



NOTICE OF SCREENING OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

NIRB File No.: 25YN003

Project Name: The “IceBird Winter 2025” project
Proponent Name: Alfred Wegner Institute
Project Type: Research Region: Kitikmeot and Qikiqtani Regions
Public Registry: www.nirb.ca Application No.: 126035
Comment Deadline: **March 24, 2025**

PROJECT SCOPE:

The proposed “IceBird Winter 2025” project is located within the Kitikmeot and Qikiqtani regions, approximately 300 kilometres (km) from Resolute Bay, Pond Inlet, Eureka, Alert, Cambridge Bay, including Dease Strait and Victoria Strait. The Proponent intends to conduct sea ice surveys using a modified DC-3 research aircraft fitted with scientific instruments (e.g., cameras, radar, electromagnetic induction systems etc.) that would be used to observe the variability and change of sea ice and snow thickness and deformation in the Canadian Arctic. The aircraft would take off and land at open airports in communities in Nunavut and fly transects 200 or 300 miles long, flying as low as 200 feet altitude and all protected areas would be avoided. The program is proposed to take place from March to April 2027. The scope of this proposed project as identified by the NIRB includes the following undertakings, works or activities:

- Use of 1 Basler BT-67 (DC3) airplane, research flight and ferrying fitted scientific equipment and approximately six (6) passengers
- Electromagnetic induction system (EM system) for estimation of ice thickness
- Laser scanner for high-resolution surface roughness
- A set of air-launchable buoys would be used to mark flight tracks over the drifting sea ice for re-visits by follow-up surveys

Please visit the NIRB’s public registry online at the link above and look up NIRB File No.: **25YN003** to access all project information, maps, and public comment forms.

REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

You are invited to provide the NIRB with your comments regarding whether the proposed project is:

- likely to arouse significant public concern and, if so, why;
- likely to cause significant adverse ecosystemic or socio-economic effects and, if so, why;
- likely to cause significant adverse impacts on wildlife habitat or Inuit harvest activities and, if so, why;
- a type where the potential adverse effects are highly predictable and can be prevented/managed appropriately with known technology.

Parties are also invited to recommend any specific mitigation measures they feel would be appropriate, and to bring any other matter of importance related to this project proposal to the NIRB’s attention.

CONTACT INFORMATION

The NIRB has recently launched an updated online public registry, and parties can access project information as well as submit comments directly to the NIRB via www.nirb.ca. Comments can still be submitted directly to the NIRB via email at info@nirb.ca or via fax to (867) 983-2594.

If you have any questions or require clarification regarding the proposed project or the NIRB’s screening process, please contact Kelli Gillard, Senior Impact Assessment Officer toll-free at 1-866-233-3033 or kgillard@nirb.ca.