



NIRB File No. 11YN025

May 10, 2010

Warwick Vincent
Department of Biology
Laval University
Quebec City, QC G1V 0A6

Via email: Warwick.vincent@bio.ulaval.ca

Re: Notice of Part 4 Screening for Laval University – Warwick Vincent’s “Northern Ellesmere Island in the Global Environment (NEIGE)” project proposal

Dear Warwick Vincent:

On April 20, 2011 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received Laval University – Warwick Vincent’s “Northern Ellesmere Island in the Global Environment (NEIGE)” project proposal from the Nunavut Research Institute. On May 5, 2011 the NIRB received a positive conformity determination (North Baffin Regional Land Use Plan) from the Nunavut Planning Commission for this file. The NIRB has assigned this project proposal file number 11YN025 - please reference this file number in related future correspondence.

The proposed project is located in the North Baffin Region within Quttinirpaaq National Park, and also in the vicinity of Resolute Bay. The proponent has applied for a multi-year research licence to allow the proposed research activities to be conducted annually in June and July, as this research forms a part of a 20 year monitoring and research project initiated in 2000 investigating potential markers of long and short term global environmental change. The intent of the proposed project is to assess the microbial life of the northern Ellesmere Island lakes, define the structure and function of the food webs within the lakes, and monitor the local climate.

The project activities would include:

- Collect water samples from lakes and fiords, sediment samples from shore lines and sediment cores from the bottoms of lakes, catchments and fiords for preservation and further analysis;
- Characterize landforms of the Ward Hunt Lake watershed using a differential GPS and collect soil samples;
- Continue downloading data and servicing all automated stations (Ward Hunt Island, Lake A and Lake C1), as well as upgrading these systems with automatic cameras and additional ground and lake thermistors for improved environmental monitoring;
- Logistical support through the Polar Continental Shelf Project (PCSP) and Parks Canada Installation including helicopter transportation to field sites.

All documents received and pertaining to this project proposal can be obtained from the NIRB's ftp site at <http://ftp.nirb.ca/01-SCREENINGS/ACTIVE%20SCREENINGS/> including:

- *NRI Application in English*
- *Maps*
- *Non technical Project Proposal summary in English and Inuktitut*
- *NPC Conformity Determination*

Pursuant to Part 4, Article 12 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA), the NIRB shall proceed to screen this project proposal. The NIRB may request additional information at any time during the process. The NIRB will copy you on screening process related correspondence and upload related documents to the above ftp site for public access.

Be advised that the NIRB is copying parties and municipalities potentially affected by this project proposal. Interested parties are encouraged to comment directly to the NIRB by **May 20, 2011**.

The NIRB would like parties to provide comments regarding:

- Whether the project proposal is likely to arouse significant public concern; and if so, why;
- Whether the project proposal is likely to cause significant adverse eco-systemic and socio-economic effects; and if so, why;
- Whether the project is of a type where the potential adverse effects are highly predictable and mitigable with known technology, (please provide any recommended mitigation measures); and
- Any matter of importance to the Party related to the project proposal.

Please note that *proposed* project-specific terms and conditions, should the project proceed, have been attached for consideration and comment (**Appendix A**).

Please send your comments to the NIRB at info@nirb.ca or via fax at **(867) 983-2594**. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact me directly at 867-983-4611 or tarko@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



Tara Arko
Assistant Technical Advisor
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Distribution List
Mosha Cote, NRI
Jane Chisholm, Parks Canada

Attachments: Appendix A – *Proposed* Project Specific Terms and Conditions

Enclosures (2): Comment Forms (English and Inuktitut)

Appendix A

Proposed Project Specific Terms and Conditions

The following is a list of project-specific terms and conditions which, should the project proceed, may be recommended to be attached to any approval.

General

1. Warwick Vincent (the Proponent) shall maintain a copy of the Project Terms and Conditions at the site of operation at all times.
2. The Proponent shall forward copies of all permits obtained and required for this project to the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) prior to the commencement of the project.
3. The Proponent shall operate in accordance with all commitments stated in correspondence provided to NIRB (Non-Technical Project Summary – 2011, April 20, 2011) and (Nunavut Planning Commission Questionnaire, May 1, 2011) with the Scientific Research Application (NRI Application, April 20, 2011).
4. The Proponent shall operate the site in accordance with all applicable Acts, Regulations and Guidelines.

Water

5. The Proponent shall not extract water from any fish-bearing waterbody unless the water intake hose is equipped with a screen of appropriate mesh size to ensure that there is no entrapment of fish. Small lakes or streams shall not be used for water withdrawal.
6. The Proponent shall not use water, including constructing or disturbing any stream, lakebed or the banks of any definable water course unless approved by the Nunavut Water Board.

Waste

7. The Proponent shall incinerate all combustible wastes daily, and remove the ash from incineration activities and non-combustible wastes from the project site to an approved facility for disposal.
8. The Proponent shall keep all garbage and debris in bags placed in a covered metal container or equivalent until disposed of. All wastes shall be kept inaccessible to wildlife at all times.

Fuel and Chemical Storage

9. The Proponent shall locate all fuel and other hazardous materials a minimum of thirty-one (31) metres away from the high water mark of any water body and in such a manner as to prevent their release into the environment.
10. The Proponent shall store all chemicals in such a manner that they are inaccessible to wildlife.
11. The Proponent shall report all spills of fuel, or other deleterious materials immediately to the 24 hour Spill Line at (867) 920-8130.

Wildlife

12. The Proponent shall ensure that there is no damage to wildlife habitat in conducting this operation.
13. The Proponent shall not harass wildlife. This includes persistently worrying or chasing animals, or disturbing large groups of animals. The Proponent shall not hunt or fish, unless proper Nunavut authorizations have been acquired.
14. The Proponent shall restrict aircraft/helicopter activity related to the project to a minimum altitude of 610 metres above ground level unless there is a specific requirement for low-level flying, which does not disturb wildlife and migratory birds.
15. The Proponent shall ensure that aircraft maintain a vertical distance of 1000 metres and a horizontal distance of 1500 metres from any observed groups (colonies) of migratory birds.
16. The Proponent shall ensure that aircraft/helicopter do not, unless for emergency, touch-down in areas where wildlife are present.
17. The Proponent shall not disturb or destroy the nests or eggs of any birds. If active nests of any birds are discovered (i.e. with eggs or young), the Proponent shall avoid these areas until nesting is complete and the young have left the nest.
18. The Proponent shall cease activities that may interfere with migration or calving of caribou or muskox, until the caribou or muskox have passed or left the area.
19. The Proponent shall ensure all project staff are trained in appropriate bear/carnivore detection and deterrent techniques.

Physical Environment

20. The Proponent shall not move any equipment or vehicles unless the ground surface is in a state capable of fully supporting the equipment or vehicles without rutting or gouging. The Proponent shall suspend overland travel of equipment or vehicles if rutting occurs.
21. The Proponent shall ensure that the land use area is kept clean and tidy at all times.

Restoration

22. The Proponent shall remove all garbage, fuel and equipment upon abandonment.
23. The Proponent shall complete all clean-up and restoration of the lands used prior to the expiry date of the permit.

Other

24. The Proponent should, to the extent possible, hire local people and consult with local residents regarding their activities in the region.