



NIRB File No.: 03YN010

AANDC File No.: N2011N0019

NWB File No.: 3BC-CBA1015

Previous AANDC File No.: N2003J0007

Previous NRI File Nos.: 02 015 12R-M; 02 074 10R-M

September 18, 2014

The Honourable Bernard Valcourt
Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development
c/o Tracey McCaie
A/Manager, Land Administration
Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada
P.O. Box 100
Iqaluit, NU X0A 0H0

Sent via email: tracey.mccaie@aandc.gc.ca; landsmining@aandc.gc.ca

Re: Application Exempt from the Requirement for Screening pursuant to Section 12.4.3 of the NLCA: Queens University's "Land and Water Research at the Cape Bounty Arctic Watershed Observatory" Project, Qikiqtani (North Baffin) Region

Dear Tracey McCaie:

On August 26, 2014 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received an application from Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC) for an extension to AANDC Land Use Permit No. N2011N0019 for Queen's University's (the Proponent) "Land and Water Research at Cape Bounty Arctic Watershed Observatory"¹ project proposal. On September 2, 2014 the NIRB received notification from the Nunavut Planning Commission that the previous conformity determination issued for this file on July 7, 2011 continues to apply to the current application.

Please be advised that the original project proposal (NIRB File No. 03YN010) was received by the NIRB from the Nunavut Research Institute (NRI) on January 15, 2003 and was screened by the Board in accordance with Part 4, Article 12 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA). On February 19, 2003 the NIRB issued the enclosed NLCA 12.4.4(a) screening

¹ Previously named: "Reconstructing Weather From Sediment at Cape Bounty and North Lake" (February 20, 2003); "Landscape Processes at Cape Bounty- Melville Island, North Lake, Cornwallis Island" (May 1, 2006); and "Land and Water Research at the Cape Bounty Arctic Watershed Observatory" (March 31, 2011)

decision to the Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth (Government of Nunavut) which indicated that the proposed project could proceed subject to the NIRB's recommended project-specific terms and conditions.

On March 24, 2006 the NIRB received an application from the NRI for a renewal to the Proponent's Scientific Research License. After a thorough assessment of the renewal request, the NIRB determined that the application was exempt from the requirement for further screening pursuant to Section 12.4.3 of the NLCA, and reissued the enclosed screening decision report on May 1, 2006.

On March 21, 2011 the NIRB received an application from the NRI for a renewal to the Proponent's multi-year Scientific Research License (No. 02 074 10R-M). After a thorough assessment of the renewal request, the NIRB determined that the application was exempt from the requirement for further screening pursuant to Section 12.4.3 of the NLCA, and reissued the enclosed decision report on March 31, 2011.

On August 21, 2013 the NIRB received an application for an extension to AANDC Land Use Permit No. N2011N0019 for this project. After a thorough assessment of the renewal request, the NIRB determined that the application was exempt from the requirement for further screening pursuant to Section 12.4.3 of the NLCA, and reissued the enclosed decision report on August 30, 2013.

The current AANDC application, the original NIRB Screening Decision Report (File No. 03YN010) and related file information are available from the NIRB's online public registry at the following location:

<http://ftp.nirb.ca/01-SCREENINGS/COMPLETED%20SCREENINGS/2003/03YN010-Scott%20Lamoureux/>

PREVIOUSLY-SCREENED PROJECT PROPOSAL:

As previously screened by the NIRB (File No. 03YN010), the originally titled "*Reconstructing Weather From Sediment at Cape Bounty and North Lake*" project was located within the Qikiqtani region, approximately 426 kilometres (km) northwest of Resolute Bay. The Proponent indicated that it intended to conduct scientific field research in and around Cape Bounty.

The activities and components associated with the originally screened proposal included:

- Sediment coring in lakes;
- Soil measurements; and
- Vegetation mapping.

In the March 24, 2006 renewal application, the Proponent stated that it intended to develop a long record of past weather and river conditions using sediment collected in lakes and rivers around Cape Bounty. Additional activities and components associated with this renewal included:

- Collection of water samples to measure carbon and nitrogen levels.

On March 21, 2011 the Proponent applied for a renewal to its NRI Scientific Research license associated with this proposal (NRI File No. 02 074 10R-M).

On August 1, 2013 the Proponent applied for an extension to its AANDC Land Use Permit (No. N2011N0019) to continue with this multi-year research project within the scope of previously-approved activities.

CURRENT APPLICATION:

The Proponent is proposing to extend its AANDC Land Use Permit (No. N2011N0019) to continue with the previously screened research activities.

Please note that Section 12.4.3 of the NLCA states that:

“Any application for a component or activity of a project proposal that has been permitted to proceed in accordance with these provisions shall be exempt from the requirement for screening by NIRB unless:

(a) such component or activity was not part of the original project proposal; or

(b) its inclusion would significantly modify the project.”

After completing a review of the information provided in support of the current application, the NIRB is of the understanding that the proposed extension does not change the general scope of the original project activities, and the exceptions noted in NLCA 12.4.3(a) and (b) do not apply. Therefore, this application is exempt from the requirement for screening pursuant to Section 12.4.3 of the NLCA and the activities therein remain subject to the terms and conditions recommended in the original February 19, 2003 Screening Decision Report (enclosed).

If you have any questions or require additional clarification, please contact Solomon Amuno, Technical Advisor, at (867) 983-4603 or samuno@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



Ryan Barry
Executive Director
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Scott Lamoureux, Queens University
Phyllis Beaulieu, Nunavut Water Board
Joel Fortier, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Mosha Cote, Nunavut Research Institute

Enclosure: NIRB Screening Decision Report, File No.: 03YN010 (February 19, 2003)
