) 983-4622 or at motokiak@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



Mia Otokiak
Junior Technical Advisor
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Stephen William Bathory, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Joel Fortier, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Salamonie Shoo, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Alexander Stubbing, Government of Nunavut-Department of Culture and Heritage
Sylvie LeBlanc, Government of Nunavut-Department of Culture and Heritage
Lisa Pirie-Dominix, Canadian Wildlife Services
Jane Chisholm, Parks Canada

Attachment: Appendix A: Previously-Screened Project Proposals

Enclosures (6): Public Notice of Screening (English, Inuinnaqtun and Inuktitut)
Comment Forms (English, Inuinnaqtun and Inuktitut)

APPENDIX A: PREVIOUSLY-SCREENED PROJECT PROPOSALS

The original project proposal NIRB (File No. 16TN039), was received by the NIRB from Nunavut Planning Commission on June 7, 2017 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 August 23, 2016 the NIRB issued a Nunavut Agreement 12.4.4(a) screening decision to the Minister of Transport, Government of Canada, Minister of Culture and Heritage, Government of Nunavut, and Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Government of Nunavut which indicated that the proposed project could proceed subject to the NIRB's recommended project-specific terms and conditions.

The Crystal Cruises LLC's (Proponent) original "Northwest Passage – 2016 and 2017" project was a cruise ship which proposed to sail the Northwest Passage along Alaska and the Northwest Territories before entering Nunavut waters and completing the cruise in Greenland. The proposed cruise was to travel through both the Kitikmeot and Qikiqtani (North Baffin) regions with stops to include Cambridge Bay, Pond Inlet, Somerset Island, Devon Island, and Beechey Island. The Proponent intended to transit through the Northwest Passage with two (2) vessels: one (1) passenger vessel named the Motor Ship (MS) Crystal Serenity, and an ice breaker escort vessel. The cruises were expected to take place seasonally during August and September in both 2016 and 2017.

The activities and components associated with the previously screened proposal included:

- Transportation and accommodations for approximately 1,625 people aboard the MS Crystal Serenity and approximately 44 people onboard the RRS Sir Ernest Shackleton;
- Use of up to two (2) helicopters for ice reconnaissance and flightseeing in selected locations;
- Use of up to 15 zodiacs (small boats) for short sightseeing excursions and ship to shore transportation;
 - Use and storage of approximately 50 litres of gasoline onboard the zodiacs during each excursion;
- Use of up to 16 kayaks and one (1) rigid inflatable boat for site seeing;
- Use of an unmanned aerial vehicle for research and certain commercial uses;
- Landings, via cruise ship or zodiac, within the Nunavut Settlement Area proposed at Cambridge Bay, Pond Inlet, Somerset, Devon, and Beechey Islands;
- The following areas would be visited with no proposed landings:
 - Dolphin and Union Strait, Victoria Strait, and North Baffin Fjords; and
- Research activities associated with the use of the ships for this cruise will be reviewed individually.