



NIRB File No.: 16DN017

NPC File No.: 148251

April 20, 2016

Captain Andrew Ngo
Department of National Defence
10500 Stn Forces
Edmonton, AB T5J 4J5

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

Re: Notice of Screening for Department of National Defence's "Operation Nevus 2016" project proposal

Dear Captain Andrew Ngo:

On March 29, 2016 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received Department of National Defence's (DND) "Operation Nevus 2016" 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 **16DN017**.

INFORMATION REQUEST

Following a preliminary completeness check, the NIRB determined that the proposal as submitted did not contain the necessary information for the NIRB to carry out its screening. On April 1, 2016 the NIRB requested that the DND provide additional information in support of this proposal by April 15, 2016. On April 15, 2016 the NIRB received the requested additional information to commence with the screening.

PROJECT SCOPE

Project Scope:

The proposed "Operation Nevus 2016" project is located within the Qikiqtani region, between Eureka and the Canadian Forces Station (CFS) Alert, approximately 410 kilometres (km) northwest from Grise Fiord. The proponent intends to conduct its annual regular maintenance on the High Arctic Communications System (HADCS) by the Canadian Armed Forces. The program is proposed to take place in June 2016.

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

- Conduct maintenance and surveys of seven (7) HADCS sites located between Eureka and CFS Alert, including Eureka, Fort Eureka, Quttinirpaaq National Park (Tanquary Fiord and Lake Hazen) and CFS Alert; ;
- Use of Eureka or CFS Alert station to command, control and support activities and as staging areas;
- Military personnel to stay in and work from Canadian Armed Forces accommodations, whenever possible;
- Transportation of personnel to and from each HADCS site using helicopter, twin otter aircraft or Hercules aircraft;
- Temporary camping (up to two (2) – 10 man tents) for one night at each HADCS site for up to 12 personnel;
- Use and storage of fuel for camping activities with up to 40 litres (L) of diesel, 11.34 L of cooking fuel, and 20 L of gasoline.
- Transportation of potable water to each site; and
- Removal of all wastes to Eureka or CFS Alert for proper disposal.

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 by using any of the following search criteria:

- Project Name: Operation Nevus 2016
- NIRB File No.: 16DN017
- Application No.: 124639

The documents received include:

- *NPC Screening Referral*
- *NPC Questionnaire and Conformity Determination*
- *NIRB Online Public Registry Application*
- *NIRB Part 1 Application Form in English and Inuktitut*
- *Non-technical summary in English, Inuktitut and French*
- *Parks Canada Application*
- *Memorandum of Understanding between the DND and Parks Canada Agency*

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 DND 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 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, feel free to contact the undersigned directly at (867) 857-2052 or sgranchinho@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



Sophia Granchinho, M.Sc., EP
Manager, Impact Assessment
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Distribution List
Captain Francis Dion, Canadian Armed Forces
Pete Cote, Canadian Armed Forces
Michael Gray, Canadian Armed Forces
Karén Kharatyan, Nunavut Water Board
Jane Chisholm, Parks Canada

Attachment: Appendix A – *Proposed* Project Specific Terms and Conditions

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. Department of National Defence (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 Nunavut Planning Commission (Application to Determine Conformity, March 29, 2016), the NIRB (NIRB Part 1 form in English and Inuktitut, April 15, 2016) and to Parks Canada (Parks Canada Application, March 29, 2016).
4. The Proponent shall operate the site in accordance with all applicable Acts, Regulations and Guidelines.

Waste Disposal/Incineration

5. 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

6. Unless otherwise authorized by the Nunavut Water Board, the Proponent shall locate all fuel and other hazardous materials a minimum of thirty-one (31) metres away from the high water mark of any water body and in such a manner as to prevent their release into the environment. This includes re-fueling of all equipment.
7. The Proponent shall store all fuel and chemicals in such a manner that they are inaccessible to wildlife.
8. The Proponent shall use adequate secondary containment or a surface liner (e.g., self-supporting insta-berms and fold-a-tanks), when storing barreled fuel and chemicals at all locations.
9. 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 or hazardous substances, and at all fuel storage sites.
10. 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

11. The Proponent shall ensure that there is no damage to wildlife habitat in conducting this operation.
12. 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.
13. 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

14. 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.
15. The Proponent shall minimize activities during periods when birds are particularly sensitive to disturbance such as migration, nesting and moulting.
16. The Proponent shall ensure its aircraft avoid excessive hovering or circling over areas where bird presence is likely.

Aircraft Flight Restrictions

17. 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.
18. 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.
19. The Proponent shall ensure that aircraft/helicopter do not, unless for emergency, touch-down in areas where wildlife are present.

Caribou and Muskoxen Disturbance

20. 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.

Temporary Camps and Land Use

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

Restoration of Disturbed Areas

23. The Proponent shall remove all garbage, fuel and equipment upon abandonment.

24. 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

25. The Proponent shall ensure that project activities do not interfere with Inuit wildlife harvesting or traditional land use activities.