



NIRB File No.: 19YN016
NPC File No.: 149045

April 3, 2019

Philip Camill
Bowdoin College
6800 College Station
Brunswick, Maine 04011 USA

Sent via email: pcamill@bowdoin.edu

Re: Notice of Screening for Bowdoin College's "Peat Expansion in Arctic Tundra (Baffin Island) - Pattern, Process and the Implication for the Carbon Cycle" Project Proposal

Dear Philip Camill:

On February 25, 2019 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received a referral to screen Bowdoin College's "Peat Expansion in Arctic Tundra (Baffin Island) - Pattern, Process and the Implication for the Carbon Cycle" project proposal from the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC or Commission), which noted that the project proposal is outside the area of an applicable 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 **19YN016** - please reference this file number in all future related correspondence.

INFORMATION REQUEST

On February 26, 2019 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. On March 12, 2019 as the NIRB had yet to receive an application, the NIRB requested the Proponent provide the Board with the required information to conduct a screening. On March 25, 2019 the NIRB received an online application and 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. As such, on March 26, 2019 the NIRB followed up with the Proponent for the additional information required in order to carry out the screening of the project proposal.

On March 28, 2019 the NIRB received the required additional information and commenced the screening pursuant to Part 3 of the *NuPPAA*.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Project Scope:

The proposed “Peat Expansion in Arctic Tundra (Baffin Island) - Pattern, Process and the Implication for the Carbon Cycle” project is located in the Qikiqtani (South Baffin) region, within an approximately 400 kilometres (km) radius from Iqaluit. The Proponent intends to conduct a study focusing on the response of Arctic ecosystems to climate warming, including effects on carbon uptake by wetland vegetation and soils or peat ‘patches’. The program is proposed to take place in July 2019.

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

- Transport of two (2) to four (4) personnel by helicopter from Iqaluit to access research locations, with fuel sourced from Iqaluit;
- Use of helicopter for aerial reconnaissance of each research area to determine preferred sampling location;
- Use of two (2) hand-held soil corers to obtain at least ten (10) soil samples (10 cm x 150 cm each) per location;
- Collection of vegetation samples for export to the United States of America (USA);
- Use of an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV/drone) to conduct a vegetation survey over approximately 0.2 km² at each location at altitudes of 250 m;
- Installation of one (1) 200 cm x 100 cm meteorological station at each location for a period of 2 to 3 days;
- Accommodations and use of facilities at the Nunavut Research Institute in Iqaluit; and
- All personal and project generated garbage would be back-hauled to the accommodations in Iqaluit for disposal.

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/125456.

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*
- *Maps noting proposed research locations*
- *Supplemental Supporting Documentation*

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 Bowdoin College's project proposal with this letter, and we invite interested parties to comment directly to the NIRB by **April 24, 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.

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/125456.

If you have any questions or require clarification, please contact the undersigned at (867) 857-4566 or at ereimer@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



Erin Reimer
Technical Advisor I
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Distribution List
Stephen Williamson Bathory, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Jared Ottenhof, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Joel Fortier, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Mosha Cote, Nunavut Research Institute
Lisa Pirie-Dominix, Canadian Wildlife Service
Transport Canada

Enclosures (6): Public Notice of Screening (English, Inuktitut and French)
Comment Forms (English, Inuktitut and French)