



NIRB File No. 15YN037
PC File No.: 23783

July 22, 2015

Marc-André Bernier
Parks Canada Underwater Archaeology Team
1800 Walkley Road
Ottawa, ON K1H 8K3

Sent via email: marc-andre.bernier@pc.gc.ca

Re: Notice of Part 4 Screening for Parks Canada's "Underwater Archaeology and Biology Study of the Wreck of HMS Erebus" project proposal

Dear Marc-André Bernier:

On July 2, 2015 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received Parks Canada's "Underwater Archaeology and Biology Study of the Wreck of HMS Erebus" project proposal directly from Parks Canada. The NIRB has assigned this project proposal file number **15YN037** - please reference this file number in related future correspondence.

Following a preliminary completeness check, the NIRB determined that the proposal as submitted did not contain sufficient information for the NIRB to permit proper screening. On July 7, 2015 the NIRB requested that Parks Canada provide additional information in support of this proposal. On July 15, 2015 the NIRB received the requested additional information to proceed with the screening.

The proposed project is located in the Kitikmeot region, approximately 125 kilometres (km) southwest of Gjoa Haven and 250 km southeast of Cambridge Bay in the *Wrecks of HMS Erebus and HMS Terror* National Historic Site of Canada. Parks Canada is proposing to conduct an underwater archaeology exploration program from August to September, 2015.

The project activities include:

- Transportation to the project site and accommodation for up to 19 personnel aboard the Arctic Research Foundation's (ARF) 35 foot motor vessel (MV) and 65 foot MV Martin Bergmann;
- Untethered SCUBA and surface-supplied diving operations conducted from Parks Canada's RV Investigator (33 feet) and two rigid hull inflatable boats;
- Use of species sampling equipment and underwater cameras for benthic characterization study and photo documentation of project site;

- Deployment of underwater probe for water data collection with recovery after one year;
- Use of aluminum grid references, water pump activated dredges and remotely operated underwater vehicles (ROV) for archaeological study and artefact recovery operations;
- Periodic resupply and waste disposal trips to Cambridge Bay;
 - All sewage, combustible and non-combustible wastes to be stored aboard the MV Martin Bergmann for appropriate disposal in Cambridge Bay or treatment through onboard septic systems;
- Hiring of three Inuit community members to assist on project site and in communities.

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/15YN037-Parks%20Canada-HMS%20Erebus/01-APPLICATION/> including:

- *NIRB Part 1 Application Form in English, Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtun*
- *Non-technical Project Proposal Summary in English, Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtun*
- *Maps*
- *Parks Canada Permit Application Form in English*
- *Additional Project Information and Correspondence*

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.

The NIRB is copying parties and municipalities potentially affected by Parks Canada's project proposal with this letter, and we invite interested parties to comment directly to the NIRB by **August 12, 2015**.

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 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, please contact the undersigned at (867) 983-4615 or dstpierre@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



Davin St. Pierre
Technical Advisor
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Distribution List
Phyllis Beaulieu, Nunavut Water Board
Geoff Clark, Kitikmeot Inuit Association
Luis Manzo, Kivalliq Inuit Association
Joel Fortier, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Jane Chisholm, Parks Canada
Ryan Harris, Parks Canada

Enclosures (3): Comment Forms (English, Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtun)