



NIRB File No.: 17YN071
NPC File No.: 148658

January 5, 2018

Zou Zou Kuzyk
University of Manitoba
526 Wallace Building,
125 Dysart Road, Winnipeg,
Manitoba R3T 2N2

Sent via email: zouzou.kuzyk@umanitoba.ca

Re: Notice of Screening for University of Manitoba’s “Community-driven Sea-Ice and Ocean Research in the Contrasting Coastal Domains of Hudson Bay” project proposal

Dear Dr. Zou Zou Kuzyk:

On December 13, 2017 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received a referral to screen University of Manitoba’s (U of M) “Community-driven Sea-Ice and Ocean Research in the Contrasting Coastal Domains of Hudson Bay” project proposal from the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC or Commission), with an accompanying positive conformity determination with the Keewatin Regional Land Use Plan. 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*, S.C. 2013, c. 14, s. 2 (*NuPPAA*), the NIRB has commenced screening this project proposal and has assigned it file number **17YN071**.

INFORMATION REQUEST

On December 13, 2017 the NIRB requested that the Proponent complete the online application form through the NIRB’s public registry system and ensure, pursuant to subsection 144(1) of the *NuPPAA*, that the information provided be sufficient to determine the scope of the project activities being proposed and that sufficient information has been provided to commence screening. Following a preliminary completeness check of the proposal as submitted the NIRB determined that the proposal did not contain the necessary information for the NIRB to carry out its screening and on December 22, 2017 requested that the Proponent provide the Board with the additional information in order to carry out the screening of the project proposal.

On January 3, 2017 the NIRB received the required information and commenced the screening pursuant to Part 3 of the *NuPPAA*.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Project Scope:

The proposed “Community-driven Sea-Ice and Ocean Research in the Contrasting Coastal Domains of Hudson Bay” project is located within the Kivalliq region, based within the coastal marine environment of eastern Hudson Bay to northwest Hudson Bay near the communities of Chesterfield Inlet and Naujaat. The Proponent intends to sample coastal waters and conduct measurement of sea-ice thickness in order to assess the contrasting oceanography and marine life between the northwest and southeast Hudson Bay. The program is proposed to take place seasonally during the winter months (January-March) and spring season (April-June) of 2018. According to the project proposal, the scope of the project includes the following undertakings, works or activities:

- Installation of oceanographic equipment for conducting temperature and salinity probes and for measuring water currents and ice growths at various depths;
 - Use of ice augers for drilling holes in sea ice to measure sea-ice thickness;
 - Collection of water samples for analyses of chemical parameters (nutrients, salinity, oxygen and carbon);
 - Evaluate the contrasting oceanography and marine life between northwest and southeast Hudson Bay;
- Use of snowmobiles for personnel transportation across landfast ice to access sampling locations;
- Storage of 600 litres (L) of gasoline for fueling snowmobiles and ice augers;
- Use of lithium batteries to power oceanographic equipment and hydrochloric acid for cleaning glassware and sample bottles; and
- Offsite disposal of lithium batteries and hydrochloric acid using applicable dangerous goods packaging.

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: Community-driven Sea-Ice and Ocean Research in the Contrasting Coastal Domains of Hudson Bay
- NIRB File No.: 17YN071
- Application No.: 125235

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*
- *General description of the proposed Project and Community Visit*
- *The Inuit Knowledge Wiki and Social Mapping Platform (by Arctic Eider Society)*
- *Email from University of Manitoba to NPC*
- *Letter of Support from Aqigiq Hunters and Trappers Organization (HTO)*
- *Letter from University of Manitoba to Aqigiq HTO*
- *“Castaway” Salinity Profiler- Instructions for Use*
- *Description of Kemmerer Water Sampling Bottles, Ice Tethered Oceanographic Equipment, Conductivity and Temperature Probes, and Acoustic Doppler Profiler*

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 U of M project proposal with this letter, and we invite interested parties to comment directly to the NIRB by **January 15, 2018**.

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; and if so, why;
- Whether the project proposal is of a type where the potential adverse effects are highly predictable and mitigable with known technology, (and providing any recommended mitigation measures); and
- Any matter of importance to the Party related to the project proposal.

Please note that *proposed* project-specific terms and conditions, should the project proceed, have been attached for consideration and comment (**Appendix A**).

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: Community-driven Sea-Ice and Ocean Research in the Contrasting Coastal Domains of Hudson Bay
- NIRB File No.: 17YN071
- Application No.: 125235

If you have any questions or require clarification, feel free to contact the undersigned at (867) 983-4603 or at samuno@nirb.ca

Sincerely,



Solomon Amuno, PhD
Technical Advisor II
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Distribution List
Moshá Cote, Nunavut Research Institute
Luis Manzo, Kivalliq Inuit Association
Maria Serra, Kivalliq Inuit Association
Veronique D'Amours-Gauthier, Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Tracey McCaie, Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada

Attachments: Appendix A: *Proposed* Project Specific Terms and Conditions

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

Appendix A
Proposed Project Specific Terms and Conditions

The following is a list of project-specific terms and conditions which, should the project proceed, may be recommended to be attached to any approval.

General

1. University of Manitoba (the Proponent) shall maintain a copy of the Project Terms and Conditions at the site of operation at all times.
2. The Proponent shall forward copies of all permits obtained and required for this project to the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) prior to the commencement of the project.
3. The Proponent shall operate in accordance with all commitments stated in correspondence provided to the Nunavut Planning Commission (Application to Determine Conformity, December 13, 2017), and the NIRB (Online Application Form, Non-technical Project Proposal summary in English and Inuktitut, General description of the proposed Project and Community Visit January 3, 2018; Project Description in English, and Letter of Support from Aqigiq Hunters and Trappers Organization (HTO), December 13, 2017).
4. The Proponent shall operate the site in accordance with all applicable Acts, Regulations and Guidelines.

Water Use

5. The Proponent shall not use water, including constructing or disturbing any stream, lakebed or the banks of any definable water course unless approved by the Nunavut Water Board.

Waste Disposal/Incineration

6. The Proponent shall keep all garbage and debris in bags placed in a covered metal container or equivalent until disposed of at an approved facility. All such wastes shall be kept inaccessible to wildlife at all times.

Fuel and Chemical Storage

7. The Proponent shall store all fuel and chemicals in such a manner that they are inaccessible to wildlife.
8. Unless otherwise authorized by the Nunavut Water Board, the Proponent shall locate all fuel and other hazardous materials a minimum of thirty-one (31) metres away from the high water mark of any water body and in such a manner as to prevent their release into the environment.
9. The Proponent shall ensure that re-fueling of all equipment occurs a minimum of thirty-one (31) metres away from the high water mark of any water body, unless otherwise authorized by the Nunavut Water Board.
10. The Proponent shall ensure that appropriate spill response equipment and clean-up materials (e.g., shovels, pumps, barrels, drip pans, and absorbents) are readily available during any transfer of fuel or hazardous substances, at all fuel storage sites and when refuelling equipment.

11. The Proponent shall ensure that all personnel are properly trained in fuel and hazardous waste handling procedures, as well as spill response procedures. All spills of fuel or other deleterious materials of any amount must be reported immediately to the 24 hour Spill Line at (867) 920-8130.

Wildlife - General

12. The Proponent shall ensure that there is no damage to wildlife habitat in conducting this operation.
13. The Proponent shall not harass wildlife. This includes persistently circling, chasing, hovering over pursuing or in any other way harass wildlife, or disturbing large groups of animals.
14. The Proponent shall not hunt or fish, unless proper Nunavut authorizations have been acquired.
15. The Proponent shall ensure that all project personnel are made aware of the measures to protect wildlife and are provided with training and/or advice on how to implement these measures.

Migratory Birds and Raptors Disturbance

16. The Proponent shall minimize activities during periods when birds are particularly sensitive to disturbance such as migration, nesting and moulting.
17. The Proponent shall avoid the seaward site of seabird colonies and areas used by flocks of migrating waterfowl by three (3) kilometres.

Temporary Camps and Land Use

18. The Proponent shall not erect camps or store material on the surface ice of lakes or streams.

Restoration of Disturbed Areas

19. The Proponent shall remove all garbage, fuel and equipment upon abandonment.

Other

20. The Proponent should consult with local residents regarding their activities in the area and solicit available Inuit Qaujimaningit and information that can inform project activities.
21. The Proponent shall ensure that project activities do not interfere with Inuit wildlife harvesting or traditional land use activities.
22. The Proponent should, to the extent possible, hire local people and access local services where possible.