



NIRB File No.: 24YN016
NPC File No.: 150320

May 24, 2024

Kailey Wright
Northern Energy Capital
Suite 502, 151 West Hastings St.
Vancouver, BC V6B 1H4

Sent via email: kwright@northernenergycapital.com

Re: Notice of Screening for Northern Energy Capital's "Whale Cove Mobile Wind Resource Assessment Project" proposal

Dear Kailey Wright:

On March 27, 2024, the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) received a referral to screen Northern Energy Capital's (NEC) "Whale Cove Mobile Wind Resource Assessment Project" proposal from the Nunavut Planning Commission (Commission), with an accompanying positive conformity determination with the Keewatin Regional Land Use Plan. On May 15, 2024, the NIRB received the complete application from the Proponent.

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 **24YN016** - please reference this file number in all future related correspondence.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Project Scope:

Project:	Whale Cove Mobile Wind Resource Assessment Project
Region:	Kivalliq Region
Location:	Within the municipal boundaries of the community of Whale Cove
Summary of Project Description:	The Proponent intends to collect wind data using a sonic detection and ranging (SONAR) device to assess the feasibility of a utility-scale wind energy project.

Project Timeline:	Proposed August 2024 to October 2025
--------------------------	---

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

- Set up and deployment of Sonic Detection and Ranging (SODAR) device and equipment within two (2) kilometres of the community of Whale Cove;
 - Set up of tent to protect power supply equipment;
 - 100-pound propane cylinder within the tent, to keep the SODAR from icing up during winter;
 - Set up of solar panels that will serve as the primary power supply for SODAR equipment.
- Hiring and training of local community members to help with maintenance checks;
- Use of an ATV to transport personnel and equipment to research site;
- Use of a snowmobile for maintenance check; and
- Accommodation and use of facilities within the community of Whale Cove.

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/125925 and include:

- *Commission Conformity Determination and Application*
- *Commission Questionnaire*
- *NIRB Application*
- *Project Summary in Inuktitut*
- *Project Overview*
- *Land Use Plan Application*
- *2021 Power Supply Description*
- *Brief Project Overview*
- *Project Presentation*
- *Site Plans and Pictures*
- *Sonic detection and ranging (SODAR) device description*

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 NEC's project proposal with this letter, and we invite interested parties to comment directly to the NIRB by **June 3, 2024**.

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/125925.

If you have any questions or require clarification, feel free to contact the undersigned at (867) 983-4622 or motokiak@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



Mia Otokiak
Impact Assessment Officer
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
Luis Manzo, Kivalliq Inuit Association
Ashley Aupaluktuq-Burton, Kivalliq Inuit Association
Brenda Pilakapsi, Kivalliq Inuit Association
William Patch, Government of Nunavut, Department of Community and Government Services
Randy Mercer, Government of Nunavut, Department of Community and Government Services
Ken Wasylyshen, Government of Nunavut, Department of Community and Government Services
Olivier Forbes-Bouillon, Government of Nunavut, Department of Community and Government Services
Mosha Cote, Nunavut Research Institute

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. Northern Energy Capital (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.: 150320) and the NIRB (Online Application Form, May 15, 2024). 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.

Waste Management

6. 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

7. 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.
8. 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.
9. 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

10. 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.

11. 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.

Migratory Birds and Raptors Disturbance

12. 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*.
13. The Proponent shall not disturb or destroy the nests or eggs of any birds. 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

14. 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.

Land Use and Restoration of Disturbed Areas

15. The Proponent shall use existing trails where possible during project activities on the land.
16. The Proponent shall ensure that the land use area is kept clean and tidy at all times.
17. 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.
18. 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.

Heritage Sites

19. 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.
20. 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.
21. No activities shall be conducted in the vicinity (50 metres buffer zone) of any archaeological/historical sites. If archaeological sites or features are encountered, activities shall immediately be interrupted and moved away from this location. Each site encountered

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.

needs to be recorded and reported to the Government of Nunavut-Department of Culture and Heritage.

Other

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