



**NIRB File No.: 04YN076**

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

August 21, 2012

The Honourable Dan Shewchuk  
Minister Responsible for Nunavut Arctic College  
Government of Nunavut  
c/o Mosha Cote, Manager Research Liaison  
Nunavut Research Institute  
P.O. Box 1720  
Iqaluit, NU X0A 0H0

Via email: [Mosha.Cote@arcticcollege.ca](mailto:Mosha.Cote@arcticcollege.ca)

**Re: Application Exempt from the Requirement for Screening pursuant to Section 12.4.3 of the NLCA: University of Saskatchewan's "PolarDARN, Polar Dural Aurora Radar Network" project**

Dear Mosha Cote:

On June 21, 2012 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received an application from 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. 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 and was screened by the Board in accordance with Part 4, Article 12 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA). On June 30, 2004 the NIRB issued the enclosed NLCA 12.4.4(a) screening decision to the Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth (now the Department of Culture and Heritage) which indicated that the proposed project could proceed subject to the NIRB's recommended project-specific terms and conditions.

The current NRI application, the original NIRB Screening Decision Report (04YN076) and related file information are available from the NIRB's ftp site at the following link:

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

#### PREVIOUSLY-SCREENED PROJECT PROPOSAL:

As previously screened by the NIRB (File No. 04YN076), the “PolarDARN, Polar Dural Aurora Radar Network” project was located within the Kivalliq region, roughly within the Municipality of Rankin Inlet. The Proponent indicated that it intended to install a portable radar to observe the auroral zone and study high altitude weather systems.

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

- 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.

#### CURRENT APPLICATION:

The University of Saskatchewan is proposing to amend the project by adding an additional research license to continue with existing and additional scientific studies, including the following additional components:

- 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.

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.”*

On August 8, 2012 NIRB distributed the current amendment request to a regional distribution list, requesting submission of any comments or concerns related to the application by August 20, 2012.

Please be advised that the NIRB did not receive any comments regarding the proposed amendment for the PolarDARN, Polar Dural Aurora Radar Network project.

After completing a review of the information provided in support of the current application as well as the comments received from interested parties, the NIRB is of the understanding that the proposed amendment 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 June 30, 2004 Screening Decision Report (enclosed).

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Tara Arko, Technical Advisor, at 867-983-4611 or [tarko@nirb.ca](mailto:tarko@nirb.ca).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ryan Barry". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Ryan Barry  
Executive Director

cc: Kathryn McWilliams, University of Saskatchewan  
Jeff Mercer, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada  
Tracey McCaie, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada  
Bernie MacIsaac, Qikiqtani Inuit Association

Enclosed: NIRB Screening Decision Report, File No.: 04YN076 (June 30, 2004)