

PREVIOUSLY-SCREENED PROJECT PROPOSAL:

As previously screened by the NIRB (File No. 11YA003), the “Climate Change Effects on the Hydro-Ecology of Northern Lakes” project was located within the Qikiqtani region, north of Resolute Bay and Grise Fiord on Ellesmere Island and Axel Heiberg Island, and in the Kitikmeot region, up to 120 kilometres (km) around of Cambridge Bay. The Proponent intended to begin long-term monitoring of lakes in Nunavut for effects of climate change.

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

- Measuring lake ice thickness of North Baffin: Colour Lake, Lake Resolute, Lower Dumbell Lake, and Lake Hazen by drilling holes with an ice auger and using a measurement stick
- Field reconnaissance: collect basic bathymetric measurements of various lakes around the Queen Maud Gulf to determine the best placement of the permanent structure.
- Permanent structure placement: the Arctic Lake Monitoring System (ALMS) is a fully automated ice buoy and subsurface mooring which provides continuous, unattended monitoring of lake meteorology conditions, lake ice cover, light penetration in the water column, and water chemistry. This system would increase research infrastructure in the Kitikmeot region as part of the newly created research station at Cambridge Bay.
- On-site mechanized vehicles and instrumentation: 2 snowmobiles for transporting personnel between lakes; 1 Ground Penetrating Radar to measure ice thickness; 1 Bell 206L helicopter used for lake reconnaissance; and 1 AstarB for deployment of the ALMS and mooring.

CURRENT APPLICATION:

Environment Canada - Terry Prowse is proposing to amend the Scientific Research Licence (No. 02 028 12R-M) to include an additional monitoring site on Grenier Lake, located north of Cambridge Bay.

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 amendment 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 March 1, 2011 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 written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Ryan Barry
Executive Director

cc: Terry Prowse, Environment Canada
Phyllis Beaulieu, Nunavut Water Board
Jeff Mercer, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada
Stanley Anablak, Kitikmeot Inuit Association
Salamonie Shoo, Qikiqtani Inuit Association

Enclosed: NIRB Screening Decision Report, File No.: 11YA003 (March 1, 2011)