



NIRB File No.: 14YN032

July 29, 2014

David Mate
Canada-Nunavut Geoscience Office
Natural Resources Canada
1106 Ikaluktuutiak Drive, 1st Floor
P.O. Box 2319
Iqaluit, NU X0A 0H0

Sent via email: dmate@nrcan.gc.ca

Re: Notice of Part 4 Screening for Natural Resources Canada’s “Seabed Mapping of Frobisher Bay to Support Infrastructure Development and Natural Hazard Assessment” project proposal

Dear David Mate:

On July 11, 2014 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received Natural Resources Canada’s (NRCan) “Seabed Mapping of Frobisher Bay to Support Infrastructure Development and Natural Hazard Assessment” project proposal from the Nunavut Research Institute. On July 21, 2014 the NIRB received confirmation from the Nunavut Planning Commission that a conformity determination was not required for the project as it is proposed to occur within an area without an approved land use plan in place (South Baffin Region). The NIRB has assigned this project proposal file number **14YN032** - please reference this file number in related future correspondence.

The proposed project is to survey areas within Frobisher Bay, from Iqaluit to locations approximately 140 kilometres southeast, including Resolution Island. The program is proposed to take place from September 2014 to December 2015 and is intended to develop a detailed map of the seabed of Frobisher Bay.

The proposed project activities and components include:

- Use of MV Nuliajuk research vessel to conduct surveys;
- Characterization of seabed using echosounders attached to research vessel¹;
- Soil sampling; and
- Researcher accommodation and logistics based out of Iqaluit, or on-board the research vessel as necessary.

¹ The Proponent’s non-technical summary dated July 11, 2014 indicated that seismic equipment would not be used during the survey.

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/14YN032-Nunavut%20Geosciences-Seabed%20Mapping/> including:

- *Nunavut Research Institute Scientific Research Licence Application in English*
- *Maps*
- *Non-technical Project Proposal summary in English and Inuktitut*
- *NPC Email Re Conformity Determination Not Required*

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 **August 8, 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
Moshia Cote, Nunavut Research Institute

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. Natural Resources 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, July 11, 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 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

6. The Proponent shall ensure that there is no damage to wildlife habitat in conducting this operation.

Migratory Birds Disturbance

7. The Proponent shall avoid the seaward site of seabird colonies and areas used by flocks of migrating waterfowl by 3 kilometres.

Ship-based Activities

8. The Proponent shall not deposit, nor permit the deposit of any fuel, chemicals, wastes (including waste water) or sediment into any marine waters, and shall manage wastes on board the vessel prior to final disposal at approved facilities.
9. The Proponent shall ensure that project activities do not interfere with Inuit wildlife harvesting or traditional land use activities.
10. The Proponent shall not attempt to intersect or interfere with the movements of marine mammals. Strategic positioning of vessels ahead of the path being traveled by mobile whales and waiting for the whales to pass is also prohibited.
11. The Proponent shall suspend all project activities should any dead fish or wildlife, or any injured wildlife be observed in the wake of the vessel. Resumption of activities will be dependent on the results of discussions with Fisheries and Oceans Canada and Government of Nunavut – Department of Environment representatives, and the circumstances leading to the injuries or mortalities.

Other

12. The Proponent should, to the extent possible, hire local people and consult with local residents regarding their activities in the region.
13. 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.