



NIRB File No.: 11YA003
NRI File No.: 02 019 14R-M

February 9, 2015

The Honourable Paul Quassa
Minister Responsible for Nunavut Arctic College
Government of Nunavut
P.O. Box 2410
Iqaluit, NU X0A 0H0

Sent via email: pquassa@gov.nu.ca, jpearce1@gov.nu.ca

Re: Application Exempt from the Requirement for Screening pursuant to Section 12.4.3 of the NLCA: Environment Canada-Terry Prowse “Climate Change Effects of a Changing Cryosphere on Northern Lakes” project, Kitikmeot Region

Dear Mr. Paul Quassa:

On January 28, 2015 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. 02 019 14R-M) for Environment Canada - Terry Prowse’s (EC) “Climate Change Effects of a Changing Cryosphere on Northern Lakes” project proposal. The Board notes that a conformity determination from the Nunavut Planning Commission was not required for this application, as the proposed project is located within a region that does not currently have an approved land use plan in place (Kitikmeot Region).

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 indicating 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.

On February 3, 2014 the NIRB received an application for an amendment from the NRI to the Scientific Research License (No. 02 016 13R-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 February 27, 2014.

The current NRI application, the original NIRB Screening Decision Report (File No. 11YA003) and related file information are available from the NIRB's online public registry at the following location:

<http://ftp.nirb.ca/01-SCREENINGS/COMPLETED%20SCREENINGS/2011/11YA003-U%20of%20Vic%20-%20Terry%20Prowse/>.

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 originally located within the Qikiqtani region, approximately 500 kilometres (km) north of Resolute Bay and Grise Fiord on Ellesmere and Axel Heiberg Islands. 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.

The activities and components associated with the previous February 3, 2014 amendment include:

- 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.
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CURRENT APPLICATION:

EC is currently proposing to amend its Scientific Research License with NRI to continue with previously approved research activities. In addition, the Proponent is proposing the following *additional* components and activities:

- Monthly surveys of ice core water quality, biological composition, ice snow depth and ice thickness at Greiner Lake from April 1 and June 30, 2015.
- Obtain complementary field based data on ice core water quality and biological information from a suite of lakes (8-10 sites) proximal to Greiner Lake to validate the ALMS.
- Field trip to Greiner Lake to facilitate maintenance of the ALMS in August 2015.

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 Solomon Amuno, Technical Advisor, at (867) 983-4603 or samuno@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



Ryan Barry
Executive Director
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Terry Prowse, Environment Canada
Phyllis Beaulieu, Nunavut Water Board
Geoff Clark, Kitikmeot Inuit Association
Mosha Cote, Nunavut Research Institute

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