



Environment
Canada

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Environmental Protection Operations Directorate (EPOD)
Prairie and Northern Region (PNR)
Qimugjuk Building
P. O. Box 1870
Iqaluit, NU X0A 0H0

February 2nd 2015

EC file: 6500 000 031 / 002
NIRB File: 15YN003

Kelli Gillard
Technical Advisor
Nunavut Impact Review Board
P.O. Box 119
Cambridge Bay, NU X0B 0C0

Via: info@nirb.ca

RE: University de Sherbrooke's - Evaluation of Simulated Snow Properties across the Arctic.

Environment Canada (EC) has reviewed the information submitted to the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) regarding the above-mentioned project proposal and is submitting comments on mitigation measures as well as other matters of importance to the project proposal as requested by the NIRB. EC's specialist advice is provided pursuant to the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act 1999*, the pollution prevention provisions of the *Fisheries Act*, the *Migratory Birds Convention Act*, and the *Species at Risk Act*.

The project is proposed to take place in early April and would consist of collecting information about the snow (depth, temperature, grain size, density, wetness, layers structure) along the pre-designed transects.

For further clarification on any aspect of the submission, please contact me at (867) 975-4982 or john.price@ec.gc.ca.

Sincerely,

John Price
Environmental Assessment Officer

Attachment(s) – Environment Canada's Comments

cc: Dave Fox, A/Head, Environmental Assessment North (NT & NU), EPOD-PNR, EC
Michael Mohammed, Senior Environmental Assessment Coordinator, EPOD-PNR, EC



General

1. Subsection 36(3) of the Fisheries Act specifies that, unless authorized by federal regulation, no person shall deposit or permit the deposit of deleterious substances of any type in water frequented by fish, or in any place under any conditions where the deleterious substance, or any other deleterious substance that results from the deposit of the deleterious substance, may enter any such water. In the definition of deleterious substance, Section 34(1), of the Fisheries Act includes “any water that contains a substance in such quantity or concentration, or that has been so treated, processed or changed, by heat or other means, from a natural state that it would, if added to any other water, degrade or alter or form part of a process of degradation or alteration of the quality of that water so that it is rendered or is likely to be rendered deleterious to fish or fish habitat or to the use by man of fish that frequent that water.” Subsection 36(3) makes no allowance for a mixing or dilution zone at the point of deposit.
2. Please note that according to the Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada’s (AANDC) “Guidelines for Spill Contingency Planning” (April 2007), available at <http://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/eng/1100100024236/1100100024253>, all releases of harmful substances, regardless of quantity are to be reported to the NWT / NU 24-hour Spill Line, (867) 920-8130 if the release is near or into a water body, is near or into a designated sensitive environment or sensitive wildlife habitat, poses imminent threat to human health or safety, poses imminent threat to a listed species at risk or its critical habitat, or is uncontrollable.