



NIRB File No.: 11YA003
NRI License No.: 02 016 13R-M

February 27, 2014

The Honourable Paul Quassa
Minister Responsible for Nunavut Arctic College
Government of Nunavut
c/o Mosha Cote, Manager Research Liaison
Nunavut Research Institute
P.O. Box 1720
Iqaluit, NU X0A 0H0

Sent via email: mosha.cote@arcticcollege.ca

Re: Application Exempt from the Requirement for Screening pursuant to Section 12.4.3 of the NLCA: Environment Canada's "Climate Change Effects on the Hydro-Ecology of Northern Lakes" project, Qikiqtaaluk and Kitikmeot Regions

Dear Mosha Cote:

On February 3, 2014 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received an application from the Nunavut Research Institute (NRI) for an amendment to the NRI Scientific Research License (No. 02 016 13R-M) for Environment Canada's "Climate Change Effects on the Hydro-Ecology of Northern Lakes" project proposal. The NIRB notes that the Nunavut Planning Commission issued a positive conformity determination (North Baffin Regional Land Use Plan) associated with this project on February 12, 2011.

Please be advised that the original project proposal (NIRB File No.: 11YA003) was received by the NIRB from the NRI on February 4, 2011 and was screened by the Board in accordance with Part 4, Article 12 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA). On March 1, 2011 the NIRB issued the enclosed NLCA 12.4.4(a) screening decision to the Minister Responsible for Nunavut Arctic College which indicated that the proposed project could proceed subject to the NIRB's recommended project-specific terms and conditions.

On May 14, 2012 the NIRB received an application for an amendment from the NRI to the Scientific Research License (No. 02 028 12R-M) for the above mentioned project. 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 report on May 18, 2012.

PREVIOUSLY-SCREENED PROJECT PROPOSAL:

As originally 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 Fjord on Ellesmere Island and Axel Heiberg Island, and within the Kitikmeot region, in the area around Cambridge Bay and the Queen Maud Gulf. The Proponent intended to begin long-term monitoring of lakes in Nunavut for effects of climate change.

The activities and components associated with the originally 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 is intended to 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.

The activities and components associated with the previous May 14, 2012 amendment include:

- An additional monitoring site on Grenier Lake, located north of Cambridge Bay.

CURRENT APPLICATION:

Environment Canada is proposing to amend its Scientific Research License with the NRI to include the following additional component:

- Deployment of ALMS at Grenier Lake, north of Cambridge Bay during the summer of 2014 until 2016 for continuous year-round monitoring of lake ice and water quality.

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 require additional clarification, please contact Sophia Pohl, Technical Advisor, at (867) 983-4622 or spohl@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ryan Barry". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Ryan Barry
Executive Director
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Terry Prowse, Environment Canada
Phyllis Beaulieu, Nunavut Water Board
Jeff Mercer, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada
Geoff Clark, Kitikmeot Inuit Association
Bernie MacIsaac, Qikiqtani Inuit Association

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