



**NIRB File No. 14YN006**

March 10, 2014

Thomas Richter  
Institute for Geophysics  
Bldg. 196, 10100 Burnet Rd  
Austin, TX USA 78758

*Sent via email: [tom.richter@utexas.edu](mailto:tom.richter@utexas.edu)*

**Re: Notice of Part 4 Screening for the Scott Polar Research Institute, University of Cambridge's "Investigations of Canadian Ice Caps" project proposal**

Dear Thomas Richter:

On February 20, 2014 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received Scott Polar Research Institute, University of Cambridge's (SPRI) "Investigations of Canadian Ice Caps" project proposal from the Nunavut Research Institute (NRI). On February 28, 2014 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 **14YN006** – please reference this number in all related correspondence.

The proposed project is located in the North Baffin Region approximately 180 kilometers (km) to 1,500 km from Arctic Bay, 270 km to 1,400 km from Pond Inlet, 360 km to 1,000 km from Grise Fiord and 560 km to 1,500 km from Resolute Bay. The objective of the proposed project is to improve the understanding of current and future changes of the ice caps and glaciers of the islands of northern Nunavut. The program is proposed to take place from April 28 to May 15, 2014.

The proposed project activities include:

- Airborne surveys of coasts and glaciers of Ellesmere, Devon and Axel Heiberg Islands, including Quttinirpaaq National Park on Ellesmere Island, using radar, lidar, magnetometers and cameras;
  - Aircraft landing base to be located at Qaanaq, Greenland with proposed fuel stops at the established Eureka research base airfield and potentially in Resolute Bay;
  - Use and storage of approximately 12,000 Litres of aviation fuel to be provided by the Canadian Polar Continental Shelf Program and stored at the Eureka research base;
  - Most flights to be approximately 1,000 metres (m) above the surface, with some low-level flights at approximately 200 m above the surface; and

- Project data to be submitted to the World Data Centres for Glaciology at Boulder, Colorado and the Scott Polar Research Institute at Cambridge, United Kingdom.

All documents received and pertaining to this project proposal can be obtained from the NIRB's online public registry at

<http://ftp.nirb.ca/01-SCREENINGS/ACTIVE%20SCREENINGS/14YN006-U%20of%20Cambridge-Investigation%20of%20Canadian%20Ice%20Caps/> including:

- *NIRB Part 1 Summary Application Form in English*
- *Nunavut Research Institute Application in English*
- *Nunavut Planning Commission Conformity Determination*
- *Non-technical Project Proposal summary in English and Inuktitut*
- *Map*

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 the Scott Polar Research Institute, University of Cambridge project proposal with this letter, and we invite interested parties to comment directly to the NIRB by **March 31, 2014**.

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](mailto:info@nirb.ca) or via fax at **(867) 983-2594**.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the undersigned at (867) 983-4606 or [hramussen@nirb.ca](mailto:hramussen@nirb.ca).

Sincerely,



Heather Rasmussen  
Technical Advisor  
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Distribution List  
Julian Dowdeswell, Scott Polar Research Institute  
Mosha Cote, Nunavut Research Institute

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