



NIRB File No.: 22YN010
NPC File No.: 149689

March 9, 2022

Shirley Tagalik
Aqqiumavvik Society
Box 178, 807 1st Ave
Arviat NU X0C 0E0

Sent via email: inukpaujaq@gmail.com

Re: Notice of Screening for Aqqiumavvik Society’s “Understanding the impacts of climate change on Arctic nesting geese – a key towards Inuit food sovereignty in Arviat” Project Proposal

Dear Shirley Tagalik:

On February 16, 2022, the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) received a referral to screen Aqqiumavvik Society’s “Understanding the impacts of climate change on Arctic nesting geese – a key towards Inuit food sovereignty in Arviat” project proposal from the Nunavut Planning Commission (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 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 **22YN010** - please reference this file number in all future related correspondence.

INFORMATION REQUEST

On February 16, 2022, 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 sufficient information is provided to determine the scope of the project activities being proposed and commence screening.

On February 23, 2022, the NIRB received the required information and commenced the screening pursuant to Part 3 of the *NuPPAA*.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Project Scope:

All documents received and pertaining to this project proposal can be accessed from the NIRB's online public registry at www.nirb.ca/project/125673.

Project:	Understanding the impacts of climate change on Arctic nesting geese – a key towards Inuit food sovereignty in Arviat				
Region:	Kivalliq				
Location:	Kuugaarjuk Migratory Bird Sanctuary (Kuugaarjuk MBS)				
Closest Community:	Hamlet of Arviat	Distance (approximate)	40 kilometres (km)	Direction	Southwest
Summary of Project Description:	The Proponent intends to conduct scientific research to assess the viability of an increased harvest of geese and eggs in a changing climate to contribute to food security in Arviat.				
Project Proposed Timeline:	April to September; 2022 to 2026				

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

- Establishment of a mobile base camp near the nesting area(s) to support research activities;
- Use of ATVs to transport personnel and sampling equipment/samples between the nesting colonies within Kuugaarjuk MBS and around Arviat;
- Mapping goose nest locations and abundance by counting the number of nests and measuring eggs to determine species within a 30-metre radius within Kuugaarjuk MBS and around Arviat;
- Monitoring goose population health by collecting samples of 50 adult lesser snow and Ross's geese (some birds may be collected outside the Kuugaarjuk MBS) to assess contemporary pathogens, potential contamination from plastics and other contaminants, and pre-breeding nutrient levels; and
- Banding representative samples of snow and Ross's geese to determine current harvest and survival rates (some banding may occur outside the Kuugaarjuk MBS).

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 can be accessed from the NIRB's online public registry at www.nirb.ca/project/125673 and include:

- *Arviat Hunters and Trappers Organization (HTO) Letter of Intent to participate within Research Advisory Committee to Canadian Institute of Health Research*

- *Arviat HTO Letter of Support*
- *Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) Letter of Support*
- *Government of Nunavut – Department of Environment (GN-DoE) Letter of Support*
- *SmartICE Letter of Support*
- *Canadian Food Inspection Agency Letter of Support*
- *ECCC- Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) Letter of Support*
- *Proponent's Proposed Study Area*
- *Hamlet of Arviat Letter of Support*
- *Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC or Commission) Conformity Determination*
- *Proponents NIRB Application*

The NIRB will copy you on screening process related correspondence and upload related documents to the NIRB's online Public 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 Aqqiumavvik Society project proposal with this letter, and we invite interested parties to comment directly to the NIRB by **March 21, 2022**.

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/125673.

If you have any questions or require clarification, feel free to contact the undersigned at (867) 983-4603 or cpelletier@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



Caitlin Pelletier
Technical Advisor I
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
Goump Djalogue, Nunavut Planning Commission
Richard Dwyer, Nunavut Water Board
Luis Manzo, Kivalliq Inuit Association
Maria Serra, Kivalliq Inuit Association
Agnes Simonfalvy, Government of Nunavut
Amy Robinson, Government of Nunavut-Department of Environment
Drikus Gissing, Government of Nunavut-Department of Environment
Moshá Cote, Nunavut Research Institute
Tracey McCaie, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada
Lisa Pirie-Dominix, Canadian Wildlife Services
Hamlet of Arviat

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. Aqqiumavvik Society (the Proponent) shall maintain a copy of the Project Terms and Conditions at the site of operation at all times and make it accessible to enforcement officers upon request.
2. The Proponent shall operate in accordance with all commitments stated in correspondence provided to the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC File No.: 149689), to the environment and Climate Change Canada, Canadian Wildlife Service, Government of Nunavut-Department of Environment, Nunavut Research Institute, and the NIRB (Online Application Form. This information should be accessible to enforcement officers upon request.
3. The Proponent shall operate the site in accordance with all applicable Acts, Regulations and Guidelines.
4. The Proponent shall ensure that it meets the standards and/or limits as set out in the authorizing agencies' permits or licences as required for this project.
5. The Proponent shall ensure that all personnel, staff and contractors are adequately trained prior to commencement of all project activities, and shall be made aware of all operational plans, management plans, guidelines and Proponent commitments relating to the project.

Water courses/Water bodies (including fresh and marine waters)

6. 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 appropriate authorizing agency.
7. The Proponent shall ensure that no disturbance of the stream bed, lakebed or the banks of any definable watercourse be permitted, except where deemed necessary for maintaining project-specific operational commitments or approved by a responsible authority in cases of spill management.
8. The Proponent shall not deposit, nor permit the deposit of any fuel, chemicals, wastes (including wastewater) or sediment into any water body. The Proponent should have in place an Emergency Spill Response Plan that is approved by the appropriate authorizing agency(ies).

Waste Management

9. The Proponent shall manage all hazardous and non-hazardous waste including food, domestic wastes, debris and petroleum-based chemicals (e.g., greases, gasoline, glycol-based antifreeze) in such a manner to avoid release into the environment and access to wildlife at all times until disposed of appropriately or at an approved facility.

Fuel and Chemical Storage

10. The Proponent shall locate all fuel and other hazardous materials a minimum distance away from the high-water mark of any water body and environmentally sensitive areas as required

by the appropriate authorizing agencies. The materials shall be stored in such a manner as to prevent their release into the environment.

11. The Proponent shall ensure that re-fuelling of all equipment occurs a minimum distance away from the high-water mark of any water body as required by the appropriate authorizing agencies.
12. All fuel and chemical storage containers must be clearly marked with the Proponent's name for ease of identification.
13. The Proponent shall have a Spill Contingency Plan in place at all fuel storage or transfer locations and shall ensure that appropriate spill response equipment and clean-up materials (e.g., shovels, pumps, barrels, drip pans, and absorbents) are readily available.
14. The Proponent shall ensure that wildlife deterrent systems are utilized at the time of a spill incident in order to avoid wildlife (terrestrial or marine) and migratory birds from being contaminated.

Air Quality

15. The Proponent shall eliminate unnecessary idling to reduce greenhouse gas emissions as much as possible.

Wildlife – General

16. The Proponent shall not substantially alter or damage or destroy any wildlife habitat in conducting this operation unless otherwise authorized by the appropriate authorizing agencies.
17. The Proponent shall not chase, weary, harass or molest wildlife. This includes persistently circling, chasing, hovering over, pursuing or in any other way harass wildlife, or disturbing large groups of animals.
18. The Proponent shall not hunt or fish, unless proper Nunavut authorizations have been acquired.

Migratory Birds and Raptors Disturbance

19. The Proponent shall carry out all phases of the project in a manner that protects migratory birds and avoids harming, killing or disturbing migratory birds or destroying, disturbing or taking their nests or eggs except as required for the purposes of the proposed research. In this regard, the Proponent shall take into account Environment and Climate Change Canada's *Avoidance Guidelines*. The Proponent's actions in applying the *Avoidance Guidelines* shall be in compliance with the *Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994* and with the *Species at Risk Act*.
20. The Proponent shall not disturb or destroy the nests or eggs of any birds except as required for the purposes of the proposed research. If active nests of any birds are discovered or located (i.e., with eggs or young), the Proponent shall avoid these areas until nesting is

complete and the young have naturally left the vicinity of the nest by establishing a protection buffer zone¹ appropriate for the species and the surrounding habitat.

Road and Ground Disturbance

21. 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.
22. The Proponent shall not move any equipment or vehicles without prior testing the thickness of the ice to ensure the lake, river or stream is in a state capable of fully supporting the equipment or vehicles.

Land Use and Restoration of Disturbed Areas

23. The Proponent shall use existing trails where possible during project activities on the land.
24. The Proponent shall ensure that the land use area is kept clean and tidy at all times.
25. The Proponent shall avoid disturbance on slopes prone to natural erosion, and alternative locations shall be utilized.
26. The Proponent shall remove all garbage, fuel and equipment at the end of each field season and/or upon completion of work and/or upon abandonment.
27. The Proponent shall ensure that all disturbed areas are restored to a stable or pre-disturbed state using Best Available Technology Economically Achievable (BATEA) upon completion of work and/or abandonment.

Camps

28. The Proponent shall ensure that all camps are located durable surfaces, such as gravel or sand that is consolidated and can withstand repeated, heavy use. Measures shall be put in place to prevent erosion, trail formation and damage to the ground.
29. The Proponent shall not erect camps or store materials on the surface ice of lakes or streams, except that which is for immediate use.

Heritage Sites

30. The Proponent shall ensure that archaeological and paleontological sites are not purposely or inadvertently disturbed by clients or staff as a result of project activities.
31. The Proponent shall ensure that all clients and staff are aware of the Proponent's responsibilities and requirements regarding archaeological or palaeontological sites that are encountered during land-based activities. This should include briefings explaining the prohibitions regarding removal of artifacts and defacing or writing on rocks and infrastructure.

¹ Recommended setback distances to define buffer zones have been established by Environment and Climate Change Canada for different bird groups nesting in tundra habitat and can be found at www.ec.gc.ca/paom-itmb.

Other

32. 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.
33. The Proponent shall ensure that project activities do not interfere with Inuit wildlife harvesting or traditional land use activities.
34. The Proponent should, to the extent possible, hire local people and access local services where possible.