



NIRB File No.: 13AN014
NPC File No.: 148699

March 21, 2018

Geoff Green
Students on Ice
1740 Chemin Pink Road
Gatineau, Quebec J9J 3N7

Sent via email: geoff@studentsonice.com

Re: Notice of Screening for Students on Ice's "Students on Ice 2018 Arctic Expedition" project proposal

Dear Geoff Green:

On February 15, 2018 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received a referral to screen Student on Ice's "Students on Ice 2018 Arctic 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 determinations issued for this project for the activities associated with the current proposal continue to apply and has determined that the project proposal is a significant modification to the project because it includes new locations in the community of Grise Fiord and Coburg Island.

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. Due to the proposal containing activities that are sufficiently related to previously assessed activities under NIRB file number **13AN014**, 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

On February 15, 2018 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 March 5, 2018 requested that the Proponent provide the Board with the additional information in order to carry out the screening of the project proposal.

On March 14, 2018 the NIRB received the required additional information and commenced the screening pursuant to Part 3 of the *NuPPAA*.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Project Scope:

The proposed “Students on Ice 2018 Arctic Expedition” project is located within the Qikiqtani region (North Baffin). The Proponent intends to conduct an educational cruise to various North Baffin communities, places of cultural importance, and wildlife areas, including migratory bird sanctuaries. The program is proposed to take place from July to August, 2018. The scope of activities previously approved for this ongoing tourism expedition (NIRB File No. 13AN014) has been included within **Appendix A**.

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

- Transportation and accommodations for up to 200 passengers, staff, and crew aboard the MS Ocean Endeavour cruise vessel;
- Use of 20 zodiacs (small boats) to facilitate shore landings, passenger transfer, and sightseeing excursions;
- Management of sewage, and combustible and non-combustible wastes in accordance with the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL);
- Landings via the cruise vessel or zodiacs in the following communities, wildlife areas, and locations of archaeological and cultural importance within the Nunavut Settlement Area:
 - Pond Inlet; Sirmilik National Park; Qaiqsut; Bylot Island; Cape Coutts; Cape Graham Moore; Button Point; Cobourg Island; Grise Fiord; Devon Island; Dundas Harbour; Croker Bay; Beechey Island; Prince Leopold Island; and Resolute.

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: Students on Ice 2018 Arctic Expedition
- NIRB File No.: 13AN014
- Application No.: 125265

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*
- *Maps noting proposed route*
- *Record of Community Consultation*

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 Student on Ice's project proposal with this letter, and we invite interested parties to comment directly to the NIRB by **April 3, 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.

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: Students on Ice 2018 Arctic Expedition
- NIRB File No.: 13AN014
- Application No.: 125265

If you have any questions or require additional clarification, please contact the undersigned at (867) 983-4616 or kboantwi@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



Kofi Boa-Antwi, M.Sc., R.P.Bio.
Technical Advisor II
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Distribution List
Stephen Williamson Bathory, 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 Service
Jane Chisholm, Parks Canada

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. 13AN014), was received by the NIRB from Canadian Wildlife Service on April 15, 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 July 3, 2013 the NIRB issued a *Nunavut Agreement* 12.4.4(a) screening decision to the Minister of Environment, Government of Canada, which indicated that the proposed project could proceed subject to the NIRB's recommended project-specific terms and conditions.

The Students on Ice's (Proponent) original "Arctic Youth Expedition 2013" project was located in the Qikiqtani (North Baffin) region. The Proponent indicated that it intended to conduct a ship-based journey to explore the eastern Canadian Arctic and the area around Lancaster Sound. The project was proposed to take place from July 22 to July 27, 2013.

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

- Use of the cruise ship MV Sea Adventurer including on-board accommodations for approximately 132 people;
- Landings in the following areas are proposed:
 - Pond Inlet, Resolute Bay and Arctic Bay;
 - Bylot Island, Cape Hay, Cape Graham Moore, Beechey Island, Dundas Harbour, Milne Inlet, Port Leopold and Prince Leopold Island;
- Guided tours at each landing site; and
- Use of zodiacs for travel between the ship and shore.

An application associated with an authorization renewal request for the "Youth Arctic Expedition 2015" project was received by the NIRB on April 14, 2015 for review with a conformity determination and referral from the Nunavut Planning Commission on April 24, 2015. Following its review, the NIRB, on May 7, 2015, confirmed that the application was 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 July 3, 2013 Screening Decision Report. On February 25, 2016 the NIRB received an application for additional activities, and on April 24, 2016 issued additional terms and conditions associated with the "Students on Ice 2016 Arctic Expedition" project as per 12.4.4(a) of the *Nunavut Agreement*.

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

The scope associated with the April 14, 2015 application included:

- Continue previously approved cruise and research activities in the North Baffin region from August 3 to August 9, 2015.

The scope associated with the February 25, 2016 application included:

- Transportation and accommodations for up to 200 passengers aboard the MS Ocean Endeavour cruise vessel;

- Use of up to 15 zodiacs (small boats) for short sightseeing excursions, particularly to seabird colonies and wildlife areas, and ship to shore transportation;
 - Gasoline to be stored on zodiacs in five (5) gallon tanks; and
- Landings, via cruise ship or zodiac, within the Nunavut Settlement Area proposed in the following areas:
 - Killiniq, Hantzsch Island, Lady Franklin Island/Monumental Island, Kekerten Island Whaling Station, Pangnirtung, Auyuittuq, Sunneshine Fjord/Akpait National Wildlife Area, Qikiqtarjuaq, and Qaqulluit National Wildlife Area/Davis Strait.
- Conduct all project activities in July 2016.