



NIRB File No.: 06YN071
NPC File No.: 148573
NRI File No.: 0601016R-M

June 16, 2017

Anissa Merzouk
ArcticNet
1045, avenue de la Médecine, room 4081,
Université Laval
Québec, QC G1V 0A6

Sent via email: anissa.merzouk@arcticnet.ulaval.ca

Re: Notice of Screening for ArcticNet's "ArcticNet Project 1: The Northwest Passage at the end of the Last Glaciation. ArcticNet 2: River sampling during 2017 ArcticNet expedition" Project Proposal

Dear Anissa Merzouk:

On May 23, 2017 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received a referral to screen ArcticNet's "ArcticNet Project 1: The Northwest Passage at the end of the Last Glaciation. ArcticNet 2: River sampling during 2017 ArcticNet expedition" 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 July 5, 2006 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 of the collection of river water samples.

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 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 06YN071, 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 May 24, 2017 the NIRB requested that the additional information from ArcticNet be provided to the Board. The Proponent provided the requested additional information on June 1, 2017 and the NIRB commenced the screening pursuant to Part 3 of the NuPPAA.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Project Scope:

The proposed “ArcticNet Project 1: The Northwest Passage at the end of the Last Glaciation. ArcticNet 2: River sampling during 2017 ArcticNet expedition” (formerly ArcticNet Marine-based research program: Integrated Regional Impact Study of the Canadian High Arctic) project a shorebased study located within the Kitikmeot and Qikiqtani regions. The Proponent intends to conduct a study of the Canadian Arctic Archipelago environment and its sensitivity to environmental variability and change along shorelines as previously approved and is currently proposing the addition of river sampling to the project. The additional program is proposed to take place from July to August 2017. The scope of activities previously approved for this ongoing research program (NIRB File No. 06YN071) has been included within **Appendix A**.

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

- Use of the helicopter on board the CCGS Amundsen to sample various river locations along the route, weather dependent,
 - Collect eight (8) litres (L) via battery-powered pump for further analysis and some samples would be preserved with mercuric chloride,
 - Use of sensors to measure temperature, salinity, and water flow rate, and
- Any garbage or materials taken to the sampling location would be taken back to the ship to be disposed of appropriately.

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. The NIRB would like to note for the clarity of interested parties that some of the river sampling locations are within the Sirmilik National Park and would not be sampled in 2017 as noted by Parks Canada.

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: ArcticNet Project 1: The Northwest Passage at the end of the Last Glaciation. ArcticNet 2: River sampling during 2017 ArcticNet expedition
- NIRB File No.: 06YN071
- Application No.: 125145

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, Inuktitut, and Inuinnaqtun*
- *Maps noting river and shore sampling locations*

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 ArcticNet project proposal with this letter, and we invite interested parties to comment directly to the NIRB by **June 26, 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: ArcticNet Project 1: The Northwest Passage at the end of the Last Glaciation. ArcticNet 2: River sampling during 2017 ArcticNet expedition
- NIRB File No.: 06YN071
- Application No.: 125145

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

Sincerely,



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

cc: Distribution List
 Geoff Clark, Kitikmeot Inuit Association
 Wynter Kuliktana, Kitikmeot Inuit Association
 Stephen Williamson Bathory, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
 Joel Fortier, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
 Salamonie Shoo, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
 Mosha Cote, Nunavut Research Institute
 Tracey McCaie, Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada
 Charlotte Lamontagne, Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada
 Georgina Williston, Environment and Climate Change Canada
 Jane Chisholm, Parks Canada
 Mark D'Aguiar, Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Attachments: Appendix A: Previously-Screened Project Proposals

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

APPENDIX A: PREVIOUSLY-SCREENED PROJECT PROPOSALS

The original project proposal NIRB (File No. 06YN071), was received by the NIRB from the Nunavut Research Institute (NRI) on July 5, 2006 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 22, 2006 the NIRB issued a Nunavut Agreement 12.4.4(a) screening decision to the Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth (Government of Nunavut) which indicated that the proposed project could proceed subject to the NIRB's recommended project-specific terms and conditions.

The University of Laval's (Proponent) original "ArcticNet marine-based research program: Integrated Regional Impact Study of the Canadian High Arctic" project was a ship based study located within the Kitikmeot, Kivalliq, and Qikiqtani regions. The Proponent indicated that it intended to study the Canadian Arctic Archipelago environment and its sensitivity to environmental variability and change, with proposed project activities to take place between mid-August and November 2006.

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

- Use of *CCGS Amundsen* ship as the base location;
 - Storage of fuel and chemicals
 - Housing for up to 43 scientists and 39 Canadian Coast Guard crew
 - Use of a zodiac boat
 - Use of a helicopter for scheduled crew changes in Pond Inlet, Resolute, and Kugluktuk
- Examine sea ice cover, ocean currents and contaminants;
- Mooring to measure the sinking of carbon to the ocean bottom;
- Use of sediment traps to obtain sediment core samples; and
- Collection of water, plankton, juvenile fish and sea ice samples.

Additional authorization and extension requests associated with the "ArcticNet marine-based research program: Integrated Regional Impact Study of the Canadian High Arctic" project have also been reviewed by the NIRB following screening of the original project proposal (File No. 06YN071). In each instance where the NIRB received applications up to and including May 10, 2007, August 31, 2009, and April 24, 2013, the NIRB confirmed that the applications were 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 August 22, 2006 Screening Decision Report.

The following is a summary of the previously screened project activities as received by the NIRB:

The scope associated with the previous May 10, 2007 amendment included:

- The inclusion of sampling locations in Hudson Bay.

The scope associated with the previous August 31, 2009 amendment and renewal included:

- The inclusion of sampling locations in McClure Strait.

The scope associated with the previous April 24, 2013 was to extend its Scientific Research Licence to continue with previously approved research activities between August and October 2013.