



NIRB File No.: 14YN025

June 12, 2014

Richard Leitch
Environment Canada
4905 Dufferin Street,
Toronto, Ontario M3H 5T4

Sent via email: richard.leitch@ec.gc.ca

Re: Notice of Part 4 Screening for Environment Canada's (EC) "Airborne Observations in Support of NETCARE" project proposal

Dear Richard Leitch:

On March 17, 2014 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received Environment Canada's (EC) "Airborne Observations in Support of NETCARE" project proposal from the Nunavut Research Institute. On June 10, 2014 the NIRB received a positive conformity determination (North Baffin Regional Land Use Plan) from the Nunavut Planning Commission for this file. The NIRB has assigned this project proposal file number **14YN025** - please reference this file number in related future correspondence.

The proposed project is located in the North Baffin Region spanning a radius of up to 300 kilometres from the communities of Arctic Bay and Resolute Bay. The program is proposed to take place from June 30 to July 24, 2014 and involves the conduct of aerial surveys intended to collect atmospheric data.

The proposed project activities and components include:

- Use of fixed wing aircraft fitted with atmospheric sampling equipment to measure emissions present in specific areas, specifically targeting anthropogenic sources; this may involve low level flying for targeted periods of time; and
- Logistics and accommodations planned through the Polar Continental Shelf facilities in Resolute Bay, including fuel purchase, chemical storage, and crew housing.

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/14YN025-EC-NETCARE/> including:

- *Nunavut Research Institute Scientific Research Licence Application Form in English*
- *Maps*
- *Non-technical Project Proposal summary in English and Inuktitut*

- *NPC Conformity Determination and Questionnaire.*

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 **June 24, 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 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 require clarification, feel free to contact the undersigned at (867) 983-4611 or tarko@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



Tara Arko
Technical Advisor
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Distribution List
Mosha Cote, Nunavut Research Institute
Jason Akearok, Canadian Wildlife Service
Jane Chisholm, Parks Canada
Bernie MacIsaac, Qikiqtani Inuit Association

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

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

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. Environment 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 NIRB (Nunavut Research Institute Application, March 17, 2014) and (Nunavut Planning Commission Questionnaire, June 10, 2014)
4. The Proponent shall operate the site in accordance with all applicable Acts, Regulations and Guidelines.

Fuel and Chemical Storage

5. The Proponent shall store all chemicals in such a manner that they are inaccessible to wildlife.
6. 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

7. The Proponent shall ensure that there is no damage to wildlife habitat in conducting this operation.
8. The Proponent shall not harass wildlife. This includes persistently worrying or chasing animals, or disturbing large groups of animals.
9. 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.

Migratory Birds and Raptors Disturbance

10. The Proponent shall avoid the seaward site of seabird colonies and areas used by flocks of migrating waterfowl by 3 kilometres.
11. The Proponent shall avoid excessive hovering or circling over areas where bird presence is likely.

Aircraft Flight Restrictions

12. The Proponent shall restrict aircraft/helicopter activity related to the project to a minimum altitude of 610 metres above ground level unless there is a specific requirement for low-level flying, which does not disturb wildlife and migratory birds.

13. The Proponent shall ensure that aircraft maintain a vertical distance of 1000 metres and a horizontal distance of 1500 metres from any observed groups (colonies) of migratory birds. Aircraft should avoid critical and sensitive wildlife areas at all times by choosing alternate flight corridors.
14. The Proponent shall ensure that aircraft/helicopter do not, unless for emergency, touch-down in areas where wildlife are present.
15. The Proponent shall advise all pilots of relevant flight restrictions and enforce their application over the project area, including flight paths to/from the project area.

Caribou and Muskoxen Disturbance

16. The Proponent shall cease activities that may interfere with the migration or calving of caribou or muskox, until the caribou or muskox have passed or left the area.
17. During the period of May 15 to July 15, when caribou are observed, the Proponent shall suspend low-level over flights. Following July 15, if caribou cows or calves are observed, the Proponent shall suspend low-level over flights until caribou are no longer in the immediate area.

Other

18. The Proponent should, to the extent possible, hire local people and to consult with local residents regarding their activities in the region.
19. Any activity related to this application, and outside the original scope of the project as described in the application, will be considered a new project and should be submitted to the NIRB for Screening.