



**NIRB File No.: 24YN023**  
NPC File No.: 150274

June 25, 2024

Jessica Kassar  
Environment and Climate Change Canada - Canadian Wildlife Service  
301-933 Mivvik Street  
Iqaluit NU X0A 2H0

Sent via email: [Jessica.Kassar@ec.gc.ca](mailto:Jessica.Kassar@ec.gc.ca)

**Re: Notice of Screening for Canadian Wildlife Service's "Nanuit Itillinga NWA and Seymour Island (Naujavaat) MBS Management Activities" project proposal**

Dear Jessica Kassar:

On May 16, 2024 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) received a referral to screen Canadian Wildlife Service's (CWS) "Nanuit Itillinga NWA and Seymour Island (Naujavaat) MBS Management Activities" project proposal from the Nunavut Planning Commission (Commission), with an accompanying positive conformity determination with the North Baffin Regional Land Use Plan. On June 6, 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 **24YN023** - please reference this file number in all future related correspondence.

#### 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/125970](http://www.nirb.ca/project/125970).

<b>Project:</b>	Nanuit Itillinga NWA and Seymour Island (Naujavaat) MBS Management Activities
<b>Region:</b>	Qikiqtani (North Baffin)
<b>Location:</b>	Nanuit Itillinga NWA and Seymour Island

<b>Closest Community:</b>	Resolute	<b>Distance (approximate)</b>	130 kilometres (km)	<b>Direction</b>	Northwest
<b>Summary of Project Description:</b>	The Proponent intends to place wildlife cameras and recorders.				
<b>Project Proposed Timeline:</b>	June to August, 2024				

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

- Daily helicopter trips from Resolute Bay for approximately three (3) days;
- Use of a drone for aerial photography; and
- Placement of wildlife cameras/recorders.

### ***Inclusion or Exclusion of Scoping List***

The NIRB has identified no additional works or activities in relation to the project proposal. As a result, the NIRB proceeded 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/125970](http://www.nirb.ca/project/125970) and include:

- *Commission Application*
- *Commission Conformity Determination*
- *NIRB Application*
- *Project Summary*
- *Application for MBR*
- *Wildlife Area Permit*

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 Canadian Wildlife Service project proposal with this letter, and we invite interested parties to comment directly to the NIRB by **July 5, 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](mailto: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/125970](http://www.nirb.ca/project/125970).

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

Sincerely,



Keith Morrison  
Manager, Impact Assessment  
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  
Moshia Cote, Nunavut Research Institute  
Lisa Pirie-Dominix, Canadian Wildlife Service  
Jared Ottenhof, Qikiqtani Inuit Association  
Chris Spencer, Qikiqtani Inuit Association  
Conor Goddard, Qikiqtani Inuit Association  
Joel Fortier, Qikiqtani Inuit Association  
Assol Kubeisinova, Qikiqtani Inuit Association  
Hamlet of Resolute Bay  
Resolute Bay Hunters and Trappers Association

## 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. Canadian Wildlife Service (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.: 150274) and the NIRB (Online Application Form, June 4, 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.

### Wildlife – General

7. 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.
8. 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.
9. The Proponent shall not hunt or fish, unless proper Nunavut authorizations have been acquired.

### Migratory Birds and Raptors Disturbance

10. 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*.

11. 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 zone<sup>1</sup> appropriate for the species and the surrounding habitat.
12. 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.
13. 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.

### **Aircraft Flight Restrictions**

14. The Proponent shall not alter flight paths to approach wildlife and avoid flying directly over animals.
15. The Proponent shall plan flight paths that minimize flights over known habitat likely to have birds or concentrations of wildlife. Aircraft should avoid critical and sensitive wildlife areas at all times by choosing alternate flight corridors.
16. The Proponent shall restrict aircraft/helicopter activity related to the project to a minimum flight altitude of 610 metres (2,100 ft) above ground level except during landing, take-off or if there is a specific requirement for low-level flying, which does not disturb wildlife or migratory birds.
17. The Proponent shall avoid known concentrations of birds (e.g., bird colonies, moulting areas) by a lateral distance of 1.5 kilometre. If avoidance is not possible maintain a minimum flight altitude of 1,100 metres (3,500 feet) over these areas.
18. The Proponent shall ensure that aircraft/helicopter do not, unless for emergency, touch-down in areas where wildlife are present.
19. The Proponent shall advise all pilots of relevant flight restrictions and enforce their application over the project area, including flight paths to/from the project area.

### **Heritage Sites**

20. 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.
21. 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.
22. 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

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<sup>1</sup> 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](http://www.ec.gc.ca/paom-itmb).

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

**Other**

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