



**NIRB File No.: 08YN017**

*Associated NIRB File No.: 05AN070*

May 29, 2013

Jennie Rausch  
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Via email: [jennie.rausch@ec.gc.ca](mailto:jennie.rausch@ec.gc.ca)

**Re: Application Acknowledgement for the Canadian Wildlife Service – Jennie Rausch’s Amendment for the “Arctic Shorebird Monitoring Program” Project**

Dear Jennie Rausch:

On May 7, 2013 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received an application from the Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) for applications for a Bird Sanctuary permit and a National Wildlife Area Entry permit for the “Arctic Shorebird Monitoring Program” project (previous CWS permits granted for this work included file numbers NUN-NWA-11-03 and NWT-MBS-09-03). On February 19, 2008 the NIRB received a positive conformity determination (Keewatin Regional Land Use Plan) from the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC) for this file. On May 11, 2011 the NIRB also received a positive conformity determination to the North Baffin Regional Land Use Plan from the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC) for this file.

As previously screened by the NIRB (File No. 08YN017), the “Arctic Shorebird Monitoring Program” project was originally conducted within the Kivalliq region, near the communities of Arviat and Baker Lake. The objective of the proposed project was to monitor several species of shorebirds that breed in the Arctic to obtain better estimates for their population size. The project was to be conducted in the summer season and was planned as a long-term, multi-year project designed to help fully understand the trend in arctic shorebird population sizes and the cause of a historic decrease in arctic shorebirds.

Please be advised that the original project proposal (NIRB File No.: 08YN017) was received by the NIRB from the CWS on February 19, 2008 and was screened by the Board in accordance with Part 4, Article 12 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA). On April 2, 2008 the NIRB issued the enclosed NLCA 12.4.4(a) screening decision to the Minister of Environment,

Government Canada, allowing the project to proceed subject to the NIRB's recommended project-specific terms and conditions.

This project is also related to Canadian Wildlife Service - Vicky Johnston's "CWS Ground Surveys of Breeding Shorebirds in QMGBS" project (NIRB File No.: 05AN070). The "CWS Ground Surveys of Breeding Shorebirds in QMGBS" proposal was screened in accordance with Part 4, Article 12 of the NLCA and on June 5, 2005, the Board issued a NLCA 12.4.4(a) screening decision to the Minister of Environment which indicated that the project could proceed subject to the NIRB's recommended project-specific terms and conditions.

The specific locations of the project as assessed in previous years and the proposed activities/components are presented in Table 1:

**Table 1: Project History**

<b>Year and File No.</b>	<b>Locations (incl. surrounding areas)</b>	<b>Activities/Components</b>
2005 (05AN070)	Queen Maud Migratory Bird Sanctuary, Kitikmeot Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Transport of 10 people by Twin Otter to the Queen Maud Migratory Bird Sanctuary</li> <li>▪ Helicopter transport of ground crews to temporary camp sites</li> <li>▪ Ground surveying for shorebirds</li> <li>▪ Daily helicopter transport to survey sites</li> </ul>
2008 (08YN017)	Baker Lake and Arviat, Kivalliq Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ground surveying for shorebirds involving 12 hectare walkabouts;</li> <li>▪ Aerial surveying for shorebirds within a 200 km radius of both Baker Lake and Arviat;</li> <li>▪ Two field crews (two people each) to overnight in each location;</li> <li>▪ Daily transportation of field crew by helicopter from Baker Lake and Arviat to study area;</li> <li>▪ On-site transportation via ATV and by foot;</li> <li>▪ Field activity to take place June 9-19 near Arviat, and June 19-30 near Baker Lake; and</li> <li>▪ Production and burial of human wastes in the field.</li> </ul>
2010 (05AN070, 08YN017)	Victoria Island and King William Island, Kitikmeot Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Three (3) year period of authorization (June 1 – August 15 each year);</li> <li>▪ Two (2) temporary camps for use by 6 people each (12 people total) for 12 days;</li> <li>▪ Two (2) temporary camps for use by 3 people each (6 people total) for 34 days;</li> <li>▪ Aerial and ground surveys throughout the Nunavut portion of Victoria Island, King William Island and surrounding areas;</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Transport of personnel and equipment by Twin Otter and helicopter;</li> <li>▪ Temporary fuel caching with portable berms; and</li> <li>▪ Removal of all combustible and non-combustible wastes.</li> </ul>
2011 (08YN017)	Bathurst Island, Prince of Wales Island, Cornwallis Island near Resolute Bay, Polar Bear Pass National Wildlife Area, North Baffin Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Study areas proposed within the Kitikmeot and North Baffin regions on and around Bathurst Island, Prince of Wales Island, and Cornwallis Island near Resolute Bay;</li> <li>▪ Multi-year access to Polar Bear Pass National Wildlife Area;</li> <li>▪ Construction of a temporary camp to support activities on the Prince of Wales Island from June 15-30, 2011; and</li> <li>▪ New Type B NWB Water License for camp water requirements.</li> </ul>

### **Current Amendment**

The CWS (Jennie Rausch) is proposing an amendment to the project in order to continue with research on the trend of declining populations of arctic shorebirds and to determine the cause of this decline. The Proponent intends to have surveyed nearly all of the communities and protected areas in Nunavut by the expected project completion date in the year 2020. The proposed project consists of the following:

- New application for a CWS Bird Sanctuary Permit - three (3) year period of authorization (May 15 – August 31 each year);
- New application for a CWS National Wildlife Area Permit - three (3) year period of authorization (May 15 – August 31 each year);
- Aerial and ground surveys throughout the following locations and/or surrounding areas:
  - Communities:
    - Arviat;
    - Baker Lake;
    - Bathurst Inlet;
    - Chesterfield Inlet;
    - Clyde River;
    - Grise Fiord;
    - Hall Beach;
    - Igloolik;
    - Iqaluit;
    - Kugaaruk;
    - Kugluktuk;
    - Pangnirtung;
    - Pond Inlet;
    - Qikiqtarjuaq;
    - Repulse Bay; and
    - Resolute Bay.
  - National Wildlife Areas:
    - Akpait National Wildlife Area;
    - Ninginganiq National Wildlife Area;
    - Nirjutiqqavvik National Wildlife Area;
    - Polar Bear Pass National Wildlife Area; and

- Qaulluit National Wildlife Area.
- Migratory Bird Sanctuaries:
  - Bylot Island Migratory Bird Sanctuary;
  - Dewey Soper Migratory Bird Sanctuary;
  - East Bay Migratory Bird Sanctuary;
  - Harry Gibbons Migratory Bird Sanctuary;
  - McConnell River Migratory Bird Sanctuary;
  - Prince Leopold Island Migratory Bird Sanctuary;
  - Queen Maud Gulf Migratory Bird Sanctuary; and
  - Seymour Island Migratory Bird Sanctuary.
- National Parks:
  - Auyuittuq National Park;
  - Sirmilik National Park; and
  - Ukkusiksalik National Park.
- Wildlife Sanctuary:
  - Thelon Wildlife Sanctuary.
- Temporary camp will consist of:
  - Two (2) large tents (10'x12') for kitchen and storage;
  - One (1) personal sleeping tent for each person in camp (10 in total);
  - Power sources will be propane for cooking and small solar panels to re-charge scientific equipment.
- Transport of personnel and equipment by Twin Otter and helicopter;
- Temporary fuel caching to utilize portable berms; and
- Removal of all combustible and non-combustible wastes.

The NIRB has determined that this request may result in a change to the original scope of the project.

The CWS application and the original NIRB screening files (Nos. 05AN070 and 08YN017) are available from NIRB's online public registry at the following links:

**File No.: 05AN070**

<http://ftp.nirb.ca/01-SCREENINGS/COMPLETED%20SCREENINGS/2005/05AN070-Vicky%20Johnston/>

**File No. 08YN017**

<http://ftp.nirb.ca/01-SCREENINGS/COMPLETED%20SCREENINGS/2008/08YN017-Vicky%20Johnston/>

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.”*

The NIRB is of the opinion that the request for the amendment is not likely to *significantly* change the general scope of the original project activities. Therefore the NIRB is *proposing* to re-issue the same terms and conditions as those in the attached June 5, 2005 and April 2, 2008 Screening Decision Reports, along with any new terms and conditions the NIRB considers appropriate. The NIRB is copying parties and municipalities potentially affected by this project and we invite interested persons to comment directly to the NIRB by June 12, 2013.


The NIRB would like Parties to provide comments regarding:

- Whether the inclusion of the additionally proposed component(s) and/or activity(ies) would significantly modify the project;
- Any additional mitigation measures that are appropriate; and
- Any other matter of importance to the Party related to the project proposal.

Please send your comments directly to the NIRB at [info@nirb.ca](mailto:info@nirb.ca) or via fax to **(867) 983-2594**.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the NIRB's Technical Advisor, Tara Arko for Jaswir Dhillon at [tarko@nirb.ca](mailto:tarko@nirb.ca) or by phone 867-983-4611.

Sincerely,



Tara Arko  
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Distribution List  
Jason Akearok, Canadian Wildlife Services  
Phyllis Beaulieu, Nunavut Water Board  
Geoff Clarke, Kitikmeot Inuit Association  
Luis Manzo, Kivalliq Inuit Association  
Bernie MacIsaac, Qikitani Inuit Association

Enclosed: Comment Forms (English, Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtun)  
NIRB Screening Decision Reports, File Nos.: 05AN070 (June 5, 2005) and 08YN017 (April 2, 2008)