



NIRB File No.: 05AN089

June 9, 2010

Honourable Jim Prentice
Minister of Environment
c/o Jane Chisholm, Ecosystem Scientist II
Parks Canada
Iqaluit, NU

Via email: Jane.Chisholm@pc.gc.ca

**Re: Application exempt from NIRB Screening pursuant to Section 12.4.3 of the NLCA:
Quark Expedition's business licence application with Parks Canada for "2010
cruise ship access to Quttinirpaaq National Park" project proposal**

Dear Jane Chisholm:

On June 7, 2010 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) received a business licence application from Parks Canada (PC) for Quark Expedition's "2010 cruise ship access to Quttinirpaaq National Park" project proposal.

The original application for multi-year cruise ship access to Nirjutiqavvik National Wildlife Area (Bylot Island) and Prince Leopold Island Migratory Bird Sanctuary in the North Baffin Region was received by the NIRB on April 25, 2005 from the Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS). On July 6, 2005 the NIRB issued a 12.4.4(a) screening decision to the Minister of Environment indicating that the proposed project could proceed subject to project-specific recommended terms and conditions. It is the NIRB's understanding that the CWS permit associated with this project was renewed in 2006.

In 2008, the NIRB received an application from CWS for an amendment/renewal to the CWS permit for this project, as well as an application from Parks Canada for National Parks access in support of the project. Upon completion of a thorough review, on July 18, 2008 the NIRB reissued the July 6, 2005 screening decision report to the Minister of CWS and PC, with additional terms and condition attached.

The current Parks Canada application, the original NIRB screening file (NIRB File No.: 05AN089), as well as previous file information, are available from the NIRB's ftp site at the following link:

http://ftp.nirb.ca/SCREENINGS/COMPLETED%20SCREENINGS/ARCHIVE/2005_SCREENINGS/05AN089-Quark%20Expeditions/

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 by Parks Canada and the proponent, the NIRB is of the understanding that the proposed activities do not change the 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 screening as per Section 12.4.3 of the NLCA and the activities therein remain subject to the terms and conditions recommended in the original July 6, 2005 Screening Decision Report, re-issued on July 18, 2008 with additional terms and conditions (enclosed).

If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact Li Wan, Technical Advisor, at (867) 983-4606 or liwan@nirb.ca.

Best regards,



Stephanie Autut
Executive Director

cc: Susan Adie, Quark Expeditions (adie@quarkexpeditions.com)
Siu-Ling Han, CWS (Siu-Ling.Han@ec.gc.ca)

Enclosed: NIRB Letter Re Amendment and Renewal, File No. 05AN089 (July 18, 2008)