



**NIRB File No.: 14YN025**

*Previous NRI File No.: 02 043 14N-M*

January 28, 2015

The Honourable Paul Quassa  
Minister Responsible for Nunavut Arctic College  
Government of Nunavut  
P.O. Box 2410  
Iqaluit, NU X0A 0H0

*Sent via email: [pquassa@gov.nu.ca](mailto:pquassa@gov.nu.ca), [mkunuk2@gov.nu.ca](mailto:mkunuk2@gov.nu.ca)*

**Re: Application Exempt from the Requirement for Screening pursuant to Section 12.4.3 of the NLCA: Environment Canada's "Airborne Observations in Support of NETCARE: Part II" Project, Qikiqtani (North Baffin) Region**

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Dear Mr. Paul Quassa:

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 the scientific research licence associated with Environment Canada's (the proponent) "Airborne Observations in Support of NETCARE (NETwork on Climate and Aerosols: Addressing Key Uncertainties in Remote Canadian Environments): 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 and was screened by the Board in accordance with Part 4, Article 12 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA). On July 2, 2014 the NIRB issued the enclosed 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.

The current NRI application, the original NIRB Screening Decision Report (File No. 14YN025) 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/2014/14YN025-EC-NETCARE/>

#### PREVIOUSLY-SCREENED PROJECT PROPOSAL:

As previously screened by the NIRB (File No. 14YN025), the originally titled “Airborne Observations in Support of NETCARE” project was located in the North Baffin Region spanning a radius of up to 300 kilometres from the communities of Arctic Bay and Resolute Bay, as well as the previous Nanisivik mine site. The Proponent indicated that it intended to conduct aerial surveys of these areas to collect atmospheric data, with a focus on aerosol emissions and emissions from shipping, between June 30 and July 24, 2014.

The activities and components associated with the previously screened proposal included:

- 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.

#### CURRENT APPLICATION:

The Proponent is currently proposing to amend its scientific research licence to continue with the previously screened research activities, while proposing to include the following *additional* components/activities:

- Use of two aircraft 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.

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*

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*(b) its inclusion would significantly modify the project.”*

On December 19, 2014 NIRB distributed the current amendment request to a regional distribution list, requesting submission of any comments or concerns related to the application by January 9, 2015.

The following is a summary of comments received from parties regarding the proposed amendment:

- AANDC had no comment or concerns regarding this project proposal.
- Parks Canada noted that the Proponent will not be landing in the National Park, low-level survey flights do have the potential to disturb wildlife and therefore made the following recommendations related to Quttinirpaaq National Park around Alert:
  - Adherence to National Parks Wildlife Regulations;
  - Avoidance of caribou herd (Peary caribou) and Muskox, especially pregnant cows, during late winter and early spring periods due to range restriction and reduced forage;
  - Proponent should maintain a flying altitude of 2000 feet when not conducting survey activities and not alter flight paths to approach congregation of wildlife;
  - Prohibition of aircraft landing within National Park boundaries;
  - Inclusion of community observers on survey flights to prevent wildlife disturbance; and
  - Submission of GPS track logs of flight routes and altitudes, including research reports to the NRI and communities affected.

After completing a review of the information provided in support of the current application as well as the comments received from interested parties, the NIRB is of the understanding that the proposed 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 original July 2, 2014 Screening Decision Report (enclosed).

If you have any questions or require additional clarification, please contact Solomon Amuno, Technical Advisor, at (867) 983-4603 or [samuno@nirb.ca](mailto:samuno@nirb.ca).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Ryan Barry", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Ryan Barry  
Executive Director  
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Richard Leitch, Environment Canada  
Mosha Cote, Nunavut Research Institute  
Phyllis Beaulieu, Nunavut Water Board  
Joel Fortier, Qikiqtani Inuit Association  
Distribution List

Enclosure: NIRB Screening Decision Report, File No.: 14YN025 (July 2, 2014)

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