



NIRB File No.: 13YN010

NPC File No.: 148556

June 13, 2017

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Sent via email: sangeeta.sharma@canada.ca

On April 25, 2017 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received a referral to screen Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC)'s "Pond Inlet Air Monitoring" 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 has determined that the project proposal is a significant modification to the project because the location of activities has changed from Resolute Bay to Pond Inlet.

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 **13YN010**, 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 27, 2017 the NIRB requested that the additional information from ECCC be provided to the Board. The NIRB followed up with the Proponent on May 18, 2017 noting that the NIRB required additional information in order to carry out the screening of the project proposal. On June 13, 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 “Pond Inlet Air Monitoring” project (formerly Upper Air Building Laboratory, Resolute Bay) is located in the Qikiqtani region, within the community of Pond Inlet. The Proponent intends to conduct air sampling using instruments moved from Resolute Bay and installed on the Wildlife/ECCC building in Pond Inlet. The program is proposed to be ongoing beginning in July 2017 for the foreseeable future. The scope of activities previously approved for this ongoing Research program (NIRB File No. 13YN010) has been included within **Appendix A**.

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

- Removing equipment from the current location in Resolute Bay and transport by charter aircraft to Pond Inlet;
- Use of an established building in Pond Inlet (Wildlife/ECCC building) to install monitoring equipment;
- Measuring changes in the levels of absorbing (black carbon) and scattering aerosols, particulate matter and gases through the use of in-situ analyzers and filter sampling;
- Storage and use of chemicals and hazardous materials appropriately inside the established building;
- Hazardous waste to be transported south for proper disposal;
- Use of accommodations and facilities at Resolute Bay and Pond Inlet; and
- Data collected to be used to verify ECCC and other computer models for the prediction of Arctic climate and air quality and establish baseline data.

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: Pond Inlet Air Monitoring
- NIRB File No.: 13YN010
- Application No.: 125147

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 and Inuktitut*
- *Air photo map showing building location in Pond Inlet*

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 ECCC's project proposal with this letter, and we invite interested parties to comment directly to the NIRB by **June 23, 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: Pond Inlet Air Monitoring
- NIRB File No.: 13YN010
- Application No.: 125147

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
Georgina Williston, Environment and Climate Change Canada
Stephen Bathory, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Joel Fortier, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Salamonie Shoo, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Mosha Cote, Nunavut Research Institute
Robert Chapple, Community & Government Services
Timoon Toonoo, Community & 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. 13YN010), was received by the NIRB from the Nunavut Research Institute (NRI) on February 1, 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 April 23, 2013 the NIRB issued a Nunavut Agreement 12.4.4(a) screening decision to the Minister Responsible for Nunavut Arctic College which indicated that the proposed project could proceed subject to the NIRB's recommended project-specific terms and conditions.

The Environment Canada's (Proponent) (now known as Environment and Climate Change Canada) original "Upper Air Building Laboratory, Resolute Bay" project was located in the Qikiqtaaluk region, within the community of Resolute Bay. The Proponent indicated that it intended to investigate air quality in Resolute Bay in relation to increased ship traffic and mining activities in the Arctic, as well as increased incidence of forest fires at more southern latitudes. The program was proposed to take place from January 2013 to December 2015.

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

- Measuring changes in the levels of absorbing (black carbon) and scattering aerosols, particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) and gases through the use of in-situ analyzers and filter sampling;
- Use of an established building in Resolute Bay (Hut#42) to setup monitoring equipment; and
- Storage and use of chemicals and hazardous materials inside the established building;
- Hazardous waste to be transported south for proper disposal;
- Use of accommodations and facilities at Resolute Bay; and
- Data collected to be used to verify Environment Canada and other computer models for the prediction of Arctic climate and air quality.