



NIRB File No.: 12YN034
NRI File No.: 04 007 14R-M

March 28, 2014

The Honourable Paul Quassa
Minister Responsible for the Nunavut Arctic College
c/o Mosha Cote
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: NEPTUNE Canada's "Cambridge Bay Undersea Observatory" project, Kitikmeot Region

Dear Mosha Cote:

On February 10, 2014 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received an application from the Nunavut Research Institute (NRI) for an amendment to NRI's Scientific Research Licence (No. 04 007 14R-M) for NEPTUNE Canada's "Cambridge Bay Undersea Observatory" project proposal. On February 19, 2014 the NIRB requested additional information that was received on March 11, 2014.

Please be advised that the original project proposal (NIRB File No.: 12YN034) was received by the NIRB from the NRI on June 18, 2012 and was screened by the Board in accordance with Part 4, Article 12 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA). On August 10, 2012 the NIRB issued the enclosed NLCA 12.4.4(a) screening decision to the Minister Responsible for the Nunavut Arctic College which indicated that the proposed project could proceed subject to the NIRB's recommended project-specific terms and conditions.

The current NRI application, the original NIRB Screening Decision Report (File No. 12YN034) 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/2012/12YN034-NEPTUNE%20Canada's-Cambridge%20Bay%20Undersea%20Observatory/>

PREVIOUSLY-SCREENED PROJECT PROPOSAL:

As previously screened by the NIRB (File No. 12YN034), the “Cambridge Bay Undersea Observatory” project was located within the Kitikmeot region, within the marine area adjacent to the community of Cambridge Bay. The proposal involved the installation, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of an underwater instrument platform with associated equipment that were placed at approximately 10 metres depth on the ocean floor. Live data collected by the equipment were made available via internet for local people and researchers. The program was proposed to take place year-round from August 2012 to August 2017 with installation of the equipment to take place in August 2012 and removal of equipment to occur in 2017.

The proposed project activities and components included:

- Utilization of Cambridge Bay as the main base of operation;
- Installation of an electrical box on the public wharf to provide power and communications;
- 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;
- Installation of a cable from the electrical box to the underwater instrument platform;
- Use of boat to install the cable and the underwater platform;
- Transmission of data to a nearby government building for the transmission of data to NEPTUNE Canada via the internet; and,
- Decommissioning and removal of associated equipment upon project completion.

CURRENT APPLICATION:

NEPTUNE Canada is currently proposing to amend its Scientific Research Licence (No. 04 007 14R-M) with the NRI to continue conducting research activities. In addition, NEPTUNE Canada is proposing the following additional activities to take place from 2014 to 2017 during the summer months:

- Collect samples of sea water for analyses of oxygen and plankton.
 - Some samples may be preserved and transported for analysis at the University of Victoria;
- Collect specimens of seafloor life (invertebrates) and transport to the University of Victoria for identification;
- Use and storage of chemicals; and
- Use of boat to collect samples and to continue checkup of camera and installations.

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 August 10, 2012 Screening Decision Report (enclosed).

If you have any questions or require additional clarification, please contact Kelli Gillard, Technical Advisor, at (867) 983-4619 or kgillard@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



Ryan Barry
Executive Director
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Kate Moran, NEPTUNE Canada
Phyllis Beaulieu, Nunavut Water Board
Geoff Clark, Kitikmeot Inuit Association

Enclosure: NIRB Screening Decision Report, File No.: 12YN034 (August 10, 2012)