



NIRB File No.: 05AN018
AANDC File No.: N2008N0028
NWB File No.: 3BC-KAR0812

May 28, 2013

The Honourable John Duncan
Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development
c/o Jeff Mercer
Manager, Land Administration
Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada
Iqaluit, NU

Sent via email: jeff.mercer@aandc.gc.ca; landsmining@aandc.gc.ca

Re: Application Exempt from the Requirement for Screening Pursuant to Section 12.4.3 of the NLCA: Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS)'s "Population Ecology of Arctic Breeding Waterfowl" project, Kitikmeot Region

Dear Jeff Mercer:

On May 23, 2013 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received an application from Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC) for an extension to the Land Use Permit (No. N2008N0028) for the Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS)'s "Population Ecology of Arctic Breeding Waterfowl" project. A conformity determination from the Nunavut Planning Commission was not required for this file, as the proposed project is located within a region that does not currently have an approved land use plan in place (Kitikmeot Region).

Please be advised that the original project proposal (NIRB File No.: 05AN018) was received by the NIRB from Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC; now AANDC) on February 8, 2005 and was screened by the Board in accordance with Part 4, Article 12 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA). On May 6, 2005 the NIRB issued the enclosed NLCA 12.4.4(a) screening decision to the Minister of INAC indicating the proposed project could proceed subject to NIRB's recommended project-specific terms and conditions.

Additional authorization and extension requests for the AANDC Land Use Permit (No. N2008N0028) associated with this project have also been reviewed by the NIRB following screening of the original project proposal, as set out in Table 1 below. In each instance the NIRB confirmed that the applications were exempt from the requirement for further screening pursuant to Section 12.4.3 of the NLCA and the activities therein remained subject to the terms and conditions recommended in the original May 6, 2005 Screening Decision Report.

Table 1: Additional applications associated with NIRB File No. 05AN018

Authorization	Application			NIRB Decision	
	Date Received by NIRB	Type	Reason for Application	Date Issued	Type
AANDC Land Use Permit (N2008N0028)	May 1, 2008	Renewal	Continue research	May 7, 2008	reissued May 6, 2005 SDR
AANDC Land Use Permit (N2008N0028)	February 18, 2010	Extension	Continue research	February 23, 2010	reissued May 6, 2005 SDR
AANDC Land Use Permit (N2008N0028)	March 8, 2011	Extension	Continue research	March 22, 2011	reissued May 6, 2005 SDR
AANDC Land Use Permit (N2008N0028)	May 3, 2012	Extension	Continue research	May 11, 2012	reissued May 6, 2005 SDR

Notes: AANDC = Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada); NIRB= Nunavut Impact Review Board; SDR= Screening Decision Report

The current AANDC application, the original NIRB Screening Decision Report (NIRB File No. 05AN018) and related file information are available from the NIRB's online public registry at the following link:

<http://ftp.nirb.ca/01-SCREENINGS/COMPLETED%20SCREENINGS/2005/05AN018-Ray%20Alisauskas/>.

PREVIOUSLY-SCREENED PROJECT PROPOSAL:

As previously screened by the NIRB (File No. 05AN018), the "Population Ecology of Arctic Breeding Waterfowl" project was located within the Kitikmeot region, approximately 200 kilometres (km) southwest of Gjoa Haven and approximately 205 km southeast of Cambridge Bay, in the Queen Maud Gulf Migratory Bird Sanctuary. The Proponent indicated that it intended to carry out a multi-year research program, conducting research activities seasonally from May to August including the harvesting of birds and small mammals, live banding and ear-tagging, and nesting studies of the following types of waterfowl: Ross' and Lesser Snow Geese, White-fronted Geese, Canadian Geese, and King Eiders.

The activities and components associated with this proposal included:

- Studies based primarily out of the Karrak Lake and Perry River areas;
- Nesting studies including finding nests, counting and possible removal of eggs, determining nest success and gosling and duckling survival;
- Banding studies including:
 - Capture and banding of up to 120 King Eiders and 30 Long-tailed ducks
 - Capture and banding of up to 15,000 geese using corral-type nets deployed with helicopter assistance

- Harvesting and collection of geese for measurements and evaluation of body condition, nest success, and productivity of waterfowl populations (*introduced under a scientific kill application and salvage application*):
 - Harvest 100 Ross' Geese and 100 Snow Geese
 - Harvest 50 King Eiders and 50 Long-tailed ducks
- Capture and ear tag up to 40 arctic fox;
- Sampling of small mammals (collared and brown lemmings, red-backed voles) using eight trap-lines over 10 consecutive nights;
- Access via fixed wing, helicopter, motorized boats, and on-foot travel;
- Establishment of temporary camp(s) and permanent buildings (cabin) at project sites (Karrak Lake and Perry River);
- Transportation and storage of fuel (up to 14,000 litres) and other hazardous materials;
- Generation and disposal of domestic, sewage, and non-combustible wastes;
- Backhaul of empty drums and non-combustible wastes; and,
- Use of water and production of grey water.

CURRENT APPLICATION:

The CWS is proposing to extend its AANDC Land Use Permit (No. N2008N0028) for this project for an additional year, to June 11, 2014. The CWS has not proposed any new activities for inclusion with the request for an extension.

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 May 6, 2005 Screening Decision Report (enclosed).

If you have any questions or require clarification, please contact Tannis Bolt, Assistant Technical Advisor, at (867) 983-4603 or tbolt@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
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Dana Kellett, Environment Canada
Tracey McCaie, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada
Jason Akearok, Environment Canada
Phyllis Beaulieu, Nunavut Water Board
Geoff Clark, Kitikmeot Inuit Association

Enclosure: NIRB Screening Decision Report, File No.: 05AN018 (May 6, 2005)