



**NIRB File No.: 14YN025**

December 19, 2014

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

*Sent via email: [richard.leitch@ec.gc.ca](mailto:richard.leitch@ec.gc.ca)*

**Re: Application Acknowledgment for Environment Canada’s (EC) Amendment Request with the Nunavut Research Institute for the “Airborne Observations in Support of NETCARE: Part II” Project**

Dear Richard Leitch:

On December 9, 2014 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received an application from the Nunavut Research Institute (NRI) for an amendment to Environment Canada’s (the proponent) “Airborne Observations in Support of NETCARE: Part II” project. On December 18, 2014 the NIRB received a positive conformity determination (North Baffin Regional Land Use Plan) from the Nunavut Planning Commission for this file.

Please be advised that the original project proposal (NIRB File No.: 14YN025) was received by the NIRB from the NRI on March 17, 2014. The proposal was screened by the Board in accordance with Part 4, Article 12 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA) and on July 2, 2014 the NIRB issued a 12.4.4(a) screening decision to the Minister Responsible for Nunavut Arctic College indicating the proposed project could proceed subject to the NIRB’s recommended project-specific terms and conditions. Project components and activities included the following:

- Use of fixed wing aircraft fitted with atmospheric sampling equipment to measure emissions present in specific areas, specifically targeting anthropogenic sources, which may involve low level flying for targeted periods of time;
- Additional flights conducted between Resolute Bay and either Pond Inlet or Nanisivik to track emissions from the CCGS Amundsen;
- Logistics and accommodations for 24 personnel planned through the Polar Continental Shelf facilities in Resolute Bay;
- Approximately 38,000 litres (L) of aviation fuel to be purchased and stored at the Resolute Bay airport; and

- Chemical storage of approximately 1 L of butanol at either the Polar Continental Shelf facility or Resolute Bay airport hangar and to be returned to Toronto when study is completed.

#### **Amendment-**

The proponent is proposing to amend their scientific research licence to include the following additional components and activities:

- Use of two aircrafts to undertake aerial observations and research activities between April 7 to April 17, 2015 around Alert and Eureka, Nunavut;
- Low-level flying at approximately 200 feet above surface in areas where open water (polynyas and leads) are available;
- Logistics and accommodations for 21 personnel planned through the Canadian Force Station at Alert, and Environment Canada's facility at Eureka; and
- Approximately 50,000 litres (L) of aviation fuel to be used during the project; with storage of up to 28,000L by DND at Alert, and 22,000L in drums at Eureka.

The NIRB has determined that this request may result in a change to the original scope of the project.

The NRI application and original NIRB Screening file, 14YN025 are available from the NIRB's online public registry at the following address:

<http://ftp.nirb.ca/01-SCREENINGS/COMPLETED%20SCREENINGS/2014/14YN025-EC-NETCARE/>

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.”*

The NIRB is of the opinion that the request for the amendment is not likely to *significantly* change the general scope of the original project activities. Therefore the NIRB is *proposing* to re-issue the same terms and conditions as those in the enclosed July 2, 2014 Screening Decision, along with any new terms and conditions the NIRB considers appropriate. The NIRB is copying parties and municipalities potentially affected by this project and we invite interested persons to comment directly to the NIRB by **January 9, 2015**.

The NIRB would like Parties to provide comments regarding:

- Whether the inclusion of the additionally proposed component(s) and/or activity(ies) would significantly modify the project;
- Any additional mitigation measures that are appropriate; and
- Any other matter of importance to the Party related to the project proposal.

Please send your comments directly to the NIRB at [info@nirb.ca](mailto:info@nirb.ca) or via fax to **(867) 983-2594**.

If you have any questions or require clarification, please contact the undersigned at (867) 983-4603 or [samuno@nirb.ca](mailto:samuno@nirb.ca).

Sincerely,



Solomon Amuno  
Technical Advisor  
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Masha Cote, Nunavut Research Institute  
Phyllis Beaulieu, Nunavut Water Board  
Joel Fortier, Qikiqtani Inuit Association  
Distribution List

Enclosures (3): Comment Forms (English and Inuktitut)  
NIRB Screening Decision Report, File No.: 14YN025 (July 2, 2014)