



NIRB File No.: 16YN048
NPC File No.: 148510

June 9, 2017

Julian Aherne
Trent University
TSE, 1600 West Bank Drive
Peterborough, ON
K9J 7B8

Sent via email: jaherne@trentu.ca

Re: Notice of Screening for Trent University’s “Impacts of Air Pollution on Terrestrial and Aquatic Ecosystems on Baffin Island” Project Proposal

Dear Julian Aherne:

On May 12, 2017 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received a referral to screen Trent University’s “Impacts of Air Pollution on Terrestrial and Aquatic Ecosystems on Baffin Island” 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 of the proposed study area has been extended to include the area around Pond Inlet which was not included in the original project.

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 **16YN048**, 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**.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Project Scope:

The proposed “Impacts of Air Pollution on Terrestrial and Aquatic Ecosystems on Baffin Island” project is located within the Qikiqtani (North Baffin) region, a number of sample sites up to 100 kilometres (km) from Pond Inlet, and continued sampling as previously approved up to 25 km

north northwest of Iqaluit and 100 km northwest of Kimmirut. The Proponent intends to conduct chemical analysis of surface water, moss, and soil samples to assess potential impacts of air pollution in Pond Inlet in addition to the sampling previously approved in Kimmirut and Iqaluit. The program is proposed to take place from August to September 2017. The scope of activities previously approved for this ongoing research (NIRB File No. 16YN048) has been included within **Appendix A**.

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

- The use of either helicopter or foot to transport personnel and equipment from Pond Inlet to study sites in order to:
 - Collect surface water samples (250 millilitres/lake) from up to 50 lakes around Pond Inlet,
 - Collection of moss samples (5 grams/site) and soil samples (0-10 centimetres depth; 100 grams/site) from a subset of lakes,
- Use of fuel to facilitate transportation operations provided by Polar Continental Shelf Program at the Pond Inlet Airport;
- Collection of all wastes for disposal at appropriate municipal facilities; and
- Accommodations and use of facilities for up to two (2) personnel at the hotel in Pond Inlet.

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: Impacts of Air Pollution on Terrestrial and Aquatic Ecosystems on Baffin Island
- NIRB File No.: 16YN048
- Application No.: 125149

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 French*
- *Project Description*
- *Maps noting proposed study areas*
- *Equipment, fuel use, environmental impacts and waste management*
- *Flight schedules*

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 Trent University project proposal with this letter, and we invite interested parties to comment directly to the NIRB by **June 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: Impacts of Air Pollution on Terrestrial and Aquatic Ecosystems on Baffin Island
- NIRB File No.: 16YN048
- Application No.: 125149

If you have any questions or require clarification, feel free to contact the undersigned at Talia Maksagak or at tmaksagak@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



Talia Maksagak
Junior Technical Advisor
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Distribution List
Stephen Williamson Bathory, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Joel Fortier, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Salamonie Shoo, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Amy Robinson, Government of Nunavut Department of Environment
Lynda Orman, Government of Nunavut Department of Environment
Moshia Cote, Nunavut Research Institute

Attachments: 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. 16YN048), was received by the NIRB from Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC or Commission) on June 27, 2016 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, 2016 the NIRB issued a Nunavut Agreement 12.4.4(a) screening decision to the Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs which indicated that the proposed project could proceed subject to the NIRB's recommended project-specific terms and conditions.

The Trent University's (Proponent) original "Impact of Air Pollution on Terrestrial and Aquatic Ecosystems on Southern Baffin Island" project was located in the Qikiqtani (South Baffin) region, approximately 5 kilometres (km) north from Iqaluit. The Proponent indicated that it intended to conduct water, soil, and moss sampling to assess the impacts of air pollution on aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems. The program was proposed to take place in September 2016.

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

- Collection of water samples (250 millilitres/lake) from up to 100 study lakes around Iqaluit and Kimmirut;
- Collection of moss samples (5 grams/site) and soil samples (3 x 100 grams/site) using a fixed volume core from up to 20 study sites around Iqaluit;
- Use of all-terrain vehicles to transport personnel and equipment to study sites around Iqaluit;
- Use of a helicopter to transport personnel and equipment from Iqaluit to study sites around Kimmirut;
- Use of fuel and chemicals to facilitate transportation operations;
- Collection of all wastes for disposal at appropriate municipal facilities; and
- Accommodations and use of facilities for up to two (2) personnel at the Nunavut Research Institute in Iqaluit.