



NIRB File No.: 04YN076

previous NRI File No.: 03 044 10R-M

August 9, 2012

Kathryn McWilliams
Department of Physics and Eng. Physics
University of Saskatchewan
116 Science Place, Saskatoon, SK S7N 5E2

Via email: Kathryn.mcwilliams@usask.ca

Re: Application Acknowledgement for University of Saskatchewan's Amendment Request with the Nunavut Research Institute for the "PolarDARN, Polar Dural Aurora Radar Network" Project

Dear Kathryn McWilliams:

On June 21, 2012 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received an application from the Nunavut Research Institute (NRI) regarding an amendment to the ongoing "PolarDARN, Polar Dural Aurora Radar Network" project seeking an additional research licence for the University of Saskatchewan's (U of S). Further, on July 25, 2012 the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC) confirmed that a conformity determination (North Baffin Regional Land Use Plan) would not be required as the project is located within the boundaries of the Hamlet of Clyde River.

Please be advised that the original project proposal (NIRB File No.: 04YN076) was received by the NIRB from the NRI on June 1, 2004. The proposal was screened in accordance with Part 4, Article 12 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA) and on June 30, 2004 the NIRB issued a 12.4.4(a) screening decision to the Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth (now the Department of Culture and Heritage) indicating the proposed project could proceed subject to NIRB's recommended project-specific terms and conditions. Project components/activities included the following:

- Installation of a portable radar in Rankin Inlet to observe the auroral zone (i.e. northern lights) and to study high altitude weather systems; and
- Provide scientific data to understand how high-altitude weather is connected to low-altitude weather.

Amendment

The amendment application includes an additional research licence to continue with the existing and additional scientific studies, specifically the U of S is proposing to amend the previous research project to include the following:

- Install an additional radar system in Clyde River including:
 - two antenna arrays,
 - a 20 foot insulated Seacan to house the radar electronics and computers, and
 - a power pole to support the overhead power line.

The NIRB has determined that this request may result in a change to the original scope of the project. The NRI application and the original NIRB screening file, 04YN076 are available from NIRB's ftp site at the following link:

<http://ftp.nirb.ca/01-SCREENINGS/COMPLETED%20SCREENINGS/2004/04YN076-George%20Sofko/>.

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.”

The NIRB is of the opinion that the request for the amendment is not likely to *significantly* change the general scope of the original project activities. Therefore the NIRB is *proposing* to re-issue the same terms and conditions as those in the attached June 30, 2004 Screening Decision, along with any new terms and conditions the NIRB considers appropriate. The NIRB is copying parties and municipalities potentially affected by this project and we invite interested persons to comment directly to the NIRB by **August 20, 2012**.

The NIRB would like Parties to provide comments regarding:

- Whether the inclusion of the additionally proposed component(s) and/or activity(ies) would significantly modify the project;
- Any additional mitigation measures that are appropriate; and
- Any other matter of importance to the Party related to the project proposal.

Please send your comments directly to the NIRB at info@nirb.ca or via fax to **(867) 983-2594**.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the NIRB's Technical Advisor, Tara Arko, at tarko@nirb.ca or by phone 867-983-4611.

Sincerely,



Tara Arko
Technical Advisor
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Distribution List
Mosha Cote, NRI

Attachment: Comment Forms (English and Inuktitut)
NIRB Screening Decision Report, File No.: 04YN076 (June 30, 2004)