



NIRB File No.: 18YN039
NPC File No.: 148833

July 6, 2018

Scott Lamoureux
Queen's University
Dept. of Geography and Planning MC D201
Kingston, Ontario K7L 3N6 Canada

Sent via email: scott.lamoureux@queensu.ca

Re: Notice of Screening for Queen's University's "Watershed and permafrost responses to a changing climate in the Resolute Bay area" project proposal

Dear Scott Lamoureux:

On June 19, 2018 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received a referral to screen Queen's University's "Watershed and permafrost responses to a changing climate in the Resolute Bay area" project proposal from the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC or Commission), with an accompanying positive conformity determination with the North Baffin 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 s. 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 **18YN039**.

INFORMATION REQUEST

On June 19, 2018 the NIRB requested that the Proponent complete the online application form through the NIRB's public registry system and ensure, pursuant to Section 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 June 29, 2018 requested that the Proponent provide the Board with the additional information in order to carry out the screening of the project proposal.

On July 4, 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 “Watershed and permafrost responses to a changing climate in the Resolute Bay area” project is located within the Qikiqtani (North Baffin) Region, approximately 8 kilometres north of Resolute Bay. The Proponent intends to conduct scientific research to investigate the potential effects of permafrost degradation and of increased rainfall on the hydrology, water quality and sediment dynamics of the McMaster River Watershed. The program is proposed to take place from July to August, 2018.

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

- Fieldwork by two (2) personnel based at the Polar Continental Shelf Program (PCSP) facilities in Resolute Bay consisting of the following activities:
 - Use of an all-terrain vehicle (ATV) for daily travel to and from field sites;
 - Conducting water and sediment sampling of the McMaster River;
 - Conducting permafrost coring in six (6) locations to determine ground ice content;
 - Use of gasoline stored at the PCSP facilities for ATV and coring equipment; and
 - Transport of samples to facilities in the South for analysis.
- Management and disposal of all combustible and non-combustible wastes at PCSP facilities or at other approved waste disposal facilities.

REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

All documents received and pertaining to this project proposal can be accessed from the NIRB’s online public registry at www.nirb.ca/project/125362.

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, French and Inuktitut*
- *Map noting project location*

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 Queen’s University’s project proposal with this letter, and we invite interested parties to comment directly to the NIRB by **July 16, 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/project/125362.

If you have any questions or require clarification, feel free to contact the undersigned at (867) 983-4616 or kboaantwi@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



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

cc: Distribution List
 Karén Kharatyan, Nunavut Water Board
 Stephen Williamson Bathory, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
 Salamonie Shoo, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
 Mosha Cote, Nunavut Research Institute

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. Queen's University (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.: 148833) and the NIRB (Online Application Form, July 4, 2018).
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

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. 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.
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 minimize activities during periods when birds are particularly sensitive to disturbance such as migration, nesting and moulting.

Ground Disturbance

17. 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.
18. The Proponent shall ensure that the land use area is kept clean and tidy at all times.

Restoration of Disturbed Areas

19. The Proponent shall remove all garbage, fuel and equipment upon abandonment.
20. 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

21. 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.
22. The Proponent shall ensure that project activities do not interfere with Inuit wildlife harvesting or traditional land use activities.
23. The Proponent should, to the extent possible, hire local people and access local services where possible.