



NIRB File Nos.: 13YN021, 14YN032
NRI File Nos.: 02 042 13R-M, 01 032 14N-M

July 14, 2015

The Honourable Paul Quassa
Minister Responsible for Nunavut Arctic College
Government of Nunavut
c/o Mosha Cote, Manager, Research Liaison
Nunavut Research Institute
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: Natural Resources Canada's "Seabed Mapping of Natural Hazards and Support Infrastructure Development – Baffin Bay and Frobisher Bay" project, Qikiqtani (North and South) Region

Dear Mosha Cote:

On May 26, 2015 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received an application from the Nunavut Research Institute (NRI) for an amendment and extension to the Scientific Research Permit No. 02 042 13R-M and 01 032 14N-M for Natural Resources Canada's (NRCan) "Seabed Mapping of Natural Hazards and Support Infrastructure Development – Baffin Bay and Frobisher Bay"¹ project proposal. On June 11, 2015 the NIRB received a positive conformity determination (North Baffin Regional Land Use Plan) from the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC) for this file.

Please be advised that the original project proposal (NIRB File No.: 13YN021) was received by the NIRB from the NRI on May 24, 2013, followed by a positive conformity determination from the NPC on May 31, 2013, and was screened by the Board in accordance with Part 4, Article 12 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA). On July 11, 2013 the NIRB issued the enclosed NLCA 12.4.4(a) screening decision to the Minister Responsible for Nunavut Arctic College, Government of Nunavut, which indicated that the proposed project could proceed subject to the NIRB's recommended project-specific terms and conditions.

The subsequent project proposal (NIRB File No.: 14YN032) was received by the NIRB from the NRI on July 11, 2014 for operations in a different area, and on July 21, 2014 the NPC confirmed

¹ formerly screened by the NIRB under file no. 13YN021 "Natural Hazards in Baffin Bay" and 14YN032 "Seabed Mapping of Frobisher Bay to Support Infrastructure Development and Natural Hazard Assessment"

that a conformity determination was not required for the project as it was proposed in an area without an approved land use plan in place (South Baffin Region). The project proposal was screened by the Board in accordance with Part 4, Article 12 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA). On August 18, 2014 the NIRB issued the enclosed NLCA 12.4.4(a) screening decision to the Minister Responsible for Nunavut Arctic College, Government of Nunavut, which indicated that the proposed project could proceed subject to the NIRB's recommended project-specific terms and conditions.

The current NRI application, the NIRB Screening Decision Reports (File No. 13YN021 and 14YN032) 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/2013/13YN021-NRCan-Natural%20Hazards%20in%20Baffin%20Bay/>, and

<http://ftp.nirb.ca/01-SCREENINGS/COMPLETED%20SCREENINGS/2014/14YN032-Nunavut%20Geosciences-Seabed%20Mapping/>.

PREVIOUSLY-SCREENED PROJECT PROPOSAL:

As previously screened by the NIRB, the "Seabed Mapping of Natural Hazards and Support Infrastructure Development – Baffin Bay and Frobisher Bay" project was located within the Qikiqtani region, originally within the North Baffin region, and approximately 140 kilometres (km) northeast of Clyde River (13YN021), with additional surveys being conducted in the South Baffin region, approximately 140 km south of Iqaluit in Frobisher Bay (14YN032). The Proponent indicated that it intended to conduct a number of different surveys from Canadian Coast Guard vessels in collaboration with the Geological Survey of Canada, Fisheries and Oceans Canada and various universities.

The activities and components associated with the previous 2013 proposal included:

- Sailing the CCGS Hudson from Halifax to the study area and back, serving as 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 sea bed 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

The activities and components associated with the previous 2014 project proposal included:

- Use of MV Nuliajuk research vessel to conduct surveys;
- Characterization of seabed using echosounders attached to research vessel;

- Soil sampling of seafloor bottom; and
- Researcher accommodation and logistics based out of Iqaluit, or on-board the research vessel as necessary.

CURRENT APPLICATION:

NRCan is currently proposing to amend and extend the Scientific Research Permits, No. 02 042 13R-M and 01 032 14N-M with the NRI for one additional year to continue previously approved research activities in both Frobisher and Baffin Bay, in addition to having a wildlife observer on the vessel recording wildlife observations of seabirds and marine mammals during the project.

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 extension and 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 July 11, 2013 (13YN021) and August 18, 2014 (14YN032) Screening Decision Reports (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: Calvin Campbell, Natural Resources Canada
Phyllis Beaulieu, Nunavut Water Board
Joel Fortier, Qikiqtani Inuit Association

Enclosure (2): NIRB Screening Decision Report, File No.: 13YN021 (*July 11, 2013*)
NIRB Screening Decision Report, File No.: 14YN032 (*August 18, 2014*)