



NOTICE OF SCREENING OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

NIRB File No.: 18YN029

Project Name: The “**URI Northwest Passage Project 2018**” project
Proponent Name: University of Rhode Island’s (URI)
Project Type: Research Region: Qikiqtani (North Baffin) and Kitikmeot Regions
Public Registry: www.nirb.ca Application No.: 125342
Comment Deadline: **June 11, 2018**

PROJECT SCOPE:

The proposed “URI Northwest Passage Project 2018” project is located within the Qikiqtani (North Baffin) and Kitikmeot regions, encompasses several research sites from Resolute Bay, to Cambridge Bay via Bellot Strait, including Lancaster Sound, Pond Inlet and Iqaluit. The Proponent intends to study how waters of the Canadian Arctic Archipelago (CAA) have changed as a consequence of the secular warming trend over the Arctic Circle, during a scientific expedition aboard a research vessel along the Northwest Passage. The program is proposed to take place from August to September, 2018. The scope of this proposed project as identified by the NIRB includes the following undertakings, works or activities:

- Undertake sailing and marine-based research activities along the Northwest Passage near the communities of Resolute Bay, Arctic Bay, Pond Inlet, Gjoa Haven, Cambridge Bay, Clyde River, Qikiqtarjuaq, Pangnirtung and Iqaluit
- Use of various hazardous chemicals for sample preservation
- Collection and analysis of air and water samples with onboard laser spectroscopy instruments, as well as incubation of water to study microbial activity
- Utilize one (1) research vessel as a marine research platform for 36 personnel to conduct scientific expedition across the CAA

Please visit the NIRB’s public registry online at the link above and look up NIRB File No.: **18YN029** to access all project information, maps, and public comment forms.

REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

You are invited to provide the NIRB with your comments regarding whether the proposed project is:

- likely to arouse significant public concern and, if so, why;
- likely to cause significant adverse ecosystemic or socio-economic effects and, if so, why;
- likely to cause significant adverse impacts on wildlife habitat or Inuit harvest activities and, if so, why;
- a type where the potential adverse effects are highly predictable and can be prevented/managed appropriately with known technology.

Parties are also invited to recommend any specific mitigation measures they feel would be appropriate, and to bring any other matter of importance related to this project proposal to the NIRB’s attention.

CONTACT INFORMATION

The NIRB has recently launched an updated online public registry, and parties can access project information as well as submit comments directly to the NIRB via www.nirb.ca. Comments can still be submitted directly to the NIRB via email at info@nirb.ca or via fax to (867) 983-2594.

If you have any questions or require clarification regarding the proposed project or the NIRB’s screening process, please contact Solomon Amuno, Technical Advisor II toll-free at 1-866-233-3033 or samuno@nirb.ca.