



NIRB File No. 16YN019

Related NIRB File No.: 15YN032

NPC File No.: 148210

April 29, 2016

Dr. Donald McLennan
Polar Knowledge Canada
1710-360 Albert St.
Ottawa, ON K1R 7X7

Sent via email: donald.mclennan@polar.gc.ca

Re: Notice of Screening for Polar Knowledge Canada (POLAR)'s "POLAR Camp on Greiner Lake, Cambridge Bay" project proposal

Dear Dr. Donald McLennan:

On April 4, 2016 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received Polar Knowledge Canada's (POLAR) "POLAR Camp on Greiner Lake, Cambridge Bay" project 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 **16YN019**.

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 11, 2016 the NIRB requested that the POLAR provide additional information in support of this proposal by April 25, 2016. On April 27, 2016 the NIRB received the requested additional information to commence with the screening.

PROJECT SCOPE

Project Scope:

The proposed "POLAR Camp on Greiner Lake, Cambridge Bay" project is located within the Kitikmeot region, approximately 14 kilometres (km) northeast from Cambridge Bay. The proponent intends to set-up a field camp and mobile research support facilities near Cambridge Bay to be used by POLAR and Canadian High Arctic Research Station (CHARS) researchers. The camp set-up would take place in June 2016 and dismantled in October 2016.

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

- Set-up of field accommodations and research facility for a maximum of 10 people and would include:
 - An Arctic Research Foundation Mobile Marine-Archaeological-Geological Network mobile laboratory. Powered by wind turbines and solar panels,
 - Three (3) Metal tent frames for cooking and dining, research area and equipment storage,
 - Six (6) to ten (10) individual all-season tents for sleeping accommodations,
 - One (1) outhouse tent,
 - Use snowmachines and komatiks or ATVs and boats to bring equipment and staff from Cambridge Bay to build the field accommodations and research facility, and
 - Transportation and storage of 40 litres of gasoline and 280 pounds propane.
- Undertakings in support of research activities and related to the field accommodations:
 - Use of ATVs to access field accommodations from Cambridge Bay and remote research sites,
 - Use of 16 foot skiff with outboard to access field accommodations via Greiner Lake,
 - Use of propane tabletop stove, propane refrigerator and freezer, propane space heaters (for heating frame tents), and generator(s) (to charge electronic instruments),
 - Use of 40 litres of gasoline and 280 pounds of propane by researchers,
 - Use of water for washing and bathing. Drinking water to be brought from Cambridge Bay,
 - Grey water to be stored in sump and buried at end of field season, and
 - All other domestic wastes including sewage wastes to be collected and disposed of at the Hamlet landfill.

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: Polar Knowledge Canada (Polar) camp on Greiner Lake
- NIRB File No.: 16YN019
- Application No.: 124643

The documents received include:

- *NPC Screening Referral*
- *NPC Application*
- *NIRB Part 1 Summary Form in English and Inuinnaqtun*
- *Non technical Project Proposal summary in English, Inuinnaqtun and Inuktitut*
- *Project summary in English and French*
- *Map noting location of Camp site*
- *Spill Contingency Plan*

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 POLAR project proposal with this letter, and we invite interested parties to comment directly to the NIRB by **May 9, 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 at (867) 857-2052 or via email at sgranchinho@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



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

cc: Distribution List
Johann Wagner, Polar Knowledge Canada
Dwayne Beattie, Polar Knowledge Canada
Geoff Clark, Kitikmeot Inuit Association
Karén Kharatyan, Nunavut Water Board
Tracey McCaie, Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada

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

Enclosures (6): Public Notice of Screening (English, Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtun)
Comment Forms (English, Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtun)

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. Polar Knowledge Canada (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, April 4, 2016), and the NIRB (NIRB online application, April 13, 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/Incineration

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. 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.
8. The Proponent shall ensure that re-fueling of all equipment occurs a minimum of thirty-one (31) metres away from the high water mark of any water body, unless otherwise authorized by the Nunavut Water Board.
9. The Proponent shall store all fuel and chemicals in such a manner that they are inaccessible to wildlife.

10. 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.
11. 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.
12. 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

13. The Proponent shall ensure that there is no damage to wildlife habitat in conducting this operation.
14. 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.
15. 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

16. 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 metres 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.
17. The Proponent shall minimize activities during periods when birds are particularly sensitive to disturbance such as migration, nesting and moulting.
18. The Proponent shall avoid the seaward site of seabird colonies and areas used by flocks of migrating waterfowl by three (3) kilometres.
19. The Proponent shall ensure its aircraft avoid excessive hovering or circling over areas where bird presence is likely.

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.
21. The Proponent shall not block or cause any diversion to caribou migration, and shall cease activities likely to interfere with migration such as movement of equipment or personnel until such time as the caribou have passed.

Ground Disturbance

22. 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

23. The Proponent shall ensure that the field camp and associated buildings are located on gravel, sand or other durable land.
24. The Proponent shall ensure that the land use area is kept clean and tidy at all times.

Restoration of Disturbed Areas

25. The Proponent shall remove all garbage, fuel and equipment upon abandonment.
26. 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

27. 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.
28. The Proponent shall ensure that project activities do not interfere with Inuit wildlife harvesting or traditional land use activities.