



NIRB File No.: 09YN010

November 25, 2011

Honourable Daniel Shewchuk
Minister Responsible for Nunavut Arctic College
Government of Nunavut
c/o Mosha Cote, Manager, Research Liaison
Nunavut Research Institute
Iqaluit, NU

Via email: Mosha.Cote@arcticcollege.ca

Re: Application Exempt from Screening Pursuant to Section 12.4.3 of the NLCA: Environment Canada – Walter Strapp’s “Pan-Arctic Measurements & Arctic Regional Climate Model Simulations” project

Dear Mosha Cote:

On November 23, 2011 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received an application from the Nunavut Research Institute (NRI) for a renewal of the Scientific Research Licence for Environment Canada – Walter Strapp’s (the Proponent) “Pan-Arctic Measurements and Arctic Regional Climate Model Simulations (PANARCMIP)” project.

Please be advised that the NIRB received the original project proposal (NIRB File No.: 09YN010) from the NRI on January 27, 2009. The Board received a positive conformity determination (North Baffin Regional Land Use Plan) from the Nunavut Planning Commission for this file on March 4, 2009 and proceeded to screen the proposal in accordance with Part 4, Article 12 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA). On April 6, 2009 the NIRB issued the enclosed NLCA 12.4.4(a) screening decision to the Government of Nunavut Minister of Education indicating the proposed project could proceed subject to the NIRB’s recommended project-specific terms and conditions.

On December 30, 2010 the NIRB received an application for a renewal to the NRI Scientific Research Licence for the above mentioned project. After a thorough assessment of the renewal request, the NIRB determined that the application was exempt from further screening pursuant to Section 12.4.3 of the NLCA, and re-issued the enclosed screening decision report on January 21, 2011.

The current NRI application, the original NIRB Screening Decision Report (09YN010) and related file information are available from the NIRB’s ftp site at the following link:

PREVIOUSLY-SCREENED PROJECT PROPOSAL:

As previously screened by the NIRB (File No. 09YN010), the “PANARCMIP” project was located within the Qikiqtani region and involved researchers flying out of Resolute, Eureka and Alert. The Proponent indicated that it intended to conduct aerial surveying to collect ice thickness imagery and air quality samples as well as ground truth satellite imagery during April 2009. This activity was later amended/approved to occur in April 2011.

The activities and components associated with the previously screened proposal included:

- Use of Basler DC-3 aircraft “POLAR-5” using airports in Alert, Eureka, and Resolute;
- Storage of aviation fuel: 101 drums (20,200 liters);
- Air Surveys conducted between 300ft to 10,000ft;
- Low level flights performed offshore over sea ice only and will avoid areas of protected wildlife and people;
- Sample and data collection for meteorology study of air quality and sea ice thickness in the Arctic; and
- Analyze observations and data collected to accurately measure sea ice thickness, ozone depletion, and assess levels of mercury and bromine oxide in the Arctic surface boundary layer specifically over the frozen Arctic Ocean.

CURRENT APPLICATION:

The Proponent is proposing to renew its Scientific Research License to continue collecting data within the same areas as were previously screened and permitted.

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 renewal does not change the general scope of the original project activities, and that the exceptions noted in NLCA 12.4.3(a) and (b) do not apply. Therefore, this application is exempt from the requirement for 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 April 6, 2009 Screening Decision Report (enclosed).

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Tara Arko, Technical Advisor, at 867-983-4611 or tarko@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ryan Barry". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

Ryan Barry
Executive Director

cc: Walter Strapp, Environment Canada (walter.strapp@ec.gc.ca)

Enclosed: NIRB Screening Decision Report, File No.: 09YN010 (*April 6, 2009*)