



**NIRB File No.: 16YN016**  
NPC File No.: 148247

April 19, 2016

Philippe Belley  
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University of British Columbia  
6339 Stores Road  
Vancouver, BC V6T 1Z4

Sent via email: [pbelley@eos.ubc.ca](mailto:pbelley@eos.ubc.ca)

**Re: Notice of Screening for University of British Columbia's "Baffin Island Spinel Research" project proposal**

Dear Philippe Belley:

On March 23, 2016 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received a referral to screen University of British Columbia's (UBC) "Baffin Island Spinel Research" project (full name of project: "Origin of Blue Spinel Occurrences in Southern Baffin Island, Nunavut: Implication for Local Gemstone Potential") proposal from the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC or Commission).

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 **16YN016**-please reference this file number in all future related correspondence.

#### PROJECT SCOPE

***Project Scope:***

The proposed "Baffin Island Spinel Research" project is located within the Qikiqtani (South Baffin) region with one location approximately 90 kilometres (km) southeast from Iqaluit and seven (7) locations within a radius of 160 km from the community of Kimmirut.

The Proponent intends to collect rock samples at eight localities in order to understand the geological conditions leading to formation of mineral spinels, and the potential for gem deposit exploration in Southern Baffin Island. The program is proposed to take place during a two week period in August 2016.

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

- Collect rock samples from 1 kilogram to 20 kilogram using geoscientific equipment and hand and/or power tools for rock extraction and sampling;
- Sampling sites to be access by helicopter, boat or on foot;
- Temporary set-up of field camp at each site for up to 5 personnel. Camp sites to be dismantled and moved to a new location following sampling activities;
- Use of ATV or other mechanized vehicles for movement;
- Disposal of human wastes and grey water using burial and shallow trenching methods;
- Removal of all non-combustible wastes;
- Use of water up to 40 litres for domestic purposes;
- Transportation of fuel for the boat; and
- Use of existing infrastructure in the communities.

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 [www.nirb.ca](http://www.nirb.ca) by using any of the following search criteria:

- Project Name: Baffin Island spinel research project
- NIRB File No.: 16YN016
- Application No.: 124644

The documents received include:

- *NPC Screening Referral*
- *NIRB Part 1 form in English and Inuktitut*
- *NIRB Part 1 Summary Application Form in English (submitted online)*
- *Non-technical Project Proposal summary in English and Inuktitut, including Maps*
- *Nunavut Research Institute Research Application*
- *Nunavut Water Board Application for use of water without a licence*
- *Qikiqtani Inuit Association Application for access to Inuit Owned Land*
- *Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada Correspondence to Proponent*
- *Hamlet of Kimmirut Correspondence to Proponent*

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 UBC's project proposal with this letter, and we invite interested parties to comment directly to the NIRB by **April 29, 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.

Please note that *proposed* project-specific terms and conditions, should the project proceed, have been attached for consideration and comment (**Appendix A**).

#### CONTACT INFORMATION

Please send your comments to the NIRB at [info@nirb.ca](mailto: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](http://www.nirb.ca).**

If you have any questions or require clarification, please contact the undersigned at (867) 983-4603 or at [samuno@nirb.ca](mailto:samuno@nirb.ca).

Sincerely,



Solomon Amuno, PhD  
Technical Advisor II  
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc:                   Distribution List  
                        Mosha Cote, Nunavut Research Institute  
                        Karèn 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)

## **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. University of British Columbia (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 the NIRB (Non-technical Summary, March 23, 2016; NIRB Part 1 Form, April 14, 2016); Nunavut Research Institute (Scientific Research Application Form, March 23, 2016); Nunavut Water Board (Application for approval for the use of water or deposit of waste without a licence, March 23, 2016); and Qikiqtani Inuit Association (Application for access to Inuit Owned Land, March 23, 2016).
4. The Proponent shall operate the site in accordance with all applicable Acts, Regulations and Guidelines.

#### **Water**

5. The Proponent shall not use water, including constructing or disturbing any stream, lakebed or the banks of any definable water course unless approved by the Nunavut Water Board.

#### **Waste Disposal**

6. The Proponent shall keep all garbage and debris in bags placed in a covered metal container or equivalent until disposed of at an approved facility. All such wastes shall be kept inaccessible to wildlife at all times.

#### **Fuel and Chemical Storage**

7. The Proponent shall ensure that appropriate spill response equipment and clean-up materials (e.g., shovels, pumps, barrels, drip pans, and absorbents) are readily available during any transfer of fuel.

#### **Wildlife - General**

8. The Proponent shall ensure that there is no damage to wildlife habitat in conducting this operation.
9. The Proponent shall not harass wildlife. This includes persistently worrying or chasing animals, or disturbing large groups of animals. The Proponent shall not hunt or fish, unless proper Nunavut authorizations have been acquired.
10. The Proponent shall ensure that all project personnel are made aware of the measures to protect wildlife and are provided with training and/or advice on how to implement these measures.

### **Migratory Birds and Raptors Disturbance**

11. The Proponent shall not disturb or destroy the nests or eggs of any birds. If nests are encountered and/or identified, the Proponent shall take precaution to avoid further interaction and or disturbance (e.g., a 100 metre buffer around the nests). If active nests of any birds are discovered (i.e., with eggs or young), the Proponent shall avoid these areas until nesting is complete and the young have left the nest.
12. The Proponent shall avoid the seaward site of seabird colonies and areas used by flocks of migrating waterfowl by 3 kilometres.
13. The Proponent shall ensure its aircraft avoid excessive hovering or circling over areas where bird presence is likely.

### **Aircraft Flight Restrictions**

14. The Proponent shall restrict aircraft/helicopter activity related to the project to a minimum altitude of 610 metres above ground level unless there is a specific requirement for low-level flying, which does not disturb wildlife and migratory birds.
15. The Proponent shall ensure that aircraft maintain a vertical distance of 1000 metres and a horizontal distance of 1500 metres from any observed groups (colonies) of migratory birds. Aircraft should avoid critical and sensitive wildlife areas at all times by choosing alternate flight corridors.
16. The Proponent shall ensure that aircraft/helicopter do not, unless for emergency, touch-down in areas where wildlife are present.
17. The Proponent shall advise all pilots of relevant flight restrictions and enforce their application over the project area, including flight paths to/from the project area.

### **Caribou and Muskoxen Disturbance**

18. The Proponent shall cease activities that may interfere with the migration or calving of caribou or muskox, until the caribou or muskox have passed or left the area.

### **Ground Disturbance**

19. The Proponent shall not move any equipment or vehicles unless the ground surface is in a state capable of fully supporting the equipment or vehicles without rutting or gouging. Overland travel of equipment or vehicles must be suspended if rutting occurs.

### **Temporary Camps and Land Use**

20. The Proponent shall ensure that all camps are located on gravel, sand or other durable land.
21. The Proponent shall ensure that the land use area is kept clean and tidy at all times.

### **Restoration of Disturbed Areas**

22. The Proponent shall remove all garbage, fuel and equipment upon abandonment.
23. The Proponent shall ensure that all disturbed areas are restored to a stable or pre-disturbed state as practical as possible upon completion of field work.

**Other**

24. The Proponent should, to the extent possible, hire local people and consult with local residents regarding their activities in the area and available Inuit Qaujimaningit that can inform project activities.
25. The Proponent shall ensure that project activities do not interfere with Inuit wildlife harvesting or traditional land use activities.