



NIRB File No.: 23YN048
 NPC File No.: 150127

August 4, 2023

Patrick Lajeunesse
 Département de géographie,
 Université Laval
 Québec QC G1V 0A6

Sent via email: patrick.lajeunesse@ggr.ulaval.ca

Re: Notice of Screening for Université Laval’s “Hudson Bay System Paleoceanography” project proposal

Dear Patrick Lajeunesse:

On August 3, 2023, the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) received a referral to screen for Université Laval’s “Hudson Bay System Paleoceanography” 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 **23YN048** - please reference this file number in all future related correspondence.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Project Scope:

Project:	Hudson Bay System Paleoceanography
Region:	Qikiqtani and Kivalliq
Location:	Hudson Bay, Foxe Basin, Hudson Strait
Closest Communities:	Coral Harbour, Sanirajak, Kimmirut, Sanikiluaq, Naujaat, Igloolik
Summary of Project Description:	The Proponent intends to conduct water sampling, sediment coring, and bathymetry in Hudson Bay, Foxe Basin, and Hudson Strait.

Project Proposed Timeline:	August-September 2023
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According to the project proposal, the scope of the project includes the following undertakings, works or activities:

- Use of the research vessel RV *Maria S. Merian*;
- Water sampling;
- Taking sediment cores; and
- Use of sidescan and depth measurement sonars to profile the bottom topography.

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 www.nirb.ca/project/125844 and include:

- *Commission Conformity Determination*
- *Commission Application and Questionnaire*
- *NIRB's Online Application*
- *Vessel Info*
- *Map A and B*
- *DFO Clearance Request*

The NIRB will copy you on screening process-related correspondence and upload related documents to the NIRB's 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 Université Laval's project proposal with this letter, and we invite interested parties to comment directly to the NIRB by **August 14, 2023**.

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 Public Registry at www.nirb.ca/project/125844.

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

Sincerely,



Keith Morrison
Manager Impact Assessment
Nunavut Impact Review Board

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

cc: Distribution List

Conor Goddard, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Jared Ottenhof, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Joel Fortier, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Chris Spencer, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Luis Manzo, Kivalliq Inuit Association
Maria Serra, Kivalliq Inuit Association
Brenda Pilakapsi, Kivalliq Inuit Association
Mosha Cote, Nunavut Research Institute
Michele LeBlanc-Havard, Government of Nunavut – Department of Environment
Lisa Pirie-Dominix, Canadian Wildlife Service
Jody Small, Environment and Climate Change Canada
Alasdair Beattie, Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Transport Canada General Inbox

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. Université Laval (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.: 150127), and the NIRB (Online Application Form, August 3, 2023). 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 Course/Water Bodies

6. 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

7. 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

8. 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 are readily available.
9. 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.
10. The Proponent shall ensure that all spills of fuel or other deleterious materials of 100 litres or more must be reported immediately to the 24-hour Spill Line at (867) 920-8130.

Wildlife – General

11. 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.
12. 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.
13. The Proponent shall not hunt or fish, unless proper Nunavut authorizations have been acquired.

Migratory Birds and Raptors Disturbance

14. 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. 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*.
15. The Proponent shall avoid the seaward site of seabird colonies and areas used by flocks of migrating waterfowl, a minimum distance away on the recommendation of the appropriate authorizing agencies.
16. The Proponent shall not pursue seabirds or waterbirds swimming on the water surface and shall avoid concentrations of these birds if encountered on the water.

Marine-based Activities

17. The Proponent shall, where practicable, coordinate with other vessels to minimize simultaneous vessel traffic in critical wildlife habitat areas allowing the wildlife to continue to use the habitat undisturbed.
18. The Proponent shall ensure that noise be kept to a minimum and shall refrain from making sharp or loud noises, blowing horns or whistles and shall maintain constant engine noise levels.
19. The Proponent shall not visit cliffs used by nesting and breeding birds during the late afternoon or early evening hours during the months of August and September.
20. The Proponent shall anchor large vessels, such as cruise ships at least 500 metres away from seabird and seaduck breeding colonies except Ivory gull breeding sites which requires a setback distance of 2,000 metres. Further, the Proponent shall ensure small launch vessels (e.g., zodiacs, kayaks) maintain a distance of 100 metres from the seabird colonies.
21. The Proponent shall not attempt to intersect or interfere with the movements of marine mammals. This includes ensuring that there are no wake zones within 250 metres and a minimum of 100 metre no go zone around marine mammals. Strategic positioning of vessels ahead of the path being traveled by mobile mammals and waiting for the mammals to pass is also prohibited.
22. When marine mammals appear to be trapped or disturbed by vessel movements, the Proponent shall implement appropriate measures to mitigate disturbance, including stoppage of movement until wildlife have moved away from the immediate area.

23. The Proponent shall suspend all project activities should any dead fish or wildlife (both marine and terrestrial), or any injured wildlife be observed during any works or activities in and around the marine waters. Activities may only be resumed on the recommendation of the authorizing agencies.
24. The Proponent shall report all incidents, injuries or sightings of marine mammals to the appropriate authorizing agencies.
25. The Proponent shall implement measures designed to minimize disturbance to seabed sediments and benthic communities and marine wildlife when carrying out project activities within the marine environment.

Other

26. 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.
27. The Proponent shall ensure that project activities do not interfere with Inuit wildlife harvesting or traditional land use activities.
28. The Proponent should, to the extent possible, hire local people and access local services where possible.