



NIRB File No.: 18YN019
NPC File No.: 148780

April 23, 2018

Charles Wong
University of Winnipeg
515 Portage Ave.
Winnipeg, MB R3B 2E9

Sent via email: ch.wong@uwinnipeg.ca

Re: Notice of Screening for University of Winnipeg's "Impacts of wastewater at Baker Lake, Nunavut" project proposal

Dear Charles Wong

On March 20, 2018 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received a referral to screen the University of Winnipeg's "Impacts of wastewater at Baker Lake, Nunavut" 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 18YN019 - please reference this file number in all future related correspondence.

INFORMATION REQUEST

On March 20, 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.

On April 11, 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 “Impacts of wastewater at Baker Lake, Nunavut” project is located within the Kivalliq region, within approximately two (2) kilometres (km) of Baker Lake and within municipal boundaries. The Proponent intends to conduct water sampling to study the impacts of wastewater releases on water quality in Baker Lake. The program is proposed to take place from June to September, 2018 and 2019.

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

- Collection of water samples (approximately one (1) Litre (L) each) from the wastewater lagoon, Finger Lake, Airplane Lake, outfall of Baker Lake, Baker Lake itself and two (2) additional lakes upstream of the lagoon;
- Temporary installation of growth meters and passive samplers in the water, secured with buoys or poles if necessary, to measure algal production, chemical contaminants and water flow rates;
- Addition of approximately 1 L of non-toxic, water-soluble dye to the lagoon to characterize flow direction;
- Characterizing vegetation in small one metre by one metre (1 m x 1 m) sample quadrats near the lagoon;
- Collection of small samples of soil (less than 500 grams) near the vegetation study areas;
- Use of a pickup truck and small boat hired through the Baker Lake Hunters and Trappers Organization (HTO) to access sampling sites; and
- Use of approximately 50 L of diesel fuel for the boat and approximately 100 L of gasoline for the truck.

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 wastewater at Baker Lake, Nunavut
- NIRB File No.: 18YN019
- Application No.: 125296

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*
- *Map noting location of proposed sampling sites*

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 the University of Winnipeg's project proposal with this letter, and we invite interested parties to comment directly to the NIRB by **May 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.

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: Impacts of wastewater at Baker Lake, Nunavut
- NIRB File No.: 18YN019
- Application No.: 125296

If you have any questions or require clarification, feel free to contact the undersigned at 867-983-4607 or at sthompson@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



Shanley Thompson
Technical Advisor II
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Distribution List
Karén Kharatyan, Nunavut Water Board
Mosha Cote, Nunavut Research Institute
Mark D'Aguiar, 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. The University of Winnipeg (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 (NPC File No.: 148780), and the NIRB (Online Application Form, April 10, 2018).
4. The Proponent shall operate the site in accordance with all applicable Acts, Regulations and Guidelines.

Water Use

5. The Proponent shall ensure that water extraction from any fish-bearing waterbody is done with appropriate care and caution. Small lakes or streams should not be used for water withdrawal unless approved by the Nunavut Water Board.
6. 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

7. 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

8. The Proponent shall store all fuel and chemicals in such a manner that they are inaccessible to wildlife.
9. 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.
10. 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

11. The Proponent shall ensure that there is no damage to wildlife habitat in conducting this operation.

12. 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.
13. The Proponent shall not hunt or fish, unless proper Nunavut authorizations have been acquired.
14. 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

15. The Proponent shall not disturb or destroy the nests or eggs of any birds. If nests are encountered and/or identified, the Proponent shall take precaution to avoid further interaction and or disturbance (e.g., a 100 metres buffer around the nests). If active nests of any birds are discovered (i.e., with eggs or young), the Proponent shall avoid these areas until nesting is complete and the young have left the nest.
16. The Proponent shall avoid the seaward site of seabird colonies and areas used by flocks of migrating waterfowl by three (3) kilometres.

Caribou and Muskoxen Disturbance

17. The Proponent shall cease activities that may interfere with the migration or calving of caribou or muskox, until the caribou or muskox have passed or left the area.
18. The Proponent shall not block or cause any diversion to caribou migration, and shall cease activities likely to interfere with migration such as movement of equipment or personnel until such time as the caribou have passed.

Ground Disturbance

19. The Proponent shall not move any equipment or vehicles unless the ground surface is in a state capable of fully supporting the equipment or vehicles without rutting or gouging. Overland travel of equipment or vehicles must be suspended if rutting occurs.
20. All road vehicles must be fitted with standard and well-maintained noise suppression devices and engine idling is to be minimized.

Restoration of Disturbed Areas

21. The Proponent shall remove all garbage, fuel and equipment upon abandonment.
22. The Proponent shall ensure that all disturbed areas are restored to a stable or pre-disturbed state as practical as possible upon completion of field work.

Other

23. The Proponent should engage with local residents regarding planned activities in the area and should solicit available Inuit Qaujimaningit and information regarding current recreational and traditional usage of the project area which may inform project activities. Posting of translated public notices and direct engagement with potentially interested groups and individuals prior to undertaking project activities is strongly encouraged.

24. The Proponent shall ensure that project activities do not interfere with Inuit wildlife harvesting or traditional land use activities.
25. The Proponent should, to the extent possible, hire local people and access local services where possible.