



NIRB File No.:16DN004
NPC File No.: 148197

February 25, 2016

Captain Andrew Ngo
Northern Environmental Coordinator
3rd Canadian Division Support Group
CFB/ASU Edmonton
P.O. Box 10500 Station Forces
Edmonton, AB T5J 4J5

Sent via email: andrew.ngo@forces.gc.ca

Re: Notice of Part 4 Screening for Joint Task Force (North)'s "Operation Nunalivut" Project Proposal

Dear Captain Andrew Ngo:

On February 8, 2016 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received a referral to screen Joint Task Force (North)'s (JTFN or Proponent) "Operation Nunalivut" project proposal from the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC or Commission), with an accompanying positive conformity determination with the North Baffin Regional Land Use Plan. Pursuant to section 86 of the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act* (NuPPAA), the NIRB has commenced screening this project proposal and has assigned it file number **16DN004** - please reference this file number in all future related correspondence.

PROJECT SCOPE

Project Scope:

The proposed "Operation Nunalivut" project is located in the North Baffin Region and will be based out of Resolute Bay. The JTFN anticipates conducting exercises supported by the Canadian Rangers on sites located in and around the community of Resolute Bay, near the Polaris Mine on Little Cornwallis Island, near the community of Grise Fiord, and Canadian Forces Base Alert. The Proponent intends to conduct exercises on land, sea ice, underwater and in the air to further enhance the Canadian Armed Forces, Canadian Rangers, and partner agencies knowledge and capacity to operate in the north and demonstrate their ability to effectively respond to safety and security issues in the Canadian North. The program is proposed to take place from April 3 to April 22, 2016; however the Proponent would like licences to be March 27 to September, 2016.

According to the project proposal, the scope of the project includes the following works or activities:

- Establish a Task Force Headquarters in Resolute Bay for approximately 80 persons and Use of Canadian Armed Forces Arctic Training Centre (CAFATC) facilities at Resolute Bay for up to 225 persons at the start and end of the exercises;
- Existing or temporary camps would be used to undertake the program and all waste generated from the camps would be transported to for proper disposal.
 - Use of Canadian Forces Station (CFS) Alert for up to 40 persons;
 - Establishment of a temporary camp on Little Cornwallis Island for approximately 110 persons;
 - Establishment of a temporary camp west of Grise Fiord for 10 persons;
- Land and Ice Based Exercises:
 - Conduct overland and over ice travel by snowmobile and qamutiik, Snow Cat, and/or Argo for transport of personnel and various exercises;
 - Construction of snow and ice defenses at Little Cornwallis Island to be used in live fire exercises;
- Dive Operations to evaluate the Royal Canadian Navy's Fleet Diving Unit's (Atlantic) cold weather diving ensembles and ice diving tactics, techniques and procedures;
- Air Travel and Skiway Operations:
 - Use of existing airstrips where possible;
 - Transportation of personnel and supplies via Globemaster, twin otter, Hercules aircraft or helicopter(s);
 - Potential construction of a skiway and/or ice airstrip on the sea or lake ice near Resolute Bay to be used for training and to supply materials; and
- Use of 4,510 litres (L) of diesel, 20,9010 L of gasoline to be stored at either the Resolute Airport or temporary facilities established for Little Cornwallis Island and Grise Fiord.

At this time, the NIRB has identified no additional works or activities in relation to the project proposal. As a result, the NIRB will proceed with screening the project based on the scope as described above.

REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

All documents received and pertaining to this project proposal can be obtained from the NIRB's online public registry at the following location <http://ftp.nirb.ca/01-SCREENINGS/ACTIVE%20SCREENINGS/16DN004-Canadian%20Armed%20Forces-Operation%20Nunavut/> and include:

- *NPC Screening Referral and Conformity Determination*
- *NPC Questionnaire*
- *NIRB Part 1 Summary Form in English and Inuktitut*
- *Non-technical Project Proposal summary in English and Inuktitut*
- *Maps noting operations Boxes at CFS Alert, Grise Fiord, Bathurst Island and Resolute Bay.*
- *Application for Land Use Permit for Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada*
- *Application for Approval for use of water or deposit of waste without a Licence for the Nunavut Water Board*

- *Application for Access to Inuit Owned Land,*

The NIRB will copy you on screening process related correspondence and upload related documents to the above ftp site for public access. The NIRB may request additional information at any time during the process.

The NIRB is copying parties and municipalities potentially affected by JTFN project proposal with this letter, and we invite interested parties to comment directly to the NIRB by **March 17, 2016**.

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 or socio-economic effects; and if so, why;
- Whether the project is likely to cause significant adverse impacts on wildlife habitat or Inuit harvest activities; 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.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Please send your comments to the NIRB at info@nirb.ca or via fax at **(867) 983-2594**. **The NIRB has recently launched an updated online public registry, and parties can access project information as well as submit comments directly to the NIRB via www.nirb.ca.**

If you have any questions or require clarification, please contact the undersigned at (867) 983-4619 or at kgillard@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kelli Gillard". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "K".

Kelli Gillard B.Sc., P.Ag.
Technical Advisor II
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Distribution List
 Karén Kharatyan, Nunavut Water Board
 Joel Fortier, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
 Tracey McCaie, Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada

Enclosures (4): Public Notice of Screening (English and Inuktitut)
 Comment Forms (English and Inuktitut)