



NIRB File No.: 19XN012

NPC File No.: 148972

Associated with NIRB File No. 12XN020

February 18, 2019

Edwin Risborough
DND DRDC
3701 Carling Avenue
Ottawa Ontario K1A 0Z4

Sent via email: ed.riseborough@forces.gc.ca

Re: Notice of Screening for Department of National Defence's "Transmit Array Antenna Farm" Project Proposal

Dear Edwin Risborough:

On December 7, 2018 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received a referral to screen Department of National Defence's (DND) "Transmit Array Antenna Farm" 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 **19XN012** - please reference this file number in all future related correspondence.

INFORMATION REQUEST

On December 7, 2018 the NIRB requested that the Proponent complete the online application form through the NIRB's public registry system and ensure, pursuant to s. 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 21, 2018 requested that the Proponent provide the Board with the additional information in order to carry out the screening of the project proposal.

After several additional requests by the NIRB, the Proponent provided the requested additional information on January 30, 2019 and the NIRB commenced the screening pursuant to Part 3 of the *NuPPAA*.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Project Scope:

The proposed “Transmit Array Antenna Farm” project is located within the Qikiqtani region, approximately 400 km northwest from Grise Fiord at Eureka. The Proponent intends to expand an existing antenna array in order to conduct measurements of the polar ionosphere. The program is proposed to take place from July 2019 to July 2022.

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

- Expansion of an existing antenna array to a 16 x 16 antenna array (256 total) north of the Eureka runway (Phase 3);
 - each monopole antenna approximately 9 meters tall;
 - antennas to be placed on ground plates and held up by straps connected to four guy anchors driven into the soil;
 - total array footprint to be 120 x 120 meters;
- Installation of up to four (4) shipping containers holding electronics to power antennas;
 - containers to be placed on insulated wooden cribbing to minimize effects on permafrost;
 - co-axial cables to be used to connect antennas to shipping containers;
 - Use of diesel generator (200 kilowatt (kW) with future generator to be 750 kW) for power;
- Use of a pickup to transport personnel to and from Eureka Station;
- Use of a truck/crane to place shipping containers;
- Up to 12 persons on site for construction phase;
- Up to 3-4 people on site for two-week periods up 4 times per fiscal year for operations; and
- Use of accommodations and facilities at the Eureka Station.

Inclusion or Exclusion of Scoping List

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 accessed from the NIRB’s online public registry at www.nirb.ca/project/125419.

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*

- *Letter of Agreement between ECCC and DND*
- *Environmental Effects Determination*
- *Radio Licence*
- *INAC Land Use Permit*
- *Image of prototype array*
- *Map (air photo) showing site 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 DND's project proposal with this letter, and we invite interested parties to comment directly to the NIRB by **February 28, 2019**.

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/125419.

If you have any questions or require clarification, feel free to contact the undersigned at 867-983-4617 or at kmorrison@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



Keith Morrison
Technical Advisor II
Nunavut Impact Review Board

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

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

cc: Distribution List
Tineka Simmons, Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency
Agnes Simonfalvy, Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency
Tracey McCaie, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada
Georgina Williston, Environment and Climate Change Canada
Jim Kapches, Department of National Defense

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 Department of National Defence (the Proponent) shall maintain a copy of the Project Terms and Conditions at the site of operation at all times.
2. The Proponent shall operate in accordance with all commitments stated in correspondence provided to the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC File No.: 148972); Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (Land Use Permit #N2017N0017, August 8, 2017); Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (Radio Licence #010674792-001, May 2, 2016); and the NIRB (Online Application Form, January 30, 2019).
3. The Proponent shall operate the site in accordance with all applicable Acts, Regulations and Guidelines.

Fuel and Chemical Storage

4. The Proponent shall store all fuel and chemicals in such a manner that they are inaccessible to wildlife.
5. The Proponent shall use adequate secondary containment or a surface liner (e.g., self-supporting insta-berms and fold-a-tanks) when storing barreled fuel and chemicals at all locations.
6. 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.
7. 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

8. The Proponent shall ensure that there is no damage to wildlife habitat in conducting this operation.
9. 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.
10. The Proponent shall not hunt or fish, unless proper Nunavut authorizations have been acquired.
11. 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

12. 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.

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

Caribou and Muskoxen Disturbance

14. 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.
15. 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

16. 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.

Restoration of Disturbed Areas

17. 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.
18. The Proponent shall complete all clean-up and restoration of the lands used prior to the end of each field season and/or upon abandonment of site.

Other

19. 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.
20. The Proponent shall ensure that project activities do not interfere with Inuit wildlife harvesting or traditional land use activities.
21. The Proponent should, to the extent possible, hire local people and access local services where possible.