



NIRB File No.: 08DN056

Associated NIRB File No.: 09YN028

AANDC File No.: N2014N0019

Previous AANDC File No.: N2008N0027

Previous NRI File Nos.: 0213511R-M, 0203708N-M

NWB File No.: 3BC-NWT1113

August 13, 2014

The Honourable Bernard Valcourt
Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development
c/o Tracey McCaie, A/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: Defence Research and Development Canada's "Northern Watch Technology Demonstration" Project, Qikiqtani (North Baffin) Region

Dear Tracey McCaie:

On August 6, 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 (AANDC File No.: N2014N0019) to replace the previous and expiring permit (No.: N2008N0027) associated with Defence Research and Development Canada's (DRDC) "Northern Watch Technology Demonstration" project proposal. On August 5, 2014 the NIRB received a positive conformity determination (North Baffin Regional Land Use Plan) from the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC) for this file.

Please be advised that the original project proposal (NIRB File No.: 08DN056) was received by the NIRB from Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC; now AANDC) (INAC File No.: N2008N0027) on May 13, 2008 and was screened by the Board in accordance with Part 4, Article 12 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA). On June 19, 2008 the NIRB issued the enclosed NLCA 12.4.4(a) screening decision to the Minister of INAC which indicated 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 "Northern Watch Technology Demonstration" project have also been reviewed by the NIRB following screening

of the original project proposal (File No.: 08DN056). In each of these instances 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 June 19, 2008 Screening Decision Report. A summary of the additional applications associated with NIRB File No.: 08DN056 is presented in Table 1.

Table 1: Additional applications associated with NIRB File No. 08DN056

Authorization	Application			NIRB Decision	
	Date Received by NIRB	Type	Reason for Application	Date Issued	Type
INAC Land Use Permit (N2008N0027)	June 2, 2009	Amendment	Changes to camp infrastructure	June 2, 2009	Reissued June 19, 2008 SDR
INAC Land Use Permit (N2008N0027)	July 15, 2010	Extension	To continue project activities	July 16, 2010	Reissued June 19, 2008 SDR
INAC Land Use Permit (N2008N0027)	June 3, 2011	Extension	To continue project activities	June 14, 2011	Reissued June 19, 2008 SDR
NRI Scientific Research Licence (0203708N-M)	May 3, 2012	Licence Application	To install and operate unmanned surveillance demonstration system	May 16, 2012	Reissued June 19, 2008 SDR
NRI Scientific Research Licence (0213511R-M)	April 24, 2012	Amendment	To continue project activities	July 11, 2012	Reissued June 19, 2008 SDR and May 13, 2009 SDR (for NIRB File No.: 09YN028)
AANDC Land Use Permit (N2008N0027)	March 20, 2013	Extension	To continue project activities	April 11, 2013	Reissued June 19, 2008 SDR

Notes: INAC = Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (now Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada); AANDC = Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada; NIRB = Nunavut Impact Review Board; NRI = Nunavut Research Institute; SDR = Screening Decision Report

On April 24, 2012 the NIRB received an application from the NRI for an amendment to the Scientific Research Licence (No.: 02 045 12N-M) for Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) - Bedford Institute of Oceanography's (DFO) "Barrow Strait Real Time Observatory" project proposal (NIRB File No.: 09YN028). Further, on June 7, 2012 the NIRB received a positive conformity determination (North Baffin Regional Land Use Plan) from the NPC for this file. Due to the use of, and proposed work on, existing infrastructure associated with the Northern Watch Technology Demonstration project (NIRB File No.: 08DN056), the NIRB determined that it and the Barrow Strait Real Time Observatory proposal were related in scope and activity, and that they would continue to be subject to the associated terms and conditions as previously

issued for both proposals. After a thorough assessment of the amendment request, the NIRB determined that the application was exempt from the requirement for further screening pursuant to Section 12.4.3 of the NLCA, and reissued the enclosed screening decision reports on July 11, 2012.

The current AANDC application, the original NIRB Screening Decision Reports (File Nos.: 08DN056 and 09YN028) and related file information are available from the NIRB's online public registry at the following locations:

NIRB File No. 08DN056:

<http://ftp.nirb.ca/01-SCREENINGS/COMPLETED%20SCREENINGS/2008/08DN056-DRD-NWTD/>

NIRB File No. 09YN028:

<http://ftp.nirb.ca/01-SCREENINGS/COMPLETED%20SCREENINGS/2009/09YN028-Jim%20Hamilton/>

PREVIOUSLY-SCREENED PROJECT PROPOSAL:

As previously screened by the NIRB (File No.: 08DN056), the "Northern Watch Technology Demonstration" project was located within the Qikiqtani region, approximately 100 kilometres (km) southeast of Resolute Bay. The Proponent indicated that it intended to identify and characterize combinations of sensor systems for cost effective surveillance of the unique maritime environment of the Canadian Arctic.

The activities and components associated with the original project proposal as received by the NIRB on May 13, 2008 included:

- Establishment of 2 temporary structures at existing Gascoyne Inlet Camp site;
- Temporary fuel storage including 1,025 litres (L) of diesel, 410 L of gasoline, 2,050 L of aviation fuel and 500 pounds of propane;
- Aircraft use for research activities;
- On site use of an all-terrain vehicle and trailer;
- Placement of four bottom-mounted underwater arrays (including acoustic, magnetic, and electric filed sensors) and connecting submarine cable;
- Installation of land-based sensors (including a marine navigation radar, an Electro-optical system, an electronic intelligence receiver and an automatic identification system); and
- Data collection and experiments.

The activities and components associated with the June 2, 2009 amendment (AANDC File No.: N2008N0027) that have been previously screened and were allowed to proceed subject to the terms and conditions recommended by the NIRB within its June 19, 2008 Screening Decision Report for NIRB File No. 08DN056 included:

- Construction of an additional 16 foot by 16 foot sleeping quarters;
- Installation of 2 toilets at existing camp site; and

- Transportation of hazardous and human waste to approved disposal sites in Resolute Bay.

The activities and components associated with the May 3, 2012 application for a Scientific Research Licence with the NRI (NRI File No.: 0203708N-M) that have been previously screened and were allowed to proceed subject to the terms and conditions recommended by the NIRB within its June 19, 2008 Screening Decision Report for NIRB File No. 08DN056 included:

- Application to install and operate an unmanned surveillance demonstration system as part of DRDC's "Northern Watch Technology Demonstration" project in Lancaster Sound and neighbouring areas in the North Baffin region to occur between 2012 to 2016.

The activities and components associated with the April 24, 2012 amendment (NRI File No.: 0213511R-M) that have previously been screened and were allowed to proceed subject to the terms and conditions recommended by the NIRB within its June 19, 2008 Screening Decision Report for NIRB File No. 08DN056 and its May 13, 2009 Screening Decision Report for 09YN028 included:

- Renewal of the Scientific Research Licence for an additional two years in order to continue with ongoing research as proposed in the original project application;
- Installation of additional underwater cables to extend the existing cable length (NIRB File No.: 08DN056) to 8 kilometres (km) as well as installation of additional research equipment, including a data hub and instrumented moorings.

CURRENT APPLICATION:

DRDC is currently applying for a new AANDC Land Use Permit to continue with ongoing research as proposed in its previous project applications, from 2014 to 2016.

Please note that Section 12.4.3 of the NLCA states that:

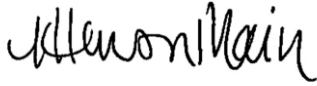
"Any application for a component or activity of a project proposal that has been permitted to proceed in accordance with these provisions shall be exempt from the requirement for screening by NIRB unless:

- (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 application 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 enclosed Screening Decision Reports dated June 19, 2008 (NIRB File No.: 08DN056) and May 13, 2009 (NIRB File No.: 09YN028).

If you have any questions or require additional clarification, please contact Heather Rasmussen, Technical Advisor, at (867) 983-4606 or hrasmussen@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



Amanda Hanson Main
A/Executive Director
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Bruce Grychowski, Defence Research and Development Canada
Tamara Van Dyck, Defence Construction Canada
Phyllis Beaulieu, Nunavut Water Board
Joel Fortier, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Mosha Cote, Nunavut Research Institute

Enclosure: NIRB Screening Decision Report, File No.: 08DN056 (June 19, 2008)
NIRB Screening Decision Report, File No.: 09YN028 (May 13, 2009)