



NIRB File No.13YN021

June 6, 2013

Robbie Bennett
Natural Resources Canada
1 Challenger Drive
Dartmouth, NS B2Y 4A2

Via email: rbennett@nrcan.gc.ca

Re: Notice of Part 4 Screening for Natural Resources Canada's "Natural Hazards in Baffin Bay" project proposal

Dear Robbie Bennett:

On May 24, 2013 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received Natural Resources Canada's (NRCan) "Natural Hazards in Baffin Bay" project proposal from Nunavut Research Institute (NRI). On May 31, 2013 the NIRB received a positive conformity determination (North Baffin Regional Land Use Plan) from the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC). The NIRB has assigned this project proposal file number 13YN021.

The proposed project would be located in Baffin Bay (and Boas Fiord if time permits) and would be looking at conducting a number of different surveys utilizing the Canadian Coast Guard vessel the Hudson. The research is a collaboration between the Geological Survey of Canada, Fisheries and Oceans Canada and various universities. The major research goals of the expedition would be to:

1. Investigate earthquake activity in Baffin Bay;
2. Investigate how stable the seabed is in Baffin Bay;
3. Investigate natural leakage of buried oil and gas deposits at the seabed;
4. Understand how the seabed is being changed by ocean currents and by icebergs that drag along the bottom; and,
5. Look for the presence of unique seabed habitats that may be important for fish

The program is proposed to take place from August 14 to September 17, 2013.

The project activities include:

- Sailing the CCGS Hudson from Halifax to the study area and back for crew quarters;
 - Crew change may happen at Iqaluit
 - Fuel would be stored on board the ship
 - Water would be obtained through desalinization

- Wastes would be stored onboard until return to Halifax
- Usage of various equipment to conduct the surveys, including:
 - Piston Sediment Corer – to collect sediment samples for analysis
 - Seabed camera system – photography and video of seabed
 - CTD and Niskin water sampler – collect water samples for analysis
 - 3.5 kHz echosounder – seabed imaging
 - Multibeam echosounder – detailed bathymetry data collection

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/13YN021-NRCan-Natural%20Hazards%20in%20Baffin%20Bay/01-APPLICATION/> including:

- *NRI Scientific Research Licence Application Form in English;*
- *Non technical Project Proposal summary in English and Inuktitut;*
- *Map*
- *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.

The NIRB is copying parties and municipalities potentially affected by NRCan's project proposal with this letter, and we invite interested parties to comment directly to the NIRB by **June 27, 2013**.

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 send your comments to the NIRB at info@nirb.ca or via fax at **(867) 983-2594**.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the undersigned at (867) 983-4619 or kgillard@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kelli Gillard". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Kelli" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Gillard".

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

cc: Distribution List
 Bernie MacIsaac, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
 Mosha Cote, Nunavut Research Institute

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