



NIRB File No. 16DN031
NPC File No.: 148282

June 14, 2016

Captain Andrew Ngo
Northern Environmental Coordinator
3rd Canadian Division Support Group
CFB/ASU Edmonton
P.O. Box 105000 Station Forces
Edmonton, AB T5J 4J5

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

Re: Notice of Screening for Canadian Armed Forces' "Operation Nanook 2016" project proposal

Dear Andrew Ngo:

On May 31, 2016 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received a referral to screen Canadian Armed Forces' (CAF) "Operation Nanook 2016" project proposal from the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC or Commission), with an accompanying positive conformity determination with the Keewatin Regional Land Use Plan.

PROJECT SCOPE

Project Scope:

Operation Nanook is a set of military exercises that have been conducted annually in the North with a focus on sovereignty and strengthening links between whole of government partners in the north (i.e., Royal Canadian Navy and Canadian Rangers). These exercises allow various groups and levels of government to cooperate in preparing responses to potential future threats and hazards.

The Nunavut portion of Operation Nanook 2016 would be located within the Kivalliq region, with simulated combat exercises to cover an area of approximately 55 kilometres squared (km²) adjacent to the north, south, and west boundaries of the municipal boundary of Rankin Inlet and approximately 60 km² adjacent to the south boundary of the municipal boundary of the community of Chesterfield Inlet. The Proponent intends to conduct the simulated combat exercises between August 1 and September 25, 2016.

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

- Use of airport in Rankin Inlet;
 - Potential use of other airstrips including Chesterfield Inlet within the area of operations;
- Main base of all activities to be at Rankin Inlet, including the use of existing facilities and accommodations;
 - Use of all-terrain vehicles (ATV) for transportation within Rankin Inlet and between Rankin Inlet and the exercise sites;
- Simulated ground combat exercise to be conducted in the vicinity of Rankin Inlet to include the following with potential of activities north of Chesterfield Inlet:
 - Use of twin otters and helicopters to transport personnel to and from the area as well as ATVs on site;
 - Establishment of a temporary camp for up to 250 people with tents and generators;
 - Water to be supplied from Rankin Inlet (packed in and out) and sourced on site;
 - Temporary storage of fuel at camp site:
 - Approximately 800 litres (L) of gasoline in jerry cans;
 - Approximately 400 L of diesel in jerry cans
 - Approximately 310 L of naptha in cans;
 - All waste to be contained and transported back to Rankin Inlet for proper disposal;
- Simulated water combat exercises to be conducted in the vicinity of the Chesterfield Inlet to include the following:
 - Use of twin otters and helicopters to transport personnel to and from the area;
 - Use of Royal Canadian Navy Vessels;
 - Potential establishment of a temporary camp for up to 100 people north of Chesterfield Inlet; and,
 - Aircraft(s) and personnel to be based out of Rankin Inlet.

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 Nanook 2016
- NIRB File No.: 16DN031
- Application No.:124670

The documents received include:

- *NPC Screening Referral and Conformity Determination*
- *NPC Application and Conformity Questionnaire*
- *NIRB's Online Application Form (formerly the NIRB Part 1 form in English)*
- *NIRB Part 1 Summary Form in Inuktitut*

- *Non-technical Project Proposal summary in English and Inuktitut*
- *Maps noting locations of Operational Boxes*

The NIRB will copy you on screening process related correspondence and upload related documents to the NIRB's online registry 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 Canadian Armed Forces project proposal with this letter, and we invite interested parties to comment directly to the NIRB by **July 4, 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.
Manager, Project Monitoring
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Distribution List
 Karen Kharatyan, Nunavut Water Board
 Luis Manzo, Kivalliq Inuit Association
 Ralph Ruediger, Government of Nunavut-Community and Government Services
 Darren Flynn, Government of Nunavut-Community and Government Services
 Tracey McCaie, Indigenous Affairs and Northern Development Canada

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