



NIRB File No.: 05AN018

CWS File No.: NUN-MBS-14-02 and NUN-SCI-14-02
AANDC File No.: N2014N0021 (formerly N2008N0028)
NWB File No.: 3BC-KAR1316

December 2, 2014

The Honourable Bernard Valcourt
Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development
c/o Tracey McCaie
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: Environment Canada's "Arctic Ecosystem Research in Queen Maud Gulf Bird Sanctuary" project, Kitikmeot Region

Dear Tracey McCaie:

On November 17, 2014 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received an application from Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC) for a new Land Use Permit (LUP No. N2014N0021) to replace the existing LUP (No. N2008N0028) associated with Environment Canada's "Arctic Ecosystem Research in Queen Maud Gulf Bird Sanctuary" project¹. 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).

The original project proposal (NIRB File No. 05AN018) was received by the NIRB from the Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) 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 Environment, Government of Canada, indicating that the proposed project could proceed subject to the NIRB's recommended project-specific terms and conditions.

Additional authorization and extension requests associated with the "Arctic Ecosystem Research in Queen Maud Gulf Bird Sanctuary" project have also been reviewed by the NIRB following

¹ Originally named the "Population Ecology of Arctic Breeding" project.

screening of the original project proposal (NIRB File No. 05AN018). 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 that the activities therein remained subject to the terms and conditions recommended in the original May 6, 2005 Screening Decision Report. A summary of the additional applications associated with NIRB File No. 05AN018 is presented in Table 1.

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
CWS Bird Sanctuary Permit (NUN-MBS-08-01 and NUN-SCI-08-01)	February 20, 2008	Renewal	Continue research activities	March 10, 2008	Reissued May 6, 2005 SDR
AANDC Land Use Permit (N2008N0028)	May 1, 2008	Renewal Land Use Permit Application	Continue research activities on Crown lands	May 7, 2008	Reissued May 6, 2005 SDR
AANDC Land Use Permit (N2008N0028)	February 18, 2010	Extension	Continue research activities	February 23, 2010	Reissued May 6, 2005 SDR
AANDC Land Use Permit (N2008N0028)	March 8, 2011	Extension	Continue research activities	March 22, 2011	Reissued May 6, 2005 SDR
CWS Bird Sanctuary Permit (NUN-MBS-08-01 and NUN-SCI-08-01)	March 8, 2011	Extension	Continue research activities		
AANDC Land Use Permit (N2008N0028)	May 3, 2012	Extension	Continue research activities	May 11, 2012	Reissued May 6, 2005 SDR
AANDC Land Use Permit (N2008N0028)	May 23, 2013	Extension	Continue research activities	May 28, 2013	Reissued May 6, 2005 SDR
CWS Bird Sanctuary Permit (NUN-MBS-08-01 and NUN-SCI-08-01)	February 11, 2014	Extension	Continue research activities	February 28, 2014	Reissued May 6, 2005 SDR

Notes: AANDC = Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada; CWS = Canadian Wildlife Service; 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 location:

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

PREVIOUSLY-SCREENED PROJECT PROPOSAL:

As previously screened by the NIRB (File No. 05AN018), the "Arctic Ecosystem Research in Queen Maud Gulf Bird Sanctuary" 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. Environment Canada (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 Ross' and Lesser Snow Geese, White-fronted Geese, Canadian Geese and King Eiders.

The activities and components associated with the previously screened 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:
 - 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.

In 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014 Environment Canada applied for extensions to the AANDC Land Use Permit and Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) Bird Sanctuary Permits associated with the project as required. As noted above, 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 that the activities therein remained subject to the terms and conditions recommended in the original May 6, 2005 Screening Decision Report.

CURRENT APPLICATION:

Environment Canada is currently applying for a new AANDC Land Use Permit (No. N2014N0021) to replace the previously issued and expiring Land Use Permit (No. N2008N0028) to continue with previously assessed 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 new Land Use Permit 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 additional clarification, please contact Kelli Gillard, Technical Advisor, at (867) 983-4619 or kgillard@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



Ryan Barry
Executive Director
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Ray Alisaukas, Environment Canada
Phyllis Beaulieu, Nunavut Water Board
Geoff Clark, Kitikmeot Inuit Association
Lisa Pirie, Canadian Wildlife Service

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