



NIRB File No. 12YN034

June 25, 2012

Dr. Kate Moran
Director, NEPTUNE Canada
University of Victoria
P.O. Box 1700
Victoria, BC V8W 2Y2

Via email: kmoran@uvic.ca

Re: Notice of Part 4 Screening for NEPTUNE Canada's "Cambridge Bay Undersea Observatory" project proposal

Dear Dr. Kate Moran:

On June 18, 2012 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received the University of Victoria - NEPTUNE Canada's (NEPTUNE Canada) "Cambridge Bay Undersea Observatory" project proposal from the Nunavut Research Institute (NRI). The NIRB has assigned this project proposal file number 12YN034 - please reference this file number in related future correspondence.

The proposed project is located adjacent to the community of Cambridge Bay within the Cambridge Bay marine area. The proposal involves the installation, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of an underwater instrument platform with associated equipment to be placed at approximately 10 metres depth on the ocean floor of Cambridge Bay. Live data collected by the equipment would then be made available via internet for local people and researchers. The program is proposed to take place year-round from August 2012 to August 2017 with installation of the equipment to take place in August of 2012 and removal of equipment to occur in 2017.

The proposed project activities and components include:

- Utilization of Cambridge Bay as the main base of operation;
- Installation of an electrical box on the public wharf to provide power and communications as well as installation of a cable from the electrical box to the underwater instrument platform;
- Installation of underwater instrument platform at 10 metres depth along with underwater camera and microphone, suite of sensors to measure seawater properties and an instrument to measure ice thickness;
- Use of boat to install the cable and the underwater platform;

- Transmission of data to a local Cambridge Bay centre (yet to be determined) where live information can be accessed, as well as the transmission of data to NEPTUNE Canada via the internet; and,
- Decommissioning and removal of the underwater equipment and cable once the project has ended.

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/12YN034-U%20Vic%20Cambridge%20Bay%20Observatory/> including:

- *NRI Scientific Research Licence application, including:*
 - *Maps*
 - *Non-technical Project Proposal summary in English*
 - *Non-technical Project Proposal summary in Inuinnaqtun*

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 **July 6, 2012**.

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) 983-4619 or kgillard@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



Kelli Gillard B.Sc., P.Ag
Technical Advisor
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Distribution List
 Wynter Kuliktana, Kitikmeot Inuit Association
 Stephen King, Hamlet of Cambridge Bay
 Ken Wasylyshen, Government of Nunavut, Community and Government Services

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

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

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. The University of Victoria - NEPTUNE Canada (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 the NIRB and the Nunavut Research Institute (Scientific Research License Application, June 14, 2012).
4. The Proponent shall operate the site in accordance with all applicable Acts, Regulations and Guidelines.

Waste Disposal

5. The Proponent shall keep all garbage and debris in bags placed in a covered metal container or equivalent until disposed of at an approved facility. All such wastes shall be kept inaccessible to wildlife at all times.

Fuel

6. The Proponent shall ensure that re-fuelling of project equipment is conducted at 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.
7. The Proponent shall store all fuel and chemicals in such a manner that they are inaccessible to wildlife.
8. The Proponent shall ensure that all personnel are properly trained in fuel and hazardous waste handling procedures, as well as spill response procedures. All spills of fuel or other deleterious materials of any amount must be reported immediately to the 24 hour Spill Line at (867) 920-8130.

Wildlife - General

9. The Proponent shall ensure that there is no damage to wildlife habitat in conducting this operation.
10. 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.
11. The Proponent shall ensure that all project personnel are made aware of the measures to protect wildlife and are provided with training and/or advice on how to implement these measures.

Restoration of Disturbed Areas

12. The Proponent shall remove all garbage, fuel and equipment upon abandonment.

Ship-based Activities

13. The Proponent shall not deposit, nor permit the deposit of any fuel, chemicals, wastes (including waste water) or sediment into any marine waters, and shall manage wastes on board the vessel prior to final disposal at approved port facilities.

Other

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